
Appendix 11: The Editors of the Yearbook of International Organizations

Aims

- Facilitate the evolution of the activities of the world-wide network of non-profit organizations, especially non-governmental or voluntary associations.
- Promote understanding of how international bodies represent valid interests in every field of human activity or belief, whether scientific, religious, artistic, educational, trade or labour.
- Enable these initiatives to develop and counterbalance each other, creatively in response to world problems, by collecting information on these bodies and their interrelationships.
- Make such information available to them, and to others who may benefit from this network.
- Experiment with more meaningful and action-oriented ways of presenting such information as a catalyst for the emergence of more appropriate organizations.
- Promote research on the legal, administrative and other problems common to these international associations, especially in their contacts with governmental bodies.

To these ends, contact is maintained with a wide variety of bodies in both East and West, developed and developing countries.

Historical background

Founded in Brussels in 1907 as the Central Office of International Associations, the UIA became a federation under the present name in 1910 at the 1st World Congress of International Associations. Activities were closely associated with the Institut international de bibliographie, which later became the International Federation for Documentation. Its work contributed to the creation of the League of Nations and the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation (the predecessor of UNESCO). During the 1920s, the UIA created an International University, the first of its kind.

Current status

The Statutes were modified in 1951 to give the UIA the character of an Institute with a world focus, having individuals as full members. It is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit body which is a-political in character. Its programmes are totally oriented toward the community of international associations whose actions they are designed to facilitate, whether through special studies or through new uses of information. The UIA is registered under the Belgian law of 25th October 1919 as an international association with scientific aims.

Finance

The UIA is more than 95 percent self-financed, through the sale of publications which it produces and through membership subscriptions. The balance is made up from grants from a number of official and private bodies. The annual budget is approximately € 740,000.

Administration

The UIA General Assembly elects an Executive Council of 15 to 21 members every 2 years. The programme, under the direction of the Secretary-General, is carried out by the Secretariat in Brussels.

Working languages

The main working languages of the UIA are English and French, although information is received in many languages. Most publications are produced in English, with French versions where there is a

demand. The *Yearbook of International Organizations* is indexed in all languages used by international organizations. The periodical *Transnational Associations* contains articles in both English and French.

Full Members

Individuals, whose total number may not exceed 250, are elected by the UIA General Assembly which they constitute. Members are elected on the basis of their interest and activity in international organizations, usually demonstrated by an active role in such a body over an extended period of time. They include diplomats, international civil servants, association executives, professors of international relations and directors of foundations. Members do not pay annual dues, but as trustees it is expected that they will further the interests of the UIA in their particular sphere of activity.

Members are currently located in the following countries:

Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritania, South Africa, Tunisia, Zimbabwe.

America: Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru, USA, Venezuela.

Asia: India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka.

Pacific: Australia.

Europe: Belarus, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, UK.

Associate Members

Any corporate bodies or individuals interested in the aims and activities of the UIA and wishing to associate themselves with its work may become Associate Members by payment of an annual membership fee. Members include a wide range of organizations, foundations, government agencies and commercial enterprises and are entitled to preferential use of UIA services. Associate membership is subject to approval by the Executive Council.

Collaboration with inter-governmental organizations

The UIA has Consultative Relations with UNESCO, UN/ECOSOC, and ILO. It collaborates with the Council of Europe and the European Commission. It is one of the research institutes in the network of the UN University. A special ECOSOC resolution establishes cooperation between the United Nations and the UIA for the preparation of the *Yearbook of International Organizations*, for which contact is maintained with over 2,500 intergovernmental bodies. The French edition is produced with the assistance of the Agence pour la coopération culturelle et technique (ACCT).

Relationship with international associations

Contact is maintained with over 25,000 international non-governmental organizations eligible for inclusion in the *Yearbook of International Organizations*. Special links exist with UIA Corresponding Organizations, with the federations of international organizations established in Belgium (FAIB), France (UOIF), and Geneva (FIIG), with the conferences of consultative NGOs for ECOSOC and UNESCO, to bodies using its secretariat facilities, and with those with which it has co-publishing arrangements.

International Association Centres

To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of organizations with secretariats in a particular location, the UIA encourages the creation of federations of international bodies (e.g. established in France), and the contact between such bodies. An International Association Centre, promoted by the UIA, with shared facilities for Brussels-based organizations, opened in 1983.