

STATUTES OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL BASIC SCIENCES PROGRAMME

Article 1

1.1 The International Basic Sciences Programme, hereinafter referred to as the "IBSP", aims at the reinforcement of intergovernmental cooperation in strengthening national capacities in the basic sciences and science education through major region-specific actions involving a network of national, regional and international centres of excellence or benchmark centres in the basic sciences (32 C/Resolution 14, para. 6(a)(iii)).

1.2 A Scientific Advisory Board, hereinafter referred to as the "Board", is hereby established as a category V Advisory Committee to advise the Director-General on the IBSP. In conformity with the rules concerning Advisory Committees, the advisory reports of the Board shall be addressed to the Director-General, who shall decide what use shall be made of them. The Executive Board shall be kept informed by the Director-General of the results of the Committee's proceedings.

1.3 The Scientific Advisory Board shall advise and inform the Director-General on developing strategies and policies related to its basic sciences and science education programmes. Its primary purpose is to bridge the gap in basic sciences between Member States, in light of the Organization's objectives. The Board shall advise on IBSP's strategies, policy advocacy, interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge dissemination and partnership building.

1.4 In an era of fast-paced scientific development, the Scientific Advisory Board shall be dynamic and adaptable. Its composition should reflect a balance between established experts and emerging leaders in various fields, allowing it to anticipate and respond effectively to evolving scientific challenges and opportunities.

Article 2

2.1 The Board shall be composed of up to 12 members appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO following a series of consultations with the National Commissions for UNESCO and the principal partners of UNESCO in the basic sciences such as scientific unions and science academies. In addition, scientific communities, associations and civil societies specialized in basic sciences could be consulted for recommendations of Board members.

2.2 Members of the board shall be well-recognized experts with experience in diverse fields and perspectives to provide a well-rounded view of the scientific landscape and its major role in sustainable development. They shall be actively engaged in activities in the basic sciences that relate to the objectives of the IBSP such as scientific research, science education, science management and the promotion of international cooperation.

2.3 The members of the board shall serve in an individual capacity and get selected taking into account an equitable geographical distribution, and gender equality principles.

2.4 Members of the Board shall be appointed for a term of two years. Taking into account both the need for continuity and the need for rotation of membership, members shall be eligible for reappointment for a further term of two more years, subject to the Director-General's decision, but shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

2.5 Each appointed member shall have one vote.

2.6 The representative designated by the Director-General of UNESCO shall be an *ex officio* member of the Board with no right to vote.

2.7 In case of death or resignation of an appointed member, this member may be replaced for the remainder of his/her term in accordance with Articles 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above.

Article 3

3.1 The Board shall be convened at least once a year by the Director-General who shall fix the date and place of the meeting. In exceptional circumstances when it is not possible to organize a meeting in person, the meeting of the Board shall be held by virtual means.

3.2 Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO may send observers to meetings of the Board.

3.3 The United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements may send representatives to meetings of the Board.

3.4 The Director-General may extend invitations to send observers to meetings of the Board to:

- (a) Organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has not concluded mutual representation agreements;
- (b) Intergovernmental organizations; and
- (c) International non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with international non-governmental organizations.

3.5 Representatives and observers referred to in paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4 above shall not have the right to vote.

Article 4

4.1 At its first meeting, the Board shall elect from among its members a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons. These shall form the Board's Bureau that shall also include, as an *ex officio* member, the designated representative of the Director-General referred to in Article 2.6.

4.2 The Board shall elect a new Bureau following renewal of its membership, in accordance with Articles 2.3 to 2.7. Members of the Bureau shall be eligible for re-election.

4.3 The Director-General and the Chairperson of the Board jointly may convene in presentia or online meetings of the Bureau between, or in conjunction with, meetings of the Board or proceed with consultations by correspondence.

4.4 The Board may assign to its own Bureau certain duties.

4.5 The Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure, which shall be submitted to the Director-General for approval.

Article 5

5.1 When complying with Articles 1.2 to 1.4, the Board shall be responsible for: a) advising, from the scientific point of view, on the implementation of IBSP, and providing recommendations on proposals regarding modifications and adjustments of the Programme; b) assisting in the development of national, regional and international projects related to IBSP.

5.2 The Board may propose to the Director-General the development of agreements with international or regional non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO, as well as intergovernmental scientific bodies. These agreements aim to foster collaboration in programme implementation and may also involve financial support for programme activities.

5.3 The Board shall observe, and if necessary, advise on, the development of international and

regional partnerships in the framework of IBSP with scientific non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, and shall report to the Director-General thereon.

5.4 The Board may suggest changes in the policy, scope or organization of IBSP to the Director-General of UNESCO.

5.5 The Board may provide advice on the consultation with appropriate international, regional or national governmental and non-governmental scientific and educational institutions concerning proposals and partnerships for IBSP.

5.6 The Board will, as needed, provide advice on the coordination of IBSP activities aligning with other pertinent international scientific programmes, including but not limited to UNESCO's programmes such as the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme, and Management of Social Transformations (MOST) in addition to committees and commissions such as the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC). This coordination will be facilitated by the representative appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO.

Article 6

6.1 A secretariat for IBSP shall be provided at UNESCO Headquarters by UNESCO. The designated representative of the Director-General of UNESCO shall be the Executive Secretary of the IBSP.

6.2 The secretariat shall take the steps required for the convening of the meetings of the Board.

Article 7

7 The Director-General shall submit a report on the progress of IBSP to each session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

Article 8

These Statutes may be amended by the Executive Board of UNESCO.