

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Organization of the International Year of Basic Sciences  
for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD)**

Between

**International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)**

Nanyang Technological University  
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Represented by: **Michel Spiro, President**

**The Partner**

Represented by:

**A. Aim of the agreement**

Several international scientific unions wish to act together as the Founding Unions to organize an International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD) in 2022, under the aegis of UNESCO and with the collaboration of UNESCO International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP). Several scientific organizations, the Founding Partners, fully support this initiative.

During IYBSSD, there will be several international events organized by Founding Unions and Founding Partners, with the aim to promote the role of basic sciences in the achievement of the United Nations 'Sustainable Development Goals'. There will also be communication actions at various scales, and incentives for local, regional and national organizations to set up their own events with the same aim.

Other international scientific unions and scientific institutions, as Partners, will contribute to and support the organization of IYBSSD.

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (the "MoU") is to set out:

- the role of the Founding Unions and Founding Partners in the IYBSSD organization;
- the human resources and financial commitment of **The Partner** toward the IYBSSD project;
- the communications about IYBSSD.

A.1 List of the Founding Unions as known at the date of this MoU

- IUPAP which is an international union representing physicists around the world.
- IUPAC which is an international union representing chemists around the world.

- IMU which is an international union representing mathematicians around the world.
- IAU which is an international union representing astronomers around the world.
- IUBS which is an international union representing biologists around the world.
- IUMRS which is an international union representing materials scientists around the world.
- IUGG which is an international union representing geodesy and geophysics scientists around the world.
- IUCr which is an international union representing crystallographers around the world.
- IMA which is an international union representing mineralogists around the world.

#### A. 2. List of the Founding Partners as known to the date of this MoU

- IRD is a French public research organization dedicated to sustainable development in partnership with countries from the Global South.
- CERN is an international research organization dedicated to nuclear and particle physics.
- ICTP is an international research and training center whose aim is to advance scientific expertise in the developing world.
- JINR is a large multidisciplinary international scientific centre incorporating basic research in the field of modern nuclear physics, development and application of high technologies, and university education in the relevant fields of knowledge.
- SESAME is an international research organization for the use of synchrotron radiation.
- EPS is the European federation of national physics societies.
- IIASA is an international, interdisciplinary research institute that conducts policy-oriented research based on systems analysis into pressing world concerns, including on environment, energy security, population, and sustainable development.
- NuPECC is an Expert Committee hosted by the European Science Foundation.

Other Founding Unions and Founding Partners may be added to this list during 2020, with the approval of the steering committee (see B.1.).

### **B. Role of Founding Unions and Founding Partners**

#### B.1. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is the main organization body of IYBSSD.

It overviews and steers the IYBSSD globally. Especially, it approves:

- the international programme for IYBSSD;
- the list of Partners;
- the composition of the International Advisory Committee;

- the International Budget for IYBSSD.

It is composed of one representative from each Founding Union and Founding Partner. Within these representatives, a chair and a vice-chair are designated.

For every decision, the chair should look for consensus.

If a vote is needed for a decision, each Founding Union and Founding Partner will have one vote. In the case of a tied vote, the Chair will have a casting vote to break the deadlock. Decisions are taken with a simple majority.

The Steering Committee shall meet at least once a year, in person or online, and is consulted through e-mail by the chair for every important decision regarding the organization of IYBSSD. Answers to these requests must be made within a reasonable time frame, usually 48 hours.

The Steering Committee may approve, on proposal of its chair, the addition of other Founding Unions and Founding Partners beyond the initial list of this MoU.

## B. 2. Referent Institution

The Founding Unions and Founding Partners agree that, among them, IUPAP will be the Referent Institution for IYBSSD.

They agree that IUPAP can act as the representative of the Steering Committee toward Partners, Sponsors, contractors, and every authority (especially UNESCO and UN).

As such, they agree that the chair of the Steering Committee is the representative of IUPAP. At the time of the signature of this MoU, the chair is Michel Spiro, President of IUPAP (2019-2023).

As such, IUPAP can sign partnership agreements and Memoranda of Understanding related to IYBSSD with different institutions: other international scientific unions, science academies, international research centres.

The Founding Unions and Founding Partners agree that IUPAP will manage all financial aspects of IYBSSD. In particular, IUPAP will receive and manage funds from Founding Unions, Founding Partners, Partners and Sponsors of all kinds. IUPAP will manage the common funds collected from the contributions of the partners, and sponsors of all kinds, and pay the expenses of the IYBSSD from these funds.

