

**The 15th International Congress
of Speleology
Kerrville – Texas (USA), July 19-
26, 2009**

**UIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REPORT**



The 15th International Congress of Speleology (Schreiner University, Kerrville – Texas) was a big success with 1,565 registered participants (cavers and cave scientists) from more than 40 different countries from all continents. The Congress theme was “Karst Horizons 2009”, and it was associated also by another important event: the 2009 NSS Convention. I personally think that this international meeting provided new horizons for all those who managed to be there. More than 500 presentations, tens of meetings and trips made this congress extremely rich and an experience not to be forgotten. I will not summarize the program here, which spanned all aspects of speleology and provided also fun and joy for thousands of cavers. For those, who are interested in the details of the program, I invite them to check the official web site of the ICS 15 (<http://www.ics2009.us/program.html>).

The Congress also included the General Assembly of the UIS and several meetings of the UIS Bureau. It did also provide the opportunity for the UIS officers to meet as many cavers as possible and to live with them a few days whether during presentations, social activities and parties, as well as underground. The elections of a new UIS Bureau and the reports of the various Commissions and Working Groups demonstrate the increasingly dynamic evolution of the UIS. To stress more this point, three new commissions were launched during this Congress and two new member-countries were welcomed by the General Assembly (Jamaica and Paraguay). This Bulletin is devoted entirely to the 15th ICS. The minutes of the sessions of the General Assembly and the Bureau meetings, news of Commissions and Working Groups, details and information about finances as well as approved and to-be-approved documents are all presented in the below pages.



For the first time the UIS flag was raised at the opening ceremony of the 15th ICS in front of Dietert Auditorium. This flag represents henceforth all those who have the passion for exploring and protecting caves and karst in the world. It is your flag.

*Fadi H.Nader
UIS Secretary General*

Minutes from the UIS Assembly General

First session, July 19, 2009

Kerrville – Texas (USA), Dietert Auditorium – Schreiner University

The Opening Ceremony of the 15th International Congress of Speleology took place on the front entrance of the Dietert Auditorium (Schreiner University, Kerrville –TX) at around 8:00am on the 19th of July 2009. After short speeches addressed by Todd Bock (City of Kerrville), Hazel Medville (NSS Convention), and Andrew Eavis (UIS), the UIS flag was raised for the first time and the 15th International Congress of Speleology (ICS) was declared open. The General Assembly started with a word of Mr. Andrew Eavis, the UIS President, who summarised achievements and failures of the UIS Bureau in time between the 14th and 15th International Congresses of Speleology, i.e. for the period of August 2005 to July 2005. Mr. Eavis declared the Assembly General as opened. After opening, all participants took a while of silence for all cavers and scientists who contributed to the UIS and left the international community in between congresses (e.g., Andre Slagmolen [BE], Jean-Jacques Bolanz [SW], Claude Chabert [FR], Jerzy Glazek [PL], among others).

At the opening ceremony (just before the first session of the General Assembly), 31 member-countries (from 57) were registered (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America).

The convened Assembly General approved the minutes of the last sessions of General Assembly that took place at Dolphin Hotel (Kalamos-Attika, Greece) in August 2005 by 31 votes for.

The Secretary General of the UIS (Fadi Nader) presented his report. Dr. Pavel Bosak, the Acting Treasurer and Vice-President of the UIS, presented the financial status of the Union. He showed to the audience that the saldo remains negative since 2005, and recommended the change of UIS fees of member-countries to Euros instead of US Dollars, continuous financial support of the IJS, finding an Acting Treasurer from Slovenia (since the UIS Bank Accounts are in Postojna – Slovenia), and finding other sources of financing. After that, representatives of Commissions, Working Groups and Committees presented reports and information about their activity for the period 2005-2009. Thus, the activity of the following UIS entities was presented to the audience: Department of Protection & Management, Department of Research (Commissions of Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst, Paleokarst and Speleochronology, Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions, Volcanic Caves, Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis, Cave Mineralogy, Pseudokarst, Archeology and Paleontology), Department of Documentation (Commissions of Bibliography, Atlas of Karst Regions, Informatics, History of Speleology), Department of Exploration (Commissions of Cave Rescue, and Cave Diving), and Department of Education. The President of the UIS invited also Mr. Juan Carlos Lopez Casas (President of the FSE), Mr. Jose-Ayrton Labegalini (FEALC), Dr. Petar Beron (President of the Blakan Speleological Federation) and Mr. David Summer (President of ISCA) to deliver a few words to the Assembly.

The Assembly General elected two auditors: Grace Matts (Australia) and Susan Schindel (USA). They were elected, both, by 31 votes for.

The Assembly General elected (31 votes for) the Commission for the elections of the new UIS Bureau composed of Arrigo Cigna (Italy), Linda Gentry el Dash (Brazil) and Nicholas White (Australia).

Short presentation of the only candidate for the 16th Congress of Sopedology (2013) was presented by the representatives of the Czech Republic.

The Secretary General (Fadi Nader) introduced official requests from Jamaica and the Paraguay to become member-countries of the UIS. Both candidates got 31 votes for their acceptance as new UIS member-countries.

Several materials were presented to the Assembly General. Dr. Stein-Erik Lauritzen introduced the updates on the UIS Code of Ethics and invited the Delegates of the UIS member-countries to comment on a working document for updating the actual Code of Ethics and to meet during the Congress for further discussions. Dr. Fadi Nader also presented the new version of the Internal Regulations which are already published on the UIS official website. Dr. Julia Mary James (Australia) presented proposal for UIS prizes - the best poster, the most significant publication, and the best exploration. The Prize Ad-hoc Committee will be chaired by Dr. J.M. James.

The last point of the first session consisted of several announcements made by Mr. Andrew Eavis about the

UIS, Dr. George Veni on the ICS, and Arrigo Cigna who thanked the UIS family for the support he received upon the passing away of his wife.

Second session, July 26, 2009

Kerrville – Texas (USA), Dietert Auditorium – Schreiner University

At the moment of the opening, totally 42 member states were registered (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela).

The UIS President declared the second session of the General Assembly open. Mr. Andrew Eavis invited the representatives of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups to present their planned future activities for the period 2009-2013. The voting on Commission/Working Group activity was proposed to be approved by at least 39 votes out of 42. The reports were approved by at least 39 votes.

Mr. Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns presented the report of the Department of Protection & Management, and highlighted the problem of selling speleothems (e.g. Far-East). All representatives of the Commissions of the Department of Research which introduced their reports during the first session, addressed the audience again (e.g. Commissions of Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst, Paleo-karst and Speleochronology, Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions, Volcanic Caves, Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis, Cave Mineralogy, Pseudokarst, Archeology and Paleontology, Speleotherapy). Dr. Stein-Erik Lauritzen presented the projects of the Commission on Paleo-karst and Speleochronology including a new book on cave sediments and a conference in collaboration with petroleum geologists. Mr. Jan Paul Van der Pas introduced the upcoming symposia of the Commission on volcanic caves (2010 in Australia; 2012 in Jordan; 2014 in Ecuador/Galapagos). Dr. Alexander Klimchouk presented the report of the Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis and promised some ambitious plans. Both Commissions on Pseudokarst and Archeology presented their reports and plans for organising symposia in the upcoming 16th ICS in Czech Republic (2013). The Commission of Speleotherapy resumes with its program of symposia every two years. For the Department of Documentation, Mr. Patrick Deriaz presented the projected work for the upcoming BBS and future collaboration with the KIP within the Commission of Bibliography. Digital formats and CD-updates mark the objectives of the Commission on Longest and Deepest Caves. Mr. Peter Matthews discussed the objectives of the Informatic Commission (multi-lingual dictionary, expedition database in collaboration with FSE, Forums, website). Mr. Christian Dodelin presented the upcoming projects of the Cave Rescue Commission (part of the Department of Exploration) including the 2011 Conference in Bulgaria and the training meetings in France (2010 and 2012). Mr. Phillippe Brunet presented the report of the Diving Commission and publicized proposed international training program in Greece (2010), Lebanon (2011), Portugal (2012), and France (2013). The Teaching Department is working on an upcoming international meeting in France in May 2010.

Besides, two new commissions were proposed (and voted for favourably). The first is a Commission on Cave Biology proposing two sessions for the next ICS (Brno, Czech Republic 2013) and a commission meeting in Slovenia in 2010. The second is a Commission on Microbiology and Geomicrobiology proposing the work on a book (state of the art of cave microbiology and geo-microbiology) and a portal or a discussion group on internet. The Working Group on Arts and Letters has been upgraded to Commission within the Department of Documentation.

All Commissions and Working Groups will send their meeting reports to the Secretary General in due time. These are going to be published on the UIS official website and Bulletin.

Then, the Advisory Committee (constituted by Arrigo Cigna, Pavel Bosak, Julia James, Fritz Oedl, and Hubbert Trimmel) presented its report concerning the proposals, motions and decisions. Dr. Arrigo Cigna declared that at present the Advisory Committee sees no objections and that everything went so far according to the UIS Constitution and statutes.

Two budget auditors, Grace Matts (Australia) and Susan Schindel (USA), after examining the books and relevant documents provided by the Acting Treasurer, presented the audit report and recommendations:

Audit Report on the accounts of the Union Internationale de Spéléologie for the period of August 2005 to July 2009

This audit has proved a challenge in so far as the auditors had to try to interpret all the documentation in the Slovenian language. However, with the addition of the audited reports for the 2007 and 2008, we are happy to report that all moneys have been accounted for, no discrepancies uncovered.

For the information of the member-countries of the UIS, we have prepared the following - minor errors may be present in the amounts due to the re-evaluation of various currencies.

Income over four years

*Most of the UIS income is derived from the payment of fees by the member-countries.
There was a small amount of interest EU 146.57.*

Expenses over the four years

Major expenses in Euros:

■ Website	362.0
■ Book production	1,071.0
■ zfGeomorph	1,520.0
■ Bureau travel asstnce	1,765.0
■ Bibliography Comm.	7,000.0
■ Int. Journ. Speleol.	22,000.0
■ Account keeping	3,846.0
■ Audit fees	2,094.0
■ Bank charges	733.0

Invested Fund \$ US 15,000.0

This has earned \$ US 200.92 over a six month period.

Total value of this investment is 10857.8 Euros

At this time the balance of the funds held by the UIS is 15,126 Euros.

Grace Matts (Australia) and Susan Schindel (USA)

Recommendations of the Auditors (Grace Matts, Australia; and Susan Schindel, USA)

- 1. All accounts should be amalgamated into the one UIS account in Euros.*
- 2. All money to be sent to the Treasurer in Euros.*
- 3. Cash should be eliminated from the UIS accounts with the exception of a small Petty Cash Account. This must be carefully documented and dockets retained.*
- 4. Receipts should be written for all amounts received, documenting details of the purpose.*
- 5. Invoices should be issued annually to all member-countries detailing amounts owed and with options for payment. The invoice should also note that if a receipt is required, an addressed envelope must be included with the payment, together with an additional amount to cover postage. Copies of these invoices should be presented to the editors.*
- 6. All member-countries are urged to pay their fees upon receipt of the UIS invoice – UIS needs the steady income to achieve its aims.*
- 7. Accounts should be reconciled monthly or prior to reporting to any formal meeting of the UIS Bureau. Following approval of the meeting should these reports be placed on the website for members to see?*
- 8. Following preparation of the budget and approval by the Bureau, any funds not immediately needed should be invested for a better rate of interest.*
- 9. A four-yearly budget should be prepared and presented to the General Assembly of the UIS. This document should be flexible but should outline the proposed spending of the UIS money to its members.*
- 10. The auditor should be presented with copies of all Minutes of Bureau and Council meetings held during the audited period.*

Approving voting resulted as follows: 39 votes for acceptance of the auditors report and one abstention. At the end of voting procedure it could be stated that the audit report was accepted as it obtained almost absolute majority of votes approving properly evidenced financing of the UIS.

The Assembly General than was notified about major speleological events that will take place between the International Congresses of Speleology (e.g. Speleogenesis; International Workshop for Ice-Caves, June 2010; 18th Karstological school in Postojna - Slovenia "Dinaric karst", June 2010; 14th Symposium of Vulcanospeleology, August 2010; FEALC 5th Congress in Cuba, August 2010). Mr. Manuel Freire also presented some information on the construction and upgrading of the new UIS website.

The next point was to vote for the organizers of the next ICS (no. 16) in 2013. There was only one candidate, the Czech Republic. The election took place granting 39 votes for and one abstention. So the upcoming 16th ICS will take place in Brno (Czech Republic) in 2013.

The elections of the New UIS Bureau were introduced by Dr. Pavel Bosak (Czech republic) by explanation of the procedure following the UIS Constitution (20 votes minimum for election in the first round). Three scrutators were selected: Arrigo Cigna (Italy), Linda Gentry el Dash (Brazil) and Nicholas White (Australia). He introduced the only one candidate for the UIS President, Mr. Andrew Eavis, United Kingdom; for the UIS Vice-Presidents (C. Dodelin, France; G. Veni, USA), the only nomination to the UIS Secretary General (F. Nader, Lebanon), and nominations for UIS Adjunct Secretaries (B. Giovanni, Italy; J.-P.Bartholeyns, Belgium; C. Benedetto, Argentina; P.Beron, Bulgaria; J.A. Crispim, Portugal; M. Freire, Portugal; M. Garasic, Croatia; D. Kicinska, Poland; A. Klimchouk, Ukraine; K. Sik Woo, Republic of Korea; S.-E. Lauritzen, Norway; J.C. Lopez Casas, Spain; E. Mercado, Puerto Rico; Urs Widmer, Switzerland; P. Williams, New Zealand; N. Zupan Hajna, Slovenia).

The UIS President - Mr. Andrew James Eavis of the United Kingdom - was re-elected in the first round obtaining 35 votes (four abstentions and one invalid). The UIS Vice-Presidents were elected in the first round. Mr. Christian Dodelin of France got 35 votes for and five abstentions; while Dr. George Veni of the USA got 40 votes for. The UIS Secretary General – Dr. Fadi Nader of Lebanon - was re-elected in the first round obtaining 37 votes (two abstentions and one invalid vote). The UIS Adjunct Secretaries were elected in two rounds. During the first round, following members were elected: Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna of Slovenia (35 votes); Dr. Paul Williams of New Zealand (32 votes); Mr. Efrain Mercado of Puerto Rico (31 votes); Dr. Kyung Sik Woo of the Republic of Korea (31 votes); Dr. Alexander Klimchouk of Ukraine (27 votes); Dr. S.-E. Lauritzen of Norway (25 votes); Dr. Badino Giovanni of Italy (22 votes); all obtaining necessary absolute majority of votes. The unsuccessful candidates from the first round were nominated to the second round of election. Mr. Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns of Belgium was elected by 10 votes obtaining more votes than any other candidate.

The Statement of the new UIS President was presented by Mr. Andrew Eavis, following the elections. He thanked the audience and expressed his will of stepping down had there been any other candidate for the position of president. Then, he explained to the delegates that the first mandate granted some training for him and promised to do his best in the upcoming four years to continue supporting the commissions, make use of constructive criticism, bringing new changes to the structure of the UIS, and promoting the upcoming 16th ICS in Brno (Czech Republic). He thanked the members of the past Bureau and declared that the previous Bureau was the best for years and that over the last 20 years, profound positive changes occurred within the UIS Bureau.

