

## CHAPTER II

### TWENTY SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**First Session:** 15 August 2006, 15:45 - 16:50 hr

**Second Session:** 24 August 2006, 14:00 - 16:45 hr

**Closing Ceremony:** 24 August 2006, 16:45 - 17:15 hr

Kongresové centrum Praha, Congress Hall

Prof. Ronald D. Ekers, President, in the chair

### FIRST SESSION

#### 1. General Assembly. Opening and welcome

Following the Inaugural Ceremony, the President welcomed the participants to the first plenary working session of the IAU XXVII General Assembly, notably the representatives of the National Members.

#### 2. Representatives of the National Members and members of the Nominating Committee

National Member	Category of Adherence	Votes (a)	National Representative	Nominating Committee member
Argentina	II	0	Olga I. Pintado	Olga I. Pintado
Armenia	I	0	Areg M. Mickaelian	
Australia	IV	1	Brian J. Boyle	Michael A. Dopita
Austria	I	1	Michel Breger Jörg Pfeiderer	Michael Breger Jörg Pfeiderer
Belgium	IV	1	Conny Aerts	Conny Aerts
<i>Bolivia</i>	<i>Interim</i>	<i>0</i>	-	-
Brazil	II	1	Daniela Lazzaro	Horacio A. Dottori
Bulgaria	I	0	-	-
Canada	V	1	James E. Hesser	Gregory G. Fahlman
Chile	I	1	José Maza	Mónica Rubio
China Nanjing	V	1	Shuang Nan Zhang	Zhao Yongheng
China Taipei	I	1	Wen Ping Chen Hsian-Kuang Chang	Wen Ping Chen Hsian-Kuang Chang
Croatia	I	1	-	-
<i>Cuba</i>	<i>Interim</i>	<i>0</i>	Oscar Alvarez Pomares	Oscar Alvarez Pomares
Czech Republic	II	1	Jan Palouš	Jan Vondrák
Denmark	III	1	Johannes Andersen	Johannes Andersen
Egypt	III	0	Ahmed A. Hady	Ahmed A. Hady

Estonia	I	1	Laurits Leedjärv	Laurits Leedjärv
Finland	II	1	Ilkka V. Tuominen	Ilkka V. Tuominen
France	VII	1	Françoise Combes	Françoise Genova
Germany	VII	1	Günther Hasinger	Jürgen H.M.M. Schmitt
Greece	III	1	Paul G. Laskarides	Paul G. Laskarides
Hungary	II	1	Bela Szeidl	Bela Szeidl
Iceland	I	1	-	-
India	IV	1	S. Sirajul Hasan	Umesh C. Joshi
Indonesia	I	1	-	-
Iran	I	1	Jamshid Ghanbari	Ahmad Kiasat Pour
Ireland	I	1	Paul Callanan	Paul Callanan
Israel	II	1	Elia M. Leibowitz	Elia M. Leibowitz
Italy	V	1	Isabella M. Gioia Ginevra Trinchieri	Isabella M. Gioia
Japan	VII	1	Norio Kaifu	Sadanori Okamura
Korea RP	I	1	Young-Woon Kang	
Latvia	I	1		
<i>Lebanon</i>	<i>Interim</i>	1	-	-
Lithuania	I	0	Gražina Tautvaišiene	Gražina Tautvaišiene
<i>Malaysia</i>	<i>Interim</i>	1	-	-
Mexico	II	1	Christine Allen Alberto Carramiñana	Rafael Costero Alberto Carramiñana
<i>Mongolia</i>	<i>Interim</i>	1	-	-
<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Interim</i>	0	-	-
Netherlands	IV	1	Pieter C. van der Kruit	J. Mathijs van der Hulst Jan Lub
New Zealand	I	1	Willam J. Baggaley	Willam J. Baggaley
Nigeria	I	1	-	-
Norway	I	1	Kaare Aksnes	Kaare Aksnes
<i>Peru</i>	<i>Interim</i>	0	-	-
<i>Philippines</i>	<i>Interim</i>	1	Cynthia P. Celebre	Cynthia P. Celebre
Poland	III	1	Stepien Kazimierz Rafal Moderski	Stepien Kazimierz Rafal Moderski
Portugal	II	1	José Pereira Osório	José Pereira Osório
Romania	I	1	Magda G. Stavinschi	Magda G. Stavinschi
Russian Federation	V	1	Dmitrij V. Bisikalo	Rustam D. Dagkesamansky
Saudi Arabia	I	1		
Serbia, Rep. of	I	1	Zoran Knežević Olga M. Atanacković-Vukmanović	Zoran Knežević Olga M. Atanacković-Vukmanović
Slovakia	I	1	Vladimir Porubčan	Vladimir Porubčan
South Africa	III	1	Patricia A. Whitelock	Patricia A. Whitelock
Spain	IV	1	Rafael Bachiller	Rafael Bachiller
Sweden	III	1	Nikolai E. Piskunov Dainis Dravins	Nikolai E. Piskunov Dainis Dravins
Switzerland	III	1	Matthias Liebendörfer Daniel Pfenniger	Matthias Liebendörfer Daniel Pfenniger
Tajikistan	I	0	Pulat B. Babadjanov	Pulat B. Babadjanov
Thailand	I	1	Boonrucksar Soonthornthum	Boonrucksar Soonthornthum
Turkey	I	0	M. Ali Alpar	M. Ali Alpar
UK	VII	1	Michael Rowan-Robinson	Ian D. Howarth
Ukraine	II	0	Iryna B. Vavilova Yaroslav S. Yatskiv	Iryna B. Vavilova Yaroslav S. Yatskiv
USA	IX	1	John P. Huchra	John A. Graham
Vatican City State	I	1	Christopher J. Corbally	José G. Funes
Venezuela	I	1	Gustavo R. Bruzual	Gustavo R. Bruzual

### 3. Appointment of Official Tellers

Haili Hu (Netherlands), Styliani Kafka (Greece/Chile), Jana Kašparová (Czech Republic), Luca Sbordone (Italy), and Richard Wunsch (Czech Republic) agreed to serve

as Official Tellers, under the supervision of Virginia L. Trimble (USA), for the First and Second Session. Their appointment was approved by acclamation.

