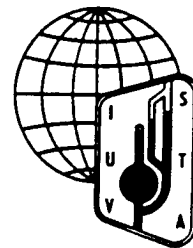


UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA SCIENCE, LA TECHNIQUE ET LES APPLICATIONS DU VIDE  
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR VACUUM SCIENCE, TECHNIQUE AND APPLICATIONS  
INTERNATIONALE UNION FÜR VAKUUM-FORSCHUNG, -TECHNIK UND -ANWENDUNG

---



**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR VACUUM SCIENCE, TECHNIQUE AND APPLICATIONS AISBL**  
**IUVSTA AISBL**

**STATUTES**

**1. NAME - LEGAL FORM – REGISTERED OFFICE**

**Article 1 - Name and Legal Form**

An international non-profit association shall be established under the name "International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications" (IUVSTA), hereinafter referred to as the "Union" or "IUVSTA" which is also the officially approved abbreviation of the name of the association.

The name shall be preceded or followed by the words "non-profit international association" or by the abbreviation "AISBL".

**Article 2 - Registered Office**

The registered office of the Union shall be located at Avenue de la Renaissance 30, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. It may be moved to any other location in Belgium by a decision taken by the Executive Council by simple majority. Any transfer of the registered office shall be published in the Annexes to the Belgian Official Gazette.

**2. PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES**

**Article 3 - Purpose**

The aims of the Union shall be exclusively non-profit making, and are to promote, encourage, and develop vacuum sciences, techniques and applications in all countries.

**Article 4 - Activities**

In order to meet these aims, the Union shall undertake principally the following activities:

- (a) the taking of all useful measures to support the National Committees and persons who seek to establish National Committees where they do not yet exist;
- (b) the co-ordination of the activities of the present or future member National Committees;
- (c) the institution of Divisions with responsibility for prescribed areas of the whole field of scientific and technical interest of the Union;
- (d) the establishment of international working groups instructed to:

- (i) study specific problems (standardization, glossaries, training of specialists, etc.)
- (ii) reach agreements in order to make recommendations in the field of vacuum; and
- (iii) secure the publication of the matters dealt with in the preceding two (2) paragraphs;
- (e) the development and promotion of exchanges, meetings and communications in the field of vacuum co-operation with National Committees and all international scientific associations; and
- (f) the application of all necessary measures and initiatives to achieve these aims.

### **3. MEMBERS**

#### **Article 5 - Membership**

- (a) Members of the Union are National Committees. They must be representative of the whole of the individuals and corporate bodies interested in vacuum science, technique and its applications, in their country.
- (b) Membership shall be limited to one (1) National Committee in each country.
- (c) Any country wishing to become affiliated to the Union shall form a National Committee able to take charge of the country's interests in the field of vacuum.

In certain cases and particularly when several neighboring countries have not yet established their own National Committees, they will be entitled to form a joint committee to which the status of Member will be accorded according to the same process as defined in article 5, 6 and 7. None of these countries may have its own National Committee.

- (d) A National Committee wishing to join the Union shall submit satisfactory evidence that it conforms to the requirements of articles 5 and shall undertake to observe the present Statutes.

#### **Article 6 - Application for Membership**

Application for membership of the Union shall be addressed to the President of the Union and sent to the Secretary General of the Union. It shall be signed by the President of the National Committee.

The application shall be accompanied by:

- (a) the text of the statutes and by-laws of the national-committee;
- (b) a translation of these documents into one of the working languages of the Union; and
- (c) a definite proposal concerning the appropriate number of contributory shares. The proposal will have been previously prepared for discussion with the assistance of the Secretary General of the Union.

When all of these documents have been received by the Secretary General of the Union, the latter shall register the application.

The Secretary General of the Union shall, at the next meeting of the Executive Council following the registration of the application, propose to the Executive Council the provisional admission of the National Committee.

#### **Article 7 - Provisional Admission**

Provisional admission shall require at least a favourable majority of four-fifths of the votes cast by Members of the Executive Council and votes must be cast by at least three quarters (3/4) of the Members of the Executive Council.

Voting on provisional admission may take place either during an Executive Council meeting or by correspondence. A postal vote shall be closed six weeks after the date of despatch of the voting papers.

Immediately after their provisional admission, new Members will have all the rights and duties of ordinary Members, with the exception of the right to vote which they will acquire after their definite admission by the General Meeting together with the obligation to pay the annual subscription fees.