Some other businesses were also presented. First, changes in the structure of the UIS Bureau were anticipated and regional federations as well as ISCA were invited to attend Bureau meetings. Second, a motion was made concerning the 17th ICS – in eight years time –, which is supposed to be out of Europe (as the 16th will be held in the Czech republic); Mr. Andrew Eavis asked the delegates to start thinking about that. Dr. Stein-Erik Lauritzen informed the audience that the Code of Ethics remains a “working document” and not a final product and invited all delegates to revise the distributed version and send their comments and suggestions before September 1, 2010. The best is that the new Code of Ethics be a real consensus among all member-countries of the UIS. Dr. Derek Ford encouraged the next UIS Bureau to work hard in making the UIS associate member of the ICSU. He expressed his opinion that joining the ICSU will be very helpful to the UIS. Dr. Paul Williams declared that together with the Secretary General, the application to the ICSU is under preparation and that joining the ICSU will costs us only 500 Euros/year.

Mr. Andrew Eavis asked to vote on the motion proposed by the Acting Treasurer, Dr. Pavel Bosak, and supported by the auditors, which demands that the fees of the UIS member-countries be changed to Euros instead of US Dollars (keeping the same rates but different currency), starting January 2010. This motion was accepted with 24 votes for, three against and two abstentions.

Mr. Andrew Eavis also presented a motion to appoint Dr. Pavel Bosak of Czech Republic as Honorary Member of the UIS Bureau. Dr. Bosak has left the UIS Bureau during this General Assembly after a long career in the UIS. The motion was accepted with 36 votes for.

At this stage and near the end of the General Assembly, the Czech representatives showed a second presentation concerning the 16th ICS in Brno (Czech Republic) and promised trips to Slovakia, Poland, Austria, Slovenia, Hungary and Ukraine (www.speleo2013.com). Dr. George Veni of USA passed the UIS Flag to the organizers of the 16th ICS in Brno and offered a gift of the NSS consisting of 3,000 US Dollars, as a seed grant for the organisation costs, wishing that the Czech organizers will do the same for the organizers of the 17th ICS.

Finally, the UIS President - Mr. Andrew Eavis - in a short conclusive speech declared the Assembly General of the 15th ICS, as closed at about 12:20.

Documents approved by the General Assembly of the UIS, during the 15th International Congress of Speleology, Kerrville TX - USA, July 19-26, 2009

Internal Regulations of the UIS

Article 1: Preamble

According to the Union Internationale de Spéléologie's Act of Societies Article 11 (official paper of the Republic of Slovenia No. 60/5) created during the 4th International Congress of Speleology in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, on September 16, 1965, and amended during the session of the General Assembly held on July 23, 2001 in Brasilia DF, Brazil during the 13th International Congress of Speleology, the Union's General Assembly decided to set the Union's stable address in Slovenia and adopted the following:

- a) The name of the Society is: Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS).
- b) The UIS is a legal subject of Slovene law. The UIS headquarters is Postojna, Titov trg 2, Slovenia.
- c) The UIS has a logo. It graphically represents the acronym "UIS" with two rectangles above the letters U and S, of the same color as "UIS" (blue or black), and includes the caption "Union Internationale de Spéléologie." The seal of the Society is rectangular in shape, 4.7 x 1.3 cm in size, and contains the UIS logo and the heading "Secrétaire Général."
- d) The UIS can be associated with caving and other organizations in Slovenia and abroad.
- e) The UIS works on a volunteer basis and is open to the public. The UIS publicizes its activities directly by publishing printed reports and/or through public media.
- f) The UIS can have real or other property, which must be listed as property of the UIS in the UIS inventory. Property of the UIS can be bought or sold only through the decision of the UIS Bureau.
- g) The UIS can be dissolved by a majority vote of its General Assembly where more than 2/3 of delegates of member countries are present. In the case of UIS dissolution, the General Assembly of the UIS will decide to whom the assets, property, and authority of the UIS will belong.

Article 2: Objectives of Internal Regulations

The purpose of these Internal Regulations is to complement the UIS Statutes by establishing the detailed procedures, standards, and obligations of the UIS Bureau and those the Bureau assigns to perform duties for the UIS. Their intent is to promote fellowship among speleologists and cavers around the world, develop all aspects of speleology (scientific, technical, cultural, sporting, social, and economic), and to promote the protection and management of the world's speleological and karst heritage in ways conducive to sustainable development in all locations where caves or speleological activities occur.

Article 3: Official documents of the UIS

The official documents of the UIS include:

- Statutes of the UIS
- Internal Regulations of the UIS
- UIS Code of Ethics for cave exploration and science in foreign countries
- Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congresses of Speleology
- Agreements signed with other organizations

Article 4: Extraordinary General Assembly

The guide for the accomplishment of Extraordinary General Assemblies with votes by electronic correspondence is a proposed alternative secured by the current statutes of the UIS. Item (g) of Article 3 of the UIS Statutes foresees voting by correspondence, through letter or telegram, since the original version of the Statutes was written in a time before electronic communication. Considering the current widespread use of electronic means of correspondence, the UIS recommends institution of the present norm to regulate voting through electronic means as another alternative voting method.

The use of votes by electronic correspondence

Electronic voting can be used to facilitate legitimate decision making by an Extraordinary General Assembly on matters important to the UIS, or on matters which the UIS Bureau either does not have the power to address or would rather consult the General Assembly on before taking a decision.

Convocation and Vote

An Extraordinary General Assembly can be called by the Bureau or by request to the Bureau of at least 10 % of the Member Countries of the UIS, as foreseen in the item (d) of Article 4 of the UIS Statutes.

The agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly is established by Bureau.

The President is the person responsible for writing a Circular Letter to all of the Delegates justifying the need to convoke the Extraordinary General Assembly of the UIS.

The General Secretary sends the President's Circular Letter, together with the agenda for the analysis and vote, to all the Regular and Substitute Delegates of any Member Country of the UIS in good standing with the treasury of the UIS as a first convocation of the Assembly. This should be accompanied with a request to confirm receipt.

The period for voting of the Delegates is 15 (fifteen) days from the first summons and 7 (seven) days from the second one. The deadline for voting will be stated for clarity in the General Secretary's correspondence, including the date and the time by Greenwich Mean Time. If in the period of 15 (fifteen) days the majority of the Delegates with the right to vote, do not present their votes, the General Secretary sends the same President's Circular Letter again, together with the agenda to be voted, as a second summons of the Assembly.

Each Delegate's vote should be sent to the UIS General Secretary within the established period. Delegates who do not vote or vote outside the established period will be registered as abstentions. A Delegate that has voted in the first summons is released from voting in the second summons, unless the Delegate's position has altered. If a Delegate votes in response to both summonses, the second vote will be considered the Delegate's true and final vote.

Scrutiny of the voting

The scrutiny of the voting is responsibility of the UIS General Secretary. To be considered valid, the votes of the Delegates must be clearly stated (YES, NO or ABSTENTION) with no comments or conditions.

Each UIS Member Country has a right to only one vote on each issue brought forward for a vote. If both the Regular and Substitute Delegate for a Member Country vote on the same issue, the Substitute Delegate's vote will only be counted if the Regular Delegate doesn't vote within the established period.

The results will be determined by a simple majority of received valid votes.

General dispositions

The General Secretary has the obligation to file all of the documents of the summons process, voting, and scrutiny of the voting, for consideration during the next Ordinary General Assembly of the Union.

The General Secretary has the obligation to implement the results of the Extraordinary General Assembly and to inform the international speleological community. Within 15 (fifteen) days after the deadline for the vote, the results of the vote should be sent to the UIS Bureau and all UIS Delegates. The results should be published in the next edition of the UIS Bulletin and presented in the next updating of the UIS Website. Within 30 (thirty) days after the deadline for the vote, the results should be formally sent to all the national federations and associations of all the UIS Member Countries, as well as for their respective publications in the form of a publishable article.

All resolutions approved by an Extraordinary General Assembly with voting by electronic correspondence should be confirmed by the next Ordinary General Assembly of the UIS.

In the case of a tie vote, the power of decision rests with the President of the UIS, at least until the next Ordinary General Assembly of the Union.

Article 5: Bureau Responsibilities and Powers

The UIS Bureau is responsible for:

- Analyzing, and approving or disapproving, new organizations as Affiliated Organizations. These analyses must be made at Bureau meetings.
- Defining the policies for publicizing the UIS.
- Defining the policies governing UIS Internet facilities; these are set out in this Internal Regulations document.
- Proposing new UIS Honorary Bureau Members, but it is necessary for those people to be approved by the General Assembly.
- Copying to the respective nation's Delegate all official letters to a national federation and/or society of a Member Country.

- Requesting three detailed reports each year from the Organizing Committee of each International Congress of Speleology for the archives of the UIS and for evaluating the Organizing Committee's progress. The Bureau may request more reports if it believes more information is necessary.
- Collaborating constructively with the Organizing Committee of every International Congress of Speleology to establish the Congress program. The Bureau will supply a copy of the *Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congresses of Speleology*, to each Organizing Committee. If the elected country is unable or potentially unable to successfully host the Congress, the Bureau has the right and duty to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly to review the situation and possibly change the country responsible for the Congress.

Conduct of UIS Bureau meetings:

- Quorum: A Bureau meeting requires the participation of at least five members, otherwise Bureau members present may discuss UIS business but cannot make any decisions.
- All Bureau decisions can be approved by a simple majority of the Bureau members present at a meeting. The President will cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie.
- The Bureau may hold discussions, conduct business, and make decisions by electronic means between Bureau meetings. For such business to be valid, all Bureau members must be copied on the messages. Any Bureau member may make a motion for a vote by electronic means, ensuring the motion gets to all Bureau members and providing a reasonable date and time (set to Greenwich Mean Time) by which the Bureau members must respond for their votes to be counted. The motion is considered a "yes" vote and the first supporting response is also considered a "yes" vote and a second to the motion. A decision is valid once the General Secretary has tallied the votes after the deadline and those results are confirmed by the President and reported to the Bureau. As with regular Bureau meetings, a simple majority is needed for a motion to pass and at least five members of the Bureau must participate.
- The Bureau may hold open and closed meetings, including discussions by electronic means. As much as possible, meetings should be open. Open meetings can be attended by any member of the UIS or any person interested in UIS affairs. Closed meetings will include only the currently elected members of the Bureau and can be called by any Bureau member. A simple majority vote of the Bureau can refer a topic to an open meeting. During meetings where Bureau members are physically present, all topics for the closed portion of the meeting should be scheduled for one closed session.

Conclusion of Bureau membership:

- At the end of a Bureau member's term in office, all UIS documents, finances, and property in the member's possession must be transferred to the Secretary General of the new Bureau.

Article 6: President's Responsibilities and Powers

The President:

- is, with the Secretary General, responsible for the function of the UIS Bureau between sessions of the General Assembly;
- presides at all meetings of the Bureau and the General Assembly;
- represents the UIS in all situations where it appears as an international organization;
- raises the profile of the UIS among speleologists, publicizes the work of the UIS, and generally carries out the Publicity Policy which has been determined by the Bureau;
- advises the members of the Bureau and ensures that the work of the Bureau, General Secretary, and Commissions are in agreement with the directives of the General Assembly;
- designates UIS representatives for any event at which he will not be present;
- oversees the utilization of UIS funds after the approval by the Bureau;
- presents a report of the activities of the UIS at every General Assembly;
- coordinates the selection of two commissioners by the General Assembly to verify the financial report of the Treasurer – these commissioners must be Delegates of countries other than that which the Treasurer represents;
- sends copies of all formal UIS correspondence signed by him to the Secretary General.

Article 7: Vice-Presidents' Responsibilities and Powers

The Vice-Presidents:

- replace the UIS President on his written demand or in the case that the President is not able to carry out his duties. They must report on all their activities in detail to the UIS President;
- assist the President when requested and collaborate with the General Secretary whenever necessary;
- represent the UIS at all UIS-supported events whenever the President cannot be present;
- should encourage and regulate the commissions and sub-commissions of the UIS and receive regular reports of their activities;
- regularly exchange information with the President and the General Secretary, keeping them informed of their actions;
- send copies of all formal correspondence signed by them to the President and Secretary General.

Appointment of Vice-Presidents:

- Upon the creation of a new Bureau, the Bureau will appoint one Vice-President as Vice-President of Administration. The additional responsibilities and powers of the Vice-President of Administration are to:
 - a) coordinate and communicate with the Organizing Committee of each International Congress of Speleology and other international meetings supported by the UIS in the establishment of their programs;
 - b) coordinate and communicate with the UIS Commissions, Committees, Working Groups, and other internal UIS organizations to ensure that all groups are active, productive, reporting their results to the Bureau on a regular basis, and publishing their results as available;
 - c) assist and rehabilitate International Congress Organizing Committees and UIS internal organizations as needed;
 - d) recommend to the Bureau that Organizing Committees and UIS internal organizations continue to be supported by the UIS or be disbanded if they are inactive or not functioning in a way that supports the goals and standards of the UIS;
 - e) assign, if the position is vacant, a Librarian for the Documentation Center of the UIS and communicate with that person on a regular basis to insure the Center is active, functioning properly, and that it meets the needs and purposes of the UIS.

- Upon the creation of a new Bureau, the Bureau will appoint one Vice-President as Vice-President of Operations. The additional responsibilities and powers of the Vice-President of Operations are to:
 - a) assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Website Manager to coordinate and maintain the UIS website, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to ensure the website is active, productive, up-to-date, easy to use, informative, and reflects the goals and standards of the UIS;
 - b) assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Technical Manager to attend to the technical aspects of the UIS Internet facilities, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to ensure the facilities are properly operational and secure;
 - c) assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Chief Editor of the UIS Bulletin who will be responsible for its content, publication and distribution, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to ensure the Bulletin is produced and distributed on time, within its budget, and is professional in appearance, informative, and reflects the goals and standards of the UIS;
 - d) assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Chief Editor of the International Journal of Speleology who will be responsible for its content, publication and distribution, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to insure the Journal is produced and distributed on time and within its budget, maintains a high professional international standard in appearance, content, and scientific recognition, and reflects the goals and standards of the UIS;
 - e) regularly review the content of all UIS printed and electronic publications, including the website, and coordinate as needed with the President and General Secretary on their policy and content;
 - f) replace any person in an assigned publication or Internet position, following consultation and approval by the President and General Secretary, if the person is not able or willing to perform their assignment or in a manner consistent with UIS goals and standards.

Article 8: General Secretary's Responsibilities and Powers

The General Secretary:

- is responsible for the functioning of the Bureau in relation to all technical and financial affairs, as well as the execution of actions determined by the Bureau;
- as Treasurer of the UIS, he is authorized to receive, manage and delegate the finances of the UIS;
- may appoint someone to serve as UIS Treasurer, with the approval of the Bureau, but will retain responsibility for UIS financial affairs and the performance of the appointed Treasurer (all tasks and responsibilities assigned in this document to the Treasurer will apply to the General Secretary and any appointed UIS Treasurer);
- represents the UIS at all events with official support of the UIS whenever both the President and the Vice-Presidents cannot be present, without the need for a special request by the President;
- reports the minutes of the meetings of the Bureau and of the General Assemblies. Within a maximum of 30 (thirty) days after a Bureau meeting, he will send the minutes of each meeting of the Bureau to all Bureau members. Within a maximum of 90 (ninety) days after a General Assembly, the minutes of the General Assembly will be made public so that necessary actions can be taken and information about the UIS is made available. These same time limits apply for sending the minutes or other documents to the Website Manager for inclusion on the UIS website;
- preserves the essential documents of the UIS and must pass these documents on to his successor. These documents include principally protocols and agreements, minutes, reports, files, and accounts;
- sends a copy of all new documentation at the end of each term of office of the 4-year mandate period to the archives of the UIS at the UIS headquarters at the Karst Research Institute in Slovenia;
- maintains contact with all representatives of the Member Countries of the UIS and with national or regional groups, scientific societies, institutes and research centers, as well as isolated researchers and international organizations;

- coordinates the distribution of information of general interest which he receives or that he solicits from correspondents;
- submits a report, at the beginning of each International Congress, summarizing his activities to the General Assembly, as well as the financial balance and an analysis of the existing problems and solutions proposed by the Bureau;
- sends copies of all formal correspondence, which is of general interest to the UIS, to the President;
- assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Addresses Manager to maintain the UIS address list, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to convey address changes and ensure that addresses are kept up to date; assign, if the position is vacant, a person as Calendar Editor to maintain the Calendar on the UIS website, and communicate with that person on a regular basis to convey new events and ensure the Calendar is kept up to date.

