

ANNOTATIONS

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF POPULATION¹

CONSTITUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
UNION IN WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 6–11, 1947

(Translation)

I. NAME

1. THE International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems shall henceforth be named the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. It may hereinafter be referred to as “the Union.”

II. PURPOSE

2. The Union has for its aim to facilitate the progress of quantitative and qualitative demography as a science.

The Union shall pursue this objective through publications, by organizing congresses, and by furthering relationships between demographers of all countries. It shall endeavor in all ways to stimulate an interest in demography among countries and among national and international institutions originating in such countries, as well as in the scientific and intellectual world, and in general public opinion.

Upon the initiative of the Executive Council the Union may affiliate itself with other international organizations upon a vote of the General Assembly.

¹ Editors' Note: The former “International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems” was reorganized into the “International Union for the Scientific Study of Population” in General Assembly meetings held in Washington, D. C. September 6 and 11, 1947. The most important aspect of the reorganization was the change from National Committee to individual membership. This change required the writing of a new constitution. The French text of the Constitution is the official text. The present translation was prepared by several United States members of the Union.

III. ORGANS

3. The organs of the Union are the General Assembly and the Executive Council.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

4. The Union is exclusively composed of individual members chosen on the basis of their scientific achievements and in such a way as to maintain a balanced representation among different countries and different fields of specialization.

When the number of members in a given country is five or more, they shall organize themselves into a National Committee. Each such National Committee shall conduct its relations with the Union through its chairman.

Any association or organization interested in demography without being engaged in political activities or in propaganda may affiliate itself with the Union upon approval by the Executive Council and by paying a periodic contribution, the amount of which shall be fixed by agreement with the Council.

5. The maximum number of votes cast by any one country or by any one National Committee is fixed at one-eighth of the total number of members of the Union. The National Committee shall, if necessary, designate the appropriate number of its members as voting members. For the purpose of this provision members shall be considered as belonging to the country where they have established their permanent residence.

6. After the first recruitment of members effected during the reorganization of the Union (September, 1947), elections shall take place whenever the Executive Council shall so decide.

7. The election of members shall be by mail ballot. A majority of the votes cast shall constitute an election provided that at least 25 per cent of the voting members have taken part in the ballot; their votes must have been received within a specified time limit.

The presentation of each nominee shall be accompanied by a summary of his scientific achievements. He must be presented by five members, one of whom must belong to the same country as the candidate if there are three or more members of the Union in that country. If that is not the case, one of his sponsors must be a member of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council may by a two-thirds majority temporarily withhold the admission of a member. It may also, for serious reasons, suspend a member. Final decisions concerning the expulsion of a member are taken by the General Assembly. The member in question has the right to present his case before the Council and, if necessary, before the General Assembly. The same procedure of expulsion shall be applied to affiliated associations and organizations.

V. SESSIONS AND CONGRESSES

8. General Assemblies shall take place ordinarily at intervals not exceeding three years. This rule may be disregarded in exceptional circumstances by a decision of the Council.

At each session the place and date of the next session shall be determined.

9. The sessions of the Union shall coincide as far as possible with the International Congresses referred to in Article II. These congresses shall be open meetings. However, the Executive Council, assisted by a special committee appointed for this purpose, may refuse to admit any particular communication or the participation of any particular person in the discussions. Papers of members of the Union may be rejected only if they are not scientific contributions. The Executive Council and the Special Committee may fix a limit for the number and volume of papers presented by any one member.

VI. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

10. At each session the General Assembly shall elect a President, seven Vice-Presidents and a Secretary-Treasurer. These shall constitute the Executive Council of the Union, take office immediately, and serve until the election of a new Executive Council. If a vacancy occurs the Executive Council shall effect the necessary replacement.

At the opening of each session of the General Assembly a Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Assembly in order to prepare a list of candidates to be elected members of the Executive Council. Any one nomination may be presented by at least five members of the Assembly, and shall be posted with the list prepared by the Nominating Committee.

The Council shall provide a reasonable lapse of time between the posting of the list prepared by the Nominating Committee and the presentation of any other candidates.

Members of the Executive Council may be reelected. The President and the Vice-President may not serve for more than two consecutive terms in the same office. The outgoing President may be elected Honorary President by the Assembly.