IUPAP will set in place a special accountability process in order to separate all IYBSSD operations from its ordinary activity. Steering Committee members will be able to have a view on this accountability on request, and IUPAP will report on the accounts of IYBSSD annually to the meeting of the Steering Committee.

The Founding Unions and Founding Partners agree that IUPAP can choose contractors for the preparation and implementation of IYBSSD activities such as international conferences, communication, fundraising, etc. On request, and when suitable, they will share the contact of their own contractors.

## B. 3. International Advisory Committee

The International Advisory Committee advises the Steering Committee about the International Programme of IYBSSD, and makes proposals for regional and national programmes.

It is composed by representatives from different parts of the world, in agreement with the Steering Committee, especially by representatives of national science academies and their continental networks. They also act as contact persons.

It is chaired by the chair of the Steering Committee.

The International Advisory Committee shall meet at least once a year, in person or online.

#### B. 4. International Scientific Committee

The International Scientific Committee is composed of high level scientists from all over the world and in every field of basic sciences.

The International Scientific Committee members advise the chair of the Steering Committee about all matters regarding IYBSSD.

### **C. Commitments of the Founding Unions and Founding Partners**

#### C. 1. Human Resources Commitment

Each Founding Union and Founding Partner will:

- delegate a representative to the Steering Committee, with the ability to take decisions in the name of the Founding Partner;
- share with the Steering Committee, and especially with its chair, all relevant information that could help in the preparation and implementation of IYBSSD;
- as much as possible, take part in the organization of the international programme of IYBSSD, especially of international conferences;
- share the communication material produced by the IYBSSD International Secretariat with its members and through its networks, with all means at its disposal, including social network accounts, website, newsletters and journals, electronic and in print;
- mobilize its member organizations or its representatives, if relevant, to set up national or regional IYBSSD committees for the organization of national and regional programmes.

#### C. 2. Financial commitment

The preparation and organization of IYBSSD needs to be funded. This funding will rely on Sponsors, partners and also on Founding Unions and Founding Partners.

The Founding Unions and Founding Partners agree to share contacts of Sponsors that already fund some of their activities and to help as much as possible for fundraising to enable the implementation of IYBSSD.

The Founding Unions and Founding Partners agree that it won't be possible to raise funds effectively from sponsors before the approval of the resolution about IYBSSD by UN General Assembly, in September 2020.

The Founding Partners agree that before this deadline, the preparation of IYBSSD needs to be commonly funded (to cover campaign toward UN national delegations, meetings, participation to science and science policy conferences to advertise IYBSSD and lobby about it, communication, documents production, etc.).

So, they undertake to provide themselves, with the help of Partners, the common funds necessary for the preparation of IYBSSD.

The funding schedule will be, for **The Partner**:

- before the end of 2020: **EUR**;
- before the end of 2021: an additional **EUR**.

**Payment shall be made upon reception of invoices sent by IUPAP to The partner at the following address:**



#### **D. Open Access**

Founding Unions and Founding Partners agree that IYBSSD is a common good and needs to be widely shared, advertised and campaigned for. They agree that open access is essential to these purposes.

All content and documents produced on purpose for IYBSSD by whatever organization will use a Creative Commons Licence BY-NC-ND 4.0. This licence allows a wide non-commercial and without transformation sharing.

As such, the producers of any content and document must obtain from authors, designers, inventors, whether or not they are its employees, the authorization for such an exploitation (reproduction, representation, adaptation or translation licence) without time limitation.

#### **E. Duration**

This MoU shall take effect upon signature and remain in force up to six months after the end of IYBSSD, without prejudice to the provisions on termination and continuation of intellectual property obligations after the end of the MoU.

Within six months after the end of IYBSSD, the Referent Organizing Partner will provide a complete financial report. If funding exceeds expenses, the chair of the Steering Committee will propose one or several basic science education projects in developing countries to be funded with the remaining amount.

#### **F. Termination of Agreement**

Any party can terminate its participation to this MoU by giving two months' notice, by sending the other party a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt stating the reasons for the termination. The notice shall commence from the date of receipt of the letter. During the notice period the Steering Committee will use its best efforts to resolve the reasons for the termination or shall provide proof that the termination arises from an impediment resulting from a case of force majeure, in which case the termination shall be withdrawn.

Date:

On behalf of IUPAP

Michel Spiro, President

On behalf of The Partner