Article 9: Adjunct Secretaries' Responsibilities and Powers

The Adjunct Secretaries:

- should be eight;
- serve as voting members of the UIS Bureau and are the primary people consulted by the President, Vice-Presidents, and General Secretary on UIS issues and decisions;
- represent the UIS at all events with the official support of the UIS, either in their country or in any country of their region, whenever the President, one of the Vice-Presidents, or the General Secretary cannot be present, even without any special request by the President;
- should assist the President and General Secretary as requested in all activities of interest to the UIS;
- should regularly exchange information with the President and General Secretary, keeping them informed of their actions.

Article 10: Invited Adjunct Secretaries' Responsibilities and Powers

The Bureau, by simple majority vote, may appoint people from member countries not represented on the Bureau to serve as Invited Adjunct Secretaries. These members have all of the rights, duties, and privileges of Adjunct Secretaries, except they cannot vote.

The Bureau will elect Invited Adjunct Secretaries for the following reasons:

- to fill an elected Bureau position that is vacant due to illness, death, resignation, or removal of the Bureau member elected by the General Assembly;
- to create a representative from the Bureau in the country which maintains the UIS bank account, in the event the General Assembly does not elect a Bureau member from that country;
- to create a representative from the Bureau in the country which will host the upcoming International Congress of Speleology, in the event the General Assembly does not elect a Bureau member from that country;
- to fulfill other needs of the UIS, as deemed necessary, which are not met by other elected and non-elected offices of the UIS.

Article 11: Past Presidents' Responsibilities and Powers

Past Presidents are normally included as Honorary Members of the Bureau.

Article 12: Honorary Presidents' Responsibilities and Powers

Honorary Presidents are appointed by the General Assembly. The Honorary Presidents have the right to be heard at meetings and thus serve as advisors to the Bureau, but they do not have the right to vote.

Article 13: Honorary Bureau Members' Responsibilities and Powers

Honorary Members of the Bureau (excluding past Presidents) are recommended by the Bureau, based on their contributions to the development of speleology, and are appointed by the General Assembly. The Honorary Members have the right to be heard at meetings and thus serve as advisors to the Bureau, but they do not have the right to vote.

Article 14: Honorary List of the UIS

The Honorary List is to acknowledge people who have significantly contributed to the development of speleology or the UIS.

Nominees for the Honorary List must be recommended by the Bureau for approval by the General Assembly. Each nomination must include a statement of the person's qualifications.

Before submitting a name for inclusion in the Honorary List, the UIS Bureau needs to check the activities of the candidate for justifying his/her submission to the General Assembly.

Article 15: Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee consists of 5 (five) members invited by the Bureau, although they do not actually belong to the elected Bureau.

The members of the Advisory Committee will be asked to give their opinions about important decisions of the Bureau of the UIS when asked to do so by the Bureau.

The members of the Advisory Committee can participate in the meetings of the Bureau and have the right to be heard.

All members of the Advisory Committee are automatically relieved of their duties upon termination of the term of the Bureau which appointed them.

The members of the Advisory Committee can be invited to serve as members of Advisory Committee for subsequent Bureaus.

Article 16: Member Countries

A new country can be admitted into the UIS by making a formal request. This request should be printed on letterhead paper and sent to the Secretary General of the UIS. It must contain the name of the organization submitting the request, as well as information about it and data showing that it is representative of speleology in the country. The request must indicate the names of the delegates and include the funds for the payment of the first annual fee (or a promise of payment at the upcoming ICS), as well as making it clear that the organization will respect the Statutes and standards of the UIS.

Any country where speleology is practiced, whatever its level of development, can apply to join the UIS. The acceptance of a new Member Country is ratified by a General Assembly.

Any Member Country which has more than a single speleological group should create an organization on a national level to represent the concerns of speleology in the country.

Each Member Country must appoint two Delegates (Regular and Substitute) to represent that country in the UIS and to participate in the General Assemblies.

Each Member Country must agree to pay the annual affiliation fees to the UIS. A country that has not paid all of its fees will not be allowed to participate in the General Assembly as a voting member.

The UIS encourages the sustainable use of the world's speleological heritage and thus supports the initiatives of its Delegates and their Affiliated Entities in projects designed for such purposes in their home countries, while simultaneously respecting the legislation of each Member Country.

Once a new Member Country is formally accepted, the General Secretary of the UIS must communicate this fact in the UIS Bulletin and on the web site, and send the new Delegate a copy of all of the official documents of the UIS.

A Member Country that fails to communicate with the UIS or pay its fees for more than 3 (three) years may be removed from the UIS by a vote of the General Assembly following a recommendation by the Bureau. At such a time, the Member Country may immediately apply for reinstatement by a different national organization from that country along with payment for all unpaid fees. If the unpaid fees cannot be paid at that time, the national organization must wait until the next International Congress to reapply, at which time past unpaid fees will not be owed unless reinstatement is requested by the national organization that developed the debt.

Article 17: Affiliated Organizations

Affiliated Organizations include institutes and other bodies supporting the goals of the UIS. These are not national speleological organizations but may include private companies as well as non-profit organizations.

Affiliated Organizations should appoint a representative to the UIS.

The official representatives of Affiliated Organizations have the right to participate in the General Assemblies of the UIS, with the right to be heard, but without the right to vote.

- Each Affiliated Organization will pay the annual affiliation fee to the UIS.
- Each Affiliated Organization will publish information about the UIS in their respective publications.

For the affiliation of a new organization, a formal statement of the desire for admission into the UIS is required. This request must be printed on letterhead paper, containing the name of the organization, and must be sent to the President or the General Secretary of the UIS. The request must contain data about the organization and a brief account showing how it is representative of speleology of the country. An official representative must be indicated, and the organization must agree to respect the Statutes and standards of the UIS, as well as to pay the annual fees once affiliation is approved.

The affiliation of new organizations will be communicated by the General Secretary of the UIS in the UIS Bulletin, and on the website, and copies of all official documents of the UIS will be sent to the official representative of the organization.

Each Affiliated Organization has the right to use the logotype of the UIS on their papers, showing their affiliation to the UIS.

Article 18: Delegates

National Delegates:

- represent speleology in their respective countries at the General Assembly of the UIS.
- are responsible for the exchange of information between the UIS (Bureau, Commissions, Committees, and Working Groups) and the organized speleological groups of their respective countries.
- are directly responsible for ensuring the payment of the annual fees of the respective countries to the Treasurer of the UIS.
- are responsible for the circulation of documents and circulars sent by the President and/or General Secretary to the speleological community in their respective countries.
- are directly responsible for the presence and official representation of the UIS at speleological events in their countries, respecting the orientation and decisions of the UIS as reported by the President.
- have the obligation to collaborate in updating of the Speleological Bibliographical Bulletin by sending a list of publications in their respective countries to the President of the Bibliographic Commission of the UIS.
- have the right to participate in the meetings of the Bureau, although they do not have the right to vote.

Article 19: Department Presidents

The election of presidents for the various departments is outlined in the UIS Statutes. It is the responsibility of the President of each Department to:

- present an oral report of the activities of his Department at each General Assembly of the UIS;
- submit a written report of the activities of his Department at each General Assembly of the UIS for documentation in the UIS archives;
- submit a written report of the activities of his Department whenever requested by the Bureau, especially for inclusion in the official report of the activities of the UIS to UNESCO, or other activities assumed by the Bureau.

The President of each Department, or someone delegated by him/her, has the right to use space on the UIS website for Department web pages.

Article 20: Presidents of Commissions, Committees and Working Groups

Presidents of the Commissions, Committees, and Working Groups will be elected by their respective members. It is the responsibility of the President of each Commission, Committee or Working Group to:

- present an oral report of the activities of the group at each General Assembly of the UIS;
- submit a written report of the activities of the group at each General Assembly for documentation in the UIS archives;
- submit a written report of the activities of the group whenever requested by the UIS Bureau or the President of the Department;
- send scientific reports or papers produced by the group to the UIS General Secretary, Documentation Center, and website;
- submit information about the group directly to the UIS Website Manager to update the UIS website.

The President of each Commission, Committee, or Working Group, or someone delegated by them, has the right to use space on the UIS website for their group's web pages.

The term 'Working Group' above refers to formal Working Groups of the UIS instituted at a General Assembly of the UIS, not to the internal Working Groups which may be formed from time to time by and within Commissions, Committees, or Working Groups of the UIS.

Article 21: UIS Bulletin

The UIS Bulletin is the official publication for publicizing the activities of the UIS and the state of the art of international speleology.

The UIS Bulletin will be published twice a year, but this frequency can be increased if deemed necessary.

The publishing, printing and distribution of the UIS Bulletin are conducted under the direction of the UIS Vice-President of Operations.

The UIS Bulletin will be primarily distributed in electronic form but with archival paper copies sent to the UIS Documentation Center in La Chaux-de-Fonds, the UIS permanent headquarters in Postojna, and to any of the people, organizations, or facilities listed below that cannot receive the UIS Bulletin in electronic form and requests a paper copy. An electronic copy of each edition will be sent to:

1. The Documentation Center of the UIS;
2. The permanent headquarters of the UIS in Postojna;
3. Each member of the UIS Bureau;
4. Each Delegate of the Member Countries;
5. Each President of a UIS Department, Commission, Committee, or Working Group;
6. Each of the Affiliated Organizations; and
7. All libraries in the Member Countries registered with the UIS.
8. The UIS Website Manager for inclusion on the UIS website in a downloadable and printable format, for example PDF.

The following material must be published in the UIS Bulletin:

- The proceedings of all Regular or Extraordinary General Assemblies of the UIS, as well as all official meetings of the Bureau (in the first issue published after the event).
- The reports of the activities of the Bureau, the Departments, and the Commissions, Committees and Working Groups presented at the assemblies of the UIS.
- All official documents of the UIS whenever these are modified and/or updated. These documents include the Statutes, the Internal Regulations, the Code of Ethics, and Norms, as well as agreements and contracts.
- Calendar of speleological events scheduled in the Member Countries of which the UIS has officially been informed.
- Up-to-date list of Member Countries and Affiliated Organizations of the UIS immediately after each General Assembly of the UIS, and after each change.
- Up-to-date list of the Delegates of the UIS, with their addresses, immediately after each UIS General Assembly, and after each change.
- List of UIS publications.
- List of UIS membership fees.

The following material is recommended for publication in the UIS Bulletin:

- List of speleological records, e.g. longest and deepest.
- List of new publications.
- Updates to the list of Member Countries and Affiliated Organizations of the UIS.
- Updates to the list of UIS delegates.
- Schedule of meetings of commissions, committees and working groups.
- List of new publications in speleology and related areas.

Advertisements can be published in the UIS Bulletin as long as:

- There is no conflict of interest with the UIS or any of its regulations, goals, or standards.
- The advertiser pays for the space utilized.
- The space utilized by the advertisement is not out of proportion in relation to the other information being published.

Article 22: International Journal of Speleology

The International Journal of Speleology is a peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific publication of the highest international standard.

The publication, printing and distribution of the International Journal of Speleology is delegated to a society or national federation of one of the member countries of the UIS by means of a specific agreement approved by the UIS Bureau.

The organization responsible for the publication, printing, and distribution of the International Journal of Speleology will appoint someone as a Chief Editor responsible for maintaining contact with the UIS Bureau through the UIS Vice-President of Operations and will select an Editorial Staff and advise the UIS Bureau of its members.

Special editions can be organized by a Guest Editor.

One volume consisting of two issues of the International Journal of Speleology must be published annually.

The occurrence of international speleological events officially supported by the UIS may justify the organization of additional

special issues of the International Journal of Speleology.

The International Journal of Speleology supplements the scientific reports or papers produced by the Commissions, Committees, and Working Groups, but it cannot take their place.

Special editions can be organized with the agreement of the responsible organization, the Chief Editor, and the Presidents of Departments, Commissions, Committees, or Working Groups to present the result of work and/or studies developed by these organizations of the UIS.

For each published issue of the International Journal of Speleology, at least one copy must be sent to the UIS Documentation Center, the UIS permanent headquarters in Postojna, and to each of the Affiliated Organizations. An electronic copy should be available from the Journal's website.

The UIS Treasurer is required to provide financing for the publication, printing and distribution of the International Journal of Speleology.

After distribution to all who are entitled to receive a copy, the responsible organization can sell all remaining copies at whatever price it deems appropriate to cover the costs of the publication, printing, distribution, and to generate revenue for the UIS.

Article 23: Bulletin Bibliographique Spéléologique/Speleological Abstracts

Speleological Abstracts, the Bulletin Bibliographique Spéléologique, is a publication that annually lists and abstracts all publications related to speleology within a given year. It is produced to facilitate research and the study of speleology and is available both in electronic form from its website and in printed form.

Speleological Abstracts is the responsibility of the President of the Bibliography Commission of the UIS, who coordinates with the UIS Vice-President of Administration.

Speleological Abstracts is regularly updated electronically. Special collaborators are invited from each Member Country, as well as the assistance provided by the UIS Delegates.

The UIS Treasurer is required to provide financing for the publication, printing and distribution of the Speleological Abstracts.

Article 24: Documentation Center of the UIS

The Documentation Center of the UIS is a library composed of speleological and related publications from around the world.

The Documentation Center of the UIS must maintain complete collections of all official publications of the UIS: Proceedings of the ICS, *UIS Bulletin*, *International Journal of Speleology*, *Speleological Abstracts*, scientific reports or papers produced by the Commissions, Committees and Working groups, etc.

The organization and maintenance of the Documentation Center of the UIS is delegated to one of the national societies or federations of one of the member countries of the UIS, by means of a special agreement approved by the UIS Bureau until such time as the UIS will be able to maintain this center at the permanent headquarters. The Documentation Center is currently operated by SSS at La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland.

The organization responsible for the Documentation Center of the UIS can nominate a Librarian, who will be responsible for the maintenance of contacts with the UIS Bureau through the UIS Vice-President of Administration.

The Librarian is responsible for the presentation of an oral report about the present situation of the Documentation Center of the UIS, as well as a written report containing an index of the publications available at the center, at each UIS General Assembly for inclusion in the UIS archives.

The Librarian is responsible for sending an up-to-date list of the publications available at the Center to the UIS Bureau, as well as to the UIS website, whenever any significant change occurs.

Article 25: Archive of the UIS

The UIS Archive is located in the Karst Research Institute, SRC SASA (ZRS SAZU), Postojna, Slovenia.

The UIS Archive collects all paper and electronic documents dealing with UIS activities, i.e. activities of the UIS Bureau, its members, commissions and working groups, and Advisory Committee.

The UIS Archive collects all materials obtained by library exchange with other bodies.

The UIS Archive collects all publications (proceedings, books, journals, leaflets, etc.) produced with the logo of the UIS without respect to the address of the publisher. The responsible editor of such publications must deliver two copies to the UIS Archive in Postojna.

All regular members of the UIS Bureau (President, Vice-Presidents, General Secretary, Treasurer, Adjunct Secretaries) will deliver all paper and electronic materials involving their activity with the UIS Bureau to the UIS Archive: (a) every 2-3 years, and/or (b) when their term of office is complete, if the materials are not delivered to their successors.

Honorary members of the UIS Bureau will deliver all paper and electronic materials involving their activity with the UIS Bureau to the UIS Archive every 2-3 years.

