



2025 IUPsyS EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY

Friday, January 31, 2025, 12:00-13:30 UTC, Login from 11:30

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Remarks
3. Report on the Executive Committee's Actions
4. Report: IUPsyS Membership Consultation on Proposed Governance Committee
5. Assembly Comments / Q & A
6. Governance Committee Terms of Reference
7. Assembly Comments / Q & A
8. Summary of Meeting and Next Steps
9. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Assembly Participants

Number of Delegates: 56

Executive Committee Members: 13

Honorary Executive Committee Members: 4

Number of National Members Represented: 44

International Journal of Psychology Editor-in-Chief: 0

Secretariat (Executive Officer & Administrative Officer): 2

Observers: 14

Country		
	Delegate 1	Delegate 2
Australia	Sara Quinn	Simon Crowe
Bahamas	Wendy Fernander	
Belgium	Frank Van Overwalle	
Botswana	Monde Kote	
Brazil	Laércia Vasconcelos	
China	Xun Liu	Xianghong Sun



Country		
	Delegate 1	Delegate 2
Colombia	Stewart Dueñas	Raúl Jiménez
Cuba	Jorge Torralbas	
Czech Republic	Daniel Heller	Martina Klicperová
Denmark	Arne Grønberg Johansen	Mette Bentzen
Estonia	Merry Bullock	
Ethiopia	Getahun Tibebe	
France	Christine Roland-Levy	Valérie Gyselinck
Germany	Thordis Bethlehem	
Ghana	Collins Badu Agyemang	
Greece	Maria Balli	
Hong Kong	Joe Ngai	
India	Purnima Singh	
Indonesia	Andik Matulesy	
Japan	Yuka Ozaki	Yuko Yotsumoto
Korea (S)	Yanjie Su	
Lebanon	Brigitte Khoury	
Lithuania	Robertas Povilaitis	
Mexico	Julio César Peñagos Corzo	
Netherlands	Michelle Troost	
New Zealand	Iris S. Fontanilla	Rebecca Wirihana
Nicaragua	Maria Elena Humphrey	
Nigeria	Olukayode Afolabi	
Norway	Ole Tunold	
Philippines	Glenn Glarino	
Poland	Adam Tarnowski	
Puerto Rico	Yesenia Delgado	
Romania	Dragos Iliescu	
Russia	Aleksander Veraksa	Sergey Leonov
Singapore	Adrian Toh	
Slovenia	Vita Postuvan	
South Africa	Fatima Seedat	
Spain	José Peiro	
Trinidad and Tobago	Kelly McFarlane	
United Kingdom	Roman Raczka	Laura Dean



Country		
	Delegate 1	Delegate 2
Ukraine	Oleg Burlachuk	Valeriia Palii
United States	Vaishali Raval	Alejandro Lleras
Uruguay	Luis Carrizo	
Zimbabwe	Pamela Marwisa	

Executive Committee Members

Bernardo, Allan B. I.
Borst, Gregoire
Carrizo, Luis
Gutiérrez, Germán
Hayes, Nicky
Khoury, Brigitte
Padakannaya, Prakash
Sanchez-Cesareo, Marizaida
Suzuki, Hanako
Thompson, Ava
Tonks, Randal
Waitoki, Moana
Zamani, Andrew

Honorary Executive Committee Members

Denis, Michel
Maras, Pam
Ritchie, Pierre
Watts, Ann

Secretariat

Swain, Karl (Executive Officer)
Van Heerden, Ashley (Administrative Officer)

Observers

Representing	
CANPA	Kelly McFarlane
EFPA	Christoph Steinebach Nicola Gale
Ghana	Richmond Acquah-Coleman
ICOPE	Remo Job
ICP	Polli Hagenaaars Valeriia Palii
PAPU	Lebohang Bereng Magolanga Shagembe Saths Cooper
New Zealand	Veronica Pitt
Philippines	Sherryl Abellanos
Russia	Anna Leybina
Zimbabwe	Tarisayi Ndengu



The Extraordinary Assembly commenced at 12:00 UTC on January 31, 2025.