Admission or rejection by the Executive Council, as the case may be, shall be notified to the National Committee within six weeks following the date of closure of the vote.

In case of rejection by the General Meeting, the application may only be re-submitted at the General Meeting at the end of the next Period, the Executive Council not being empowered to rule on a temporary basis.

#### **Article 8 - Definite Admission**

Admission of new Members shall constitute a specific item of the agenda of the Ordinary General Meeting at the end of the Period, preferably as the first substantive item of the agenda.

In this respect the draft agenda for that General Meeting shall explicitly state:

- (a) all applications received by the Secretary General during the last Period,
  - (b) the provisional decision taken by the Executive Council in each case,
- and
- (c) a proposal concerning the contributory shares of each possible new Member,

The General Meeting shall discuss each candidature separately and proceed immediately after each discussion to vote on the admission of the new Member under consideration and to ratify the number of contributory shares that the new Member shall pay.

The General Meeting shall decide on definite admission under the normal conditions of decisions. All the requests received by the Secretary General since the previous relevant Ordinary General Meeting must be laid before the Ordinary General Meeting at the end of the current Period. Definite admission may be granted even if for any reason the Executive Council has previously refused provisional admission. The ballot will be secret.

Only representatives of countries already Members of the Union shall be present for the discussion and ballot. The representative(s) of an applicant Member may not be present. Once this entire item of the agenda has been concluded, the representatives of the Member(s) newly admitted to the General Meeting shall participate in the work of the latter with the right to speak and vote on all subsequent items of the agenda.

#### **Article 9 - Resignation, Suspension and Exclusion**

Membership may cease:

- (a) by resignation. Notification must be forwarded to the Secretary General, by registered letter, before 30<sup>th</sup> June of any year, such resignation becoming effective on 31<sup>st</sup> December of that year;
- (b) as a consequence of dissolution for any reason of the National Committee in question;
- (c) if a National Committee has not paid its subscription for two (2) years. However, the Executive Council may suspend its membership pending the payment of outstanding subscriptions up to the point of suspension;
- (d) if a National Committee no longer complies with the conditions of membership pursuant to article 5.
- (e) by exclusion of membership which is pronounced by the General Meeting on a motion of the Executive Council, under the same conditions as for admission.

In case of resignation or exclusion, the Member of the Union is responsible for its commitments until the end of the current year. The subscription paid by a National Committee which announces its dissolution during the calendar year remains the property of the Union. Any Member which ceases to belong to the Union gives up, *ipso facto*, its rights in the assets of the Union.

The loss of Member status shall be notified by the Secretary General to the President of the National Committee concerned, as well as to the person previously authorised to correspond in its name with the Secretary General of the Union.

#### **Article 10 - Rights and Duties of Members**

- (a) Each National Committee shall inform the Union of modifications to the structure or statutes of the committee. This information will be given in two (2) copies of a letter to be addressed to the President of the Union, one copy to be sent to the President of the Union and the other to the Secretary General. The letter will be signed by the President of the National Committee. The following General Meeting shall confirm (or, as the case may be, annul) the membership of any National Committee having modified its statutes.
- (b) Each National Committee shall designate a person authorized to correspond in its name with the Secretary General of the Union. The authorisation shall be signed by the President of the National Committee in question. This authorisation must indicate the dates of the beginning and end of this authority. In the case of a change in the structure of the National Committee, the authority may be revoked by the new President.
- (c) The communication authorising an individual to represent a National Committee at the Executive Council of the Union shall be signed by the President of the National Committee.
- (d) Membership fees shall be paid in the first trimester of each calendar year.
- (e) Each National Committee must facilitate the management of the Union by paying its contributions promptly.
- (f) Each National Committee is at liberty to determine its own regulations and to organize its own meetings within its national territory.
- (g) Each National Committee shall nominate representatives to the General Meetings. However, Members of the Union may arrange to be represented at the General Meeting by another Member.

- (h) Each National Committee shall assign a representative and an alternate to the Executive Council.

#### **4. GENERAL MEETING (GENERAL DIRECTION ENTITY)**

##### **Article 11 - Powers**

The General Meeting is the highest authority of the Union. Its principal tasks are to approve the annual account and the annual budget, to guide the work of the Union, elect and remove the Members of the Executive Council, and to discuss, approve or reject the reports submitted by the Executive Council.