Presidents of UIS Commissions and Working Groups will deliver all paper and electronic materials dealing with the activities of their respective UIS bodies to the UIS Archive: (a) every 2-3 years, and/or (b) after they finished their term as President, if not delivered to their successors.

The UIS Archive is managed by a member of the UIS Bureau charged by the UIS Bureau. The charged member is responsible for the organization and management of the UIS Archive.

The UIS Bureau can establish regional archives of the UIS. This act does not relieve respective UIS persons and bodies from also delivering identical materials to the UIS Archive in Postojna.

Article 26: UIS Internet facilities

The UIS Internet facilities consist principally of UIS' domain name "uis-speleo.org" and its associated services in the Domain Name System (DNS), websites, web-based forums and emailing lists (listservers), email servers, generic email address redirections, web-based databases, and with further interactive facilities possible in the future. An underlying design principle is that only open-source and commonly used software will be used wherever possible, so that the site can readily be moved in the future if necessary.

Responsibilities

The policies governing the UIS Internet Facilities are the responsibility of the Bureau.

The overall co-ordination of the Internet Facilities is the responsibility of the Vice-President of Operations with the help of the Internet Team Leader.

For the proper operation and updating of the Internet Facilities, and especially to share the workload, volunteers may be invited to take responsibilities in the management of specific tasks. For example, the Internet Team would consist of the Team Leader, Website Manager, Technical Manager, Calendar Editor, Addresses Manager, Listserver Managers, Forum Managers, Database Managers, and any others that may be needed.

The Internet Team Leader should be someone familiar with Internet issues, and if necessary could be an existing member of the team. The Team Leader's role is to monitor the proper operation of all aspects of the UIS Internet Facilities and liaise with the Vice-President of Operations as appropriate.

All the positions should be invited by the UIS Officer to whom they are responsible.

Website

The UIS Website is the official electronic medium for the presentation of information of the activities of the Union and the state of international speleology.

The policy and content of the UIS website are direct responsibilities of the UIS President together with the UIS General Secretary through the Vice-President of Operations.

The day-to-day management of the website is carried out by the Website Manager.

The basic design policy for the website is:

- To provide the user with UIS information which is easily found, up-to-date, fast and navigable, attractively presented, and able to be accessed using most web browsers.
- In order to retain as many users as possible, to be avoided are special effects or heavy graphics which slow down the user's browser, limit browser type, or require special add-ons. Attention should also be paid to avoiding the need for sideways scrolling regardless of screen resolution, and preferably also to the needs of users with hand-held devices.

- Large graphics such as photos should be used only where the user can choose whether to view them or not.
- The website should conform to current web standards.
- The directory structure for the website should allow for the separation of login access rights between the various people responsible for updating various aspects of the website, for example, addresses, calendar, a commission's own pages, etc.

Website contents

The following are to be included on the UIS website:

- The UIS Bulletin;
- UIS Official Documents (if possible, in all of the official languages of the UIS, as well as any others to which they are translated);
- At least one page for each Commission, Committee, or Working Group, if they do not have their own website;
- List of publications of the UIS specifying the edition, year of publication, and those responsible for them, including the UIS Bulletin, the International Journal of Speleology, the Speleological Abstracts, scientific reports or papers prepared by the Commissions, Committees and Working Groups, etc.;
- List of the publications available in the UIS Documentation Center;
- Names of members of the UIS Bureau, the Departments, the Commissions, Committees and Working Groups;
- Up-to-date list of the Delegates, Member Countries, and Affiliated Organizations;
- Minutes of the Assemblies and of all meetings of the Bureau;
- History of the UIS (List of all Congresses, all past UIS Bureau, past and present versions of documents, etc.);
- List of addresses;
- Links to speleological sites;
- Schedule of speleological events supported by the UIS;
- List of projects under development;
- Other items of speleological interest.

Commission Websites

The UIS website can provide space for the websites of Bureau Officers and all UIS Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups who request it, provided they obey the following rules:

- They request the space for the website and the setup access directly from the Website Manager.
- They define who is responsible for the website.
- They prepare the web pages before sending them to the Website Manager, or alternatively they directly update their own material on the website whenever possible.
- They follow the Bureau and UIS website policies when preparing their web pages.
- All the content of the website must be relevant to the Bureau function, Department, Commission or Work Group who has requested the space.
- The website should not contain advertisements, personal promotion or material outside the interest of UIS.
- The website must not be used for any commercial purpose without explicit written permission from the Bureau.

Listservers and Forums

Emailing listservers and web forums can be set up to facilitate discussion and information dissemination on various speleological and administrative topics. Each is generally configured and maintained by its own Listserver or Forum Manager. The list-server or forum and its topics must be directly related to the purpose of the UIS group responsible for it.

Email redirections

Generic email address redirections allow generic addresses such as "president@uis-speleo.org" to be automatically redirected to the current President's address. These redirections are maintained by the Technical Manager.

Databases

Web-based databases can be used to facilitate speleological and administrative purposes, for example, the Caver's Multi-lingual Dictionary and UIS addresses. Each is generally configured and maintained by its own Database Manager.

Technical Manager

The Technical Manager is responsible to the Bureau via the Vice-President of Operations. The Technical Manager's responsibilities are:

- Technical design and management of the Internet facilities in accordance with UIS policy.
- Liaison with the provider of the Internet facilities.
- Administration of the Domain Name registration entry.
- Ensuring effective backup arrangements for the facilities.
- Ensuring effective security arrangements for the facilities.
- Ensuring as much as practicable the ease of transferring the facilities to another site if that becomes necessary. For example, by the use of open-source and commonly used software.
- Technical advice to the Bureau and other UIS officers as requested.

- Initial creation and authorization setup of basic emailing lists (listservers) or forums when requested. Management of general forum and listserv facilities.
- Updating of generic email redirections when advised by the Addresses Manager.
- Initial creation of basic Internet databases when required, and setup of software authorization for their management.
- Setup of website access for Commission Presidents and others who will be uploading their own material on to the website, upon request from the Website Manager.

Website Manager

The Website Manager is responsible to the Bureau via the Vice-President of Operations. The Website Manager's responsibilities are:

- Preparation and loading of website content in accordance with Bureau policy and upon request by the President, Secretary, or Vice-President of Operations; Managing updates received from the UIS Calendar Editor and the Addresses Manager, however these tasks could be delegated directly to the Calendar and Address Managers if preferred by the Website Manager;
- Managing the loading of web pages by Commission Presidents, Publicity Officer, and the like; these officers should preferably load their own web pages;
- Other day-to-day operation of the web site.

Calendar Editor

The Calendar Editor is responsible to the General Secretary. The Calendar Editor's responsibilities are:

- Soliciting and receiving information about new speleological events;
- Publicizing UIS' calendar facility;
- Operation of the calendar facility;
- Supplying calendar updates to the website.
- Identifying in the Calendar events which the UIS has decided to support formally.

Addresses Manager

The Addresses Manager is responsible to the General Secretary. The Addresses Manager's responsibilities are:

- Publicizing the procedures for address updates for UIS and relevant Country Officers.
- Receiving updates for people, organizations and positions.
- Operating the address database.
- Loading or supplying updated address and related web pages to the website.
- Supplying address list facilities to other UIS officers, for example, files to the UIS Secretary for printing postage labels.
- Updating email addresses in any closed listservers (emailing lists) or web forums which are being used by the Bureau.

Listserver or Forum Managers

- The appointment of a Listserver or Forum Manager is the responsibility of the group who will be using the listserver or forum, but is also subject to the approval of the Technical Manager.
- The responsibilities of a Listserver or Forum Manager are the configuration and management of the emailing listserver or forum for which they have volunteered.
- The initial creation of the basic listserver or forum and the software authorization for its Manager will be performed by the Technical Manager.

Database Managers

- The appointment of a Database Manager is the responsibility of the UIS Officer or group who will be using the database, but is also subject to the approval of the Technical Manager.
- The responsibilities of a Database Manager are to arrange for the analysis, design, construction, configuration and day-to-day management of the database for which they have volunteered. They have the option of doing the work themselves or arranging for other people to help them. They may or may not be responsible for routine data entry or updating.
- The initial creation of the basic database and the software authorization for its Manager will be performed by the Technical Manager.

Article 27: Formal support for speleological events

All events which contribute to the technical, scientific or cultural development of speleology, whether of a general, international, national or even regional nature, are of interest to the UIS. The official support of the UIS is thus desirable for all such events, as this should increase their status. This document defines the types of events supported by UIS, the means of applying for UIS support, and the obligations of events that receive UIS support.

Classification of Events

For the application of these regulations of the UIS, events are classified according to their objectives and may involve various subjects in relation to geographical areas. These are categorized as follows:

Congresses

Congresses involve technical, scientific and/or cultural presentations on various topics. These events must have an organizing committee, maintain a register of participants, and publish the proceedings of the event. They may include practical activities in the field, technical visits, and/or pre- and/or post-congress excursions, although these are not essential.

Congresses may be further subdivided into two sub-categories:

a. National Congresses:

National events involve a single country and are coordinated through an internal national organization. Participation is principally by residents of that country although visitors from other countries can be involved. In larger countries, regional events limited to participants from a certain part of the country may also be organized.

b. International Congresses:

- International Congress of Speleology – ICS: These congresses are regulated in part by their own standards while following the UIS guidelines in *Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congresses of Speleology*.
- Other International Congresses: International events, excluding the International Congress of Speleology, go beyond the boundaries of a single country either in relation to the organization and/or the participation. Although the organization can involve individuals from only one country, the participants must come from more than one. The scope can range from including participants from only two countries up to the whole world. Although any combination of individual countries can organize their own international event, those involving larger regions tend to unite participants from countries with special affinities, whether topical, geographic, linguistic, or cultural.

Symposia

Symposia involve technical, scientific and/or cultural presentations on a single theme. These events must have an organizing committee, maintain a register of participants, and publish the proceedings of the event. They may include practical activities in the field, technical visits, and/or pre- and/or post-symposium excursions, although these are not essential.

Meetings

Meetings involve scientific (e.g. geomorphology, hydrogeology, speleogenesis), technical (e.g. exploration, training, surveying) and/or cultural presentations on various topics. These events must have an organizing committee and maintain a register of participants. They may include practical activities in the field, technical visits, and/or pre- and/or post-meeting excursions, although these are not essential.

International Expeditions

Expeditions involve the organization of technical, cultural, or scientific investigations to collect information and/or samples – produce new data (e.g. maps, photographs). These events must have practical activities in the field and should involve the study and organization of the data collected. Expeditions must have an organizing committee, maintain a register of participants, publish their results, and be organized according to the UIS Code of Ethics. They may involve technical visits, although this is not essential.

Other events

Any other kind of scientific, technical, or cultural event of potentially significant interest may qualify for UIS support if it has an organizing committee that can demonstrate the proposed event's significance to speleology and the goals of the UIS.

Conditions for formal support

For the UIS to provide formal support for an event, the proposal must be of international significance and be within the scope of the regulations of the UIS, while also respecting the regulations and standards of the countries involved.

Formal request for support

Requests for support must be formally submitted on letterhead paper of the event or the organizing entity. It should contain a short description of the event, including the scope, and must be signed by the president of the organizing committee of the event and the relevant delegate(s) of the UIS.

- For events organized by a country which is member of the UIS, the proposal should bear the signature of the delegate of that country.
- For events organized by more than one country, the proposal should bear the signature of the delegate of at least one of the countries involved.
- For international expeditions organized by UIS member countries, the proposal must bear the signature of all of the delegates of the countries involved, including that of the delegate of the destination if it is a member country.

In principle, the UIS does not support events organized by countries which are not members

Legalization

The request for support should explicitly show that the proposed event obeys the regulations and standards of the countries involved.

Agreement with the Regulations of the UIS

The request for support should explicitly show that the proposed event is in agreement with the statutes, regulations, and ethics of the UIS.

Recipients of requests for support

Requests for support should be addressed directly to the President or General Secretary of the UIS, although they can be sent indirectly through any member of the Bureau.

Obligations

All events which have the formal support of the UIS will automatically assume the following obligations:

Ideally, five percent of the total income from registration fees, but not less than USD 5.00 per person for registration, should be paid to the UIS (ICS should always pay this amount). This does not include the fees paid for courses, housing, meals, or excursions.

The official symbol of the UIS should be printed on all material advertising the event, including posters, folders, banners, films, and any other printed matter.

Promoting the name of the UIS

In news reports or any other kind of publicity of the event, it should be pointed out that the UIS is providing formal support for the event.

Official opening of the event

At the opening session of the event, the UIS should be given an opportunity to speak. This position should be reserved for the UIS President or his official representative. The delegate of the UIS of the country where the opening ceremony is being held should also be given the opportunity to speak.

Publications of the event

In any publications resulting from the event (proceedings, minutes, reports, results, etc.), the formal support of the UIS should be mentioned. In the case of expeditions, there should be space for the comments from the UIS, which would be a text written by one of the members of the UIS Bureau. These comments would explain the relevance and importance of the expedition.

Registration costs

An official representative of the UIS and the delegate of that country to the UIS should be invited to participate in any event supported by the UIS and be exempt from registration fees.

Exhibition stands

At international events formally supported by the UIS, when stands are installed for exhibits and/or sales, it is the obligation of the event organizers to concede and prepare space for the use of the UIS. Mounting of a stand for the UIS should be discussed by the organizers of the event with the UIS President and General Secretary, and the delegate of the country promoting the event, with the latter in charge of maintaining someone at the stand of the UIS during the event. This stand can be shared with the national society of the promoting country if desired.

Financial support

For international events formally supported by the UIS, depending on the importance of the event, it is recommended that the organizers of the event facilitate the presence of the official representative of the UIS, furnishing, if possible, transportation, room, and board.

Letter of support

Once a request for UIS support is received, the UIS Bureau will analyze it and respond by either sending a letter of support or furnishing reasons for denying support.

Prior to responding to a request for support, the UIS Bureau Member responsible for answering will consult with the UIS Delegate(s) of the country or countries involved if they did not sign the request for support.

A request for support for a national event will be analyzed and answered directly by the Bureau Member who received it. The Bureau member will forward a copy of the request and response to the UIS President and General Secretary for review before sending the response to the person making the request. If there is disagreement about the response, all Bureau members will receive a copy of all relevant correspondence and a vote will be taken. The Bureau Member who received the request will then respond as directed by the Bureau. If an event is supported, the Calendar Editor will be notified by the Bureau member about the dates of the event so that it can be included on the UIS International Speleo Calendar.

Requests for support for international events should be forwarded directly to the UIS President or General Secretary, who will analyze the request and send an answer. Before writing the answer, they should consult with each other and delegates of the countries involved. If a letter of support is sent, information about the event should be forwarded to the Calendar Editor for inclusion on the UIS International Speleo Calendar.

Article 28: International Speleological Congresses

The ICSs are conducted once every four years and organized by a Member Country whose proposal is analyzed and chosen by vote during the General Assembly of the UIS. They are regulated by the **Instructions and General Recommendations for Organizers of International Congresses of Speleology**.

Article 29: Modification of Internal Regulations

All modifications to the Internal Regulations will be made by the Bureau, and must be presented at the next General Assembly for the information of the Delegates and their Member Countries. The updated version should also be sent to the UIS website.

Documents presented to the General Assembly of the UIS (for consultation), during the 15th International Congress of Speleology, Kerrville TX - USA, July 19-26, 2009

UIS Code of Ethics

Working document 1 (2009)

Draft 7 Sept 2008

Edited 20 June 2009 and 22 July 2009

Committee:

Stein-Erik Lauritzen (Norway), chairman

Julia James (Australia)

Paul Willimas (New Zealand)

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to serve as a first step in the development of a new international code of ethics for caving and cave conservation. UIS cannot enforce rules on its members, nor can it be responsible for illegal expeditions. This code is intended as a forceful recommendation that describes an ideal scenario for individual member countries to implement with – if absolutely necessary - appropriate adjustments that take account of particular circumstances in their country. The aim of the code is to ensure respectful practices when visiting caves and in relating to other people who deal with them.