1. Call to Order

Secretary-General Thompson called the Assembly to order and welcomed all Regional and National Member Delegates, Affiliate Representatives, Observers and Guests. She outlined the purpose of the Extraordinary Assembly, which aimed to engage National Members on matters of significant importance to the Union and global psychology. Insights gained from this consultation serve as a foundation for informed and inclusive decision-making moving forward.

The Secretary-General highlighted that the virtual Assembly was being recorded, noting that continued participation implied consent to recording. She further discussed housekeeping protocols and requested adherence to the timed Agenda to ensure constructive participation. All discussions were expected to remain professional and confidential.

2. Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, President Gutiérrez provided historical context for the 2025 Emergency Assembly. He recalled the commitment made at the 2024 Assembly to develop a procedure to address Membership Termination Motion by January 31, 2025.

The President emphasised that the decision to terminate an IUPsyS Member must be considered with great caution, given its strategic, legal, ethical, and diplomatic implications. He provided an overview of IUPsyS' historical role in promoting international cooperation and knowledge sharing, noting that termination could contradict the Union's core mission of inclusivity, academic freedom, and scientific exchange. Key considerations presented included:

- The Union lacks a formal legal and procedural framework governing membership termination. Termination without clear criteria and due process could expose the Union to legal challenges and reputational damage.
- A legal framework should ensure transparent, fair, and objective decision-making in accordance with established principles of proportionality and rehabilitation. Without proportional responses such as admonishment or suspension, the only recourse currently available is expulsion, which may not always be the most constructive measure.
- Membership fragmentation, particularly in a complex geopolitical landscape, could weaken the Union's global advocacy role and reduce its influence with allied organisations such as WHO, the UN, and UNESCO.

The President reaffirmed the Executive Committee's commitment to upholding the Union's mission and acknowledged the extensive research and consultation undertaken to reach a consensus. He proceeded to outline the key Agenda and procedural matters for the Assembly's consideration.

In closing, the President reiterated the Executive Committee's commitment to responsible governance and constructive engagement. He then invited the Secretary-General to provide further details on procedural actions undertaken in alignment with the Union's commitments.



3. Report on the Executive Committee's Actions

The Secretary-General reaffirmed the Executive Committee's commitment to establishing a transparent, consultative, and evidence-based mechanism to operationalise Article 12C of the IUPsyS Statutes and Rules of Procedure. The development of this procedural framework was undertaken with a commitment to due process, ensuring that any decision regarding membership termination adhered to principles of fairness, impartiality, and rigorous procedural integrity.

Following the July 2024 Assembly, the Executive Committee dedicated substantial resources to this initiative while concurrently maintaining the Union's regular operations in accordance with its Strategic Action Plan. To uphold impartiality in these deliberations, one EC member was recused from all discussions on this matter. The Secretary-General detailed the Executive Committee's principal actions, including extensive research into governance best practices and historical precedents within the Union. Notably, the findings indicated that prior membership terminations had been based solely on administrative considerations, such as non-payment of dues or structural changes within the bodies in question, with no established precedent for termination on ethical or humanitarian grounds.

By September 27, 2024, the Executive Committee had developed a comprehensive procedural framework for membership termination. This framework encompassed the grounds for termination, the procedural steps, the establishment of an Independent Membership Hearing Committee, evidence-collection protocols, notification procedures, formal hearing processes, and a structured mechanism for deliberation and appeals. The framework underwent meticulous review by the Officers and the Executive Committee, culminating in final deliberations on 22 November 2024. During this meeting, the Executive Committee determined that additional governance documents, including a policy on membership complaints, were necessary to uphold procedural fairness and ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards. These deliberations subsequently informed further governance and legal consultations.

On November 27, 2024, the governance consultant advised that a termination motion must be grounded in a clear breach of organisational rules, with explicit allegations linked to the Code of Conduct, membership terms and conditions, the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, or the Union's bylaws. The governance consultant further noted that, in its current form, the termination motion could not proceed in accordance with governance best practices. It was, therefore, recommended that the Union convene a meeting with the Lithuanian National Member to discuss the governance and legal recommendations; however, that meeting did not occur. A meeting was held with the Russian Psychological Society for informational purposes.