#### 4. Admission of new National Members to the Union

Proposals for admission to the Union had been received from three countries: Lebanon (requesting interim status), Mongolia (requesting interim status), and Thailand (requesting full status).

##### 4.1. Presentations by new National Members

The proposal from Thailand was officially presented in an address by Dr. Suchinda Chotipanich, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Thai Ministry of Science and Technology. Lebanon and Mongolia did not present themselves.

##### 4.2. Vote on admission of new National Members

By unanimous vote of the present 36 National Representatives, the General Assembly admitted the following National Members of the Union:

- Lebanon, interim status, the National Council for Scientific Research being the Adhering Organization;
- Mongolia, interim status, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences being the Adhering Organization; and
- Thailand, full status, the National Astronomical Research Institute being the Adhering Organization.

#### 5. Votes on proposed revisions of the Statutes and Bye-Laws

A proposal for revisions of the Statutes and Bye-Laws, based on requests from the membership and on consideration by the Executive Committee, had been published in IAU *Information Bulletin* No. 98 (June 2006), section 6.2, pp. 53-61. The proposal had been submitted in good time to the Adhering Organizations. IAU Vice-President Robert Williams introduced the revisions to the General Assembly. Each revision was voted on individually and approved in voting ratios (in-favor:abstention:opposed) 33:3:0, 33:2:1, 34:0:2, 36:0:0. The Statutes, Bye-Laws, and Working Rules are presented in chapter VI of these *Transactions*.

#### 6. Appointment of the Finance Committee

Full National Member	Category of Adherence	Dues units	Votes (b)	Representative
Argentina	II	2	0	Olga I. Pintado
Armenia	I	1	0	Areg M. Mickaelian
Australia	IV	6	5	Brian J. Boyle Matthew Colless
Austria	I	1	2	Michel Breger Jörg Pfeiderer
Belgium	IV	6	5	Conny Aerts
Brazil	II	2	3	Horatio A. Dottori
Bulgaria	I	1	0	-
Canada	V	10	6	James E. Hesser Gregory F. Fahlman

Chile	I	1	2	Mónica Rubio
China Nanjing	V	10	6	Xiangqun Cui
China Taipei	I	1	2	Wen Ping Chen
				Hsian-Kuang Chang
Croatia	I	1	2	-
Czech Republic	II	2	3	Petr Heinzl
Denmark	III	4	4	Birgitta Nordström
Egypt	III	4	0	Ahmed A. Hady
Estonia	I	1	2	Laurits Leedjärv
Finland	II	2	3	Ilkka V. Tuominen
France	VII	20	8	Suzanne V. Debarbat
Germany	VII	20	8	Rheinhard Schlickeiser
Greece	III	4	4	Paul G. Laskarides
Hungary	II	2	3	Lajos G. Balazs
Iceland	I	1	2	-
India	IV	6	5	Umesh C. Joshi
Indonesia	I	1	2	-
Iran	I	1	2	Sadollah G. Nasiri
Ireland	I	1	2	Paul Callanan
Israel	II	2	3	Elia M. Leibowitz
Italy	V	10	6	Isabella M. Gioia
				Ginevra Trinchieri
				Toshio Fukushima
Japan	VII	20	8	
Korea RP	I	1	2	
Latvia	I	1	2	-
Lithuania	I	1	0	Gražina Tautvaišiene
Mexico	II	2	3	Alfonso Serrano
Netherlands	IV	6	5	Jan Lub
New Zealand	I	1	2	Willam J. Baggaley
Nigeria	I	1	2	
Norway	I	1	2	Jan-Erik Solheim
Poland	III	4	4	Stepien Kazimierz
				Rafal Moderski
Portugal	II	2	3	José Pereira Osório
Romania	I	1	2	Magda G. Stavinschi
Russian Federation	V	10	6	Nikolaj Samus
Saudi Arabia	I	1	2	-
Serbia, Rep. of	I	1	2	Zoran Knežević
				Olga M. Atanacković-Vukmanović
Slovakia	I	1	2	Vladimir Porubčan
South Africa	III	4	4	John W. Menzies
Spain	IV	6	5	Rafael Bachiller
Sweden	III	4	4	Nikolai E. Piskunov
				Dainis Dravins
Switzerland	III	4	4	Matthias Liebendörfer
				Daniel Pfenniger
Tajikistan	I	1	0	Pulat B. Babadjanov
Thailand	I	1	2	Boonrucksar Soonthornthum
Turkey	I	1	0	M. Ali Alpar
UK	VII	20	8	Paul G. Murdin
Ukraine	II	2	0	Iryna B. Vavilova
				Alexander A. Konovalenko
USA	IX	35	10	Robert W. Milkey
Vatican City State	I	1	2	Richard P. Boyle
Venezuela	I	1	2	-

## 7. Appointment of the Nominating Committee

The President appointed the members of the Nominating Committee, as listed in section 2 of this report.

## 8. Report of the Executive Committee 2003 - 2006

The General Secretary briefly presented the Report of the Executive Committee 2003-2006. The full version of this report is published in chapter IV of these *Transactions*.

## 9. Report on the work of the Special Nominating Committee

The President reported that the Special Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of IAU members for Officers and for Executive Committee members for the triennium 2006 - 2009:

President	Catherine J. Cesarsky	(France)
President-Elect	Robert Williams	(MD, USA)
General Secretary	Karel A. van der Hucht	(Netherlands)
Assistant General Secretary	Ian F. Corbett	(UK)
Vice-President	Beatriz Barbuy	(Brazil)
Vice-President	Cheng Fang	(China)
Vice-President	Martha P. Haynes	(NY, USA)
Vice-President	George K. Miley	(Netherlands)
Vice-President	Giancarlo Setti	(Italy)
Vice-President	Brian Warner	(South Africa)
Advisor, Past President	Ronald D. Ekers	(Australia)
Advisor, Past General Secretary	Oddbjørn Engvold	(Norway)

The General Assembly took note of these nominations.

## 10. Proposals to host the IAU XXVIII General Assembly in 2012

The President reported that proposals to host the IAU XXVIII General Assembly in 2012 had been received from candidate organizing committees in Beijing (China), Hamburg (Germany), Paris (France), and Thessaloniki (Greece), and that the selection of the host by the Executive Committee would be announced in Session 2 of this General Assembly.