It is the consensus of the Bureau of the UIS (2008) that

“Caves and karst features, as well as many other underground cavities, are extremely valuable, vulnerable and irreplaceable. These sites are repositories for aesthetics and a vast range of scientific information that is not available elsewhere”.

Caves may be regarded as ‘time-machines’. Their pristine and timeless atmosphere is immediately obvious to any visitor. Caves are a limited resource with close to zero carrying capacity. Recent developments in cave microbiology and trace element geochemistry have established and emphasized the uniqueness and vulnerability of the cave environment. The international community of cavers, scientists and the general public all have a duty to pass on this unspoiled cave legacy to future generations. *We want future generations to be able to experience the same untouched and aesthetic atmosphere as we do in our caves today.* The “real” owners of our caves are those who are not yet born.

The caving community is international and consists of individuals with a wide range of backgrounds. Whether a layman, caver or scientist, all share a keen interest in their caves and have often invested immense personal resources into their exploration and cave stewardship. Such efforts deserve great respect when dealing with speleologists from different regions and nations.

Therefore we suggest a revised UIS Code of Ethics that covers

- A) general caving in your own country;
- B) caving expeditions to foreign countries;
- C) future development of show caves;
- D) adventure and geo- and eco- tourism; and
- E) scientific sampling.

The code is organized in paragraphs of short explanatory text with concrete examples.

A: General caving in your own country

Every country should develop its own code of ethics, but something along the following lines is recommended:

§ 1. When dealing with caves, keep the main focus strictly on the cave and its contents.

This is the basic and simplest rule for maintaining the state of a cave. If, on the contrary, the focus is on something other than the cave, such as financial gain, personal objectives, rescue, etc., then the cave will suffer. Visiting a cave is like borrowing a book at the library: it must be returned in the same state as you received it - you don't tear out pages, write comments or leave coffee stains on it.

§ 2. Minimum impact ('traceless travel') should be the underlying principle.

One should try to avoid leaving footprints, even on sediment floors, and must avoid smearing and spreading sediments over rocks and speleothems. As the caving community grows faster than the number of known caves, the statement "leave nothing but footprints" is no longer sufficient. One should also acknowledge that microbial cross-contamination may become the most serious (and invisible) threat to the cave environment in the future. The only permanent marks that may be acceptable are modest survey stations and other reference points for mapping and scientific investigations.

Likewise, during a cave rescue, the focus is naturally – and should be- on the victim and the transport logistics. This is the only situation where excessive trampling and wear may have to be accepted. However, similar damage is sometimes unavoidable during rescue practice (training). Therefore, rescue practice should be restricted to only a few already damaged caves and *never* performed in newly discovered or otherwise pristine caves.

Every caving trip makes an impact and contributes to the eventual cumulative destruction of the cave. Ideally, all caving trips should aim to have some kind of return - apart from personal excitement- to make up for the damage inflicted, in the form of documentation such as survey, photographs, scientific observations). Knowledge is the most important legacy we can provide for others Likewise, every caver must carry out their trash, etc.

B: Caving expeditions to foreign countries

Here we distinguish between visiting known caves (adventure caving) and exploring areas for new caves (expedition caving). The remarks that follow refer particularly to expeditions. The principle is to *realize that one is a guest in a foreign country and to behave appropriately, paying respect to the hosts and local people*. This responsibility is **mutual**, both guests and hosts are expected to respectfully acknowledge (and cite in publications) the work of previous workers.

§ 1. UIS supports the international activities of speleological societies, caving groups and karst scientists

International cave exploration is important for:

- discovering new caves and extending the exploration of previously known caves;
- investigating their contents, for example, minerals, biota and archaeological and anthropological remains;
- distributing the knowledge of karst and caves throughout the world;
- enabling the exchange of safe caving practices;
- assisting in the protection and preservation of caves and karst.

However, visiting cavers must be aware that exploration for new caves by foreigners may not be welcome when local cavers are already exploring the same area.

§ 2. Diplomacy and common sense must be practised.

To avoid misunderstanding by local people, government, and local and national caving organisations in the country where the proposed cave exploration or scientific investigation is to take place, the UIS has prepared the following recommendations.

§ 2.1 Search for local collaboration before leaving your country.

In many cases it will be necessary to obtain prior official permission in the country to be visited. In addition, as a matter of courtesy it is necessary to inform one or more of the following: the **national speleological organisation**; the **UIS national delegate**; **local caving club(s)**; and **relevant individuals** from whom cooperation is sought. *If adequate contact has not been made, then only a small reconnaissance visit is justified.*

Results of the expedition should be given to the host party and, in return, it is their responsibility to acknowledge any results of the expedition used in their future publications.

If possible, organisers should arrange joint expeditions with cavers from the country to be visited. The national speleological organisation will be familiar with the official requirements for visiting expeditions. They will be well versed in the requirements for the lodging of expedition reports and published material, and in the regulations pertaining to the removal to other countries of any samples collected by the expedition from the caves.

§ 2.2 During the expedition follow local laws and customs.

The expedition members must respect the laws of the country and local traditions, and understand that some caves may be sacred sites and have a religious and/or cultural significance; exploration and research studies in these caves may be restricted.

The expedition members should not damage either the karst or its caves. They should, where possible, educate and advise local communities in the protection and preservation of their karst, caves and cave-biota.

§ 2.3 *After the expedition*

Samples from the caves and karst should only be collected during the expedition if prior permission has been obtained and should only be exported if that is expressly permitted.

As a courtesy, copies of all printed material produced by the expedition, together with the location and maps of the caves, should be sent to the participating caving clubs and the national speleological organisation and/or the UIS national delegate.

Assistance received from organisations within the country visited should be acknowledged in all expedition publications.

§ 2.4 *Respect for the work of other groups and individuals*

Before undertaking an expedition to a foreign country, the visitor group should research previous work and/or current exploration by local or foreign cavers, in order not to interfere with current projects.

Credit for previous exploration should be given in expedition reports.

If several groups happen to be working in the same area, then the opportunity should be taken to learn from each other and to coordinate further work.

§ 2.5 *Addenda to the UIS Code of Ethics* (accepted in Brasilia, Brazil, 2001)

§ 2.5a The UIS urges all their Bureau Members and National Delegates, who know of any expedition being organised to a foreign country, to immediately contact and inform the National Delegate of the target country.

§ 2.5b If a member of the UIS Bureau discovers a violation of its Code of Ethics regarding a foreign expedition, it will contact the National Delegate of the expedition's country of origin and suggest that the expedition findings and reports should not be accepted in their official publications, and advising also that the reports will not be accepted in any UIS-sponsored publication or event.

§ 2.5c For expeditions organised by countries of high speleological development to countries of lower speleological development, the expedition group should do its best to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and to promote local speleological activity.

C: Future development of show caves

(See also the agreement document between ISCA and UIS)

Development of a show cave implies a total change of the local cave environment, as it will be literally transformed into a transport belt for thousands of tourists and leave unavoidable on-going impact. Despite that, show cave development may be an effective way of conserving a cave from uncontrolled "wild" caving and can result in effective conservation of undeveloped sections of the cave off the tourist route. Show caves also relieve stress on other vulnerable caves in the vicinity. In addition, show caves have an important role in conveying ideas concerning the cave environment and natural science, and may assist in the recruitment of new speleologists. Scientific sampling should be performed in show caves if possible, as it deflects impact from equivalent wild caves and the resulting information can be conveyed effectively to the general public.

§ 1 *Sustainable show cave development.*

The prescriptions and guidelines of the International Show Caves Association (ISCA), as endorsed by the UIS, should be used to guide development of show caves. The principle should be to utilise removable installations, such as suspended plastic or stainless steel walkways, in preference to more permanent materials such as concrete. High efficiency lighting should be employed, and every effort must be made to conceal cables without damaging the cave. It is essential that the development and subsequent use have absolutely minimum impact on the natural environment of the cave. The principles of sustainable development should be followed.

§ 2 *Show cave interpretation should focus on education rather than entertainment.*

Show caves have great potential for conveying knowledge and stimulating interest in the natural sciences and in the relationship between caves and human activity. Development of show caves should involve collaboration with speleologists in order to ensure minimum impact and maximum utilization of the cave's educational potential.

§ 3 *Cavers and cave scientists should help to maintain the quality of show caves.*

The results of research and exploration in the cave and its vicinity should be popularized and made available to show cave management, perhaps on a consulting basis.

D: Adventure, geo- and eco- tourism

§ 1 Adventure travel and ecotourism must be traceless and sustainable.

Damage caused by adventure tourism and commercial recreation reduces the legacy bequeathed for future generations. To minimise impact, party size must be restricted, especially in low energy and small caves – less so in river caves - and groups must be controlled by guides who are aware of cave conservation values. *Conservation of the cave environment must take precedence over all economic considerations.*

§ 2 Competitions should not be held in caves.

Although caving is a sport and has elements of performance, and training is necessary for safety, competitions of any sort are inappropriate in caves, because heavy physical use damages their natural values. Damaging caves in the name of sport is totally unjustified

E: Scientific sampling

The UIS is aware that excessive scientific sampling is occurring within caves and that it is accelerating globally. Likewise, trading in specimens from caves, such as speleothems and fossils, is also occurring.

§ 1 Sampling should only be undertaken by well qualified experts (or their trained assistants) for their own research.

Sampling of rare specimens should be minimized and preferably done in quarries and show caves.

§ 2 Samples and specimens should be neither purchased nor sold.

Trading and private ownership of material from caves should be dishonoured. Such material should be kept in the cave or in a museum. Fossils or specimens in private custody cannot be scientifically studied and published, as this requires that the specimen is freely and publicly available as reference material.

§ 3 Local practice should be followed for permission.

Individual countries may have different rules for scientific sampling and, as with caving, local laws must be respected.

§ 4 Results of research should be passed to international data repositories.

In order to minimize duplicate and unnecessary sampling, research results should be freely available. Analysed samples and specimens must be deposited in a museum or other place where it is curated and made available for other researchers.

Specific comments

Living organisms

Cave environments are extreme and subterranean organisms are correspondingly fragile, vulnerable and often only present in very low numbers.

Thus sampling must be well considered and should only be undertaken by well qualified experts for their own research.

Speleothems

Is someone's transient career more important than an ancient, still-growing speleothem in situ? The irreplaceability of growing and fossil speleothems must be appreciated. The removal of a growing speleothem from a cave means its 'life' is ended, as is its value for future appreciation. Speleothems should not be bought (we must not create a market) and without knowledge of the sample's stratigraphic context its scientific value is much reduced.

Sediments

Sediments in a cave form the habitat of many organisms and contain records of past environmental history. Like any other cave deposit, they should be treated with respect and not be trampled or sampled indiscriminately.

Archaeological, fossil and sub-fossil deposits

These deposits are irreplaceable and of great value to science, and so should only be excavated by qualified professionals after having first obtained official permission.

Excavations should remove only a fraction of the deposit of interest to ensure that a major portion is left untouched for future work.

Table - results of votings and elections

	+	-	abst.	inv.	approved
Voting					
Minutes 2005	31				yes
New Member countries					
Jamaica	31				yes
Paraguay	31				yes
New Commissions					
Cave Biology	40				yes
Cave Microbiology...	40				yes
Arts and Letters	40				yes
Audit Report	39		1		yes
Auditors					
Grace Matts (Australia)	31				yes
Susan Schindel (USA)	31				yes
Commission for Elections					
Arrigo Cigna (Italy)	31				yes
Linda Gentry el Dash (Brazil)	31				yes
Nicholas White (Australia)	31				yes
The First Round of Elections 2001					
<i>President</i>					
EAVIS Andrew James (UK)	35		4	1	yes
<i>Vice-President</i>					
DODELIN Christian (FR)	35		5		yes
VENI George (USA)	40				yes
<i>Secretary General</i>					
NADER Fadi (LB)	37		2	1	yes
<i>Adjoint Secretaries</i>					
BADINO Giovanni (IT)	22				yes
BARTHOLEYNS Jean-Pierre (BE)					no
BENEDETTO Carlos (AR)					no
BERON Petar (BU)					no
CRISPIM Jose Antonio (PO)					no
FREIRE Manuel (PO)					no
GARASIC Mladen (CR)					no
KICINSKA Ditta (PL)					no
KLIMCHOUK Alexander (UK)	27				yes
WOO Kyung Sik (KO)	31				yes
LAURITZEN Stein-Erik (NO)	25				yes
LOPEZ CASAS Juan Carlos (SP)					no
MERCADO Efrain (PR)	31				yes
WIDMER Urs (SW)					no
WILLIAMS Paul (NZ)	32				yes
ZUPAN HAJNA Nadja (SL)	35				yes
The Second Round of Elections 2001					
<i>Adjoint Secretaries</i>					
BARTHOLEYNS Jean-Pierre (BE)	10				yes
BENEDETTO Carlos (AR)					no
BERON Petar (BU)					no
CRISPIM Jose Antonio (PO)					no
FREIRE Manuel (PO)					no
GARASIC Mladen (CR)					no
KICINSKA Ditta (PL)					no
LOPEZ CASAS Juan Carlos (SP)					no
WIDMER Urs (SW)					no
Selection of country hosting next Congress					
Czech Republic	39			1	yes

The Report of the UIS Secretary General

for the period from August 2005 to July 2009

July 18, 2009

Dear Cavers and National Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests

It is a traditional duty for the UIS Secretary General, to present short but exhaustive report to the Assembly General on the activity of the whole Union Internationale de Spéléologie, of the Bureau and the Secretary General. I will follow the same format and tradition handed to me by my forerunner Pavel Bosak, to whom I am very grateful for all his support throughout these four years. The help of fellow colleagues of the UIS Bureau – including past presidents and honorary members, head of departments, commissions, and working groups, also made this difficult task easier. As the UIS Bureau informed regularly on its activities and resolutions via the UIS website and in the UIS Bulletin, which is the tradition since Beijing Congress (11th ICS, 1993), I will comment only highly important items.

Time since the last speleological congress in Kalamos-Athens (Greece) in 2005, passed fast and witnessed various important activities and achievements related to the world of caves and karst. Intensive cave exploration, and/or research, international collaborations met difficult challenges for protecting karst areas and preserving caves and cave-life. This time was filled with a lot of discoveries; more karst and caves were found in the deserts as well as the polar regions. We improved our knowledge on several aspects related to karst and caves as well as rescue techniques. We keep on pushing further our knowledge on forms similar to karst also in other rocks, in salt, gypsum, sandstones, volcanic rocks, magmatites and metamorphics and even in ice. We contributed important data for deciphering and predicting global changes and evolution of the past, modern and future climates and climatic trends. Speleothems represented one of the first objects for such analyses. Commissions and Working Groups have been pushing further the limits of our knowledge, we have to thank all of them.