The General Meeting can make amendments to the Statutes and approves the By-laws of the Union.

##### **Article 12 - Composition**

The General Meeting shall be composed of delegations of the Members of the Union. Each delegation shall consist of a maximum of three (3) persons. It will be led by a head of delegation nominated by the National Committee which it represents. Each head of delegation will vote in the name of his National Committee, casting all the votes given to the National Committee so represented.

Each Member of the Union must notify to the Secretary General of the Union the composition of its delegation to the General Meeting, indicating clearly the name of the head of the delegation.

##### **Article 13 – Meetings**

###### Article 13.1 - Ordinary General Meetings

- (a) The Ordinary General Meeting will be held at least once a year. The Ordinary General Meeting will be convened by the Executive Council. Ordinary General Meetings are presided over by the President of the Union.
- (b) The agenda of the Ordinary General Meeting shall be limited to the following items:
- (i) Approval of the annual accounts; and
  - (ii) Approval of the annual budget,
- except that* at each Ordinary General Meeting at the end of a Period, which shall be held so far as possible on the occasion of an international conference, there will also be
- (iii) The election of the President-Elect and the other Officers,
  - (iv) The ratification of the representatives on the Executive Council of the National Committees, and
  - (v) The setting of subscriptions for the forthcoming Period.
- (c) The resolutions of the Ordinary General Meeting shall not be valid unless fifty percent (50%) or more of the Members are present or represented. The decisions of an Ordinary General Meeting shall be decided by a majority of at least fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast.

###### Article 13.2 - Extraordinary General Meetings

- (a) The Executive Council or three fifths (3/5) of the Members may call an Extraordinary General Meeting. An Extraordinary General Meeting cannot take place less than three (3) months before or after an Ordinary General Meeting, unless it takes place on the same day. Extraordinary General Meetings are presided over by the President of the Union.

- (b) The agenda of the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be prepared by the Executive Council which shall be required to include any motion put forward by at least one fifth (1/5) of the Members of the Union. No decision may be taken outside the agenda.
- (c) At least every three (3) years (the "Period"), immediately after the Ordinary General Meeting approving the annual accounts and the annual budget, an Extraordinary General Meeting will be held including in its agenda a review of the activities of the Union to be given by the retiring President and others invited by the retiring President, and a statement of the activities proposed to be followed in the forthcoming Period, to be given by the incoming President. These statements shall be communicated to the Members in advance together with the final agenda.
- (d) The resolutions of the Extraordinary General Meeting shall not be valid unless two thirds (2/3) or more of the Members are present, or represented. The decisions of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be decided by a majority of at least three quarters (3/4) of the votes cast.

#### Article 13.3 - Votes

- (a) The number of votes given to each National Committee shall be fixed by the following scale:

Number of contributory shares	1	2 or 3	4 to 6	7 to 9	10 and more
Number of votes	1	2	3	4	5

- (b) Voting will be secret.

#### **Article 14 - Notices**

The notice calling the General Meeting shall contain the exact date, venue and a draft agenda and shall be circulated to the Members by letter, fax or email at least four months before the proposed date.

The final agenda will be communicated to the Members at least six weeks before that date.

With respect to the approval of the annual accounts and of the annual budget, the Executive Council will send the annual accounts and the budget together with a request for approval to all the Members of the Union within six months of the end of the financial year.

#### **Article 15 - Representation**

Members of the Union may arrange to be represented at the General Meeting by another Member, the President or a Vice-President. At an Extraordinary General Meeting, no Member can represent more than three (3) Members including itself. At an Extraordinary General Meeting, the President or a Vice-President cannot represent more than three (3) Members. At an Ordinary General Meeting, there is no limitation in the number of Members a Member or the President or a Vice-President can represent.

Any Member of the Union wishing to be represented at the General Meeting by another Member shall inform the Secretary General of the Union four (4) weeks before the date of the General Meeting.

The Secretary General of the Union shall verify that the Member requested to act as representative of another Member is entitled to do so.

The representation shall be exercised by the head of the delegation of the representative Member.

**Article 16 - Minutes**

The decisions of the General Meeting shall be recorded in minutes signed by the President and deposited in the Archives at the registered office. The minutes shall be posted on the web site of the Union or made available to Members by such other means as shall be determined by the Executive Council.

