

Appendix A: General Assemblies, Membership Numbers, Officials

The membership and participant numbers up to 1985 are based on numbers published in IB 56 pp. 6–7 and the GA newspaper from New Delhi, 1985. These can differ slightly from the numbers provided by Blaauw (1994).

1919 Foundational meeting, Brussels, Belgium

President: Benjamin Baillaud (France)

General Secretary: Alfred Fowler (United Kingdom)

I 1922 Rome, Italy

No. of individual members: 207

No. of GA participants: 83

Incoming President: William W. Campbell (USA)

Incoming General Secretary: Alfred Fowler (United Kingdom)

II 1925 Cambridge, England, United Kingdom

No. of individual members: 244

No. of GA participants: 189

Incoming President: Willem de Sitter (Netherlands)

Incoming General Secretary: Frederick J.M. Stratton (United Kingdom)

III 1928 Leiden, Netherlands

No. of individual members: 288

No. of GA participants: 261

Incoming President: Frank W. Dyson (United Kingdom)

General Secretary: Frederick J.M. Stratton (United Kingdom)

V 1932 Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States

No. of individual members: 406

No. of GA participants: 203

Incoming President: Frank Schlesinger (USA)

General Secretary: Frederick J.M. Stratton (United Kingdom)

V 1935 Paris, France

No. of individual members: 496

No. of GA participants: 317

Incoming President: Ernest Esclangon (France)

General Secretary: Frederick J.M. Stratton (United Kingdom)

VI 1938 Stockholm, Sweden

No. of individual members: 554

No. of GA participants: 293

President: Arthur S. Eddington (United Kingdom) until 1944, then Harold Spencer-Jones (United Kingdom)

General Secretary: Jan H. Oort (Netherlands); from 1940-45 acting secretary: Walter S. Adams (USA)

1946 Copenhagen Conference, Denmark

President: H. Spencer-Jones (United Kingdom)

General Secretary: Jan H. Oort (Netherlands)

VII 1948 Zürich, Switzerland

No. of individual members: 611

No. of GA participants: 279

Incoming President: Bertil Lindblad (Sweden)

Incoming General Secretary: Bengt Strömngren (Denmark; resigned 1951)

VIII 1952 Rome, Italy

No. of individual members: 809

No. of GA participants: 434

Incoming President: Otto Struve (USA)

Incoming General Secretary: Pieter T. Oosterhoff (Netherlands)

IX 1955 Dublin, Republic of Ireland

No. of individual members: 888

No. of GA participants: 597

Incoming President: André Danjon (France)

General Secretary: Pieter T. Oosterhoff (Netherlands)

X 1958 Moscow, Soviet Union

No. of individual members: 1127

No. of GA participants: 820

Incoming President: Jan H. Oort (Netherlands)

Incoming General Secretary: Donald H. Sadler (United Kingdom)

XI 1961 Berkeley, California, United States

No. of individual members: 1289

No. of GA participants: 765

Incoming President: Viktor A. Ambartsumian (Soviet Union)

General Secretary: Donald H. Sadler (United Kingdom)

XII 1964 Hamburg, West Germany

No. of individual members: 1630

No. of GA participants: 1160

Incoming President: Pol Swings (Belgium)

Incoming General Secretary: Jean-Claude Pecker (France)

XIII 1967 Prague, Czechoslovakia

No. of individual members: 2009

No. of GA participants: 1835

Incoming President: Otto Heckmann (Germany)

Incoming General Secretary: Luboš Perek (Czechoslovakia)

XIV 1970 Brighton, England, United Kingdom

No. of individual members: 2590

No. of GA participants: 2255

Incoming President: Bengt Strömngren (Denmark)

Incoming General Secretary: Cornelis de Jager (Netherlands)

XV 1973 Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

No. of individual members: 3188

No. of GA participants: 840

Incoming President: Leo Goldberg (USA)

Incoming General Secretary: Georgios Contopoulos (Greece)