I will only mention some of the achievements and I apologize for not being able to report all the important activities in such a short report. A large amount of films and 3D photography projects were supported by the Italian Speleological Society since 2005. In the Middle East, the 2nd Symposium of Middle-East Speleology succeeded in 2006 to attract more than 250 cavers and cave scientists for two consecutive days of discussions about the caves in this part of the world, some of which were explored under the deserts of Saudi Arabia, in the gypsum of Iran, and lava tubes of Jordan. In 2007, a Kurdish-German caving team explored 21 caves with a total of 8,115m of underground galleries surveyed in Iraq. FEALC (Latin-America and Caribbean Speleology Federation) organized their 5th Congress in Aguadilla (Puerto Rico) in 2007. Since then, efforts were not spared to help and support cavers of several Latin-American countries (such as Paraguay and Honduras). In Gabon (Africa), the longest cave was explored and reported by a US American/German team (Mbenaltembe Cave System; 2,241m) in 2008. Continuous deepening of caves occurred even in places that were known and frequented by many cavers. Here, I refer to the first -1000m cave in Germany, an achievement made in 2008 by German cavers associated to the ArGe Bad Cannstatt in the Riesending (Untersberg, Bavarian Alps). The French Federation of Speleology (FFS) sponsors between 30 and 40 international expeditions on a yearly basis (some of them to remote places such as Nepal). In 2008, the FFS organized the 4th European Congress of Speleology in Lans en Vercors. An exceptional event that hosted some 2000 cavers from 32 different countries. The International Speleological Expedition to Iran, under the auspices of the UIS marked the end of 2008 with an excellent impact on future Iranian speleological development. Some 39 Iranian cavers met, trained, explored, discovered and mapped new caves with Croatian, Belgian, Swiss and Lebanese cavers. This expedition concretized how can the international community and the UIS help promoting speleology and cave protection in the world. It comes as a second UIS international expedition, after the International Speleological Expedition to Tanzania (2004-2005), which aimed for similar objectives.

The efforts of Paul Williams and other members of the UIS Bureau and the Union were utilized also for cave and karst protection. Also thanks to the UIS bodies, numerous parts of our unique and wonderful world were introduced to the UNESCO World Heritage List, e.g., Shilin (Stone Forest), Libo (Cone Karst) and Wulong (Tianken) in China as well as the Jeju Island in Korea. Here, UIS demonstrated its unique capabilities for refereeing cave and karst issues. Henceforth, the UIS plays an important role in similar world-related issues and holds a worldwide recognition. At this stage, discussions are ongoing to affiliate our Union with the ICSU (of UNESCO) and for this we got cordial supports from the International Union of Geography and the International Union of Geological Sciences.

I am looking forward to the coming week at the ICS15 in Kerrville, to meet all of you – cavers and scientists of the world – during such pleasant and successful event. I am looking forward to exchange experience, knowledge, results as usual, but also to have fun and entertainment, to meet new friends. The preparation of this ICS (2009) was nothing easy, especially with the so many faced obstacles (world economy crisis, white nose syndrome, visa, etc.). The organisers of this congress fought hard and spared no efforts and we all owe them tremendously.

The UIS Bureau followed all the caving activities in member and also non-member countries. We worked in nice harmony, and as team, using the advantages of recent electronic correspondence and internet. In fact, we were in daily touch by electronic post. I would like to thank all of you very much for your co-operation and self-dedication.

The activity of the UIS, its bodies and member countries can be assessed from the List of Events, regularly published on the UIS web pages, in the UIS Bulletin and in other speleological magazines, journals and newsletters. There were organized several tens of events each year, some of them very important and internationally acknowledged, some of them with local or regional importance. Reports concerning the time period from August 2005 when the Assembly General during the 14th International Congress of Speleology elected the new UIS Bureau up to the present time, i.e., mid-July 2009. The Report and financial reviews finish by June 30, 2009.

The UIS Bureau acted in a following composition: James Andrew Eavis (United Kingdom) as the President, Aleksander Klimtchouk (Ukraine) as the Senior Vice-President, Pavel Bosak (Czech Republic) as Vice-President/Treasurer, and Andrej Mihevc (Slovenia), Carlos Benedetto (Argentina), Efrain Mercado (Puerto Rico), George Veni (U.S.A.), Kyung Sik Woo (Republic of Korea), Paul Williams (New Zealand), Roman Hapka (Switzerland), Stein-Erik Lauritzen (Norway), as Secretaries Adjoint. The Report was prepared by Fadi Nader (Lebanon), the UIS Secretary General. The sessions were attended also by some of the Honorary Members (e.g. Paolo Forti, Italy; and Hubert Trimmel, Austria; Arrigo A. Gigna, Italy; Adolfo R. Eraso, Spain; Derek Ford, Canada; Julia Mary James, Australia; Jose-Ayrton Labegallini).

The UIS Bureau met three times, i.e., in April 2006 in Beirut (Lebanon), in August 2007 in Aguadilla (Puerto Rico), and in September 2008 on Jeju Island (Republic of Korea). Nevertheless, the UIS Bureau members were in contacts by electronic post / internet. Finally all members of the UIS Bureau and Honorary Members were accessible by e-mail. We also used all the possibility to discuss the UIS affairs when more members of the UIS Bureau met in one place, for example in France (Vercors 2008, 2008), and Slovenia (2008). The UIS Bureau focused its main efforts to solution of several problems and tasks, e.g., UIS exposure (Leaflet and book), establishment and maintenance of stable address, diversification of financial sources and financial state-of-the-art, karst-related World Heritage nominations; contacts with UNESCO and ICSU, co-operation with other non-governmental institutions, Commissions and Working Groups, connection to national delegates, and public relation.

Before 14th ICS in Greece (2005), the UIS consisted of representatives of 56 member countries from all continents. In 2005, Pakistan and Bosnia Became two new member countries, so the total number of member countries got up to 58. However, the UIS Bureau has no contacts for a long time with some member-countries, such as Albania, Algeria, India, Lithuania, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. Those countries have also substantial financial debts concerning the annual contributions. Other countries have also financial debts, some of which for more than five years. It means that they act against the UIS Constitution, article 1, paragraph (f). I will not mention the names of countries here, but the membership of most of them may be proposed to be cancelled by the Bureau.

I have to mention again, like four years ago Pavel did, that the form of contacts with member countries via national delegates is sometimes very problematic, especially when there are several so-called national federations or associations in the country. In some countries the legality of so-called elected or selected national delegate(s) is questionable. To be the national delegate to the UIS represents duty and no honor, it represents the service for national caving bodies and cavers and no income or prestige in return. In some cases the national delegate, like the members of the UIS Bureau and Presidents of Commissions and Working Groups, must see deeply in their own pockets to cover the service duties and related expenses.

The finances. See separate report of Pavel Bosak, Acting Treasurer

Commissions and Working Groups. The structure of UIS Commissions and Working Groups was traditionally the same as in the past. A lot of Commissions and Working Groups worked efficiently with substantial outputs (publications, symposia, conferences, workshops, field trips, etc.). In total 13 of these entities reported their activities for the period 2005-2009. Only four commissions did not report until this day (Archaeology and Paleontology in Caves, Atlas of Karst Regions, History of Speleology, Materials and Techniques). The new UIS Bureau has to deeply analyze the situation of individual Commissions and Working Group and to search for future solutions – some inactive entities should be dissolved.

The Department of Protection and Management, headed by Mr. Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, was especially active and succeeded about 12 actions dedicated to protecting caves everywhere in the world (e.g. Bermuda, Canada, Argentina, Germany, Portugal, Macedonia, Iran) and kept excellent relationships with ISCA. In addition, through the efforts of this Department and together with the European Federation of Speleology (FSE), work has been done for supporting a new regulation for cave and karst protection by the European Parliament. The Department of Education, led by Marcel Meyssonnier was equally active and succeeded the 12th international meeting for speleology teachers. This Department is working hard on the theme of children speleo-education. The UIS Commission on Bibliography does an excellent job. The progress in bibliography and publication of BBS is worth of mentioning, we have to thank all persons involved, especially Mr. Patrick Deriaz. Another Commission whose achievements are to be also highlighted is the Commission of cave rescue with its President Mr. Christian Dodelin. Several international meetings/trainings were held and a document entitled the "Aggtelek Agreement" was proposed by 24 member-countries participating at the 11th Conference of the Cave Rescue Commission. This document

represents a state of the art for international collaboration with respect to rescue and is now presented to the delegates of member-countries for consideration.

The UIS Informatics Commission runs the UIS web pages and the UIS domain (www.uis-speleo.org). Thanks to Mr. Peter Matthews and Mr. Manuel Freire we are present in a world wide web. It is strongly recommended to all the UIS and national bodies to collaborate with Peter. Important progress was made also by the UIS Commission on Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis of Karst headed by Aleksander Klimchouk of Ukraine, who co-organized seven international meetings (the last was held in May 2009 and was entitled "Hypogene Speleogenesis and Karst Hydrogeology of Artesian Basins"). Members of this commission produced more than a thousand papers in international journals within the last five years. Excellent results can be mentioned also in Commission on Pseudokarst (President Jan Urban), including the organization of two international symposia (May 2006 – Poland; May 2008 – Italy). The proceedings of both symposia are published. Members of this commission are currently working on their upcoming symposium which will be held in Königstein near Dresden (Germany) in 2010. The Commission on Volcanic Caves (President Jan-Paul Van der Pas) keeps an up to date website and hard-copy newsletter. They have organized two international symposia (Mexico, 2006; Jeju – Korea, 2008) and published 11 newsletters. The next symposium (14th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology) will be held in Australia next year (2010). Permanent Commission on Speleotherapy, Commission on Glacier Caves and Karst in Polar Regions, Cave Diving Commission, Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology Commission, Cave Mineral Commission and Paleokarst and Speleochronology Commission also reported their achievements and results

Relations with UNESCO. The relation with cultural and educational organization of the United Nations has re-emerged. The UIS is now seeking to be affiliated to ICSU in order to be officially recognized by UNESCO. For this matter, we got already the official support of the International Union of Geographers (IUG) and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The responsible for the UNESCO from the UIS Bureau – Fadi Nader – is in contact with UNESCO and ICSU in Paris.

The UIS Bulletin. The Bulletin was published more or less regularly after a break of a couple of years. I have to apologize for this. Last year (2008) we published two numbers (Vol. 51-2 – June 2008, 51-3 – December 2008). This year (2009), we already published Vol. 52-1 (June 2009), in the first week of July. I must thank the support and help I got from a number of persons (e.g. Patrick Deriaz – Switzerland, Carlod Benedetto – Argentina, Michael Laumanns – Germany, Ricardo Dall'Acqua – Italy, Bernard Lips – France). The UIS Bulletin is published only in electronical form, as a PDF file downloadable from the UIS website (www.uis-speleo.org).

International Journal of Speleology. As you know, the UIS established years ago the International Journal of Speleology as the top medium for publication of latest scientific achievements. Prof. Jo De Waele is the Editor-in-Chief and since the last congress some 10 issues have been published. In addition, the IJS is on SCI-extended and currently, under the procedure of obtaining an impact-factor. The UIS has also supported financially the IJS with more than 22,000 Euros in the last four years.

Co-operation with other NGOs, governmental and private bodies. While the co-operation with the IUG, and AIH continues among some UIS Commission and Working Groups, numerous of our colleagues co-operated with the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on the preparation of protected areas in karst and with the Commission of UNESCO for World Heritage List. Also thanks to the UIS some important places were inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage List. In addition, an excellent relationship with ISCA re-emerged in the last few years.

The UIS future. The future of our non-governmental organization remained the notorious theme of the UIS Bureau session in the past periods. The UIS has all disadvantages of the international body and equally a great profit from such situation, which I mentioned at the beginning of my report. We can see that both the scientific and sportive activities improved in a past period after Kalamos-Athens (2005). Cave scientists and karstologists co-operate with the UIS on a broader scale, which is visible on international congresses, conferences and symposia, as well as on UIS publications. I believe on international collaboration and initiatives of base-level cavers. There is room for everybody at the UIS and I keep saying to all cavers I meet that they have to consider the UIS as their own club, national and regional organizations. With the internet and today's technology, the world is becoming one and together we have more chances to serve our future generations of cavers and protect our caves.

Dear colleagues, at the end of this week you will elect the new UIS Bureau. I have one comment to the composition of this body. Please, elect persons who are geographically dispersed over all continents. The concentration of members from one continent is not very useful for the Bureau activities; our operations need persons from Europe, Asia and Africa (including the Arab world), Australia, North America, and South America/Caribbean. There are established regional speleological bodies, like Speleological Federation of Europe (FSE), the Balkan Speleological Federation, and the Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (FEALC). More tight collaboration can result in synergy and more efficient means for serving our international community of cavers and protect our caves.

Dear Colleagues, I hope that I gave you information concerning the most important topics concerning the UIS life during the last four years. Commentary to all our activities can be given upon request.

UIS Prizes

Most Significant Speleological Discovery/Exploration

Ukrainian Speleological Association – the deepest World cave – Voronja Cave –1,710 m.

Best Book

First Prize

Second Prize

Third Prize

Best Poster

Public inquiry - votes for 24 posters, 6 posters clear favorites

First Prize

Second Prize - Equal

Highly Commended

Julia James

UIS Bureau 2009-2013

President

Andrew James EAVIS (United Kingdom)

Vice-Presidents

Christian DODELIN (France)

George VENI (United States of America)

Secretary General

Fadi NADER (Lebanon)

Adjunct Secretaries

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia)

Paul WILLIAMS (New Zealand)

Efrain MERCADO (Puerto Rico)

Kyung Sik WOO (Korea)

Aleksander KLIMCHOUK (Ukraine)

Stein-Erik LAURITZEN (Norway)

Giovanni BADINO (Italy)

Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS (Belgium)

UIS Past-Presidents

Arrigo A. CIGNA (Italy)

Adolfo ERASO ROMERO (Spain)

Derek C. FORD (Canada)

Hubert TRIMMEL (Austria)

Jose-Ayrton LABEGALINI (Brazil)

Paolo FORTI (Italy)

Julia Mary JAMES (Australia)

UIS Honorary Members

Arrigo A. CIGNA (Italy)

Adolfo ERASO ROMERO (Spain)

Hubert TRIMMEL (Austria)

Julia Mary JAMES (Australia)

Maurice AUDÉTAT (Switzerland)

Paolo FORTI (Italy)

Pavel BOSÁK (Czech Republic)

Reno BERNASCONI (Switzerland)

Vladimír PANOŠ (Czech Republic)

Reports from UIS Bureau meetings

July 18, 2009

1) Opening speech of the UIS President / Approval of Agenda

Andy Eavis thanked all participants for coming to Kerrville. He informed the Bureau that Roman Hapka and Carlos Benedetto had apologized for not being able to come to the Bureau Meetings and General Assembly at the 15th ICS. Andy Eavis thanked George Veni and the organizers of the 15th ICS for their efforts and congratulated them for all their efforts that will lead for an excellent congress.

The Agenda of the Meetings during the Congress were then approved by the present Bureau members.

2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Session in 2008 (Jeju Island, Rep. Korea)

Fadi Nader proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the preceding meeting that was held on Jeju Island (Republic of Korea) in 2008. Andy Eavis seconded this motion and it was passed by the Bureau.

Together with the minutes, the list of decisions/actions was published on the UIS Bureau Forum and sent by emails to Bureau members.

3) Previous meetings and events

a. Visit to Postojna / Karst Research Institute (UIS headquarters) and re-arranging financial situation (Postojna, Slovenia – 3 to 6 December, 2008);

Andy Eavis informed the Bureau about the visit to Postojna that took place at the end of the last year, during which Andy Eavis, Pavel Bosak, Fadi Nader and Andrej Mihevc met cavers and officials, visited the Karst Institute and the breathtaking karst, and assessed/re-arranged the financial situation of the UIS account. Andrej Mihevc is acknowledged and thanked for the warm welcome and excellent program. Details are published in UIS Bulletin No. 51-3 (Dec. 2008).

<http://www.uis-speleo.org/uisb513.pdf>

b. International Conference on Hypogene Speleogenesis and Karst Hydrogeology of Artesian Basins (Ukraine – 12 to 17 May, 2009); <http://network.speleogenesis.info/directory/conferences/hypogene/>

Andy Eavis informed the Bureau about his attendance at the Hypogene Speleogenesis conference held in Ukraine and organized by Alexander Klimchouk

4) Preparation for the General Assembly (Agenda)

The Agenda of both sessions of the General Assembly was reviewed and amended to fit with the current situation (the minutes of the General Assembly will be the subject of a separate report).

