

Revisions to WDS Bylaws

2016 WDS Members' Forum

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ICSU
WORLD DATA SYSTEM

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ICSU-WDS Bylaws

To be approved at the 15th Meeting of the WDS-SC (September 2016)

Preamble

These Bylaws are authorized by the Constitution of ICSU-WDS and are developed by the WDS-SC in consultation with all WDS Member Organizations.

Article I. WDS Membership

1. Data Sharing Principles

The International Council for Science – World Data System (ICSU-WDS) aims to promote universal and equitable access to quality-assured scientific data, data services, products and information, with a view towards long term data stewardship. Furthermore, ICSU-WDS is committed to fostering compliance with agreed-upon data standards and conventions, and providing mechanisms to facilitate and improve access to data. As the leading international, multidisciplinary organization in the provision of trusted data services, ICSU-WDS has adopted Data Sharing Principles to advance its

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clearly defined protocols, and should in any event be made available for use on the least restrictive basis possible.

As part of the **WDS membership requirements**, Regular and Network Members agree to adhere to the ICSU-WDS Data Sharing Principles **[see Article 3]**.

2. Categories of Membership

National Members, Academies, and some commercial entities could be in this category).

3. **Accreditation** of Regular and Network Members

To be accredited as WDS Regular and Network Members, candidate organizations will be subject to **membership requirements** which include a **certification procedure** providing transparent and objective base for their evaluation.

The **certification** will ensure the trustworthiness of ICSU-WDS in terms of authenticity, integrity, confidentiality, and availability of data and services. The certification process is based on a catalogue of

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provide evidence of its existing certification and may request further evidence to confirm its suitability for WDS certification.

The certification procedure will be used for periodic assessment and monitoring of WDS Members, as well as the overall performance of ICSU-WDS. All steps involved will be overseen by the WDS-SC or its **designated authority**.

Applicants can challenge the decisions of the certification authority by submitting a formal request to the Chair of the WDS-SC. A second round of reviews can be ordered if deemed necessary, and a detailed response including evidence supporting the final decision shall be given to the applicant within 3

WDS Regular and Network Membership is a five-stage process:

1. Candidate organization completes an **Expression of Interest for WDS Regular or Network Membership**
2. Organization is certified using the applicable **catalogue of evaluation criteria** (Regular or Network)
3. Organization adheres to the ICSU-WDS Data Sharing Principles [see Article 1] and signs a Letter of Agreement with the International Council for Science (ICSU) [see Article 5]
4. **Membership** as an ICSU-WDS Regular or Network Member is granted once evidence of the organization's suitability is deemed satisfactory by the WDS-SC
5. **Membership** will be reviewed every 3 years and organizations **recertified**.

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4. Accreditation of Partner and Associate Members

Candidate Partner and Associate Members submit the appropriate **Expression of Interest for WDS Membership**, which will be reviewed by the WDS-SC. If accepted, an official invitation will be sent, and the Partner or Associate Members is then co-opted. Partner and Associate Members are not subject to the WDS certification procedure and Data Sharing Principles [see Article 1] but are expected to sign a Letter of Agreement with International Council for Science (ICSU) [see Article 5]

9. Activity Reports

Official Representatives of WDS Members are expected to attend and participate in the WDS Members' Forum, as agreed upon during admission into ICSU-WDS, and will be urged to present a Report (oral or poster) on their organization's activities over the previous two years. All WDS Members will also be requested to submit a brief Activity Report to the WDS-SC. For Regular and Network Members this will be part of the recertification every three years.

Please send comments by
Friday, 30 September

Thank you!

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