Following the governance consultation, the leadership sought legal counsel on November 28, 2024, and received written guidance on December 10, 2024. The legal analysis highlighted contradictions within the Union's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, indicating a lack of explicit guidance on non-administrative membership terminations. The analysis further determined that reliance on broad declarations and ethical principles was insufficient as a legal basis for termination. Proceeding with the termination motion without a structured procedural framework would undermine the



rights of IUPsyS Membership, compromise the integrity of the Union's governance and place the Union at risk of legal action.

Based on these findings, legal counsel recommended developing detailed bylaws and a comprehensive procedural framework for membership termination. Additionally, it was advised that a Governance Committee be established to oversee the development of a Code of Conduct, bylaws, internal regulations, and procedural rules. The Executive Committee accepted this guidance and, in exercising its fiduciary duty to protect the Union and its members, resolved to implement these recommendations.

The Secretary-General invited Treasurer Sanchez-Cesareo to present the findings of the membership consultation related to these governance measures.

4. Report: IUPsyS Membership Consultation on Proposed Governance Committee

Treasurer Sanchez-Cesareo presented the findings of the membership consultation regarding the proposed Governance Committee. National Members, Regional and Affiliate Members were invited to submit formal statements by January 15, 2025, with the deadline subsequently extended to January 21, 2025. A total of 14 statements were received by the deadline; late submissions were excluded from the formal analysis but retained in the meeting's document repository.

The consultation findings indicated broad support for establishing a Governance Committee. The Pan African Psychological Union (PAPU), along with the national members from France and Colombia, expressed unreserved support. Seven members, including ICOPE, EFPA, and the national members from the Bahamas, Denmark, Trinidad and Tobago, Russia, and the United States, also supported the proposal but provided recommendations. These included calls for greater transparency in selection procedures, the inclusion of independent and external members, and a clear timeline for implementation. Additionally, some members underscored the importance of inclusivity and safeguards against potential bias.

Several national members, including those from Estonia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Czech Republic, and Romania, emphasised that the termination motion should remain a priority for discussion within the Assembly. Their concerns highlighted the need for procedural clarity and the importance of addressing the motion in a manner that maintains trust and transparency within the Union.

The Treasurer concluded by noting that the comments received reflected a collective interest in ensuring that governance reforms are conducted with fairness, accountability, and procedural integrity. The full consultation report was made available to members on the Union's website for further review.

5. Assembly Comments / Q & A

President-Elect Khoury invited National Members to provide comments and ask questions regarding the matters under discussion. She reminded attendees that each intervention was limited to two minutes and that the Secretariat would manage the order of contributions.



- Ukraine: National Member Delegate Palii reiterated support for the Lithuanian motion to expel the Russian Psychological Society, citing systematic violations of professional ethical standards by its Board Members. She warned that tolerating such behaviour could damage the Union's reputation and undermine trust in psychological science.
- India: National Member Delegate Singh emphasised the importance of inclusivity and looking forward rather than focusing on past grievances. She suggested fostering open discussions on procedures and member expectations to develop a constructive path forward.
- Cuba: National Member Delegate Torralbas highlighted the necessity of unity in diversity and called for the avoidance of member expulsion. He expressed concerns about linking state actions with national psychological associations and urged the Union to consider alternative, constructive responses to conflicts.
- Netherlands: National Member Delegate Troost supported the formation of the Governance Committee but expressed concerns over delays. She requested a clear timeline for the Committee's completion and the subsequent discussion of the termination motion.
- Estonia: National Member Delegate Bullock raised concerns about the narrow scope of the proposed procedural framework, suggesting that the Union should consider a broader range of responses beyond termination. She also echoed concerns about the process timeline.
- New Zealand: National Member Delegate Wirihana requested clarity on the decision-making timeline and sought further information on how the Governance Committee would be structured, including its representation, expertise, and diversity considerations.
- Czech Republic: National Member Delegate Klicperová stressed that the Union's core values are rooted in humanism and that violations of these principles should be addressed promptly. She advocated for expedited action on expulsion or suspension requests when ethical breaches occur.

The President-Elect thanked all contributors for their interventions, acknowledging the diverse perspectives and concerns raised.

