



# Constitution

## 1. NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

An association is founded, with the characteristics of non-profit organization (in Italy ONLUS – Organizzazione Non Lucrativa di Utilità Sociale), according to the Italian Legislative Decree n. 460, 4th December 1997.

The name of the association is: "International Association for Promoting Geoethics". The official abbreviation is IAPG. In languages other than English, the name is given by a direct translation. In Italian the name is: "Associazione Internazionale per la Promozione della Geoetica". In this Constitution, the terms "Association" or "IAPG" stand for "International Association for Promoting Geoethics". The official language of the Association is English.

## 2. HEADQUARTERS

The IAPG has its headquarters in Italy, c/o the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Via di Vigna Murata, 605 - 00143 Roma. The Association may establish offices and branches in other locations, both in Italy and abroad. The Association has an unlimited duration.

## 3. STYLE

There are two founding principles that govern the style in conducting the affairs of the IAPG:

- a) The IAPG is a scientific, non-governmental, non-political, non-profit, non-party institution, at all times free from racial, gender, religious or national prejudices;
- b) The IAPG is constituted in as informal a style as possible, keeping the spirit of friendship established by the delegates at events, prior to the IAPG founding, that have been its inspiring steps. Particularly: the Geoethics sessions organized within the GeoItalia Conferences 2009 (Rimini) and 2011 (Torino), the EGU General Assembly 2011 (Vienna) and the 34th International Geological Congress, that was held in Brisbane, Australia, in August 2012.



#### 4. INTRODUCTION

Geoethics consists of the research and reflection on those values upon which to base appropriate behaviours and practices where human activities intersect the Geosphere.

Geoethics deals with the ethical, social and cultural implications of Earth Sciences research and practice, providing a point of intersection for Geosciences, Sociology and Philosophy.

Geoethics represents an opportunity for Geoscientists to become more conscious of their social role and responsibilities in conducting their activities. Geoethics is a tool to influence the awareness of society regarding problems related to geo-resources and geo-environment.

Furthermore Geoethics:

- c) provides a reference and guidelines for behaviour in addressing concrete problems of human life by trying to find socio-economic solutions compatible with the respect for the environment and the protection of Nature and land;
- d) points out the social role and responsibilities of Geoscientists as well as the ethical, cultural and economic implications that their work may have on society;
- e) encourages a critical analysis of the use and management of geo-resources like for example water and minerals, promoting their eco-friendly and socio-friendly development;
- f) deals with problems related to the risk management and the mitigation of georisks;
- g) fosters the proper and correct dissemination of the results of scientific studies and information on risks;
- h) aims to improve the relationships between the scientific community, mass media and general public;
- i) promotes the development of geoparks and of the geo-tourism, in order to create social awareness about the value of the geological heritage and geodiversity;
- j) highlights the value and usefulness of geological and geophysical knowledge in daily life by promoting disciplines like Geo-medicine and Forensic Geosciences;
- k) aims to organize effective teaching tools to develop awareness, values and responsibility, especially amongst young people.



## **5. POLICY OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Despite the importance of its themes, Geoethics does not seem to be accompanied by a sufficient base research and a satisfactory number of scientific publications, which are essential elements for its development and spread.

It is necessary to give greater strength and visibility to Geoethics, so that it breaks from narrow areas of discussion and is recognized and handled by all Geoscientists. Geoethics may provide a focus for reflection for Geoscientists inducing them to pose questions to themselves about their skills, the quality of their work and the contribution they can provide to the healthy progress of humanity.

Geoethics should become part of the social knowledge and an essential point of reference for any action on the land, waters and atmosphere usage that all stake-holders and decision-makers have to take into proper account.

## **6. MISSION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The IAPG is an international, scientific and multidisciplinary platform with the goal of widening the debate on problems of Ethics applied to the Geosciences.

The IAPG aims to promote Geoethics values and principles through international cooperation, encouraging the involvement and debate especially of Geoscientists belonging to less developed countries, and ensuring a good coordination among nations.

The IAPG intends to foster the dissemination of Geoethics through a dedicated website, the publication of scientific papers, the organization of meetings and sessions/symposia on Geoethics within national and international scientific events.



## **7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The IAPG objectives are:

- a) holding and promoting national and international meetings and conferences on Geoethics;
- b) encouraging the constitution of national chapters, both regional and subject-dedicated study groups, as well as research programs and publications on Geoethics;
- c) cooperating with national and international organizations whose aims are close to those of the IAPG and encouraging the participation of Geoscientists in its activities on the basis of equal opportunities;
- d) favouring the exchange of information among its members through newsletters, publications or other suitable tools such as a website and social networks;
- e) promoting the collaboration between Universities, Research Institutions, Professional Associations, Public and Private Companies at national and international level.

