

Proposed Category of “Associate National Adhering Organizations”

During the last year the Bureau and the Executive Committee have discussed the desirability of creating a category of “Associate National Adhering Organizations” (ANAOs), either as a renaming of “Observer Countries” (OCs) or as an additional level of participation in the Union. In September 1998, the Bureau agreed to recommend the replacement of OC by ANAO but asked the Executive Committee to consider whether the fees charged and the level of participation should be changed. The EC felt that the issue should be considered further by the Bureau and Council with additional background information to be presented in this document.

Precedent from ICSU. ICSU has a category of National Scientific Members, the equivalent of IUPAC’s NAOs. ICSU also has three categories of “Associates”: International Scientific Associates and Regional Scientific Associates (together similar to IUPAC’s Associated Organizations) and *National Scientific Associates*, defined as follows:

A National Scientific Associate shall be a scientific academy, research council or other comparable scientific organization that is potentially qualified, but not yet ready, for full national membership, National Scientific Associates shall normally be expected to apply for full membership after six years in this category.

ICSU also has a category of *Observers*:

An Observer shall be a Member that has failed to fulfil its financial obligation. Observers shall be expected to resume full membership in ICSU as soon as possible. Normally no Observer shall be allowed to remain so for more than six years.

Neither National Scientific Associates nor Observers pay any dues.

Option 1

IUPAC might adopt definitions similar to those of ICSU. The advantages are (i) that the designation ANAO carries a greater connotation of involvement than “Observer”; (ii) the criterion as given by ICSU implies an intent to move to full membership in a specified period, but with the qualification “normally” to allow flexibility when needed; (iii) the new Observer category allows for an NAO with a temporary financial problem to move to Observer and return to full NAO status without having to reapply for admission. It is not certain that all present Observer Countries would commit to an intention to seek full membership in six years, and it is not clear whether the ease of moving from NAO to OC and back is desirable. Adopting Option 1 (or some portion of it) would not necessarily involve increasing or decreasing the current \$50 annual fee; that would need to be decided separately. Likewise, the limited benefits available to OCs currently need not necessarily be changed.

Option 2

It has been suggested that IUPAC create the ANAO category in addition to or as a replacement for OC, but with different levels of ANAO, subject to different fees (*e.g.*, \$50 to \$500, as compared with the minimum national subscription of \$1000) and with a concomitant variation in benefits. Among increased benefits that have been suggested, but have not as yet received wide support from the Bureau, are the ability to propose National Representatives and/or the possibility of two or more ANAOs jointly obtaining a vote in Council. Either of these benefits might encourage wider participation in the Union, but inequities could be created relative to NAOs, since some current OCs have chemical turnover that would place their national subscriptions at \$1000 to \$7500 if they were full members.

The Bureau will discuss this matter and may make a recommendation to Council.