**5. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (MANAGEMENT ENTITY)****Article 17 - Powers**

The Executive Council shall be vested with the following powers:

- (a) the Executive Council is responsible for the management of the Union;
- (b) the Executive Council is convened in writing by the President as often as necessary in the interest of the Union and at least once a year;
- (c) two thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Executive Council, present or represented, are necessary to form a quorum. Its decisions shall be by a simple majority vote of the Members present or represented; the President shall have a casting vote;
- (d) the Executive Council shall prepare the By-laws of the Union which must be approved by the General Meeting;
- (e) the Executive Council shall convene Extraordinary General Meetings under the conditions prescribed in Article 13.2;
- (f) the Executive Council shall fix the date and prepare the agenda for General Meetings. It is required to include on the agenda any matter proposed for discussion by at least one fifth (1/5) of the Members of the Union and notified at least three (3) months before the date of the General Meeting; and
- (g) the Executive Council shall establish internal committees as may be decided upon for specific purposes.

**Article 18 - Composition**

- (a) The Executive Council is composed of at least three (3) individuals being the representatives of the National Committees to the number of one (1) per National Committee, the President, the two (2) Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the Scientific Director and the Scientific Secretary. All the Members of the Executive Council are entitled to speak and to vote.

In addition to designated representatives of the National Committees, the Executive Council will not include more than three (3) individuals of the same nationality.

- (b) The Executive Council will receive at its meetings with the right to speak but not vote:
  - (i) former Presidents of the Union,
  - (ii) the Members of the Scientific and Technical Directorate, unless entitled to vote otherwise,
  - (iii) the founders of the Union who are persons who have participated in the council meetings of the IOVST, or meeting for the foundation of the IUVSTA, at Cologne, Brussels and Dijon and who have continued to play an active

role since then within the Executive Council or the Scientific and Technical Directorate, and

- (iv) observers who are recognised by the President of the Union.

#### **Article 19 - Nomination**

- (a) Each Member of the Executive Council representing a National Committee ("Councillor") shall be proposed by that National Committee and the nomination shall be subject to ratification by the General Meeting. So far as reasonably practicable, the Members of the Executive Council should not serve for more than two (2) consecutive Periods and should stand down for one Period before re-election as Member of the Executive Council.

The mandate of Member of the Executive Council is not remunerated.

- (b) No individual can represent more than two (2) Members of the Union. The individual representing the Member of the Union in the Executive Council will preferably be of the same nationality as the Member they represent. In case of different nationality the representative will require the approval of his own National Committee.
- (c) Each Member of the Union is entitled to nominate another person as alternate Member of the Executive Council ("Alternate"). This nomination shall also be subject to ratification by the General Meeting.
- (d) Nominations for Councillor and Alternate shall be submitted by the President of the National Committee to the Secretary General of the Union, at least six weeks before the date of the General Meeting.
- (e) In the case of death, permanent incapacity or resignation of a Councillor during a Period, he or she will be replaced by the Alternate.

If the Councillor and Alternate shall cease to serve in the course of a Period for any reason, the Executive Council, in consultation with the relevant National Committee shall appoint a Replacement Councillor for the remainder of the Period.

- (f) In the event that a Member of the Executive Council is unable to attend a specific Executive Council meeting, the Alternate can act as the Member of the Executive Council for that meeting, with all rights including voting rights.

If a Member of the Executive Council or his alternate is not able to be present at an Executive Council Meeting, at least two (2) individuals who are already Members of the Executive Council should be designated in order of preference as proxies to represent the National Committee. The individual designated as proxy will exercise the voting rights on the Executive Council of the Member so represented. Each individual may only represent three (3) Members of the Executive Council, including itself.

- (g) The President, the two (2) Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the Scientific Director and the Scientific Secretary cannot in any circumstances be a representative at the Executive Council of a Member of the Union, unless appointed as a proxy according to 19 (f) above.
- (h) The Secretary General, the Treasurer, Scientific Director and the Scientific Secretary are proposed by the new President for election by the General Meeting at the beginning of a new Period. The list of such candidates shall be included in the draft agenda distributed four months before the General Meeting.



Any other proposed candidate must be proposed by at least one fifth (1/5) of the Members of the Union.

#### **Article 20 - Resignation and removal**

- (a) A Member of the Executive Council may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President. The resignation of a Member shall become effective when the notice is given, unless a later effective time is specified in the notice.
- (b) A Member of the Executive Council may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by a simple majority of the votes of the Members of the Union.