11. The Executive Council is charged with the administration of the Union and with the organization of its scientific activities. It shall also arrange the sessions. In case of urgency, the President shall take whatever measures he deems necessary, but he shall report such decisions at once to the members of the Executive Council.

At each session of the Union the President, in the name of the Executive Council, shall present a report of the activities of the Union in the period since the preceding session.

12. The Secretary-Treasurer shall in consultation with the President keep the Minutes, handle the correspondence, and carry out the decisions of the Union, except where the General Assembly may provide otherwise. He shall keep the records. He shall direct the various activities which are concentrated at the Headquarters of the Union. He may, upon approval by the Executive Council, employ secretaries and employees needed for carrying out his functions. A Director, who shall be responsible to the Executive Council, may also be employed to assist the Secretary-Treasurer in his work.

13. The Secretary-Treasurer is in charge of financial management and of keeping accounts. At each session he shall present a report on the term then ending.

In advance of each session of the General Assembly the Executive Council shall employ a professional auditor to examine the financial accounts of the Union. The results of his examination shall be included in the Secretary-Treasurer's report.

VII. HEADQUARTERS

14. The headquarters of the Union shall be determined by the Executive Council, the decision of which shall be ratified by the General Assembly consulted if necessary by mail.

15. The library, the archives, the accounts and all other services shall be located at headquarters.

VIII. COMMITTEES

16. The Union may form committees either permanent or temporary. To these committees may be assigned scientific investigations or studies of problems with respect to the Union itself concerning its organization, its functioning or its external relations. They shall expire at the next session of the Union unless reappointed at that time.

IX. PUBLICATIONS

17. The Union shall publish the Proceedings of the sessions and Congresses and, if possible, independently or in cooperation, a periodic bulletin containing demographic studies, abstracts from recent demographic publications of interest, a bibliography of recent books and articles in reviews, annual reports, etc.

X. FUNDS

18. The financial resources of the Union are as follows:

1. The annual dues fixed at the equivalent of 25 Swiss gold francs at the official exchange rate at the close of the preceding year.

The dues are payable beginning with and including the year of election. They confer the right to receive all publications of the Union. An unjustified delay of two years in payment of the dues may be considered the equivalent of a resignation, unless a contrary decision is taken by the Executive Council.

2. Subscriptions and sale of publications.

3. Endowments, legacies, subsidies, or other voluntary contributions.

A reserve fund shall be established, the revenue from which shall be applied to the expenses of the Union.

XI. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

19. Each proposal for any amendment to the Constitution shall be accompanied by a statement of reasons and by a detailed exposition of the texts in question, which shall be submitted to the members of the Union at least three months before

the meeting of the General Assembly. Each proposed amendment shall be signed by at least ten members belonging to at least two different countries.

The proposed amendments shall be discussed in General Assembly. They shall be adopted in whole or in part only if two-thirds of the voting members have agreed to accept them; and provided that this decision has been ratified by a mail ballot in which a majority of the voting members participate; and provided that this mail ballot has resulted in the adoption of the new text as a whole by a majority of those voting.

XII. DEFINITIONS AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS

20. The terms "nation," "state," or "country" appearing in this text are used in the sense of a political unit recognized as sovereign by the United Nations. The Executive Council may make any decision, as necessity may arise, concerning a political unit which is not a member of the United Nations.

21. The French text of the Statutes is the definitive text.



INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE PROBLEM¹

VENEREAL diseases are a major health problem throughout the world and their increased incidence during wartime has continued unabated into the postwar period in many countries, according to statistics assembled in a comprehensive report on "International Aspects of the Venereal Disease Problem" by Dr. Thorstein Guthe of the World Health Organization and Dr. John C. Hume of the United States Public Health Service and the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, with the collaboration of other experts.

In addition to presenting extensive data on world incidence of

¹ Guthe, Thorstein, M.D., and Hume, John C., M.D., with the collaboration of Gaskill, Robert C.; Mazär, Harold; Gjestland, Trygve; and Sanchez-Perez, Rafael: International Aspects of the Venereal Disease Problem. *Journal of Social Hygiene*, February, 1948, Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 51-95. Reprints 40¢ (50¢ if mailed outside the U.S.A.), available from American Social Hygiene Association, 1790 Broadway, New York 19.