



Minutes on the launch of the African Seismological Commission

Date:
22 January 2014

The African Seismological Commission (AfSC) was launched on the 22 January 2014 during an Africa-Array workshop held at WITS university in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The agenda may be found in Annex 1 of this report.

The meeting was well attended and an attendance register was circulated in order to build a contact database of all interested parties, the attendance register may be found in Annex 2 of this report. There were representatives from 21 African countries at the meeting, such as Algeria, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Ghana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola, Egypt, Senegal, Morocco, Libya, Nigeria, Cameroon, DR Congo, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Cape Verde Republic, Botswana and Rwanda.

The meeting was opened by the IASPEI president, Domenico Giardani, and secretary general/treasurer, Peter Suhadolc.

The AfSC interim secretary, Michelle Grobbelaar, continued with a presentation on the formation of the AfSC and what has been achieved thus far, i.e. review of the statutes and creation of a logo and publicising of the commission.

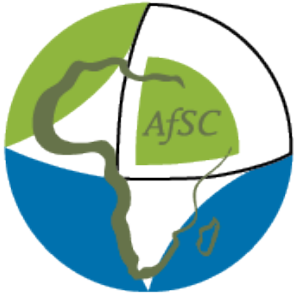
The meeting then addressed each statute individually and the comments and changes were reflected.

The statutes which drew the most attention and discussion were statutes 2 (Membership), 4 (The Council), 5 (The Executive Committee) and 10 (Approval of the Bylaws). The reason for this discussion was the issue of a lack of IUGG members within Africa. However, this was temporarily addressed in the statute on membership and will be reassessed in 2018, as indicated in statute 10 on the approval of the Bylaws. These may be found in Annex 3 of this report.

In addition, invitation letters will be sent to the institutions of non-IUGG country representatives to nominate their representative in AfSC and the letter should be signed by the institution heads.

The statutes were then adopted by all present.

The executive committee was then elected as follows:



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Atalay Ayele (Ethiopia) – President
Bekoa Ateba (Cameroon) – 1st vice president
Ahmed Hosny Ali (Egypt) – 2nd vice president
Michelle Grobbelaar (South Africa) - Secretary
Paulina Amponsah (Ghana) - Member

There was a request to appeal to IASPEI to draft a letter naming the elected interim executive committee. The idea was to use the letter for obtaining support for AfSC.

The location of the first assembly was not decided upon, but there were a few ideas to host it in Algeria, Egypt and South Africa in 2016.

The meeting was then adjourned at 14:00.



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Annex 1. Agenda

Meeting on:

LAUNCH OF THE IASPEI AFRICAN SEISMOLOGICAL COMMISSION (AFSC)

DATE: 22 January 2014
TIME: 09:00
VENUE: WITS, Johannesburg, South Africa

AGENDA

1. **Brief Introduction on IASPEI (Giardini & Suhadolc)**
2. **Background to AfSC formation (Grobbelaar)**
3. **Illustration of proposed statutes (Atalay & Grobbelaar)**
4. **Expression of interest of participants to become (Titular) members with short illustration of activities in their countries**
5. **Adoption of statutes**
6. **Election of Exec**
7. **First Assembly**
8. **Closure**



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Annex 2: Attendance register

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Annex 3: Proposed Bylaws for AfSC

Article I. Purpose of the commission

The AfSC mission is to **promote the science of Seismology** within the scientific community of the African countries, by promoting research studies, to extend and enhance scientific co-operation and to train young scientists.

The following objectives are of particular interest:

- a) **Facilitate exchange** of ideas and personal meetings between scientists by means of the General Assembly of the AfSC, workshops and seminars on special topics, and discussion forums on emerging issues.
- b) **Encourage co-operation** between individuals and organisations by establishing Working Groups (WGs) on seismological problems of common international interest, with emphasis on new research topics.
- c) **Promote inter-disciplinary studies** involving Seismology.
- d) **Encourage co-operation** with other African and non-African scientific and engineering communities.
- e) Organise, and encourage others to **organise training courses in Earthquake and Engineering Seismology**, especially for young scientists.
- f) Operate within the bylaws, regulations and recommendations of the **International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI)**.

Article II. Membership

Membership in AfSC is by **country and organization**. Each country that adheres to IUGG and is situated within the region defined in Article I is a Titular Member. Countries which are involved in seismology or geosciences within the region defined in Article I, but not yet IUGG members, may apply to be **Affiliate Members of AfSC**. African geoscientific organizations can also apply for Affiliate membership. Titular Members and Affiliate Members form part of the AfSC Council (see Article IV). A Titular Member should be nominated by the country's national committee of IUGG. An Affiliate country Member should be nominated by an Institution or Research organisation of his/her country.

Both Titular and Affiliate members are appointed for **two successive administrative** periods (see later Article X) and may be re-appointed thereafter. If no candidate is nominated by a country, the Executive Committee (see later Article V) may propose a



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candidate to the appropriate national adhering body or institution/research organisation.

Titular and Affiliate Members can vote on behalf of their country or organization on any matter.

Both Titular and Affiliate Members are responsible for the **dissemination of AfSC information and announcements on a national basis**. In the case of absence from a General Assembly, a Titular or Affiliate Member may delegate his duties to a compatriot present at the General Assembly or to a member of the Executive Committee (a proxy). If a Titular or Affiliate Member fails to fulfill the duties described in this Article II of the Bylaws, the AfSC Executive Committee may approach the national committee, the adhering body, or the organization head to nominate a new member.