6. Governance Committee Terms of Reference

Paper 6 of the Agenda was noted.

The Secretary-General provided a detailed overview of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the proposed Governance Committee, emphasising its pivotal role in ensuring strategic oversight, accountability, and adherence to ethical governance practices. Governance Committees are widely recognised as essential components within nonprofit, scientific, and professional organisations; they assist institutions in navigating evolving challenges while maintaining their core mission and values.

Within the Union, the establishment of a Governance Committee reflects its commitment to fostering a robust governance framework, enhancing risk management, and reinforcing institutional integrity. Furthermore, the Committee will serve to bolster stakeholder confidence and ensure compliance with legal, regulatory, and statutory obligations.



By convention, the Secretary-General serves as the Chief Governance Officer, responsible for overseeing the Union's governance framework, ensuring compliance with its statutes and regulations, leading statutory revisions, and facilitating effective communication with stakeholders. The Governance Committee will serve as an organ of the Executive Committee and report directly to it. It will provide expert guidance on governance-related matters, uphold institutional integrity through proactive oversight, and conduct periodic reviews of governance mechanisms. The Governance Committee's ToR will align with the Union's quadrennial cycle unless otherwise specified.

The Secretary-General outlined the proposed composition of the Governance Committee and its key responsibilities, highlighting its function in developing and overseeing the implementation of the governance framework, including bylaws, internal regulations, and the IUPsyS Statutes and Rules of Procedure. The Committee will also play a crucial role in monitoring compliance, recommending statutory revisions, and collaborating with relevant Union bodies to strengthen governance capacity.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General reiterated that the Governance Committee, as proposed by the Executive Committee, represents a significant step in strengthening procedural integrity, enhancing transparency, and ensuring that governance decisions align with international best practices. It was noted that the Governance Committee ToR had been uploaded to the Union's website for feedback from IUPsyS Membership.

7. Assembly Comments / Q & A

The President-Elect Khoury reopened the floor for a second round of comments and questions from IUPsyS Membership.

- EC Member Hayes emphasised that IUPsyS is a scientific organisation, not a political entity, and that its primary responsibility is to psychological scientists and practitioners, irrespective of national affiliations or political decisions. She cautioned that excluding members based on state actions risks undermining the Union's global reach and influence, raising the question of where to draw the boundary for exclusion. She further argued that psychologists must work to mitigate the consequences of political decisions and that expulsion could remove any capacity to influence professional practice within affected countries.
- Czech Republic: National Member Delegate Heller expressed his organisation's support for the Lithuanian motion to expel the Russian Psychological Society, following extensive internal discussions.
- Ghana: National Member Delegate Badu Agyemang urged a more comprehensive and open-minded analysis of the situation. He queried whether the discussion should focus on the actions of individual practitioners, the leadership of national organisations, or entire member societies. He proposed a governance audit to strengthen procedural clarity and proactive responses to future challenges.
- PAPU: Regional Member Delegate Cooper reaffirmed PAPU's support for establishing the Governance Committee, arguing that a structured approach is preferable to reactive decision-making. He highlighted historical precedents where governance mechanisms helped resolve ethical concerns within professional associations. He stressed the importance of psychology's role in bridging divisions rather than reinforcing them.



