



International Association for Official Statistics

2020 General Assembly Meeting

Thursday 20th August 2020, 12.00 -13.00 (CEST)

Virtual meeting

Introduction:

John Pullinger, IAOS President, opened the meeting and explained the reason behind the virtual format. The COVID-19 pandemic had prevented the association from holding a physical General Assembly meeting during the 2020 IAOS conference. The Statutes of the IAOS are in line with Dutch law and the Statutes of the ISI. The Dutch authorities made temporary provision for Associations to hold virtual General Assembly meetings before 1st September 2020 and so this virtual meeting was arranged quickly to meet the deadline.

Item 1

[Minutes of the General Assembly meeting 2019.](#)

The minutes of the 2019 General Assembly meeting had been posted to the website and were shared prior to the meeting for comment. No comments were received, and John invited attendees to indicate their acceptance of the note via the chat function during the virtual meeting. Members indicated their approval of the 2019 minutes with no votes against. The minutes of the 2019 General Assembly meeting were formally accepted.

Item 2

[IAOS Annual Report](#)

The 2019 Annual Report was posted to the website in April and comments invited. No comments were received and members attending the General Assembly meeting indicated their approval of the report with no votes against. The 2019 Annual Report was adopted.

John highlighted three key areas of the report based on the main theme areas in the 2019-21 IAOS Strategy:

The 2020 Zambia conference. It is hoped that a physical conference as originally planned will take place in Zambia in September 2021.

The Statistical Journal of the IAOS has been very successful with lots of interesting COVID-19 related manuscripts, articles and discussion.

The Young Statisticians Prize competition for 2020, its 10th anniversary year, achieved a very good outcome with the addition of a special commendation awarded for a paper from a developing nation. The competition for 2021 is now being launched and Members are encouraged to submit papers and/or mentor potential authors.

Item 3

Amendment to the Statutes

Due to the pandemic situation, there was no easy solution to meet the Statute criteria of a physical General Assembly meeting with two months prior notice. John explained the practical reasons behind the proposed amendment to the IAOS Statute but recognised that this was an important legal issue. If members were opposed to the amendment it could be withdrawn or subject to review when a physical meeting was possible.

Members were invited to approve the amendment to article 5.2 with the addition of the following text - The General Assembly meeting may be held virtually. In the case of a virtual meeting, members are given the opportunity to participate online and vote.

Members were invited to indicate their acceptance of the amendment via the chat function during the virtual meeting. Attendees voted to adopt the amendment with no votes against.

Item 4

Nominations for IAOS Executive Committee 2021 – 2023

The process to elect the next Executive Committee is beginning and members are encouraged to nominate themselves or others for the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee will be Chaired by past-President Mario Palma. Previous President Ola Awad has also been invited to join but 3 more members are required for the Nomination Committee to begin. Members interested to nominate themselves or others should contact [Misha Belkindas](#) or [Jo Green](#).

Item 5

Future topics for the SJIAOS

It was noted that the lack of physical conferences could have an impact on the ability to discover current and relevant topics for future editions of the Journal. Editor-in-Chief, Pieter Everaers, and his editorial team are seeking support from IAOS members to look out for and suggest current forward-looking topics. COVID-19 Health related topics are very current right now, but robust methods to support any potential breaks in time series as a result of the pandemic will be good for future manuscripts.

Item 6

Other Business

Members were invited to comment on any other business they would like to raise – no comments were raised.

John invited Ada Van Krimpen, ISI Executive Director, to speak about the ISI plans to celebrate World Statistics Day on 20 October 2020. The ISI website will host a dedicated page for World Statistics Day linked to the UN website and the ISI hopes to add a variety of events from associations celebrating the theme of *connecting the world with data we can trust*. The ISI are seeking input from all its associations on any events they may be planning.

Item 7

Closing the meeting

John Pullinger thanked all attendees for their support and contributions and reminded members that the current crisis had demonstrated just how important statistics are right now. He remained positive for a physical meeting in 2021.

The meeting was then closed.