



## International Heat Flow Commission of IASPEI/IAPSO/IAVCEI

# IHFC Statute

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### I. THE INTERNATIONAL HEAT FLOW COMMISSION (IHFC)

The International Heat Flow Commission (IHFC) operates under guidelines set by the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI), an Association of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). Co-sponsoring Associations are the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) and the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO).

The IASPEI, where IHFC holds Commission status, is registered as a non-governmental and non-profit international organization in Norway (Org. Num.: 916 047 495), while the IUGG is an international non-governmental organization registered as a voluntary Association under Danish law (CVR: 26430828). The legal framework and laws applicable to IASPEI shall also apply to these Statutes and to the IHFC. The Commission is an independent and self-supporting organization. The Commission operates as a not-for-profit, non-political, non-governmental research organization.

The Commission does not engage in any form of discrimination.

### II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the IHFC are to promote, independently or in collaboration with others, all aspects of geothermal research relevant to the missions of its parent and co-sponsoring Associations. These activities include:

- Developing and recommending standards and techniques for the determination of essential parameters for geothermal research, such as thermophysical properties of materials, heat flow, subsurface temperatures, and geothermal energy resource quantification.
- Collecting, assessing quality, and publishing heat flow density and other geothermal data and metadata of interest in repositories such as the Global Heat Flow Database and the Global Borehole Temperature Log Database. Geothermal data are defined as information, measured, or derived values generated as an outcome of geothermal research, including temperature, thermal physical properties, heat flow, reservoir characteristics, and well drilling, completion, logging, production, and monitoring.
- Organizing or co-sponsoring international scientific meetings and expeditions
- Initiating or co-sponsoring publications about specific aspects of geothermal problems.

- Engaging in outreach activities to raise awareness of geothermal research, including educational programs, public lectures, and collaborations with academic, governmental, and industry partners.
- Establishing Working Groups (WG) as necessary for investigating and reporting on specific geothermal problems (see also III).

### III. ORGANIZATION

- The IHFC shall have Members, Officers, Working Groups (WG), and an Executive Committee.

#### (a) Members

- Members of the Commission are elected before the Main Business Meeting (which is open to all interested), which is normally held every four years in conjunction with the General Assembly of the IUGG (see also IV-VI). The Main Business Meeting is open to all interested.
- Members may be nominated for positions as Officers of the Commission or as Speakers of Working Groups. The Commission shall have a maximum of 20 Members.

#### (b) Officers

- The five Officers of the IHFC are responsible for promoting the objectives of the Commission, representing the interests of Members and the broader heat-flow community, and acting on proposals recommended by the Executive Committee.
  - The **Chair** presides at all Business Meetings and represents the IHFC at all times, unless the responsibility is specifically delegated to the Vice-Chair on particular occasions.
  - The **Vice-Chair** assists and acts for the Chair when necessary.
  - The **Secretary** manages the administrative affairs of the IHFC under the Chair's direction, maintaining records of meetings, decisions, and other business matters.
  - The **Treasurer** is responsible for managing the Commission's finances. (See Appendix A for the Treasurer's role and financial responsibilities.) The treasurer assists and acts for the Secretary when necessary.
  - The **Past-Chair** ensures continuity by providing expertise and supporting the other Officers in their duties.

#### (c) Working Groups

- Working Groups (WGs) may be established by the Executive Committee to address specific issues of interest to the Commission, such as particular research topics, data management, or education and outreach. The IHFC Chair will appoint a Speaker of each WG, who must be a Commission Member; it is the responsibility of the WG Speaker to recommend suitable persons, who need not be Members of the Commission, to be WG members. IHFC Members are asked upon their election to select one or more WG of their active involvement. It is the responsibility of each WG Speaker to guide the work of the group

according to the directions set by the IHFC and to report to the IHFC Chair at least once per year during the annual business meeting.

#### **(d) Executive Committee**

- The Executive Committee consists of the Officers and the WG Speakers. The Executive Committee is tasked with converting the collective ideas of the Members into actionable proposals.

### **IV. TERMS OF OFFICE**

#### **(a) Election of Members**

- All elections of IHFC Members are for four years. Members may be reelected for additional terms without limitation.

#### **(b) Election of Officers**

- IHFC Officers (Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer) are elected by the members and appointed by the outgoing Chair (cf. V). The incoming Chair is appointed according to the rules in section V. The election of each IHFC Officer is also for four years. Officers may not serve consecutive terms in the same role.

#### **(c) Replacement of Officers**

- In the event of a vacancy among the Officers, the remaining Officers will provisionally fill the position through nomination from amongst Members. A formal election for the new Officer will take place at the next annual Business Meeting, following the established candidate selection process (see section V).

#### **(d) Removal of Members**

- Any Member, including Officers, may be expelled from the Commission by resolution of the Executive Committee if they violate the Statutes or repeatedly or severely harm the interests of the IHFC or IUGG. The Member will have the opportunity to respond via written appeal, which must be submitted to the Executive Committee within four weeks of receiving written notification. The Committee will make a binding decision at the next Business Meeting or Executive Committee meeting. The Member will be suspended from Commission activities and representation until a final decision is made.

### **V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

Before the Main Business Meeting, the Officers will form a Nominating Committee tasked with preparing candidates lists for:

- (a) Suitable candidates for the positions of Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer
- (b) Individuals to be elected or reelected as Members of the Commission for the upcoming term, ensuring a balanced mix of continuity and new perspectives.