## SECOND SESSION

### 11. Individual Membership

By acclamation the General Assembly welcomed 925 new Individual Members, who had been admitted to the IAU upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

The General Secretary reported the names of 172 Individual Members who passed away since IAU GA XXV in 2003.

As of 15 August 2006 the total number of IAU Individual Members was 9785, distributed over 87 countries world-wide.

### 12. Resolutions

#### 12.1. *Report of the Resolutions Committee*

The members of the Resolutions Committee 2003-2006 were Christopher J. Corbally (chair, USA), Jocely S. Bell Burnell (UK), Matthew Colless (Australia) Georges Meylan (Switzerland), Silvia Torres-Peimbert (Mexico), Rachel L. Webster (Australia), and Robert Williams (USA).

The Committee communicated by e-mail prior to the General Assembly and held several informal meetings between the two sessions of the General Assembly. The Committee received no Resolutions from the Adhering Organizations and no Resolutions were received which had financial implications for the Union. Initially, four scientific resolutions of Type B were received and considered. One merited some exchange with the proposers, but all were quite swiftly recommended, without modifications, to the Executive Committee. These Resolutions 1, 2, 3, and 4, were posted on the IAU web, in IAU *Information Bulletin* No. 98 (June 2006) and in the 3rd issue of *Dissertatio cum Nuncio Sidereo III*, the General Assembly newspaper.

Minor revisions were made to Resolutions 1 and 3 as a result of interactions within Division I working sessions. The revised versions were given to all present at the General Assembly.

A few days before the General Assembly the Resolutions Committee received from the Executive Committee a draft Resolution on 'The Definition of a Planet'. The Resolutions Committee presented initial comments on the Resolution to the EC and worked diligently with members of the EC and its Planet Definition Committee [Owen Gingerich (chair, USA), Richard P. Binzel (USA), André Brahic (France), Catherine J. Cesarky (IAU, ex officio), Dava Sobel (USA), Jun-ichi Watanabe (Japan), and Iwan P. Williams] to incorporate the reactions and suggestions of the IAU members, especially those of Division III, into an acceptable formulation of the Resolution. It was found best to break the draft Resolution into two separate resolutions, Resolution 5A/B (on the definition of 'planet') and Resolution 6A/B (on the category of Pluto).

Acknowledgment is gratefully given to the essential roles of Jocelyn Bell-Burnell, Rachel Webster, and Robert Williams in the re-crafting of the draft Resolution.

*Christopher J. Corbally, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, 29 November 2006*

### 12.2. *Presentation of Resolutions of type B by Proposers*

The chair of the Resolutions Committee, Christopher J. Corbally, summarized the recommendations of the Committee concerning the resolutions of Type B, which had been submitted to the Committee in due time before the General Assembly and had been posted before the Second Session of the General Assembly. Subsequently each of the resolutions was presented by a representative of the proposers.

The full text of the final Resolutions is presented in chapter III of these *Transactions*.

### 12.3. *Vote on Resolutions*

Resolutions 1, 2, 3 and 4 were carried by a clear majority of the General Assembly.

The text of the Resolutions 5A/B and 6A/B was published in the 9th issue of the *Dissertatio cum Nuncio Sidereo III*, with some small amendments added on the spot.

Resolution 5A (on definition of a planet) was carried by a majority of the General Assembly.

Resolution 5B (to insert the word ‘classical’ before the word ‘planet’ in Resolution 5A) did not pass, with only 91 votes in favour.

Resolution 6A (on definition of Pluto-class objects) was carried by a majority of the General Assembly, with 237 members in favour, 157 members opposed, and 30 members abstaining.

Resolution 6B (on ‘plutonian objects’ as the category name for Pluto-class objects) did not pass, with 183 members in favour and 186 members opposed.

### 12.4. *Appointment of the Resolutions Committee 2006-2009*

By acclamation, the General Assembly appointed the following Resolutions Committee for the triennium 2006-2009: Jocelyn Susan Bell Burnell (chair, UK), Michel Dennefeld (France), Brian Warner (South Africa), and Rachel L. Webster (Australia).

## 13. Place and date of the IAU XXVIII General Assembly in 2012

From a slate of four candidate host countries the Executive Committee selected by vote the invitation from China. Therefore, upon invitation from the Chinese Astronomical Society, the IAU XXVIII General Assembly will be held in Beijing, China, 20-31 August 2012. The General Assembly accepted the invitation by acclamation.

## 14. Division and Commission matters

### 14.1. *Adjustments to the Divisional structure*

Proposed changes in the Division, Commission and Working Groups Structure were accepted and are presented in chapter IX, §§ 2 and 3, of these *Transactions*. The new structure of all Divisions, Commissions and Organizing Committees is presented in chapter IX of these *Transactions*.

### 14.2. *Election of Division Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Organizing Committees 2006-2009*

Each Division held internal elections for President, Vice-President and Organizing Committee for the triennium 2006-2009. The elections were approved by the General Assembly.

<i>Division</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>
I	Jan Vondrák (Czech Republic)	Dennis D. McCarthy (DC, USA)
II	Donald B. Melrose (Australia)	Valentin Martínez Pillet (Spain)
III	Edward L.G. Bowell (AZ, USA)	Karen J. Meech (HI, USA)
IV	Monique Spite (France)	Christopher J. Corbally (Vatican City State)
V	Alvaro Giménez (Spain)	Steven D. Kawaler (IA, USA)
VI	Thomas J. Millar (Northern Ireland)	You-Hua Chu (IL, USA)
VII	Ortwin Gerhard (Germany)	Despina Hatzidimitriou (Greece)
VIII	Sadanori Okamura (Japan)	Elaine M. Sadler (Australia)
IX	Rolf-Peter Kudritzki (HI, USA)	Andreas Quirrenbach (Germany)
X	Rendong Nan (China)	Russell A. Taylor (Canada)
XI	Günther Hasinger (Germany)	Christine Jones (MA, USA)
XII	Malcolm G. Smith (Chile)	Françoise Genova (France)

### 14.3. *Election of Commission Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Organizing Committees 2006-2009*

Each Commission held internal elections for President, Vice-President and Organizing Committee for the triennium 2006-2009. The elections were approved by the General Assembly.