#### **Article 21 - Notice of Meetings of the Executive Council**

Meetings of the Executive Council shall be called by the President of the Executive Council. The notice calling the meeting shall be sent to the Executive Council Members by letter, fax or email at least 30 calendar days before the meeting unless otherwise dictated by the circumstances.

The notice of the meeting must include the following:

- the draft agenda of the meeting; and
- copies of, or references to, relevant documents.

The validity of the notice calling the meeting cannot be challenged if all the Executive Council Members are present or represented.

#### **Article 22 - Proceedings**

Two thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Executive Council present or represented, are necessary to form a quorum.

Except if other majorities are provided for in these Statutes, decisions of the Executive Council shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes cast by the Members.

The President shall have a casting vote.

### **6. PRESIDENCY**

#### **Article 23 - General**

The Union is chaired by one (1) President assisted by two (2) Vice-Presidents.

The two (2) Vice-Presidents will be the President-Elect, elected by secret ballot by the General Meeting, and the immediate Past-President.

A former President is not eligible for re-election.

The mandates as President and Vice-President are not remunerated.

The President and the two (2) Vice-Presidents are chosen by the General Meeting to exercise their functions on behalf of the Union, because of their personal qualities, and not because of their national affiliation.

The President and the two (2) Vice-Presidents must each be of different nationality.

#### **Article 24 - Elections**

At each Ordinary General Meeting at the end of a Period there will be the election of the President-Elect who will automatically become in turn Vice-President during the Period following this General Meeting, President during the second following Period and Vice-President during the third Period.

At each Ordinary General Meeting at the end of a Period, the Executive Council will propose a candidate for the Presidency. Any possible additional candidate must be supported by at least one fifth (1/5) of the Members of the Union.

#### **Article 25 - Powers of the President**

The President is responsible for all the activities of the Union and ensures that they do not conflict with the laws relating to its constitution, statutes and by-laws. In any situation for which these statutes do not apply the President shall be responsible for taking the appropriate action.

The President will preside over:

- (a) the General Meeting which opens his term of office from the moment when he is introduced by his predecessor;
- (b) the General Meeting which closes his term of office until the moment when he introduces his successor;
- (c) any Ordinary or Extraordinary General Meeting which may be convened during his term of office;
- (d) meetings of the Executive Council; and
- (e) any assembly or commission for the proceedings of which it is judged to be necessary.

#### **Article 26 - Vacancies**

If a vacancy occurs in one of the following offices (Secretary General, Treasurer, Scientific Director, Scientific Secretary) due to death, incapacity or resignation, the President shall appoint a person as acting officer to assume the operational responsibilities of the position. This acting officer shall be confirmed by the next Executive Council meeting, and shall be in this capacity a non-voting participant in the Executive Council meetings. If the vacancy occurs early in the Period, the President may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect a replacement as a full voting Member of the Executive Council.

#### **Article 27 - Power of the Vice-Presidents**

The Vice-Presidents assist the President in all his or her duties. They can take his or her place on his or her request. The President-Elect becomes President in case of death, permanent incapacity or resignation of the President in office. If, in the case of death, permanent incapacity or resignation of a President during the term of office, the President-Elect is unable to take over the office, the other Vice-President (i.e. the Immediate Past-President) will take over the duties of the President until the next Ordinary General Meeting. He or she shall take the necessary measures to ensure that a new successor is elected as rapidly as possible either in the course of the next Ordinary General Meeting or of an Extraordinary General Meeting. He or she must choose the procedure leading to the earliest result.

#### **Article 28 - Honorary Presidents**

The title of Honorary President can be conferred on one or more eminent personalities. The decision to do so will be taken at the General Meeting on a motion of the Executive Council or of one fifth (1/5) at least of the Members of the General Meeting.

### **7. OTHER BODIES**

#### **Article 29 - The Scientific and Technical Directorate**

The Directorate is composed of a chairman (the Scientific Director) and a secretary (the Scientific Secretary), both being Members of the Executive Council, the Chairmen of the Divisions, the Chairman of the Education Committee and of experts.

The Scientific and Technical Directorate:

- (a) shall establish working parties to study specific scientific and technical problems;
- (b) shall, if necessary, assign new problems to existing or new working parties; and
- (c) shall formulate working directives.

The working parties shall be international in composition.

Each working party must prepare for each General Meeting at the end of the Period a detailed report on its activities during the previous Period.

