

Guidelines - Voting Rights at the IUIS General Assembly

The General Assembly consists of the officers of the Union (Executive Council and Council) and of the delegates appointed by the Regular Members, Regional Federations, International Affiliate Members and the Standing Committees.

The General Assembly meets once every three years to decide on the future of the IUIS in terms of conference, leadership and policy. As such, the General Assembly represents an opportunity for multiple stakeholders to express an opinion representing distinct interests.

The rules of voting at the General Assembly prohibit absentee votes and votes by proxy.

The appointees to the General Assembly are required to fulfil one of the stakeholder categories and therefore represent their interests:

1. Executive Committee
2. Council
3. Committees
4. Regional Federations
5. National Societies

Each of the stakeholder categories represents a distinct set of values. The number of votes per stakeholder category is intended to reflect the size and diversity of that category. One individual may represent multiple stakeholders and therefore cast one vote in each category while representing that category.

One individual may NOT represent more than one vote per stakeholder category.

For example, an individual may cast one vote as a Council representative and one vote as a National Society representative. However, an individual may not have two votes as a National Society representative for the same society. This would constitute voting by proxy and is not allowed. In addition, the votes allocated to each category are intended to reflect

the diversity of the membership; more than one vote made by an individual removes the positive effect of this diversity.

If an individual is a member of more than one National Society, they may have two votes as they are representing two distinct categories; however, this approach is not encouraged and would only be valid if the same individual was appointed to the General Assembly by each National Society.

In the situation where a membership category is not represented in person, they may nominate individuals to vote on their behalf and to accept responsibility for representing that category. However, this approach is not encouraged. Because the General Assembly is intended to create a physical community within IUIS, it is expected that all stakeholders ensure that physical representation at the meeting is achieved.

The names of appointees to the General Assembly will have been given by their individual sponsoring Societies in writing by mail/FAX/email/virtual to the Secretariat at least 14 days before the physical meeting of the General Assembly. Members of the General Assembly must be present in order to cast their votes.