<i>Commission</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>under Division</i>
4	Toshio Fukushima (Japan)	George H. Kaplan (USA)	I
5	Raymond P. Norris (Australia)	Masatoshi Ohishi (Japan)	XII
6	Alan C. Gilmore (New Zealand)	Nicolay Samus (Russia)	XII
7	Joseph A. Burns (USA)	Zoran Knežević (Serbia)	I
8	Irina I. Kumkova (Russia)	Dafydd Wyn Evans (UK)	I
10	James A. Klimchuk (USA)	Lidia van Driel-Gesztelyi (France)	II
12	Valentin Martínez Pillet (Spain)	Alexander Kosovichev (USA)	II
14	Steven R. Federman (USA)	Glenn M. Wahlgren (USA)	XII
15	Walter F. Huebner (USA)	Alberto Cellino (Italy)	III
16	Régis Courtin (France)	Melissa A. McGrath (USA)	III
19	Aleksander Brzezinski (Poland)	Chopo Ma (USA)	I
20	Julio A. Fernández (Uruguay)	Makoto Yoshikawa (Japan)	III
21	Adolf N. Witt (USA)	Jayant Murthy (India)	III
22	Pavel Spurný (Czech Republic)	Jun-ichi Watanabe (Japan)	III
25	Peter Martínez (South Africa)	Eugene F. Milone (Canada)	IX
26	Christine Allen (Mexico)	Jose A.D. Docobo (Spain)	IV
27	Steven D. Kawaler (USA)	Gerald Handler (Austria)	V
28	Françoise Combes (France)	Roger L. Davies (UK)	VIII
29	Mudumba Parthasarathy (India)	Nikolai E. Piskunov (Sweden)	IV
30	Stephane Udry (Switzerland)	Guillermo Torres (USA)	IX
31	Pascale Defraigne (Belgium)	Richard N. Manchester (Australia)	I
33	Ortwin Gerhard (Germany)	Rosemary F. Wyse (USA)	VII
34	Thomas J. Millar (N. Ireland)	You-Hua Chu (USA)	VI
35	Francesca d'Antona (Italy)	Corinne Charbonnel (Switzerland)	IV
36	John D. Landstreet (Canada)	Martin Asplund (Australia)	V
37	Despina Hatzidimitriou (Greece)	Charles J. Lada (USA)	VII
40	Rendong Nan (China)	Russell A. Taylor (Canada)	X
41	Il-Seong Nha (South Korea)	Clive L.N. Ruggles (UK)	XII
42	Slavek Rucinski (Canada)	Ignasi Ribas (Spain)	V
44	Günther Hasinger (Germany)	Christine Jones (USA)	XI
45	Sunetra Giridhar (India)	Richard O. Gray (USA)	IV
46	Magda G. Stavinschi (Romania)	Rosa M. Ros (Spain)	XII
47	Rachel L. Webster (Australia)	Thanu Padmanabhan (India)	VIII
49	Jean-Louis Bougeret (France)	Rudolf von Steiger (Swiss)	II
50	Richard J. Wainscoat (USA)	...	XII
51	Alan P. Boss (USA)	William M. Irvine (USA)	III

52	Sergei A. Klioner (Germany)	G�rard Petit (France)	I
53	Michel Mayor (Switzerland)	Alan P. Boss (USA)	III
54	Guy S. Perrin (France)	Stephen T. Ridgway (USA)	IX
55	Ian E. Robson (UK)	Dennis Crabtree (Canada)	XII

The General Assembly took note of these elections. The complete structure of the IAU Divisions, Commissions, Working Groups and Programme Groups is presented in chapter IX of these *Transactions*.

## 15. Financial matters

IAU Statutes, clause VII.13d reads: The General Assembly appoints a Finance Committee, consisting of one representative of each National Member having the right to vote on budgetary matters according to clause 14.a. , to advise it on the approval of the budget and accounts of the Union. The General Assembly also appoints a Finance Sub-Committee to advise the Executive Committee on its behalf on budgetary matters between General Assemblies.

IAU Statutes, clause XII.23.a. reads: The Finance Committee examines the accounts of the Union from the point of view of responsible expenditure within the intent of the previous General Assembly, as interpreted by the Executive Committee. It also considers whether the proposed budget is adequate to implement the policy of the General Assembly. It submits reports on these matters to the General Assembly before its decisions concerning the approval of the accounts and of the budget.

### 15.1. *Report of the Finance Committee on the IAU accounts of the triennium 2004 - 2006, and the budget 2007 - 2009*

#### SUMMARY

The IAU is financially sound and the General Fund has reached an adequate level to serve as a stable reserve for the Union. The accounting procedures in place provide an accurate record of the financial transactions of the Union and the annual independent audit provides an important check on this.

The budget for the coming triennium is adequate for the programs currently planned and the risks, while not negligible, are manageable.

#### REPORT

##### 15.1.1. *Introduction*

The Finance Committee (FC) has reviewed the preliminary report prepared by the Finance Sub-Committee (FSC) for the period 2003 - 2005 and the recommendations on the budget for 2007 - 2009.

The FSC was appointed at the 2003 General Assembly in Sydney and has operated as a standing committee in the intervening years, advising the General Secretary and reviewing accounts and budgetary proposal as they became available. It was composed of Robert W. Milkey (USA, chair), Toshio Fukushima (Japan), Paul G. Murdin (UK), Brigitta Nordstr m (Denmark), John W. O'Byrne (Australia), and T nu Viik (Estonia). Fukushima (the former chair), Milkey, and Viik were continuing from the previous period.

All amounts quoted below are rounded to the last digit, and stated in thousands of Swiss Francs (CHF), abbreviated KCHF. The IAU operates on a three-year financial cycle with budgets established for a triennium which ends in a General Assembly year. At the time of this report the triennium 2004 - 2006 has not ended, so we examine the

current accounts on a year by year basis. We include 2003, the final year of the triennium 2000 - 2003, because that was not completed at the time of the last report.

### 15.1.2. *Accounts for the years 2003-2005*

Accounts for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 were examined individually together with reports from the General Secretary and the reports from the independent auditors. We are pleased to report that the funds were expended responsibly and in accordance with the budgets adopted by the 25th General Assembly, as modified by Executive Committee actions.