1973 extraordinary GA in Torún, Poland

No. of GA participants: 813

XVI 1976 Grenoble, France

No. of individual members: 3805

No. of GA participants: 2134

Incoming President: Adriaan Blaauw (Netherlands)

Incoming General Secretary: Edith A. Müller (Switzerland)

XVII 1979 Montreal, Quebec, Canada

No. of individual members: 4504

No. of GA participants: 1965

Incoming President: M.K. Vainu Bappu (India)

Incoming General Secretary: Patrick A. Wayman (Ireland)

XVIII 1982 Patras, Greece

No. of individual members: 5200

No. of GA participants: 1700

Incoming President: Robert Hanbury-Brown (United Kingdom)

Incoming General Secretary: Richard M. West (Denmark)

XIX 1985 Delhi, India

No. of individual members: 6025

No. of GA participants: 1400

Incoming President: Jorge Sahade (Argentina)

Incoming General Secretary: Jean-Pierre Swings (Belgium)

XX 1988 Baltimore, Maryland, United States

No. of individual members: 6711

No. of GA participants: 1990

Incoming President: Yoshihide Kozai (Japan)

Incoming General Secretary: Derek McNally (United Kingdom)

XXI 1991 Buenos Aires, Argentina

No. of individual members: 7301

No. of GA participants: 1148

Incoming President: Alexander Boyarchuk (Russia)

Incoming General Secretary: Jacqueline Bergeron (France)

XXII 1994 The Hague, Netherlands

No. of individual members: 8328

No. of GA participants: 1700

Incoming President: Lodewijk Woltjer (Netherlands)

Incoming General Secretary: Immo Appenzeller (Germany)

XXIII 1997 Kyoto, Kansai, Japan.

No. of individual members: 8562

No. of GA participants: 2100

Incoming President: Robert P. Kraft (USA)

Incoming General Secretary: Johannes Andersen (Denmark)

XXIV 2000 Manchester, England, United Kingdom

No. of individual members: 8737

No. of GA participants: 1550

Incoming President: Franco Pacini (Italy)

Incoming General Secretary: Hans Rickman (Sweden)

XXV 2003 Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

No. of individual members: 9114

No. of GA participants: 2050

Incoming President: Ronald D. Ekers (Australia)

Incoming General Secretary: Oddbjørn Engvold (Norway)

XXVI 2006 Prague, Czech Republic

No. of individual members: 9783

No. of GA participants: 2412

Incoming President: Catherine J. Cesarsky (France)

Incoming General Secretary: Karel van der Hucht (Netherlands)

XXVII 2009 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

No. of individual members: 10,144

No. of GA participants: 2434

Incoming President: Robert Williams (USA)

Incoming General Secretary: Ian Corbett (United Kingdom)

XXVIII 2012 Beijing, China

No. of individual members: 10,904

No. of GA participants: 2710

Incoming President: Norio Kaifu (Japan)

Incoming General Secretary: Thierry Montmerle (France)

XXIX 2015 Honolulu, Hawai'i, United States

No. of individual members: 12,376

No. of GA participants: 2581)

Incoming President: Sylvia Torres-Peimbert (Mexico)

Incoming General Secretary: Piero Benvenuti (Italy)

XXX 2018 Vienna, Austria

No. of individual members: 13.595, including 352 Junior Members

No. of GA participants: 3004

Incoming President: Ewine F. van Dishoeck (Netherlands)

Incoming General Secretary: M. Teresa V.T. Lago (Portugal)

XXXI 2021 Busan, South Korea

Incoming President: Debra M. Elmegreen (USA)

Incoming General Secretary: Ian Robson (United Kingdom)

XXXII 2024 Cape Town, South Africa

Appendix B: Commission History

Commissions (1922–2015)

Noting merging, termination or change of name. Some commission numbers were re-used.

NB Originally, the official names of the Commissions were only in French; from 1958 the names were also listed in English. Later years without comment: name updated or number re-used.