The achievement of these objectives will lead to:

- the increase of the basic research and the strengthening of Geoethics from the scientific point of view;
- the identification of more and more effective methods for its application;
- the validation of the role Geoscientists can play in the society and the identification of suitable forms, positions, means and actions to be adopted by them;
- the growth of awareness about our responsibility, both as Geoscientists and as members of the society;



and as a consequence to:

- the involvement of the entire community in the idea of a common and shared “geo-heritage”, to be considered as a cultural, educational and scientific value as well as a social capital;
- a cultural renewal in the way we perceive and relate to our Planet;
- the sensitization towards the defense of life and the richness of the Earth, in all its forms.

The Association pursues exclusively the aforementioned social and cultural aims, with the prohibition to carry out activities other than those institutional.

## **8. AFFILIATIONS**

The IAPG recognizes the International Council for Science (ICSU) as being the coordinating and representative body for the international organization of science and intends to seek affiliation to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

## **9. BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The bodies of the Association are:

- a) the Executive Council (EC);
- b) the General Assembly (GA).

The Founding Members shall appoint the IAPG EC. In addition an International Advisory Committee may be set up that will support the EC in the definition and development of the IAPG activities.

All social offices mentioned in this article are held free of remuneration.

The IAPG EC may deliberate on the reimbursement of expenses incurred to attend meetings or to carry out specific tasks.



## **10. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The IAPG shall be served by an Executive Council that is formed only by members of the Association and consists of:

- a) a President;
- b) two Vice-Presidents;
- c) a Secretary General;
- d) a Treasurer;
- e) six Continental Coordinators.

The first EC shall be appointed by the Founder Members, whereas the following ECs will be appointed by the GA. All the members of the EC are members of the Association. The EC may establish an International Advisory Committee, whose members will be appointed by the GA, with the exception of the first Committee, that will be appointed by the EC by a majority vote. The appointments will take effect four years and may be renewed for a maximum of two terms (eight years). In special circumstances this limit may be extended.

The EC encourages all the initiatives it deems appropriate to achieve the objectives of the Association, taking into account the guidelines of the GA and it is vested with all the powers necessary to administer the Association, not assigned to the GA. The EC also proposes and coordinates the establishment of Working Groups, appoints the representatives of the Association in Committees, Bodies and Organizations, submitting them to the approval of the GA, promotes Schools, Study Days, Round tables, Conferences, etc., related to the objectives of the IAPG, proposes to the GA the regulations of the Association and any subsequent changes.

The EC approves the annual economic and financial report and decides the programmatic directives for the following year.



## **11. PRESIDENT**

The President of the Association:

- a) represents the IAPG;
- b) convenes and presides over the EC, the GA and any other formal meeting of the IAPG;
- c) draws up contracts, signs letters and documents of the Association;
- d) takes care that the deliberations of the GA and of the EC become effective;
- e) monitors compliance with the Constitution and regulations;
- f) provides all the necessary for the orderly and proper working of the Association.

The President assumes his/her office when the Association is formally constituted and afterwards, during the GA, organized on the occasion of the International Geological Congress (IGC) and will remain in office until the GA of the following IGC.

In case of the President's resignation or interruption of the appointment, the Presidency shall be undertaken by one of the Vice-Presidents.

## **12. VICE-PRESIDENTS**

The Vice-Presidents of the Association will be two. They:

- a) represent the IAPG on behalf of the President if he/she is temporarily unable to do so, or by delegation from the President;
- b) are specifically responsible for the following tasks: financial policy, strategic plans, coordination of the IAPG research and activities, including Working Groups and training. These tasks are to be distributed among the elected Vice-Presidents under the direction of the President;
- c) upon the decision of the EC, one of the Vice-Presidents may take over presidential duties if the President is unable to perform his/her duties;



- d) each of the two Vice-Presidents will be eligible to become Acting President during one third (16 months) of the four year term, in the circumstance that the President is temporarily unable to perform his/her duties. The order of eligibility will be determined by the President at the beginning of her/his term;
- e) in the circumstances of resignation or other interruption of the appointment of the President, the Vice-President currently eligible to serve as Acting President shall become President for the remainder of the term. In such a case, he/she will remain eligible to become President for a full term.

### **13. SECRETARY GENERAL**

The Secretary General shall be responsible, under the general direction of the President, for the conduct of all the activities of the Association, for the preparation and distribution of the Agenda of the EC meetings, for managing the IAPG website and newsletter, for the preparation and updating of the minutes. He/she will also organize events to promote the activities of the IAPG, taking care of the relations of the Association with other national and international organizations and promoting initiatives to encourage new membership.