The accounts compare to the budgets as follows (in KCHF):

	2003		2004		2005	
	budget	actual	budget	actual	budget	actual
revenues	913	1022	919	1068	947	1243
expenditures	1031	1067	865	965	890	857
net	-118	-44	55	103	57	386

The total of special contributions in the years 2003-2005 was 168 KCHF and an additional 114 KCHF was received from ICSU for a special project on Near Earth Objects. This type of revenue is not budgeted, but is of great value to the IAU when received.

The most notable departure from budget planning is the large excess revenue in 2005. This is due to a very successful collection of contributions (dues) from Adhering Organizations and significant recovery of shortfalls from prior years, including the previous triennium. In the period 2000-2002 the member contributions were reported as below budget by 317 KCHF, while in the period 2003-2005 these revenues were 202 KCHF above budget. We commend the secretariat for efforts in this area and recommend continuing attention to this matter.

The 2004 actual revenues and expenditures each include an amount of slightly over 60 KCHF which was collected at Sydney for proceedings and transmitted to IAU in 2004. Subsequently this was passed on to the publisher. While this transaction is shown in the accounts for that year, it was not included in the budget projections.

The net benefit to the IAU General Fund (reserves) over this period was 446 KCHF, bringing the value of the General Fund to 1134 KCHF. This satisfies a recommendation by the 2003 Finance Committee that the General Fund be held at approximately one-year's operating budget for the Union. For reference, the average annual expense proposed in the budget for 2007-2009 is 988 KCHF. After the planned deficit of 113 KCHF in 2006, the reserves will still exceed this amount.

Reports from the audit firm of MBM Conseil for the years 2003 through 2005 were submitted to and examined by the Finance Committee. These reports verify the revenues, expenditures, and net assets for the period in question. The auditors also examined the accounting procedures used by the IAU.

### 15.1.3. *Budget for 2007-2009*

#### 15.1.3.1. *Income*

The income is forecast on the basis of a 3% annual growth in the contribution unit to offset inflation. This is consistent with recent history and current expectations for inflation factors in both the U.S.A. and Europe as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor and by Eurostat. The same inflation factors have been used for both revenue and expenses.

Income from Adhering Organizations has been forecast using the current level of contribution for each National Member and the assumption that all National Members will pay without delay. This category accounts for 97% of the budgeted revenue for IAU and thus it is extremely important that remittances be made in a timely manner. While two new levels of adherence have been created, it is not yet clear whether negotiations with member nations, particularly the United States, will lead to increased revenues in the coming triennium.

The second largest category of budgeted revenue is that from IAU Publications. Due to the recent change in publisher this has been somewhat difficult to forecast, but forecasts become more reliable as each year goes by. It is hoped that this may even rise above the budget expectations.

'Special Contributions' is another important category of revenue but one which is not included in the budgetary forecasts. This is an appropriate budgeting process, because these cannot be assured. However, as each such contribution is received, the Executive Committee and the General Secretary can make the appropriate modification to the expenditure plan to pursue the activities for which these are intended.

Programs associated with the *International Year of Astronomy* will probably require additional fundraising in the coming triennium.

#### 15.1.3.2. *Expenses*

The proposed expenses are consistent with the status quo for IAU programs.

The operating costs of the Secretariat have risen in the past couple of years as the increased web capability was implemented and the membership database was updated. The cost for support of the electronic infrastructure is included in this category, in effect moved in part from the Publications category. We still view the costs of administration as low for an organization of this size and would not be surprised if these were to increase further in the near future.

The budget forecasts a major saving in publications costs over prior periods. This is a desirable result of the move to electronic distribution for the IAU *Information Bulletin*, etc. The IAU is to be commended for this development. The distribution of budgeted expenses 2007-2009 by category in the proposed budget is: Scientific Activities 36% Educational Activities 10%, Publications 4%, Other Unions 4%, Governance 11%, Administration 38%.

A major element of support for activities of the IAU does not appear anywhere in the budget because it is the in-kind contribution of the home institution of the General Secretary. It is safe to say that without this very substantial contribution of effort by a senior scientist, the IAU would find it extremely difficult to accomplish its programs. For a period of six years, first as Assistant General Secretary, and then as General Secretary, an individual devotes a major portion, if not all, of his or her time to the affairs of the IAU. A further substantial in-kind contribution is made by the provision of the office accommodation by the Institute d'Astrophysique in Paris. We would like to express our gratitude for this support.

#### 15.1.3.3. *Risks to budget*

We identify several risks to the budget. If any of these develop, this will endanger the achievement of the program within the established budget.

15.1.3.3.1. *Inflation* — Should inflation significantly outpace the assumed 3%, and especially should this affect labor costs in France where the Secretariat is located, then program expenses will have to be adjusted to meet these costs.

15.1.3.3.2 *Currency Exchange Fluctuations* — Two scenarios:

- The Swiss Franc drops with respect to the Euro, the currency in which most expenses are incurred. This seems unlikely since these two currencies have been extremely stable with respect to each other in recent years.
- Other currencies fall with respect to the Swiss Franc making payment by adhering organizations increasingly difficult.

15.1.3.3.3. *Adhering Organizations are late paying* — This would require IAU to draw on reserves to meet current expenses.

15.1.3.3.4. *Airfares increase* — Airfares could increase substantially due to fuel costs or other factors, thereby increasing the costs of both scientific program support (grants) and governance (Executive Committee).

15.1.3.3.5. *Labor Costs in the Secretariat* — We feel that the Secretariat is minimally staffed for the program needs of the IAU, and staff turnover may require some re-organization of the office during the coming triennium. The IAU has grown and the demands on the General Secretary and Secretariat staff have increased commensurately. Despite the dedication and hard work of the staff these demands may still require further staff or contract services above those foreseen in the budget to keep pace with the needs and expectations of the membership.

Should any of these be realized, we recommend that the Executive Committee and the General Secretary take immediate steps to adjust the expenditure budget, so as to avoid any unacceptable impact to the bottom line.