Based on the Transactions of the General Assemblies, see https://www.iau.org/publications/iau/transactions_b/

The list deviates a bit from the lists provided at https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/past_commissions/

1. 1922 Relativity
1925 Terminated
2. 1922 Ancient Manuscripts (never approved)
3. 1922 Notations and Units and Economy of Publication
1958 Notations
1961 Terminated
4. 1922 Ephemerides
5. 1922 Abstracts and Bibliography
1937 Documentation
1979 Documentation and Astronomical Data
6. 1922 Astronomical telegrams

7. 1922 Dynamical Astronomy and Astronomical Tables
1932 Terminated
1948 Celestial Mechanics
1997 Celestial Mechanics and Dynamical Astronomy
8. 1922 Meridian Astronomy
1958 Positional astronomy
2000 Astrometry
9. 1922 Optical Research
1928 Astronomical Instruments
1985 Instruments and Techniques
2000 Instrumentation and Techniques
2006 Terminated
10. 1922 Solar Radiation
1925 Terminated
1932 Sunspots and Characteristic Figures of the Sun
1948 Photospheric Phenomena
1958 Solar Activity
11. 1922 Spectro-register of Velocities (never approved; topic merged with C12)
1932 Chromospheric Phenomena
1948 Outer Layers of the Sun
1958 Merged with C12
12. 1922 Solar Atmosphere
1925 Solar Physics
1932 Solar Radiation and Solar Spectroscopy
1958 Radiation and Structure of the Solar Atmosphere (merged with C11 and C13)
1997 Solar Radiation and Structure
13. 1922 Astronomical expeditions (never approved)
1932 Solar Eclipses
1958 Merged with C12
14. 1922 Wave-Length Standards and Tables of Spectra
1961 Fundamental Spectroscopic Data
1979 Atomic and Molecular Data
15. 1922 Solar Rotation
1928 Terminated
1935 Physical study of Comets
1973 Physical study of Comets, Minor Planets and Meteorites
2000 Physical study of Comets and Minor Planets
16. 1922 Physical Observations of the Planets

- 1925 Physical Observations of the Planets, Comets and Satellites
- 1935 Physical Observations of the Planets and Satellites
- 1955 Physical Study of Planets and Satellites.
- 17. 1922 Lunar Nomenclature
 - 1938 The Moon
 - 1948 Motion and Figure of the Moon
 - 1964 The Moon
 - 1979 Terminated
- 18. 1922 Longitudes by Wireless Telegraph
 - 1952 Geographical positions
 - 1958 Terminated
- 19. 1922 Variation of Latitude
 - 1964 Rotation of the Earth
 - (1988 Subject transferred to IERS, but the Commission was not terminated)
- 20. 1922 Minor Planets
 - 1925 Positions and Ephemerides of Minor Planets, Comets and Satellites
 - 1958 Positions and Motions of Minor Planets, Comets and Satellites
- 21. 1922 Comets
 - 1958 Light of the Night Sky
 - 2009 Galactic & Extragalactic Background Radiation
- 22. 1922 Shooting Stars
 - 1935 Shooting Stars, Zodiacal Light and Similar Problems
 - 1955 Meteors and Meteorites
 - 1976 Meteors and Interplanetary Dust
 - 2000 Meteors, Meteorites and Interplanetary Dust
- 23. 1922 Carte du Ciel
 - 1970 Merged with C24
- 24. 1922 Stellar Parallaxes
 - 1928 Stellar Parallaxes and Proper Motions
 - 1970 Photographic Astrometry (merged with C23)
 - 2000 Terminated (merged with C8)
- 25. 1922 Stellar Photometry
 - 1973 Stellar Photometry and Polarimetry
 - 2012 Astronomical Photometry and Polarimetry
- 26. 1922 Double Stars
 - 1994 Double and Multiple Stars
- 27. 1922 Variable Stars
- 28. 1922 Nebulae
 - 1928 Nebulae and Star Clusters