The Directorate shall prepare a general report and submit it to this General Meeting.

### **Article 30 - The Divisions**

Divisions with responsibility for prescribed areas of the whole field of scientific and technical interests of the Union may be established according to need.

The establishment of a new Division needs the agreement of the Executive Council and ratification by the General Meeting.

## **8. REPRESENTATION OF THE UNION**

### **Article 31 - Representation of the Union**

The President or nominated representative of the President shall represent the Union in all judicial and extrajudicial proceedings and in any processes resulting in decisions binding upon the Union.

The Executive Council shall have powers to appoint legal representatives to assist the President in such matters.

## **9. RESOURCES**

### **Article 32 – Annual accounts and budget**

The financial year starts on first January and ends on 31 December of each year.

Each year the Executive Council shall prepare the annual accounts and a provisional budget to be presented as two (2) separate reports to the General Meeting for comment, and, if satisfactory, for ratification. The annual accounts are filed with the competent commercial court.

At the end of a Period, based upon the financial reports, the General Meeting shall determine the total annual amount required from subscriptions by Members for the following Period. This determines the value of the unit contributory share.

The provisional budget as voted by the General Meeting may be augmented during the Period by donations or unanticipated income to the Union, thereby permitting additional expenditure for the benefit of the Union. The donations shall be held in a separate fund and the intent of the donor will be honoured insofar as possible. The additional expenditure shall not exceed the amount of the donation.

### **Article 33 - Subscription**

The subscription for each country shall be determined as follows:

- (a) All subscriptions shall be multiples of a fixed amount – the "unit contributory share". The actual subscription is the product of the value of the unit contributory share and the number of contributory shares assigned to the particular National Committee.

- (b) The number of contributory shares assigned to each National Committee shall be determined according to the size of the country and the extent to which vacuum science and technology is practiced in that country and shall be fixed by the Executive Council after a study of the comments of the National Committee concerned. In every case, it shall be submitted to the General Meeting for ratification and, as a result, shall be adopted or modified.

## **10. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES AND DISSOLUTION**

### **Article 34 - Amendment of the Statutes**

Proposals for amending the statutes of IUVSTA shall be put forward by the Executive Council or by at least fifty percent (50%) of Members of the Union plus one (1) Member of the Union.

Any proposed amendment shall appear on the Draft Agenda of the General Meeting at which it is to be determined.

Decision of the General Meeting to amend the statutes shall be validly adopted with a majority of seventy-five percent of the Members of the Union present or represented.

### **Article 35 - Dissolution of the Union**

Proposals for the dissolution of the Union shall be put forward by the Executive Council or by at least fifty percent (50%) of Members of the Union plus one (1) Member of the Union.

The decision of the General Meeting to dissolve the Union shall be validly adopted with a majority of seventy-five percent of the Members present or represented.

In the event of voluntary dissolution of the Union, the General Meeting will determine the appointment, powers and remuneration of the liquidators, as well as the methods and procedures for liquidation of the Union.

### **Article 36 - Allocation of Assets**

In case of dissolution of the Union, any remaining available assets shall be transferred into a holding account of the International Council of Scientific Associations (ICSU), or its successor organisation. Within 5 years from the transfer, the most senior of the surviving last-serving officers of IUVSTA, after discussion with the other last-serving officers, may direct ICSU to transfer these funds into the account of a new International Association representing similar areas of Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications as those covered by IUVSTA. (Seniority order is defined at the time of dissolution as President, President-Elect, Past-President, Secretary General, Scientific Director, Treasurer and Scientific Secretary). If no such request is received with the 5 year period these funds will be retained by ICSU which will use them for the advancement of science. In any case, the net capital after dissolution shall be allocated to a non profit aim.

## **11. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 37 - Language**

The working languages of the Union are French and English.

Communications presented in one of these languages must, if required, be repeated in the other.

In any case, when the Belgian law requires the use of a specific language, this language shall be used.

These Statutes have been drafted in French and translated into English. In case of doubt, differences or problems of interpretation between the versions, the French version shall prevail.

**Article 38 - Legal reference**

All matters not covered by the present Statutes will be handled in accordance with the law of 27 June 1921 on non-profit associations, international non-profit associations and foundations. Therefore, the provisions of the law to which the present Statutes do not derogate are deemed to be inserted in the present Statutes and illegal provisions (or provisions that would become illegal in the future) are deemed to be unwritten.