Important issues discussed concerning the General Assembly at the 15th ICS:

1- The situation of Croatia:

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that he received a letter from the mountaineering federation in Croatia asking to be represented at the UIS similarly/equally to the speleological federation (headed by Mladen Garasic, who is also the actual UIS delegate of Croatia).

After long discussion, the Bureau decided still to recognize Mladen Garasic as delegate of Croatia but to ask the Croatian cavers to find a viable solution for their internal problems. The UIS has an obligation to support, in principle, national speleological organizations rather than mountaineering bodies.

DECISION 1: The Bureau recognizes Mladen Garasic as delegate of Croatia and ask Croatian cavers to find solution for their internal problems.

2- New Member countries:

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that official applications for joining the UIS were received from Jamaica, Paraguay, Costa Rica; while unofficial requests were also received from or on the behalf of Honduras and the Philippines.

DECISION 2: The Bureau decided to receive the proposals of Jamaica and Paraguay and to ask the General Assembly to vote on their acceptance as new UIS member countries.

For Costa Rica, which is already a member country of the UIS but with a heavy debt (no payment over the last few years), since a new national organization is now active and a request has been made to reactivate the country's membership to UIS, the Bureau will cancel all debts and welcome Costa Rica back again (on the understanding that they pay this year's subscription, i.e. 2009/ 50 US Dollars).

3- Proposal of Adolfo Eraso:

This is mainly concerning the Commission on Glacial Caves and Karst in Polar Regions. Adolfo proposed a merger of GLACKIPR and IWGIC (Working Group on Ice Caves), and he asked the Bureau to think about an appropriate name.

DECISION 3: The Bureau accepts the motion to merge both groups and proposes the following name for the new commission: "GLACIER, FIRN AND ICE CAVES COMMISSION"

4- Commissions and Working Groups:

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that with the help of J.-A. Labegalini, almost all the Commissions and Working Groups were contacted, sent reports or replies. Only the commissions on "Archeology and Paleontology in Caves" and "Materials and Techniques" did not respond. While the first is known to be active (a symposium is scheduled at this ICS!) – David Hubbard (co-president) will be approached to settle this matter; the Commission on Materials and Techniques has been silent for long time and a decision should be made whether to keep it or not.

The Bureau approved a motion put forward by Andy Eavis, who suggested that we should keep the commission and finding a person who would be keen to re-activate it.

(5) Review of Finances (Pavel Bosak)

Pavel Bosak ran through the detailed budget and expenses which he also presented to the General Assembly and suggested the following (which was approved by Bureau and proposed for voting at the General Assembly):

- For all future payments (as of the year 2010), the operating currency will be the Euro rather than the US Dollar, keeping the same rates for categories A, B and C.
- Member countries can still pay in advance their fees (for the upcoming years) according to previous US Dollars-rates until the end of 2009.
- Healthy treasury involves stable payments by member countries rather than sporadic payments. Delegates should be encouraged to settle payments in a systematic way (e.g. every year).
- Other means of funding must be found, the UIS treasury cannot survive only from member countries fees.

DECISION 4: As of the year 2010, the operating currency of the UIS shall be the EURO (keeping the same rates for categories A, B and C of member countries. Delegates are encouraged to settle their payments in a systematic way (e.g. yearly basis).

(6) Code of Ethics

The UIS Code of Ethics was prepared mainly by Stein-Erik Lauritzen with the help of Paul Williams and Julia James. Yet the document is not considered finished and was termed a "working document." Paul Williams proposed to add "working document" to the title of the code of ethics in order to avoid ambiguities.

The Bureau decided that the new Code of Ethics would benefit from a last review by Julia, Paul and Derek together with Stein-Erik before distributing it to the National Delegates on Thursday 23 July (during the UIS Bureau meeting with National Delegates). The latter delegates are urged to take the document home with them and to discuss it with their national communities and suggest appropriate changes.

The new deadline for voting the new Code of Ethics as an official UIS document will be next ICS (16th) in Brno (Czech Republic) in 2013.

(7) UIS Prizes

Fadi Nader reported that Julia James took care of preparing the UIS prizes (Poster-, Book-, and Exploration-Prizes). She had prepared certificates (and frames) and will need to finalize them in Kerrville. She made sure that all will be ready for presentation at the ICS Banquet at the Congress.

(8) Varia I

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members about the last correspondence and exchange of letters (emails) with some member countries – various news are already published in the last three UIS Bulletins (see <http://www.uis->

speleo.org/publicat.html#uisbulletin):

1- Congreso Centroamericano de Espeleologia (CCE II; Guatemala 2011):
Ferdinando Didonna (Coordinator of ICEKE Project / Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Karsticos y Espeleologicos) asked the symbolic patronage of the UIS in order to promote the 2nd CCE.

This request was also discussed with FEALC officers and a decision was postponed to the second session of the UIS Bureau Meeting (after election of new Bureau).

2- International Advanced Training for Iranian Cavers in Lebanon (16-30 September 2009):
Fadi Nader informed the Bureau that the International Speleological Expedition to Iran (ISEI 2008) was excellent and he distributed a letter from the Iranian cavers who benefited from the UIS expedition, expressing their thanks and gratefulness. Fadi Nader also forwarded an official request from the Speleo-Club Du Liban to symbolically and financially support and organize an advance training session for a team of some ten Iranian cavers in Lebanon. Due to the actual political situation, Iranian cavers can more easily travel to Lebanon rather than to other countries.

DECISION 5: UIS Bureau agreed to grant this project (International Advanced Training for Iranian Cavers in Lebanon) support and a financial help of 1,000 US Dollars.

3- Message from Barbel Vogel, President of the German Speleological Federation (VdHK):
Barbel Vogel sent a letter apologizing for not being able to come to the ICS 15 and attend the general assemblies. She suggested also that the UIS Bureau should work on setting up networks with non-speleo partners (e.g. politicians, scientists, NGOs) and be present in the international arena (e.g. UNEP, IUCS). Barbel also requests that the trade in speleothems should be prohibited worldwide, and she recommended a revision of the UIS website and web pages to make them more attractive and user-friendly.

4- Message from Hayatullah Khan Durrani, Delegate of Pakistan at the UIS:
A letter/email was sent to Fadi Nader and George Veni, in which Hayatullah expresses his thanks for all efforts spent to make it possible for him to attend the 15th ICS and the General Assemblies. He also apologized for finally not being able to come due to various problems. He asked Fadi Nader to brief the Bureau members and the General Assembly about Pakistan.

5- Message from Carlos Benedetto, UIS Delegate of Argentina and UIS Adjoint-Secretary:
Fadi Nader read the letter that was sent by Carlos Benedetto (to Andy Eavis and Fadi Nader), in which Carlos apologized for not being able to come to Kerrville and whereby he appoints Juan Carlos Lopez Casas to represent Argentina in the General Assembly. Several points were also related to the Agenda of the meetings and recommendation of new member countries (discussed above). Besides, requests for official UIS letters of support. Several items of this letter were forwarded for the next elected Bureau.

July 26, 2009

(9) Welcoming New Bureau Members

Andy Eavis opened the second session of the Bureau meeting (and the first meeting with the newly elected Bureau) in Kerrville by welcoming all new Bureau members and thanking all previous members for their work and dedication to the UIS. He asked Fadi Nader to prepare letters of thanks to all members who have now left the Bureau.

ACTION 1: Fadi Nader (Secretary General) will write letter of thanks to all UIS Bureau members who have left the Bureau after the elections at the 2nd session of the General Assembly of the 15th ICS.

After the election at the second session of the General Assembly at the 15th ICS, Christian Dodelin (France), Giovanni Badino (Italy), Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (Belgium), and Nadja Zupan Hajna (Slovenia) joined the Bureau. Some shuffling in position occurred as George Veni was elected Vice-President and Alexander Klimchouk as Adjunct Secretary. Pavel Bosak was elected by the General Assembly as Honorary Bureau Member.

Andy Eavis noted that in the previous years the Bureau has continuously evolved into a better, efficient, and increasingly pleasant working group. He expressed his delight in the membership of the new Bureau.

(10) Workflow of the UIS Bureau (F. Nader)

a. UIS Bureau FORUM – Communication intra-Bureau:

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members that the FORUM is already set and ready for all future communication intra-Bureau. He explained how the system works and invited all Bureau members to make use of this tool.

DECISION 6: All UIS Bureau communications are to be made by means of the FORUM, except for extra-confidential issues which are usually not to be discussed among the whole team and could be the subject to emails.

The FORUM can be accessed through <http://www.uis-speleo.org/forum>

Fadi Nader also explained that those who did not register need to be patient after their first registration is done (i.e. they have to wait one or two weeks), as their account still needs to be activated. They will be notified by email.

ACTION 2: All UIS Bureau members are requested to register on the forum.

Andy Eavis asked Fadi Nader to send an email with brief instructions on how to register to all Bureau members; and to try to add “online instructions” that help the users. A question was raised concerning whether the FORUM is protected against viruses and spam. Peter Matthews replied reassuring everybody that indeed we are protected.

ACTION 3: Fadi Nader (or Manuel Freire) will send an email with brief instructions on how to register on the FORUM to all Bureau members. “Online instructions” will also be available on the FROUM.

b. UIS Website :

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members that the new website will be online in one or two weeks after the 15th ICS (definitely by mid-August). He explained that the website management is the responsibility of the Secretary General and the Vice-President of Operations. He asked for help concerning the activation and the publicity for checking the website.

ACTION 4: A new website for the UIS will be online after the 15th ICS. The responsibility of managing the website falls on the Secretary General and the Vice-President of Operations (of course together with the webmaster).

c. UIS Bulletin:

Fadi Nader informed the Bureau members that the Bulletin is published every six months on the website. He asked the Bureau members to send him important news to be added in the Bulletin.

d. Follow-up of Commissions:

Fadi Nader asked the Bureau members for help concerning the heavy work related to follow-up of commissions, ICS and website. He suggested that Bureau members follow the guidelines of the Internal Regulations and share the responsibilities with Vice Presidents.

Christian Dodelin (VP) agreed to follow up commissions, while George Veni would follow-up the 16th ICS in Brno and share with the organizers of the upcoming congress some tips and lessons learnt during the organization of the 15th ICS. He will also help with the follow-up of the website (which is mainly done by the webmaster Manuel Freire).

DECISION 7: Following discussion with VPs, the President and Secretary, it was decided to revert to the Internal Regulations (IR) as published and that Christian Dodelin will work as Vice-President of Operation as listed in the IR. George Veni will operate as VP of Administration and liaise with the organizing committee of the next ICS and the UIS commissions, committees, working groups, etc.

d. Follow-up of National Delegates, National and Regional Organizations:

Fadi Nader asked the Bureau members for help concerning the heavy work related to follow-up of National Delegates, National and Regional Organizations. Four Adjunct Secretaries proposed to help in order to make the link with the delegates and organizations:

Efrain Mercado: Latin America and the Caribbean countries (+FEALC)

Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns: European countries (+FSE)

Kyung Sik Woo: Asian countries

Paul Williams: Australia and New Zealand

DECISION 8: Efrain Mercado, Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, Kyung Sik Woo and Paul Williams will assist Fadi Nader in the follow-up of national delegates as well as national and regional organizations.

(11) Running Projects:

a. UIS Book (J.-A. Labegalini):

Jose Ayrton Labegalini informed the Bureau that the book project is well on its way and he estimated two more years to finish. Hence, we may think about its distribution at the upcoming 16th ICS in the Czech Republic.

ACTION 5: Further collaboration and work will be done by the subcommittee made up by J.-A. Labegalini, A. Cigna, P. Bosak and F. Nader to finalize the UIS Book project.

b. Power-Point Presentations Project (G. Badino):

Giovanni Badino briefly informed the Bureau about this project (which was the subject of a presentation during the congress to which most of the Bureau members attended).

Paul Williams suggested that Fadi Nader should draft a letter of thanks and recognition to the authors of this project (Italian Speleological Society). This motion was approved by the Bureau.

ACTION 6: Fadi Nader will send a letter of thanks and recognition to the authors of the Power-Point Presentations Project and the Italian Speleological Society.

c. UIS/UNESCO:

Paul Williams explained our current situation concerning the affiliation to the International Council for Science (ICSU). Fadi Nader had already received letters of support from both International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and International Geographical Union (IGU) – both affiliated to ICSU. So, what remains is to take a decision to fill in the application for affiliation to the ICSU. Paul Williams explained that this will cost the UIS some 500 Euros per year. Derek Ford strongly suggested that we seize the chance and get affiliated to ICSU.

The UIS Bureau voted positively to pay 500 Euros per year and to apply for affiliation to ICSU.

DECISION 9: If the application of the UIS for affiliation to the ICSU is accepted, the UIS will pay the yearly costs to ICSU (ca. 500 Euros).

ACTION 7: Paul Williams will prepare the application forms and will contact Fadi Nader in order to submit the application in due time (before August 23, 2009).

Nadja Zupan Hajna suggested that since UIS has an address in Slovenia, we should try to ask to be refunded by the Slovenian Science Academy for the 500 Euros membership fees at ICSU.

(12) Finances

In addition to what has been already discussed about the Finances (see above), the following steps are recommended by the new Bureau:

- 1- Pavel Bosak will finalize all pending papers and financial matters by 29 September 2009 and will subsequently forward the full financial registry to Nadja Zupan Hajna.
- 2- List recommendations to follow the instructions made by the audit during the General Assembly (see Minutes of the General Assembly, separate document)
- 3- Prepare invoices to be sent to member countries (Nadja and Fadi)

ACTION 8: Pavel Bosak will finalize all pending papers related to UIS finances by the end of September 2009 and will forward the registry to Nadja Zupan Hajna.

ACTION 9: The list of recommendations presented by the audit during the General Assembly of the 15th ICS are to be followed and executed.

ACTION 10: Nadja Zupan Hajna (and Fadi Nader) will prepare invoices to be sent to member countries.

Nadja Zupan Hajna (who will be Acting Treasurer) asked for an updated table with countries and their debts – she also suggested that this table be published on the FORUM. The motion was accepted by the Bureau.

ACTION 11: Nadja Zupan Hajna (and Fadi Nader) will prepare an updated table with the debts of all UIS member countries.

Fadi Nader will write an official letter to Nadja asking her to act as Treasurer of the UIS, according to the UIS Statutes and Internal Regulations.

ACTION 12: Fadi Nader will write an official letter to Nadja Zupan Hajna asking her to act as Treasurer of the UIS.

(13) Code of Ethics

In addition to what has been already discussed about the Code of Ethics (see above), the new Bureau strongly recommended publication of the existing working document on the UIS website and to ask for suggestions and amendments. The deadline for working on the Code of Ethics is set to the first day of September 2010. Stein-Erik Lauritzen will compile all recommendations and suggestions.

ACTION 13: The existing working document concerning the UIS Code of Ethics is to be published on the UIS website in order to receive suggestions and amendments from member-countries.

ACTION 14: Stein-Erik Lauritzen will compile all recommendations and suggestions for the new version of the UIS Code of Ethics by the first day of September 2010 and will present the final version during the Bureau meeting of the year 2011.

(14) Varia II

Several miscellaneous items were also discussed:

1- Speleogenesis under EBSCO:

Alexander Klimchouk asked for permission to sign a contract with EBSCO so that the electronic journal SPELEOGENESIS would be part of the EBSCO network. The Bureau members gave the authorization to A. Klimchouk to sign the contract.

ACTION 15: Alexander Klimchouk will sign a contract with EBSCO on the behalf of UIS making SPELEOGENESIS part of the EBSCO network.