- 1948 Extra-Galactic Nebulae
- 1961 Galaxies
- 29. 1922 Spectral Classification of Stars
- 1928 Stellar Spectra
- 30. 1922 Stellar Radial Velocities
- 1964 Radial velocities
- 31. 1922 Time (including Bureau Internationale de l'Heure)
- (1988 Subject transferred to IERS, but the Commission was not terminated)
- 32. 1922 Calendar Reform (immediately terminated)
- 1932 Selected Areas
- 1958 Terminated (merged with C33)
- 33. 1928 Stellar Statistics
- 1955 Structure and Dynamics of the Galactic system
- 34. 1925 Solar Parallax
- 1938 Interstellar Matter
- 1948 Interstellar Matter and Galactic Nebulae
- 1958 Interstellar Matter and Planetary Nebulae
- 1982 Interstellar Matter
- 35. 1928 Stellar constitution
- 36. 1935 Spectrophotometry
- 1961 Theory of Stellar Atmospheres
- 37. 1948 Star Clusters
- 1955 Star Clusters and Associations
- 38. 1948 Exchange of Astronomers
- 2000 Terminated (merged with C46)
- 39. 1948 International Observatories
- 1955 Terminated
- 40. 1948 Radio Observations
- 1952 Radio astronomy
- 41. 1948 History of astronomy
- 42. 1948 Photometric Double Stars
- 1973 Close Binary Stars
- 43. 1958 Magneto-Hydrodynamics and Physics of the Ionised Gases
- 1967 Astrophysical Plasmas and Magnetohydrodynamics
- 1973 Terminated
- 44. 1958 Astronomical Observations from Outside the Terrestrial Atmosphere
- 1979 Observations from Space
- 1994 Space and High Energy Astrophysics (merged with C48)
- 45. 1964 Spectral Classifications and Multi-Band Colour Indices

- 1979 Stellar Classification
 - 46. 1964 Teaching of Astronomy
 - 2000 Astronomy Education and Development (merged with C38)
 - 47. 1970 Cosmology
 - 48. 1970 High Energy Astrophysics
 - 1994 Merged with C44
 - 49. 1973 Interplanetary Plasma & Heliosphere
 - 50. 1973 Protection of Existing & Potential Observatory Sites
 - 51. 1982 Bio-Astronomy: Search for Extraterrestrial Life
 - 1991 Bio-Astronomy
 - 52. 2006 Relativity in Fundamental Astronomy
 - 53. 2006 Extrasolar Planets
 - 54. 2006 Optical & Infrared Interferometry
 - 55. 2006 Communicating Astronomy with the Public
- 1973 Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature

Divisions (1994–2012)

- I. Fundamental Astronomy
- II. Sun & Heliosphere
- III. Planetary Systems Sciences
- IV. Stars
 - V. Variable Stars
- VI. Interstellar Matter
- VII. Galactic System
- VIII. Galaxies & the Universe
- IX. Optical & Infrared Techniques
- X. Radio Astronomy
- XI. Space & High Energy Astrophysics

Added in 2003:

- XII. Union-Wide Activities

New Divisions (2012) and Commissions (2015)

A Fundamental Astronomy

- A1 Astrometry
- A2 Rotation of the Earth
- A3 Fundamental Standards
- A4 Celestial Mechanics and Dynamical Astronomy, *joint with Division F*

B Facilities, Technologies and Data Science

- B1 Computational Astrophysics
- B2 Data and Documentation
- B3 Astroinformatics and Astrostatistics
- B4 Radio Astronomy
- B5 Laboratory Astrophysics
- B6 Astronomical Photometry and Polarimetry
- B7 Protection of Existing and Potential Observatory Sites, *joint with Division C*

C Education, Outreach and Heritage

- C1 Astronomy Education and Development
- C2 Communicating Astronomy with the Public
- C3 History of Astronomy
- C4 World Heritage and Astronomy

D High Energy Phenomena and Fundamental Physics

- D1 Gravitational Wave Astrophysics

E Sun and Heliosphere

- E1 Solar Radiation and Structure
- E2 Solar Activity
- E3 Solar Impact Throughout the Heliosphere