### **14. TREASURER**

The Treasurer is responsible for keeping the accounting of the Association, for the preparation of the annual budget of revenues and expenditures, for payments on behalf of the IAPG up to the limit of the approved budget. The Treasurer shall prepare a summary of the accounts for each meeting of the EC and shall give any explanations required of expenses incurred. He/she shall send to each IAPG Member an annual account of the due membership fees and shall ensure that all contributions and dues paid to the IAPG are placed in a separate account and that a record is kept. In addition, he/she may propose to the EC any initiatives to increase the financial revenue of the IAPG.



## **15. CONTINENTAL COORDINATORS**

The Continental Coordinators are six and will be responsible for coordinating the IAPG activities in the different continents, for promoting values and principles of Geoethics and Geosciences culture, and their practical applications in relation to the specific problems of the different areas of the world.

They promote the publication of scientific articles dedicated to Geoethics and provide for the organization of meetings and sessions on Geoethics within national and international conferences.

The Continental Coordinators will be appointed for the first time by the Founder Members, and afterwards they will be appointed by the GA, based on suggestions of the EC, indicating those persons who will be available to hold that office. If it is considered necessary, national representatives will be elected.

## **16. INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

If established, an International Advisory Committee may support the EC of the IAPG, supervising and guiding the activities and initiatives of the Association and ensuring that they are developed in a manner consistent with the objectives of the IAPG.

## **17. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The General Assembly is composed of all the members of the IAPG. It will be convened by the EC, chaired by the IAPG President or, in the case of incapacity of the President to participate, by one of the Vice-Presidents designated by the EC. The Secretary General will draw up the Agenda.

The GA meets every four years during the International Geological Congress. An extraordinary session may be called on the occasion of scientific meetings, upon request of at least one third of the members and at least half of the members of the EC.

Its convocation must be done by a personal notice sent by post, fax or e-mail at least 15 (fifteen) days before the meeting.



The GA may make decisions on the Agenda items and give formal notice to the EC through the Secretary General by post or e-mail .

The President is required to verify the regularity of the GA, the right to speak and vote during the meeting. The minutes of the meeting of the GA will be signed by the President and the Secretary General.

The resolutions of the GAs are valid, by the absolute majority of votes, on all the items placed on the Agenda, except for the dissolution of the Association, which will require the affirmative vote of at least 3/4 (three quarters) of the members. All voting shall be by open ballot, except those relating to individuals that are to be taken by secret ballot.

The EC will verify that the decisions are in line with the objectives of the IAPG.

The GA:

- a) appoints the EC every four years;
- b) approves the regulations which govern the activities of the Association;
- c) examines and approves the President's report on the activities of the Association;
- d) decides on all matters brought into the Agenda by the EC or by at least 3/10 (three tenths) of the Members;
- e) approves amendments to the regulations;
- f) fixes the amount of membership fees, since its first meeting, after consultation with the Secretary General and the Treasurer;
- g) decides on amendments to the Constitution;
- h) decides the dissolution and liquidation of the Association and the transmission of its property.

Any Member of the Association may propose to the GA the names and roles of the candidates who will cover the offices of the EC.

The GA may set up Permanent and Ad Hoc Committees and Working Groups, subject to compliance with the objectives and style of conduct of the Association.



## **18. MEMBERSHIP FEE**

The Association can have an unlimited number of members. Members of the IAPG may be individuals, institutions and all the bodies that share the goals of the Association and undertake to achieve them.

The IAPG welcomes among its members anyone interested in the Geoethics issues and disposed to promote them in line with the objectives and style of the Association.

Throughout the year 2013, unless otherwise provided by the EC, the membership of the Association will take place through the payment of a voluntary contribution of any amount to the bank account of the IAPG. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 until the convening of the first GA, the membership fees will be established by the EC.

In any case, all members will have the option to subscribe an amount in excess of the established rate.

Joining the IAPG will also be possible for public and private bodies and institutions, including industries, companies, professional associations and non-governmental organizations, that each will be represented in the IAPG by a delegate having the same rights and duties as all other individual members of the Association.

The intention to join the IAPG will be communicated to the Secretary General by e-mail or by filling out the registration form on the Association website. In both cases, the identification data of the applicant must be specified.

The Secretary General shall communicate the admission to the applicant, after hearing the opinion of the EC. Only after this communication, the applicant will pay the voluntary contribution or the due membership fee and will send by email to the Secretary General a copy of the bank transfer receipt confirming the payment.

Persons who have distinguished themselves by ethically relevant initiatives and by promoting the cultural and social value of Geosciences, may be elected as honorary members of the IAPG without paying any fee, being possible also for them to support the association with a voluntary contribution.



The members will be entitled to participate in all initiatives of the Association. All members have the right to vote.

