

**International Association  
“Union Internationale de Radioécologie”  
“International Union of Radioecology”**

## **Constitution**

### **1. DENOMINATION, OFFICE, OBJECTIVE**

**Article 1      Name**

An international association with scientific objects is founded under the name of Union Internationale de Radioécologie (UIR)/International Union of Radioecology, IUR (hereafter the association or the IUR).

**Article 2      Office location**

The association’s office is located at Grees 44, B-2490 Balen, Belgium.  
The office location may be changed upon the decision of the Board of Council.

**Article 3      Purpose**

In order to assess and reduce the risks arising from exposure to ionising radiation for man and the environment, it is necessary to develop a comprehensive understanding of the ecological and anthropogenic factors influencing the behaviour of radionuclides and biological effects of their radiation. In order to attain this goal the association have set the following objectives:

- to encourage research and collaboration in the field of radioecology in all its aspects including, *inter alia*, characterising sources of radioactivity, describing the physical transport of radionuclides following release into the environment, investigating the uptake and transfer of radionuclides in ecosystems, studying the effects of ionising radiation on biological systems and determining the subsequent (actual or predicted) impacts on man and the environment.
- to encourage the improvement in competence of those engaged in the discipline of radioecology by actively working to debate topical themes relevant to the subject, through the attainment of professional and academic qualifications, and by the recognition of those who achieve high standards;
- to increase and disseminate information in radioecology through meetings, professional contacts, reports, discussions and publications.

The IUR is a non profit making organisation.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Article 4**

#### **Section 1**

The IUR consists of members as specified in the Byelaws Article I. Only those qualify for membership that have contributed to the progress of radioecology or that have a professional experience of at least five years.

#### **Section 2**

With a view to the long term development of radioecology Student Members shall be admitted. The Student Member shall be at least eighteen years of age, shall be engaged in radioecological studies or in an allied discipline.

#### **Section 3**

Any person, reputable firm, association, institution, or corporation, or subdivision of any such, may become a Supporting Member of the Association under the conditions and with the rights specified in the Byelaws.

#### **Section 4**

Supporting Members are not included in the General Assembly.

### **Article 5**

Admission to regular membership is ruled by the Executive Committee of the Board of Council upon examination of the candidate's file submitted on the recommendation of two members.

Membership ends by death, resignation or suspension.

Resignation shall be submitted by letter addressed to the President.

Those whose membership has come to an end cannot claim any benefit from the social fund.

### **Article 6**

The members pay an annual fee fixed by the General Assembly at the suggestion of the Board of Council.

## **3. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 7**

The General Assembly has full powers to realize the association's objectives. It is composed of all members except Supporting Members.

The following points are within its exclusive competence:

*New Constitution submitted to the XXX General Assembly – Jan 2008*

- a) approval of budgets and accounts;
- b) election and revocation of officers;
- c) modification of the association's Constitution;
- d) dissolution of the association.

**Article 8**

**Section 1**

Each year, the General Assembly meets in full powers at a place and date determined by the Board of Council. If necessary, The Board of Council may, upon the decision of the President, hold General Assemblies through other means such as e-mail or voice/video conferences.

**Section 2**

The General Secretary shall send a notice of each meeting with agenda to every member at least four weeks in advance of such meeting.

**Section 3**

An extraordinary General Assembly may, however, be convened by the President, by request of the Board of Council, or by request of one third of the members with the exception of Supporting Members.

**Article 9**

At the General Assembly each member may be represented by another member by proxy. Each member cannot bear more than four proxies.

A simple majority of the members present or represented is sufficient to rule. To be valid a decision must be voted on with a simple majority unless other voting requirements are laid down in this Constitution. All members must be informed of such decisions. No decision can be taken on items which are not on the agenda.

Decisions taken by the General Assembly are reported in a register signed by the President and kept by the General Secretary. The register is at the disposal of the members.

**4. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION - DISSOLUTION**

**Article 10**

Every resolution proposing a change of the Constitution or the dissolution of the Association can only be submitted by the Board of Council or by at least half of the members of the association (Supporting Members not included).

The Board of Council must inform the members of the association at least three months before the date of the General Assembly during which a decision on the proposal is to be taken.

To be valid a decision must be voted on with a two-thirds majority. If necessary, the voting may take place by e-mail.

However, if the General Assembly does not reach a total quorum of two thirds of the members of the Association, a new General Assembly will be called under the same conditions as mentioned above. Whatever the number of present or represented members may be, the decision taken by this General Assembly on the proposal of amendment will be valid and final.

Dissolution of the association can only be determined by the General Assembly.

## **5. OFFICERS**

### **Article 11**

The association is governed by a Board of Council consisting of twelve individuals, all Regular Members as defined in the Byelaws Article I Section 1.

Six Board Members are to be elected globally by all the members of IUR (except Supporting Members). The other six Board Members shall be elected by IUR members in their respective regions: 1) Asia and Australasia, 2) Africa, 3) North America 4) South and Central America and Caribbean and Mexico, 5) Europe, 6) Euro-Asia (Community of Independent States, CIS). Regional elections can only be conducted in regions with at least fifteen (15) registered IUR members.

Among themselves, the Board shall elect the four representatives of the Executive Committee, namely a President, a Vice-President, a General Secretary and a Treasurer.

All Board Members are elected for four years by ballot as stated in the Byelaws Article III, Section 1. At the end of their mandate, the Board Members may be immediately re-elected to their respective posts. However, the President may be immediately re-elected to his post for one additional period. To ensure continuity, not more than half of the Board should be replaced at each election. To the extent possible, the continuity rate should be three out of six for the Executive Committee and the other Board members respectively.

The Board of Council may not include more than two representatives of the same country.

### **Article 12**

The members of the Board can be revoked by the General Assembly with a majority of two thirds of the present or represented members with a right to vote.

### **Article 13**

The Board will meet at the President's request. A member of the Board can be represented by another member of the Board, however this member may not hold more than one proxy. The Board can only deliberate when at least half of the members are present or represented.

### **Article 15**

The Board of Council holds all administrative and managerial powers within the limits defined by the General Assembly. It may delegate its daily management to its President, an officer or a person in charge. In addition it can under its responsibility, confer limited and specified powers to one or more persons.

**Article 16**

The resolutions of the Board of Council are taken with a majority of the Board Members present or represented. In case of a division of the Council, the President has the casting vote. The resolutions are laid down in a register signed by the President and held by the General Secretary who will keep it at the disposal of all the members of the association.

**Article 17**

Apart from special proxies, all acts involving the association are signed by the President.

**Article 18**

The legal actions as plaintiff or defendant are followed by the Board of Council represented by its President or a member of the Board of Council elected by the latter for this purpose.

**6. BUDGETS AND ACCOUNTS**

**Article 19**

The financial year is closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The Board of Council must submit for approval of the General Assembly the accounts for the financial year and the budget for the following year.

**7. GENERAL PROVISION**

**Article 20**

Everything not provided for by the present articles, especially the disclosures required for the “Annexes” of the Belgian Moniteur, will be legally resolved.