F Planetary Systems and Bioastronomy

- F1 Meteors, Meteorites and Interplanetary Dust
- F2 Exoplanets and the Solar system
- F3 Astrobiology

G Stars and Stellar Physics

- G1 Binary and Multiple Star Systems
- G2 Massive Stars
- G3 Stellar Evolution
- G4 Pulsating Stars
- G5 Stellar and Planetary Atmospheres

H Interstellar Matter and Local Universe

- H1 The Local Universe
- H2 Astrochemistry
- H3 Planetary Nebulae
- H4 Stellar Clusters throughout Cosmic Space and Time, *joint with Divisions G and J*

J Galaxies and Cosmology

- J1 Galaxy Spectral Energy Distributions, *joint with Divisions D, G, and H*
- J2 Intergalactic Medium, *joint with Division B and H*

Cross-Division Commissions

- X1 Supermassive Black Holes, Feedback and Galaxy Evolution, *Divisions D and J*
- X2 Solar System Ephemerides, *Divisions A and F*

Appendix C: List of National Members

By date of admission

This list is based on <https://www.iau.org/administration/membership/national/>, with corrections and additions based on the IAU Transactions B: Proceedings of the General Assemblies.

Some countries are listed twice; usually, this is because they resigned or were suspended earlier (mostly for financial reasons). The records are not always clear, however. In some cases, it just the adhering body changed; e.g., in South Africa, or in Australia in 1938–1939. Countries marked * are not currently members.

Changes in the names of countries are not listed, but if countries broke up, parts that joined separately are listed as new members.

1920	Belgium
1920	Canada
1920	France
1920	Greece
1920	Japan
1920	United Kingdom
1920	United States of America
1921	Italy
1921	Mexico
1922	Australia
1922	Brazil
1922	Czecho-Slovakia*
1922	Denmark

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1922	Netherlands
1922	Norway
1922	Poland
1922	Romania
1922	South Africa
1922	Spain
1923	Switzerland
1924	Portugal
1925	Egypt
1925	Sweden
1927	Argentina
1932	Vatican State
1935	China
1935	USSR*
1935	Yugoslavia*
1938	South Africa (rejoining)
1939	Australia (rejoining)
1946	India
1947	Hungary
1947	Chile
1947	Ireland
1948	Finland
1951	Germany
[1952	Japan re-admitted]
1953	Venezuela
1954	Israel
1954	Lebanese Republic
1955	Austria
1957	Bulgaria
1959	Taiwan
1961	Turkey
1961	Brazil (rejoining)
1961	DPR Korea
1964	Germany split: BRD & GDR
1964	Indonesia
1964	New Zealand
1967	Colombia
1969	Iran
1970	Uruguay
1970	Cuba
1973	Republic of Korea
1967	Iraq
1979	Indonesia (rejoining)
1982	China—Nanjing & Taipei

1988	Algeria
1988	Iceland
1988	Malaysia
1988	Morocco
1988	Peru
1988	Saudi Arabia
1990	Germany re-unified
1992	Russian Federation
1992	Estonia
1993	Czech Republic
1993	Slovakia
1993	Lithuania
1993	Tajikistan
1993	Ukraine
1994	Armenia
1994	Georgia
1994	Croatia
1996	Latvia
1997	Azerbaijan*
1997	Central American Assembly of Astronomers (CAAA: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama)*
1998	Bolivia
1998	Macedonia, Former Yugoslavian Republic of *
1999	Uzbekistan*
2001	Cuba (rejoined)*
2001	Jordan
2001	Philippines
2003	Nigeria
2003	Serbia
2006	Lebanon (rejoining)
2006	Mongolia
2006	Thailand
2009	Costa Rica
2009	Honduras
2009	Panama
2009	Viet Nam
2012	Ethiopia
2012	Kazakhstan
2012	DPR Korea (rejoining)
2015	Colombia (rejoining)
2018	Algeria (rejoining)
2018	Cyprus
2018	Ghana