Article III. The General Assembly

A General Assembly is the time period from the Opening Plenary meeting through the Closing Plenary meeting. Scientific sessions and administrative meetings are scheduled during the General Assembly. Anyone interested is invited to take part in the General Assembly.

The AfSC Council decides upon the location of the next General Assembly. If no decision is reached by the Council, the choice of a place and date is left to the Executive Committee. The letters of convocation for a General Assembly shall be sent to all members of the Council at least three months before the date chosen. An extraordinary General Assembly must be called by the Executive Committee if requested by the President or by at least one third of all Council Members.

Article IV. The Council

The ruling body of the AfSC is the Council, consisting of the Titular and Affiliate Members, and the Executive Committee.

The Council meets at least once during every General Assembly for elections. Before the Closing Plenary meeting, the Council shall decide on: **1.** Date and place for the next General Assembly, based on invitations received; **2.** Other matters referred to the Council. All decisions are announced at the Closing Plenary.

Article V. The Executive Committee

The administrative body of the AfSC is the Executive Committee, consisting of:



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- a) Members elected by the Council at each General Assembly: the President, the first and second Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General, and one additional Executive Committee member.
- b) Members by right: the immediate Past-President, and a representative of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI), delegated by IASPEI.

The **President, the Vice-Presidents the immediate Past-President, and the Secretary General** shall preferably all be from different country affiliations.

The **President is eligible only for one administrative period (normally two years)**. The President shall chair the Executive Committee and the Council, and act on behalf of the AfSC in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

The **Vice-Presidents are eligible only for one administrative period**. The Vice-Presidents shall assure the smooth progress of the activities related to the organization of the next General Assembly, and shall assume the duties of the President when the President is unavailable.

The **Secretary General shall conduct the correspondence**, preserve the administrative archives, assist the President and the Vice-Presidents on matters related to the AfSC, and implement or monitor the implementation of the decisions of the Executive Committee.

No person may hold the Secretary General office for more than **four consecutive** administrative periods.

The **immediate Past-President is a member by right** of the Executive Committee for one administrative period. The immediate Past-President shall be responsible for the improvement and expansion of the international activities and the impact of the AfSC, including the collaboration with other scientific organizations.

The Executive Committee functions include:

- **To realise the goals and objectives of the AfSC** as specified in Article I, and act according to the AfSC Bylaws,
- **To implement the decisions and policies** established by the Council,
- **To nominate the AfSC representatives** in other scientific organizations when needed,



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- To **enhance the transparency of all AfSC activities** including, not yet limited to, reporting of its activities,
- To **prepare the administrative agenda** of the next General Assembly, and coordinate the scientific programme,
- To **prepare new proposals for modification** of the Bylaws or internal regulations to be submitted to the Council for approval.

The **Executive Committee meets at least once every two years and during the General Assembly**. The Executive Committee meeting requires at least 1/2 of the voting members to be present. The decisions shall be taken by a majority vote. In case of a tied vote, the President's vote is decisive.

Article VI. Administrative Period

The administrative period is normally two years, and comprises the time interval between the Closing Plenary meetings of two consecutive General Assemblies.

Article VII. Elections

The **Council elects the Executive Committee** and confirms the Titular and Affiliate Members.

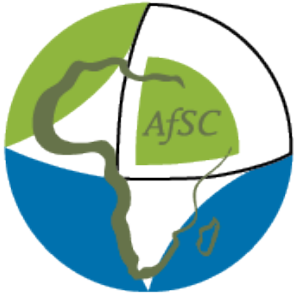
The **President appoints a chairperson** and two tellers to carry out the elections.

A person **cannot have more than one vote** by reason of his different offices. Vote by proxy is allowed. The election of the President, the Vice-Presidents, and the other member of the Executive Committee is carried out successively. In general, voting is by secret ballot. In cases of a foreseen unanimity, voting may be executed by show of hands.

All decisions by the Council will be made by a **simple majority of the eligible** votes cast. In case of a tied vote, the President's vote is decisive. For cases other than election of the Executive Committee, voting by secret ballot is performed only if requested by at least one member.

The members of the Council may cast their **vote in writing by mail or e-mail**.

During the interval between the General Assemblies, with the decision of the Executive Committee, when necessary, mail balloting may be conducted to obtain a Council decision. In such cases, the approval requires 2/3 of all eligible votes.



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Article VIII. Amendment of Bylaws

Drafts of proposed amendments must be made available to all members of the Council prior to the General Assembly. They must be approved by two thirds of all members of the Council with voting power. If a quorum of two thirds of all members of the Council is not obtained, the same amendments may be approved by two thirds of the eligible votes held by the members present during the next General Assembly.

Article IX. Interpretation of the Bylaws

The Bylaws may be translated into any language. The English text is the guide for the interpretation of the Bylaws. In case of any ambiguity, the statutes of IASPEI will serve as a reference.

Article X. Approval of the Bylaws

These Bylaws, in particular Article II, are adopted for an interim period of four years and should be modified by 2018. The Bylaws were approved by the IASPEI Council at its General Assembly in Prague on .././2015.