#### 15.1.4. *General Fund*

The General Fund is the IAU's buffer against financial difficulties and as such is essential in guaranteeing the long-term health of the organization. This fund has now reached the level recommended by the previous Finance Committee and it is incumbent on the IAU to maintain this level and plan for growth to preserve against inflationary erosion. While maintaining this fund, the IAU may use any excess earnings for program support.

#### 15.1.5. *Recommendations*

Overall our recommendations are based on our perception that the IAU is severely limited in its resources. To enable the IAU to expand its programs and fill the role potentially available for it in the domain of world astronomy additional income is necessary. A large proportion of current revenues must necessarily be used just to maintain the basic infrastructure for an international organization of the size of the IAU. Program growth will require additional resources.

15.1.5.1. Revenue Collections: continue program for aggressively collecting any payments that are in arrears. Negotiate, where possible, for increased contributions from member organizations.

15.1.5.2. Continue annual reviews of accounts by the Finance Sub Committee.

15.1.5.3. Re-examine investment policy to determine if higher earnings can be obtained at acceptable risks. If additional revenues, even of modest amounts, could be obtained it could have a noticeable impact on the programs.

15.1.5.4. Seek additional sources for revenue, including fund raising and development of new products for which the IAU 'brand' would have some meaning.

#### 15.1.6. *Finance Sub-Committee for 2006 - 2009*

Based on the standing Working Rules for the FSC, the FC proposes:

Continuing Members: Paul G. Murdin (UK, chair), Brigitta Nordström (Denmark), John W. O'Byrne (Australia).

New Members: Kevin B. Marvel (USA), Cyril Ron (Czech Republic), Cui Xiangqun (China Nanjing).

*Robert W. Milkey, chair FSC, IAU XXVI General Assembly, August 24, 2006*

### 15.2. *Vote on proposed budget 2007-2009*

The General Assembly approved the proposed budget 2007-2009 (Appendix I to this chapter).

### 15.3. *Appointment of the Finance Sub-Committee 2006-2009*

Following the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the General Assembly approved a Finance Sub-Committee for the period 2003-2009 with members: Paul G. Murdin (UK, chair), Kevin B. Marvel (USA), Brigitta Nordström (Denmark), John W. O'Byrne (Australia), Cyril Ron (Czech Republic), and Cui Xiangqun (China Nanjing).

## 16. Appointment of the Special Nominating Committee 2006 - 2009

Following the vote of the Division Presidents, the following composition of the Special Nominating Committee for the triennium 2006-2009 was unanimously approved by the General Assembly. *Members:* Catherine J. Cesarsky (chair, France), Alan H. Batten (Canada), Philip Allan Charles (South-Africa), Ronald D. Ekers (Australia), Julieta Fierro (Mexico), Eva K. Grebel (Germany), Sadanori Okamura (Japan), and Grainia Tautvaiiene (Lithuania). *Advisers:* Karel A. van der Hucht (General Secretary, Netherlands and Ian F. Corbett (Assistant General Secretary, UK).

## 17. Election of the Executive Committee Members 2006 - 2009

Upon nomination by the Special Nominating Committee and approved by the Executive Committee, the General Assembly elected:

President: Catherine J. Cesarsky (France); President-Elect: Robert Williams (MD, USA); General Secretary: Karel A. van der Hucht (Netherlands); Assistant General Secretary: Ian F. Corbett (UK); and Vice-Presidents (2006-2012): Martha P. Haynes (NY, USA), George K. Miley (Netherlands), and Giancarlo Setti (Italy).

Accordingly, the composition of the Executive Committee for the triennium 2006 - 2009 is as follows:

President	Catherine J. Cesarsky	(France)
President-Elect	Robert Williams	(MD, USA)
General Secretary	Karel A. van der Hucht	(Netherlands)
Assistant General Secretary	Ian F. Corbett	(UK)
Vice-President (2003-2009)	Beatriz Barbuy	(Brazil)
Vice-President (2003-2009)	Cheng Fang	(China)
Vice-President (2006-2012)	Martha P. Haynes	(NY, USA)
Vice-President (2006-2012)	George K. Miley	(Netherlands)
Vice-President (2006-2012)	Giancarlo Setti	(Italy)
Vice-President (2003-2009)	Brian Warner	(South Africa)
Advisor, Past President	Ronald D. Ekers	(Australia)
Advisor, Past General Secretary	Oddbjørn Engvold	(Norway)

This being the last agenda item of Second Session of the General Assembly, President Ronald D. Ekers invited the new Executive Committee to the stage, and the General Assembly proceeded to the Closing Ceremony.

## CLOSING CEREMONY

### **18. Invitation to the IAU XXVII General Assembly in Brazil in 2009. Address by Prof. Daniela Lazzaro**

It is my honor and pleasure, on behalf of the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology, the Brazilian Astronomical Society and the National Organizing Committee, to invite you to Brazil to participate in the IAU XXVII General Assembly to be held in Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 August 2009.

This beautiful city, located on the coast of Brazil, is not only well known for its unique tourist attractions, but is also the city where astronomical research officially began in the country. It was back in 1827 when Emperor Don Pedro I created the Observatório Imperial, later renamed Observatório Nacional. This is considered the first scientific institution in Brazil. In its long and not always easy history, the Observatório Nacional has received important visitors, among which Albert Einstein. Indeed it was a great event, in particular because, as many of you surely know, it was in Brazil, more specifically in the small town of Sobral in the north-east region of Brazil, that five years earlier, on 29 May 1919, the theory of General Relativity proposed by Einstein was observationally confirmed by measuring the bending of star light during a solar eclipse.

Nearly hundred years later, at the beginning of the 20-th century, was created in São Paulo what is nowadays the largest astronomical institute in Brazil. Initially it was a department of the Meteorological and Astronomical Service of the State, located at the São Paulo Observatory. Only later on it was renamed Instituto Astronômico e Geofísico, being an institute of the Escola Politécnica of São Paulo. Exactly sixty years ago it became part of the University of São Paulo and very recently it moved to its present location on the university campus. Nowadays, astronomical research is developed at several universities and institutes all over the Brazil, in the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Norte, Santa Catarina, Bahia, Pernambuco and several others.