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2018 Jordan (rejoining)
2018 Madagascar
2018 Morocco (rejoining)
2018 Mozambique
2018 Slovenia
2018 Syria
2018 United Arab Emirates

Appendix D: International Schools for Young Astronomers

Nr	Year	Country	Place	Participants	Females	Foreigners	Nationalities
41	2018	Colombia	Socorro, Santander	32	16	16	7
40	2018	Egypt	Cairo	29	13	11	8
39	2017	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	31	9	14	8
38	2016	Iran	Teheran	34	17	11	7
37	2015	Honduras	Tegucigalpa	30	12		12
36	2014	Thailand	Chiang Mai	41	20	32	14
35	2013	Indonesia	Bandung	39	16	19	11
34	2012	South Africa	Cape Town/ Sutherland	31	4	18	7
33	2011	China	Lijang	37	9	19	10
32	2010	Armenia	Byurakan	48	27	15	21
31	2009	Trinidad	University of the West Indies	31	16	22	12
30	2008	Turkey	Istanbul (Yis)	34	13	18	12
29	2007	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur/ Langkawi	38	9	28	12
28	2005	Mexico	INAOE	46	17	20	10
27	2004	Morocco	Al Akhawayn Univ-	29	9	18	13
26	2002	Argentina	Casleo	28	10	14	8
25	2001	Thailand	Chiang Mai	36	19	17	9
24	1999	Romania	Buchariste	40	22	18	8

(continued)

Nr	Year	Country	Place	Participants	Females	Foreigners	Nationalities
23	1997	Iran	Zanjan	38	12	14	8
22	1995	Brazil	Belo Horizonte/ Serra Piedade	38	15	20	15
21	1994	Egypt	Cairo/ Kottamia Observatory	41	10	12	13
20	1994	India	Pune	35	11	25	13
19	1992	China	Beijing/ Xinglong Observatory	30	9	17	12
18	1990	Morocco	Marrakech	53	7	39	14
17	1990	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur/ Melaka	27	6	12	8
16	1989	Cuba	Havana	55	23	23	6
15	1986	Portugal	Espinho	30	19	20	7
14	1986	China	Beijing	52	–	10	6
13	1983	Indonesia	Lembang	21	–	–	5
12	1981	Egypt	Cairo	28	3	9	9
11	1980	Yugoslavia	Hvar	46	13	35	13
10	1979	Spain	Tenerife	63	20	12	6
9	1978	Nigeria	Nsukka	28	2	3	4
8	1977	Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	29	9	14	7
7	1975	Greece	Athens/Thera	74	21	35	16
6	1974	Argentina	San Miguel	60	11	21	7
5	1973	Indonesia	Lembang	8	3	3	4
4	1970	Argentina	Cordoba	23	3	18	5
3	1969	India	Hyderabad	23	2	5	5
2	1968	Italy	Arcetri	10	–	10	7
1	1967	U.K.	Manchester	12	–	12	8

See https://www.iau.org/science/grants_prizes/iau_grants/international_school/list/

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The IAU Archives are located at the IAU office in the *Institut Astrophysique de Paris*.

The 'old part' refers to the papers that were collected and described by Adriaan Blaauw. Since 1998, they were stored by the *Académie des Sciences*, but they have now been returned to the IAU office. The new part of the archive has been collected and described by IAU archivist Ginette Rude.

AIP interview refers to Interviews from the Oral History Project of the American Institute of Physics, College Park, MD. Transcriptions of the interviews can be accessed via: <http://www.aip.org/history/ohilist/transcripts.html>

GA Newspapers can be accessed via: https://www.iau.org/publications/iau/ga_newspapers/. The page numbers refer to the page number of these scanned versions.

IB: IAU Information Bulletins. Nos. 75-112 can be accessed via: https://www.iau.org/publications/iau/information_bulletins/

Proceedings of the General Assemblies can be accessed via: https://www.iau.org/publications/iau/transactions_b/

S349 refers to presentations at the IAU Symposium 349 *Under One Sky* in Vienna in 2018, of which the Transactions are forthcoming (2019).

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