The status of member is lost by resignation or by expulsion, which will be pronounced against the member by the EC by majority vote, in an instance where the member commits actions not in line with the objectives and style of the Association or if member's conduct constitutes an obstacle to the good working of the Association.

The membership fee is non-transferable and not re-calculable.

Every new member of the IAPG will accept this Constitution.

## **19. ELECTIONS AND TERM DURATION**

The first EC will be elected by the Founder Members. The following elections of positions in the EC and in the International Advisory Committee will be held at the GA that will take place during the International Geological Congresses (IGCs). The next IGC will be the 35th IGC and will be held in South Africa. Each member of the EC could serve up to two consecutive terms, if re-elected. However in certain cases a member of the EC may be requested by the GA to continue for an extended period in the interest of the IAPG.

## **20. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The Association will have a central bank account, to be managed jointly by the Secretary General and the Treasurer. Each member of the EC will be allowed to open a bank account in countries other than Italy and must present an annual financial statement to the Secretary General and Treasurer. In such cases they must not create liabilities but they should try to increase revenues.

The assets of the Association consist of movable and immovable properties it receives in any capacity, from donations or contributions by public or private bodies, by individuals or by the operating surpluses.

For the fulfillment of its official tasks, the Association has the following revenues:



- a) endowment fund represented by donations and payments made by Members and Organizations;
- b) membership fees;
- c) voluntary contributions from Members, research funds received as a result of the submission of projects, contributions from Public Bodies and of any other kind;
- d) revenues realized in carrying out its institutional activities, including those from the organization of symposia and scientific conferences and from activities to promote the Association itself.

## **21. COMMUNICATION TOOLS**

A dedicated website and an e-mail address are registered, managed and updated when necessary by the Secretary General. The website is divided into sections, in which all the activities of the Association are presented and documented. The Secretary General will promote the dissemination of information about IAPG through any media channels, social networks included.

## **22. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

If there is an intention to modify this Constitution, in whole or in part, the President, subject to Art. 16, last paragraph, of the Italian Civil Code, submits the necessary proposals to the Members in an extraordinary GA or by email, according to the resolution of the EC.

Amendments can be proposed by the EC with a resolution adopted by a majority of those present, and in any case by a number of Members equal to at least 1/5 (one fifth) of the total.

The proposed amendments must be communicated to Members at least 40 (forty) days before the date of the convocation of the GA for their approval, and that approval needs the absolute majority of the Members.

In order to put into effect the rules referred to in this Constitution, the EC may establish a regulation based on the principles of the Association to assure the better functioning of the Association itself.



### **23. FINANCIAL YEAR AND OPERATING SURPLUSES**

The financial year opens on the first of January and ends on the thirty-first of December of the same year.

The EC, after having prepared the final financial report, will approve it within four months from the end of the year. During the approval of the final financial report, an extraordinary reserve fund can be created for putting aside resources, any leftover administration or profits, to be used in the following year to meet investment expenditures and management.

In order to be able to boast the title of non-profit organization (in Italy ONLUS), the Association:

- a) cannot pursue aims different from those written in the Constitution;
- b) cannot distribute, even indirectly, profits, operating surpluses, funds, reserves and capital during the life of the Association, unless in the cases foreseen in the art.10, letter "d", of the (Italian) Legislative Decree n. 460/97;
- c) will use profits and operating surpluses for the institutional activities and those directly related to them, as well as for activities to promote the Association itself;
- d) in the case of dissolution for any reason, it is obliged to donate the assets to other non-profit organizations, having social and public utility, after hearing the inspection body in art. 3, paragraph 190 of the (Italian) Law n. 662/96;
- e) has the obligation to guarantee uniform regulations of the associative relationship and the protection of the so-called "democratic principle".

### **24. DISSOLUTION**

In case of dissolution of the Association, its assets, once liabilities have been deducted, will be donated to other non-profit organizations engaged in similar activities, or for public utility purposes. In such cases the GA shall appoint one or more liquidators, who are acting in accordance with this article, after hearing the inspection body in art. 3, paragraph 190 of the Italian Law n. 662/96, unless different destination imposed by law.



## **25. ARBITRATION CLAUSE - RULE OF POSTPONEMENT**

Any controversy that should arise from putting in effect this Constitution or from its interpretation, or from disagreements between Members, and that may become subject of compromise, will be referred to the judgment of a friendly arbitrator who will judge with equity and without formalities, giving place to an informal arbitration.

The arbitrator shall be chosen by agreement between the contending parties. In the absence of agreement, the Presiding Judge of the territorial jurisdiction, in which the headquarters of the Association is located, shall appoint the arbitrator.

In order to regulate what is not specified in this Constitution, all the rules laid and contained in the Italian Civil Code as applicable and the rules governing the so-called "Third Sector" are considered recalled and transcribed.