The Nominating Committee will announce a call for new Officers and Members through public channels (e.g., IHFC website, email) at least **three months before** the Main Business Meeting. The Committee will gather nominations for the three Officer positions and new and returning Members, and the lists will be announced publicly at least **six weeks before** the Meeting (end of nomination period). Any person is allowed to nominate himself/herself as a candidate for membership.

Unless a majority of Members (see section VI) request a vote for the new Chairperson before that deadline, the current Vice-Chair will be appointed as the incoming Chair. Wherever possible, each other Officer position will have at least two candidates. The Nominating Committee must confirm that all proposed candidates are willing to stand for election or appointment (only the Chair).

Every IHFC Member is expected to participate in the vote. The voting period starts three weeks before the meeting and ends after two weeks. For the vote to be binding, at least 75% of current Members must cast their votes during the two-week voting period. Each Member is allowed a maximum of 20 votes for new and returning Members and one vote for each Officer position. In the event of a tie, the Chair will cast the deciding vote. The Members-elect and Officers-elect will be the candidates with a simple majority of votes. In case the quota of 75% is missing, the election takes place during the Business meeting without a participation quota. In this case, online votes by non-attending members are still accepted.

Unless a majority of Members have voted for the election of the Chairperson, the outgoing Chair will recommend the current Vice-Chair for appointment as the incoming Chair. The remaining Officers and Members are appointed by the outgoing Chair based on the election results.

The Nominating Committee will publicly announce the Officers-elect and new Members after the voting stops (**one week before**) the Main Business Meeting.

## **VI. COMMISSION MEETINGS**

### **(a) Main Business Meeting**

The Main Business Meeting is held in conjunction with the IUGG General Assembly, which typically occurs every four years. During this meeting, the following activities will take place:

1. The outgoing Chair, Treasurer, and WG Chairs will present reports on the progress of work over the preceding four years.
2. The outgoing Chair will install the new Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer), new Members, and Members being reappointed for another term.
3. The incoming Officers will propose the main program of work for the next four years, which may include the formation, termination, or continuation of WGs. The Members present will discuss the proposal, and the Officers may agree to modify it. A majority vote of the Members present is required to approve the program of work.
4. The Chair will appoint the WG Speakers based on the agreed program of work.

Following the Main Business Meeting, the outgoing Chair will provide a report to the Secretary General of IASPEI detailing the work of the past four years, as well as the elections and

appointments (using information from the meeting and reports from outgoing Officers and Working Groups).

### **(b) Annual Business Meetings**

In addition to the Main Business Meeting, IHFC Business Meetings will be held once a year. These meetings will include activity reports from the Officers and WG Chairs. Business Meetings may also be held online. Reports from each Officer and WG Chair will be provided to the full Commission membership two weeks in advance of the Meeting and will be archived for future reference. The Chair will submit Annual Reports, including WG reports, to the Secretary General of IASPEI before the IASPEI Annual Bureau Meeting.

### **(c) Executive Committee and Working Group Meetings**

The Executive Committee and each WG will meet at least once a year, ideally halfway between Business Meetings. Additional Business Meetings of the full Commission, Executive Committee, or WGs may be held as needed or as opportunities arise. These meetings may also be held online. Decisions made at these meetings, or between meetings (e.g., via email), must be documented in writing (Minutes) and circulated to all Members within two weeks.

## **VII. USE OF NAME AND EMBLEM**

The name, goodwill, emblem, and other insignia of the Commission may only be used for official purposes to promote the Commission's objectives or with express authorization from an IHFC Officer. No individual, authority, or entity (whether legal or natural, corporate, or otherwise) may use the name, goodwill, emblem, or insignia of the Commission without written consent from an IHFC Officer.

## **VIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Statutes may be proposed by Members or WGs. The proposed changes must be submitted to the immediate Past-Chair for review, ensuring consistency with the Commission's objectives. The Past-Chair may assist in drafting the specific language for the proposed amendments.

Amendment proposals can only be considered at a Main Business Meeting. All Members must be given 60 days to review the proposals before the Meeting at which the amendment will be discussed. A two-thirds majority vote of the Membership is required to amend the Statutes.

## **APPENDIX A – BUDGET AND FINANCE**

### Role of the Treasurer – Financial Responsibilities

The financial resources of the Commission are derived from grants, sponsoring, donations and other sources that may arise periodically. Donors, sponsors, and other supporters may be sought actively to facilitate the work of the Commission.

The IHFC Treasurer is responsible for administering and disbursing the Commission's financial resources under the direction of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer receives a permanent delegation of authority to administer resources and manage any bank accounts or investments held in the name of the Commission.

The Treasurer shall alone retain responsibility toward the Commission for all banking operations. As a precaution, however, the right to sign as an authorized agent for any account opened in the name of the Commission shall be extended to at least one other Officer.

To ensure full transparency in financial operations, the Treasurer must provide financial reports at the Annual and Main Business Meetings, as required by IUGG. These shall include an accounting of receipts and expenditures for the preceding period, together with an estimated budget for the following year. The Executive Committee shall examine the accounts and give discharge to the Treasurer for those accounts.

If deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, IASPEI, or IUGG, the Treasurer shall arrange for an independent external audit of accounts, which would then be shared with the Members at the subsequent Business Meeting.

In the event of the dissolution of the Commission, its assets shall be ceded to the IASPEI and/or the IUGG.