Astronomical research in Brazil received a large impulse in the 1970's with the operational debut of several telescopes, including the 1.6 m National Optical Telescope, the radio-telescope at Itapetinga, and the activities of the Space Research Institute. Presently we are entering into a new phase, thanks to our participation in the Gemini consortium and the SOAR consortium.

In 1974 the Brazilian Astronomical Society was founded, which presently has around 400 members. Since its creation it has organized annual meetings which offer the opportunity to astronomers, especially students and post-docs, to present the results of their research. The Society has been giving support to symposia and workshops. Seven IAU Symposia and two Latin American Regional IAU Meetings were held in Brazil. Now the time has come for an IAU General Assembly. This will occur in Rio de Janeiro.

So, be sure not to miss the IAU XXVII General Assembly: great science and a great time is waiting for you! The members of the Brazilian Astronomical Society and all Brazilian astronomers as well as the “cariocas” are looking forward to welcome you warmly in Rio. Thank you!

*Daniela Lazzaro, Chair of the National Organizing Committee, Prague, 2006*

## 19. Address by the incoming General Secretary, Karel A. van der Hucht

Dear colleagues, friends,

The secret of the success of an AGS in surveying the preparations for the IAU Scientific Meetings and its Proceedings Series is communication with the organizers of these meetings and with the editors of their proceedings.

As IAU AGS in the past three years, communication was necessarily my middle name. Communication is time consuming and can occasionally be disappointing, but mostly communication is rewarding, gratifying and constructive. Sharing information should be considered neither a waste of time nor a threat, but rather a necessity and a blessing.

That is why the IAU EC has created the concept of the IAU Editorial Board, starting its activities in early 2004. The IAU Editorial Board serves as a communication platform to support all IAU Symposium and Colloquium Proceedings' Editors. Here they can exchange experience and ask for advice, whenever necessary, in their efforts to ensure that (a) all papers published in the IAU Proceedings are of the highest possible standard; and (b) the IAU Proceedings are published within six months after the event.

For each calendar year, the IAU EB comprises as Working Members the Chief Editors of the IAU Symposia of that year, assisted by four Advisers and by the AGS as chair. The Working Members who are encouraged to share editing experiences with each other within the EB. Through seeing and watching each other perform, the EB provides a sense of community. In this way, the goal of having the IAU Proceedings published within six months after the event has almost been achieved in 2004 and 2005, the first two years that we have been working together with our new Publisher, Cambridge University Press. In 2004-2005 the average production time was 7.5 months. We hope that, thanks to the hard and efficient work of the Editors of all nine Symposia held in 2006, six of them during this GA, we will get closer to the desired six-months production time, while maintaining the highest possible scientific standard.

Are the IAU Symposia still of relevance in an age when almost every day, somewhere on this planet, a new astronomical meeting takes place? We think they are. Because (a) the IAU still receives 2-3 times more proposals for IAU Symposia than the nine that can be financially accommodated by the IAU in any one year; (b) the IAU Symposia cover broad topics and attract broad communities, including talented astronomers from less privileged countries supported by IAU Grants.

The eight IAU Symposia and Colloquia in 2004 attracted 1229 participants, of which 303 participants from 48 countries received IAU grants. The nine IAU Symposia and Colloquia in 2005 attracted 1648 participants, of which 253 participants from 39 countries received IAU grants. Thus together, the 17 IAU Symposia and IAU Colloquia held in 2004 and 2005 attracted 2877 participants, more than in any single IAU General Assembly. Approximately 20% of the participants received IAU travel grants.

In 2005, the IAU also accommodated two Regional IAU Meetings (RIMs), an Asian-Pacific RIM, and a Latin-American RIM. Together, they attracted 559 participants, of which 65 participants received IAU grants.

The triennium 2003-2005 has been quite busy in terms of publishing activities: 38 Proceedings' volumes of IAU Symposia, Colloquia and Regional IAU meetings saw the light.

As for all above mentioned issues of IAU Symposia and Regional IAU Meetings, my successor Ian F. Corbett will see to it, with your help, that we maintain and improve our level of performance.

Communication will have to be my middle name also as your IAU General Secretary. You may remind me of that anytime. The next three years will be as important for the IAU as any other three years. My communication with you will be through the frequently updated IAU web site; the *Highlights* and *Transactions* of this GA; the bi-annual *Information Bulletin*; - the e-Newsletter; and, as a matter of course, the contacts with the Presidents of our 12 Divisions and 40 Commissions, and the chairpersons of the 75 Working/Program Groups whom you have voted into office, as well as with National Members.

As a special issue for the coming three years, the IAU has taken upon itself to be the facilitating organization of the *International Year of Astronomy 2009*. The main concept of this program is Communication with the Public: sharing with the community at large what we do, why we do it, and explaining why it is of relevance for all human beings.

Thank you, Oddbjørn Engvold, for showing me the way in the past three years. Thank you, Ian Corbett, for taking over the responsibilities as AGS. Thank you, IAU members, for giving me your vote of confidence. It will be my pleasure to serve you and to communicate with you for another three years until our great community gets together again, in Rio de Janeiro, 2009, for the IAU XXVII General Assembly.

## 20. Address by the retiring President, Ronald D. Ekers

It has certainly been a great honor for me to serve you as President of the IAU for the last triennium.

Those of you who know me may realize that I sometimes felt frustration at the rate of progress the IAU and how its members are adapting to this quite rapidly changing world. But I am immensely pleased with the way the new structure of the IAU is working, with the way in which the scientific matters of the Union are now being handled through the Division Presidents as representatives of the scientific part of the Union. And, of course, I also note that international organizations must work by providing consensus between all of the different nations and groups of astronomers, in order to proceed essentially as an international organization.

I have really enjoyed this, and I want to thank the incredible team I had working with me for the last three years. I thank all of you for your support.

## 21. Address by the incoming President, Catherine J. Cesarsky

We started this conference, in magnificent Prague, with a lovely rendition of “What poor astronomers are they”, from John Dowland [1563-1626, *Dissertatio cum Nuncio Sidereo III*, no. 3, p. 1]. I would like to close it with my motto: “What lucky astronomers we are”: we lead purposeful and interesting lives.