- Denmark: National Member Delegate Bentzen advocated for a clear distinction between procedural governance and decisions on member sanctions. She argued that procedural frameworks should be formulated independently of specific cases to ensure impartiality. However, she emphasised the urgency of finalising these frameworks to enable timely decision-making.
- Brazil: National Member Delegate Vasconcelos highlighted the importance of psychology as a global public good, one that requires independent scientific inquiry and ethical governance. He called for sustained efforts to ensure international cooperation, innovation, and adherence to best practices.
- National Member Delegate Nawful (Lebanon) acknowledged the emotional weight of the issue, particularly for those directly affected by the conflict. However, he maintained that political affiliations should not determine membership status and that clear governance principles should guide the Union's decisions.
- EC Member Suzuki reiterated that the Union's mission is to advance psychology as a science and practice at national, regional, and international levels. She stressed the importance of dialogue and collaboration in addressing global crises and urged members to uphold psychology's role in promoting humanity and scientific cooperation.
- Lithuania: National Member Delegate Povilaitis raised procedural concerns, arguing that the Union had not adhered to its Rules of Procedure regarding the prioritisation of termination motions at the Assembly. He further highlighted a significant concern about a letter submitted by the Ukrainian Psychological Association to the Union in March 2022 that had not been shared with National Members. National Member Delegate Povilaitis also highlighted allegations against Russian Psychological Society leadership, including endorsements of the war and individual sanctions imposed on certain members.
- Honorary EC Member and Past Secretary-General Ritchie acknowledged past gaps in governance frameworks and took responsibility, on behalf of former Secretaries-General, for failing to anticipate the need for clear procedures for membership termination. He commended the current leadership for its proactive approach and stressed the importance of ensuring due process to safeguard the legitimacy of any future decisions.
- Honorary EC Member and Past Secretary-General Watts expressed strong support for establishing the Governance Committee. She noted that other organisations have faced similar ethical dilemmas in the past and warned against hasty actions that could set problematic precedents. She urged the Assembly to proceed with caution and procedural rigour.
- CANPA: Regional Member Delegate McFarlane supported the establishment of structured governance procedures. She highlighted that while the current motion addressed one specific case, similar issues could arise in the future. She called for a transparent and consistent approach that reflects the Union's principles and disciplinary expertise.

President-Elect Khoury thanked all delegates for their thoughtful contributions and acknowledged the complexity of the issues under discussion. She noted that several other international organisations were grappling with similar challenges regarding membership and political conflicts, underscoring the difficulty of finding an approach that balances ethical considerations with scientific and professional integrity. She assured



members that all comments submitted via chat would be documented and reviewed as part of the governance review process.

8. Summary of Meeting and Next Steps

The Treasurer provided an overview of the next steps following the deliberations of the Extraordinary Assembly. The next steps were outlined as follows:

- Distribution of Assembly Outcomes: The Secretary-General will circulate a document to all members addressing the comments and questions raised during the Assembly (February 28, 2025)
- Further Consultation on Governance Committee ToR: The Secretary-General will distribute a revised version of the Governance Committee Terms of Reference, incorporating feedback received from members, and engage in further consultation (March 28, 2025).
- Electronic Vote on the Governance Committee ToR: Upon finalisation of the Terms of Reference, an electronic vote will be scheduled to formally approve the establishment of the Governance Committee.
- Members were encouraged to submit any additional comments or questions in the chat function to ensure that all points raised were addressed in the document to be circulated.

9. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

The President expressed gratitude to all Delegates for their engagement, thoughtful contributions, and critical reflections throughout the Assembly. He acknowledged the strength of opinions expressed and emphasised the importance of acting responsibly to safeguard the Union and the integrity of global psychological science.

The President reflected on the current geopolitical and institutional challenges, highlighting that history is not linear and that the global climate appears to be shifting towards unilateral actions, exclusionary policies, and increasing tensions. Within this context, he reaffirmed the Union's long-standing commitment to diplomacy, scientific cooperation, and the protection of its mission. He noted that actions taken by the Union must preserve its integrity and fairness while upholding scientific diplomacy as a guiding principle.

The President cited a declaration from the Global Knowledge Dialogue in Muscat, Oman, which reinforced several principles crucial to the Union's mission, including:

- Upholding science as a global public good;
- Maintaining cross-border scientific collaboration, particularly during periods of crisis and conflict;
- Supporting the protection of scientific ecosystems and displaced scientists;
- Ensuring that science remains free, safe, ethical, inclusive, accountable, and equitable.

He encouraged all members to continue supporting efforts to build a stronger Union by facilitating regional dialogues, strengthening national and regional organisations, and addressing critical matters related to psychological research and practice. While acknowledging that progress may not always occur at the desired pace, he reaffirmed the Union's commitment to advancing its strategic plan and fulfilling the commitments



made during this Assembly. He concluded by thanking all members for their participation and collaboration in shaping the future of the Union.

The Assembly adjourned at 13:30 UTC on January 31, 2025.