2- Future of IJS:

The IJS team had a special meeting at the 15th ICS and they explained that the Italian Speleological Society can still support the IJS for only two more years. A need to find solutions is necessary now.

-The UIS Bureau thanked Jo De Waele for his efforts concerning the IJS and strongly recommends (1) to investigate all possibilities (including an emerging idea of getting an offer from Berkley) and (2) to get legal advice from professionals.

-The UIS Bureau also requested that the Advisory Committee look into the situation of the IJS and all its aspects and reports to the next UIS Bureau meeting.

ACTION 16: Joe de Waele (and VP-O: Christian Dodelin) will investigate all possibilities for the survival of the IJS and to get needed legal advice from professionals concerning eventual offer from Berkley.

ACTION 17: The Advisory Committee is asked to look into the situation of the IJS and to report to the UIS Bureau at the next UIS Bureau meeting (Postojna, June 2010).

3- Requests from Brazil:

First the Brazilian delegates requested the UIS to change their category as a member country (from B to C) and since the year 2006.

- Efrain Mercado will investigate this request and ask the Brazilians for explanations.

Second the Brazilian delegates also asked the UIS for help and to support opposition of a new national law about caves without the collaboration of local cavers.

- Fadi Nader proposed that Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (head of the Protection Department and current Adjunct Secretary) handle this affair. Since Jean-Pierre will be in Brazil in September 2009, he could investigate this issue.

- Paul Williams proposed that "the UIS respectfully ask that the Brazilian authorities to ask/consult the experts of the Brazilian Speleological Federation."

- Pavel Bosak suggested to also find out the point-of-view of non-cavers (e.g. the Ibama quarries) and Stein-Erik Lauritzen commented that this situation could be a golden chance for local cavers to get income out of consultancy jobs.

- Following the September mission of Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns, Paul's suggestion could be the subject of an official letter.

DECISION 10: The UIS Bureau delegated Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns to investigate in-situ this matter during his upcoming trip to Brazil in September 2009.

ACTION 18: Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns is to report to the Bureau about his mission to Brazil and present some recommendations.

4- Request from the Philippines:

This is related to a call from cavers from the Philippines regarding the speleothems imported from China and sold in Philippines.

- Kyung Sik Woo is asked to investigate to whom we should send a letter in China (Speleological Society, Institute of Karst, etc.).

- A letter will be drafted by Paul Williams, signed and sent by Andy Eavis.

ACTION 19: Paul Williams will draft a letter that will be sent by Andy Eavis with the help of Kyung Sik Woo to the related Chinese authorities to discuss the issue of imported speleothems from China and sold in the Philippines.

5- Costa Rica and the Congreso Centroamericano de Espeleologia (CCE II; Guatemala 2011):

FEALC representative (Efrain Mercado) strongly recommended not to grant this event the UIS support, since it did not yet receive FEALC's support.

- The UIS Bureau asked Efrain Mercado to initiate discussions with the Costa Rican cavers about this issue and to try to find solutions.
- The UIS Bureau will wait until the FEALC and Costa Rica sort out the problems concerning this congress.

6- UIS Fellowship (Paul Williams):

Paul Williams proposed the establishment of a "UIS Fellowship" as a way to honor outstanding speleologists. He explained that in addition to the title, we could grant Fellows free ICS registrations.

- The UIS Bureau will discuss this proposal during the next Bureau meeting.

DECISION 11: The UIS Bureau will discuss the proposal of Paul Williams for the establishment of a "UIS Fellowship" during the upcoming UIS Bureau yearly meeting (Postojna; June, 2010).

(11) UIS Bureau 2010 meeting (12-13 June 2010, Postojna - SLOVENIA)

DECISION 12: The UIS Bureau members decided that the upcoming meeting will take place on the 12th and 13th June 2010 in Postojna (Headquarter of the UIS at the Slovenian Karst Research Institute) just before the Karst School (14 to 20 June, 2010) which will be dedicated to Dinaric Karst.

Nadja Zupan Hajna and Andrej Mihevc will provide the programme.

(11) Closing Session (President) + Setting the Action List for 2010

At 15h56, Andy Eavis closed the second session of the Kerrville UIS Bureau meeting and thanked everybody for their presence and their contribution.

ACTION 20: Fadi Nader will prepare the minutes of the meetings and the Action List for 2010.

Fadi NADER

Reports on Commission Meetings

Commission on Bibliography

July 20, 2009 - there are numerous countries willing to co-operate on the BBS. Future collaboration with the KIP. Reported by Patrick Deriaz (President).

Department of Protection and Management of Caves

July 20, 2009 – the problem of selling speleothems from China and other countries of the Far East has been discussed with concerns. Reported by Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (President).

Commission on Microbiology and Geomicrobiology

July 20, 2009 - following persons were elected: Presidents: Hazel Barton (USA; bartonh@nku.edu) and Juan Gonzalez (Spain; jmgrau@irnase.csic.es); Secretaries: Juan Giarrizo (Spain; igiarrizzo@gmail.com) and Rick Fowler (USA; rick.fowler@wku.edu). Some of the future objectives included the publication of a book and the construction of a portal for group discussions on internet. Report by H. Barton (co-President).

Commission on Biology

July 20, 2009 - following persons were elected: President: John Holsinger; and Secretary: Jill Yager. Some of the future objectives included the organisation of two sessions at the upcoming 16th ICS in Brno (Czech Republic) and a meeting in Slovenia in 2010. Report by XXX (Chairperson of the session).

Cave Rescue Commission

July 21, 2009 – training rescue in France in 2010 and 2012, upcoming international conference on cave rescue in Bulgaria in 2011 and the Declarations of Aggtelek for consideration by delegates of member-countries. Report by C. Dodelin (President).

Commission on Archeology and Paleontology in Caves

July 21, 2009 - Co-Presidents: Dave Hubbard (USA) and Roman Hapka (Switzerland). Main plans for 2009-2013: promotion of archeology and paleontology in caves, meetings, symposium at the next ICS 16 in Brno. Report by D. Hubbard (co-President).

Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis

July 21, 2009 – Approved commission reports and discussions on ambitious plans for the coming period 2009-2013. Report by A. Klimchouk (President).

Commission on Paleokarst and Speleochronology

July 21, 2001 - President remains Stein-Eric Lauritzen (Norway), proposed project of book: cave sediments focus on paleokarst, preparation of an international conference in Norway 2010 or 2011 in collaboration with petroleum geologists. Reported by Stein-Erik Lauritzen (President).

Commission on Pseudokarst

July 21, 2009 - Jiří Kopecký (honorary president), István Eszterhás (honorary president), Jan Urban (president), Rudolf Pavuza (vice-president), Ludovít Gaál (secretary). Future plans: The 11th Symposium on Pseudokarst will be held in in Königstein near Dresden (Germany) in 2010. Report by Jan Paul van der Pas (Chairperson of the session).

Commission on Cave Mineralogy

July 23, 2009 – Several projects for the future including incorporation of the Commission work within the KIP (Karst Information Portal), publishing and distribution of a flyer at the Budapest conference in 2010, meetings. Reported by Bogdan P. Onac (President).

Commission on Cave Diving

July 23, 2009 - Regulation of cave diving by public authorities were discussed and the Commission agreed to adopt "habilitation" for subaquatic speleologists. A plan of international cave training on yearly basis was proposed (Greece 2010, Lebanon 2011, Portugal 2012 and France 2013). Commission will improve international contacts. Reported by P. Brunet (President).

Commission of Great Caves of the World

July 24, 2009 – a new team convened with the determination of reviving this commission. Some future plans include providing digital formats and updating the existing database. Report by XXXX (President).

International Journal of Speleology

July 24, 2009 – Joe De Waele remains the Editor of the IJS. He informed the audience that most probably the IJS will get its impact factor by June 2011 (0.6 as a starter) and that he is satisfied as he is no more obliged to “beg” for articles. He expressed his request to make 3 issues instead of 2 per year and keep the level high. He also asked for a yearly budget of 5,000 Euros. Finally, the future of the IJS was discussed seriously as the Italian Speleological Society has decided to stop dealing with the administrative burden of IJS in two years. The decision was made to investigate other possibilities (and ask for legal advice concerning the possibility of giving the IJS to International publishing companies. Report by Joe De Waele (President).

Informatics Commission

July 25, 2009. Discussions concerned the multi-lingual dictionary, collaboration with KIP, expedition database (collaboration with FSE, Forum and Website. Report by Peter Matthews (President).

Commission of Lava Caves

July 25, 2009 - Upcoming symposia of the Commission on volcanic caves: 2010 in Australia; 2012 in Jordan; 2014 in Ecuador/Galapagos. Report by Jan Paul van der Pas (President).

National Delegates and Substitutes

Refer to the UIS official website (www.uis-speleo.org)

For any inconsistencies, mistake or information change of National Delegates, contact the webmaster.

UIS Departments, Commissions, and Working Groups

The Commissions and Working Groups are where the actual speleological work is done. Anyone who wants to contribute is invited to collaborate in the work of a commission under the co-ordination of its President(s)

UIS domain: <http://www.uis-speleo.org>

<http://rubens.its.unimelb.edu.au/~pgm/uis/comms.html>

Departments:

Protection and Management.

Research

Documentation

Exploration

Education

Advisory Committee

Department of Protection and Management.

Département de la Protection.

President: Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, Belgium

*COMMISSION ON PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM IN CAVES AND KARST REGIONS
COMMISSION POUR LA PROTECTION, L'EXPLOITATION ET LE TOURISME DES CAVITÉS ET DES
ÉGIONS KARSTIQUES*

Presidents: Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, Belgium

Department of Research

Département de la Recherche Scientifique

COMMISSION ON BIOLOGY

COMMISSION DE BIOLOGIE

President: John HOLSINGER, XXX

Secretary: Jill YAGER, XXX

COMMISSION ON MICROBIOLOGY AND GEOMICROBIOLOGY

COMMISSION DE MICROBIOLOGIE ET GEOMICROBIOLOGIE

Presidents: Hazel BARTON, USA; and Juan GONZALEZ, Spain

Secretaries: Juan GIARRIZO, Spain; and Rick FOWLER, USA

*COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY AND HYDROGEOLOGY OF KARST
COMMISSION DE LA PHYSICO-CHIMIE ET DE L'HYDROGÉOLOGIE DU KARST*

President: Yavor Y. SHOPOV, Bulgaria

*COMMISSION ON PALEOKARST AND SPELEOCHRONOLOGY
COMMISSION DU PALÉOKARST ET DE LA SPÉLÉOCHRONOLOGIE.*

President: Stein-Erik LAURITZEN, Norway

*COMMISSION ON GLACIER CAVES AND KARST IN POLAR REGIONS
COMMISSION DES GROTTES EN GLACIÈRES ET DU KARST DES RÉGIONS POLAIRES.*

President: Adolfo ERASO ROMERO, Spain

*COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES
COMMISSION DES GROTTES VOLCANIQUES.*

President: Jan Paul van der PAS, Netherlands

*WORKING GROUP ON HYDROTHERMAL KARST
GROUPE DE TRAVAIL: KARST HYDROTHERMALE*

President: Yuri Viktorovich DUBLYANSKY, Russia

*COMMISSION ON HYDROGEOLOGY AND SPELEOGENESIS
COMMISSION POUR LE HYDROGÉOLOGIE ET SPÉLEOGENIE*

President: Alexander KLIMCHOUK, Ukraine

COMMISSION ON CAVE MINERALOGY

COMMISSION POUR LA MINÉRALOGIE DANS LES GROTTES
President: Bogdan Onac, USA

COMMISSION ON „PSEUDOKARST“
COMMISSION DU „PSEUDOKARST“
Honorary President: Jiří KOPECKÝ, Czech Republic
President: Jan URBAN, Poland
Secretary: Ludovit GAAL, Slovakia

COMMISSION ON ARCHEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY IN CAVES
COMMISSION POUR L'ARCHÉOLOGIE ET LA PALÉONTOLOGIE DANS LES GROTTES
Presidents: Roman HAPKA, Switzerland; David HUBBARD, USA

PERMANENT COMMISSION ON SPELEOTHERAPY
COMMISSION PERMANENTE DE SPÉLÉOTHERAPIE
Honorary President: Beata SANDRI, Austria
President: Svetozár DLUHOLUCKÝ, Slovakia

COMMISSION ON ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES
COMMISSION DES CAVITÉS ARTIFICIELLES
President: Joep ORBONS, Netherlands

Department of Documentation
Departement de la documentation

COMMISSION OF BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA BIBLIOGRAPHIE
President: Patrick DERIAZ, Switzerland

COMMISSION ON LONGEST AND DEEPEST CAVES
COMMISSION DES GRANDES CAVITÉS
President: XXX, Spain

COMMISSION ATLAS OF KARST REGIONS
COMMISSION POUR L'ATLAS DES RÉGIONS KARSTIQUES
President: Karl-Heinz PFEFFER, Germany

INFORMATICS COMMISSION
COMMISSION POUR L'INFORMATIQUE
President: Peter MATTHEWS, Australia
WORKING GROUP: SURVEY AND MAPPING
GROUPE DE TRAVAIL: TOPOGRAPHIE ET DESSIN
President: Philipp HÄUSELMANN, Switzerland

COMMISSION ON HISTORY OF SPELEOLOGY
COMMISSION POUR L'HISTOIRE DE LA SPÉLÉOLOGIE
President: Karl MAIS, Austria

COMMISSION ON ARTS AND LETTERS
COMMISSION DES ARTS ET LETTRES
President: Ian CHANDLER, USA

Department of Exploration
Departement de l'exploration

COMMISSION OF CAVE RESCUE
COMMISSION DE SPÉLÉO-SECOUR
President: Christian DODELIN, France

COMMISSION ON MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES
COMMISSION DE MATÉRIEL ET TECHNIQUES
President: vacant

CAVE DIVING COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA PLONGÉE SOUTERRAINE

President: Phillippe BRUNET, France

Department of Education and Teaching
Departement de l'Enseignement spéléologique
President: Marcel MEYSSONIER, France

COMMISSION OF SPELEOLOGICAL EDUCATION
COMMISSION DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SPÉLÉOLOGIQUE
President: Marcel MEYSSONNIER, France

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COMITÉ CONSULTATIF

Members (alphabetic order):
Pavel BOSAK, Czech Republic
Arrigo A. CIGNA, Italy
Julia JAMES, Australia
Friedrich OEDL, Austria
Hubert TRIMMEL, Austria

UIS Addresses

Addresses of members and honorary members of the UIS Bureau and Presidents of the UIS Commissions and Working Groups.

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ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The UIS General Assembly at the 15th ICS decided to change the annual contributions of the UIS member-countries to Euro currency, while keeping the same rates as those since 1994. The annual contributions will be as follows, starting from January 2010:

Category A	300 Euros
Category B	200 Euros
Category C	50 Euros

Each UIS member country has the free choice of the category in accordance with its own financial possibilities and with the number of speleologists or speleological societies/ associations/ federations/ clubs/ institutions

The UIS Bureau is authorized to reduce or to remit the contributions, if the UIS member-country makes a respectively written demand. If the UIS Bureau requires, the UIS member country has to give reasons for the difficulties of a payment.

The authorization of the UIS Bureau to reduce or remit the contributions confirms that the impossibility of a payment by actual political problems or difficulties will not be an argument to exclude any member country from the international collaboration within the structure of the UIS.

UIS Bank Account

Account name

Mednarodna speleološka zveza - UIS
Titov trg 2
6230 Postojna
Slovenia

Bank (name and address)

Banka Koper d.d.
Tr?aška 2
6230 Postojna
Slovenia

Account No.

IBAN SI56 1010 0003 7861 520

SWIFT Code: BAKOSI2X

Accepted Currencies:

USD (United States Dollars)
EUR (Euros)
SIT (Slovenian tollars)