Look at this General Assembly. We have just had two weeks of passionate discussions. From black holes, dark energy, NEOs, to the meaning of the width of a spectral line or of a glitch in the radio emission of a pulsar, detection limits for extra solar planets, confusion limits in the infrared, the definition of a planet, every celestial object, every concept, every observation, every prediction got scrutinized, debated, refined . . . until next time.

Among astronomers, there are no national barriers; we all share the Universe. And thus, the Union – the IAU –, is not a vain word; it embodies one small and distinctive part of humanity, completely absorbed in the study of the heavens. I really love the feeling

of togetherness in intellectual adventure and path finding, enhanced by our continuous arguing and squabbling. This is why I am not so much proud, as deeply happy that you have elected me President of the IAU.

In the next three years, we will not have only the fortune of astronomers to celebrate. We will be commemorating, in 2009, the 400th anniversary of Galileo's first observations with a telescope, which brought about a fundamental change in our perception of the universe. We have decided through a resolution passed at the last General Assembly, at the initiative of Franco Pacini, that 2009 would be the International Year of Astronomy. UNESCO has endorsed our resolution and we hope that soon the UN will follow through. This offers an ideal opportunity to highlight astronomy's role in enriching all human cultures, to promote astronomy in the developing nations, to inform the public about our latest discoveries, and to emphasize the essential role of astronomy in science education. Individual countries will be undertaking their own initiatives, considering their own national needs, while the IAU will act as catalyst and coordinator of 2009 IYA on the global scale. We plan to liaise with, and involve, as many as possible of the ongoing outreach and education efforts throughout the world, including those organized by amateur astronomers. One interesting example is a programme geared at small children primarily in developing countries, 'Universe Awareness'. There will also be international events, events at the General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, as well as an opening and a closing event.

2009 is also the year of the 90th anniversary of the IAU, and on 22 July 2009 will come about the longest duration total solar eclipse of the 21st century. More celebrations!

We welcome your involvement and your ideas. Let us all together make this exceptional year an astounding success.

## **22. Closure of the IAU XXVI General Assembly**

President Ronald D. Ekers called to the stage the members of the Czech NOC/LOC of the IAU XXVI General Assembly and thanked them for a wonderful experience in a wonderful Prague.

On behalf of the participating guests, Mr. Harvey Green from Australia thanked the NOC/LOC for all they did to make the participating guests feel comfortable during their stay in Prague.

The President declared the General Assembly closed.

**A cultural performance at the start of the Second Session was presented by the Vocal Quartet Affetto.**

## APPENDIX I

## Proposed IAU budget 2007 - 2009 (CHF)

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2007 - '09</b>
unit of contribution	3685	3800	3900	
adjustment for inflation	3%	3%	3%	
number of units	262	262	262	
Adhering Organizations	965 470	995 600	1 021 800	2 982 870
royalties	20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000
bank interest	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000
<i>total INCOME</i>	<i>995 470</i>	<i>1 025 600</i>	<i>1 518 000</i>	<i>3 072 870</i>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2007 - '09</b>
<b>SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>General Assemblies</b>				
Travel Grants	-	-	235 000	235 000
operations	4 000	8 000	50 000	62 000
<i>sub-sub-total GAs</i>	<i>4 000</i>	<i>8 000</i>	<i>285 000</i>	<i>297 000</i>
<b>Meetings</b>				
Symposia	225 000	225 000	225 000	675 000
Regional Meetings	30 000	30 000	-	60 000
co-sponsored meetings	-	-	-	-
<i>sub-sub-total Meetings</i>	<i>255 000</i>	<i>255 000</i>	<i>225 000</i>	<i>735 000</i>
<b>Working Groups</b>				
EC Working Groups	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000
Commission Working Groups	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000
Minor Planet Center	12 000	12 000	12 000	36 000
CB for Astronomical Telegrams	4 000	4 000	4 000	12 000
Meteor Data center	2 000	2 000	2 000	6 000
<i>sub-sub-total Comm/WGs</i>	<i>28 000</i>	<i>28 000</i>	<i>28 000</i>	<i>84 000</i>
<i>sub-total SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES</i>	<i>287 000</i>	<i>291 000</i>	<i>538 000</i>	<i>1 116 000</i>
<b>EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>				
PG-ISYA	45 000	45 000	-	90 000
PG-TAD	45 000	45 000	45 000	135 000
PG-EA	15 000	15 000	15 000	45 000
other activities	15 000	15 000	15 000	45 000
<i>sub-total EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES</i>	<i>120 000</i>	<i>120 000</i>	<i>75 000</i>	<i>315 000</i>
DELEGATES TO OTHER UNIONS	12 000	12 000	12 000	36 000
<b>DUES TO OTHER UNIONS</b>				
ICSU	7 500	7 500	7 500	22 500
ERS/FAGS	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000
IUCAF	7 500	7 500	7 500	22 500
<i>sub-total DUES TO OTHER UNIONS</i>	<i>25 000</i>	<i>25 000</i>	<i>25 000</i>	<i>75 000</i>

*EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE*

Officers' Meetings	12 000	12 000	12 000	36 000
Executive Committee Meetings	45 000	80 000	80 000	205 000
General Secretary	30 000	30 000	30 000	90 000
Assistant General Secretary	2 000	2 000	2 000	6 000
EC WG IYA2009	2 000	2 000	8 000	12 000
<i>sub-total EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</i>	<i>91 000</i>	<i>126 000</i>	<i>132 000</i>	<i>349 000</i>

<i>PUBLICATIONS</i>	<i>10 000</i>	<i>10 000</i>	<i>10 000</i>	<i>30 000</i>
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*ADMINISTRATION*

salaries and charges	286 790	286 790	286 790	860 370
training courses	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000
general office expenses	82 000	85 000	90 000	257 000
auditor	2 500	2 500	2 500	7 500
bank charges	4 000	4 000	4 000	12 000
<i>sub-total ADMINISTRATION</i>	<i>380 290</i>	<i>383 290</i>	<i>388 290</i>	<i>1 151 870</i>

<i>total EXPENDITURE</i>	<i>995 470</i>	<i>1 025 600</i>	<i>1 051 800</i>	<i>3 072 870</i>
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<i>net result</i>	<i>70 180</i>	<i>58 310</i>	<i>-128 490</i>	<i>-</i>
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