

# **UIAA Council 14 May 2005 Agenda item 9: General Assemblies and Councils 2005-09: issues, themes and seminars. Note for information by the President**

## **Introduction**

This Agenda item has been included to facilitate a discussion in the Council about the preferred nature of the UIAA General Assemblies (GAs) in the period to 2009.

I am putting it forward on a personal basis at this stage, but the UIAA Board will discuss it on 13 May, and the General Secretary will be able to report their conclusions at the Council meeting.

Key issues include:

- (a) Should the GAs focus mainly on procedural issues or should the opportunity be taken to have wider-ranging discussions, or Seminars, on current mountaineering issues, or those arising in e.g. the Continent in which the GA is to be held?
- (b) Is it desirable to reduce the procedural issues in the GA to the minimum, by arranging for the Council or other subordinate bodies to undertake as much as possible? Note that the time of the GA is very valuable because of the number of persons involved, whereas the Council is less costly, being much smaller.
- (c) Should more time be allowed for GAs, to allow for more discussion? And
- (d) Would the Council regard it as one of its own priorities to plan the future business of GAs, based on say a 4-year rolling programme? Such a programme would enable the Board and the Commissions to arrange for preparatory work or papers for submission.

The remainder of this Note discusses specific programming issues, but against the background of the above questions. They include the year 2009 since arrangements for this will need to be made during the period 2005-2008.

## **1 Restructuring working group**

- 1.1 The Restructuring Working Group proposed that any changes to the UIAA statutes, etc. should be made at the General Assembly in 2005 or 2006.
- 1.2 There is a question as to whether it would be better to undertake a more comprehensive revision of the Statutes, dealing also with any additional issues beyond the scope of the Restructuring Working Group, in say 2007? This would allow more time e.g. to undertake comparative studies of other international organisations, especially in relation to competitions.

## **2 Themes and seminars**

- 2.1 Possibilities which might be considered include:
  - (a) Discussion of the UN Global Mountain Partnership's Andes initiative (see Agenda item 8.1).
  - (b) Discussion of the UN Global Mountain Partnership's Europe initiative (see Agenda item 8.1) and any other Europe issues.
  - (c) Discussion of the UN Global Mountain Partnership's Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalaya initiative (see Agenda item 8.1).

- (d) Effect of climate change on glaciers (Seminar by Canadian Alpine Club, Banff, and October 2006).
- (e) Other current mountaineering issues in North America as host Continent with follow-up action (possible discussion at Banff, October 2006).
- (f) Other current mountaineering issues in Asia as host Continent with follow-up action (possible discussion in Japan, October 2007 and, or, Iran 2008).

Other suggestions would be welcome.

- 2.2 The UN Global Mountain Partnership has recently indicated that it would like to work more closely with UIAA in the areas of the benefits of mountain tourism, conflict resolution, and promotion of youth activities. The UN partnership is considering the theme of tourism as a means to achieve sustainable development for International Mountain Day this year (11 December).
- 2.3 Also, IUCN's World Commission for Protected Areas has recently indicated that it would like to continue the working partnership with UIAA for various initiatives planned up to 2008. This includes a programme of specialist workshops as follows:
  - (a) 2006: mountain conservation and connectivity management (para 6.3 below).
  - (b) 2007: transboundary conservation management in mountains, or Peace Parks (para 6.4(c) below).
  - (c) 2008: managing ecotourism in mountain protected areas (para 6.5(c) below)
- 2.4 Both the UN Mountain Partnership and IUCN value input from UIAA experts, but they also see the benefit of working together on promotional activities. The successful joint promotions of the impact of climate change on mountains (with UNEP), transboundary protected status for the Siachen Glacier (with IUCN), and the Global Youth Summit (supported by the UN Sport Task Force) are seen as models of how by working together we have much greater impact on public and political opinion.

### **3 Continental forums**

- 3.1 The suggestions at para 2.1 above, about discussion of current mountaineering issues in South and North America and different parts of Asia, raise the question of whether there might be a preparatory ad hoc meeting in each case among interested federations, to identify such issues.
- 3.2 Similar issues are likely to arise on the UN Europe initiative, on which the UIAA may share an interest with the Club Arc Alpin (see Council Agenda item 5).
- 3.3 There is an existing organisation in South America in the form of UPAME; and one in Asia in the form of the UAAA, which might be invited to host a Continental forum in each case for these purposes.
- 3.4 Following the discussions of these issues in the UIAA General Assembly (paras 6.3-4 below), there should be a defined action programme, to which the UIAA Council and Commissions could contribute as appropriate.

### **4 Criteria for Honorary Membership working group**

- 4.1 The UIAA Board in December 2004 asked Christoph Jezler and Robert Leopold to advise on the criteria for UIAA Honorary Membership (Article V c and 10 e).

- 4.2 It is hoped that their Report, may be considered at the General Assembly 2005 (para 6.2(d) below), and any recommendations for Honorary Membership in the light of it at the General Assembly 2006.

## **5 Planning of transition to period 2009-12**

- 5.1 It is the case that the requirement to change the UIAA Council and Board, etc. at the General Assembly 2004, with corresponding changes in the personnel of the UIAA Commissions, resulted in considerable dislocation and disruption of work programmes.
- 5.2 The Council may wish to consider whether this degree of dislocation and disruption may be reduced in the future by spreading the elections over different years. On this basis, each individual would still be elected for 4 years as at present, but steps would need to be taken to ensure that only about 25% of the individuals (i.e. only one of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) would be elected at any one time; or alternatively that they might retire before their 4 years was completed.
- 5.3 If this were to be done, then the phasing of the elections and/or retirements would need to be planned, in order to achieve the necessary smooth transition (para 6.6(a) below).

## **6 Programmes for 2005-09**

- 6.1 Based on the discussion above, and the reports concerning the UN Global Mountain Partnership and Olympic Movement (items 8.1-3 on the Council Agenda), it appears that the UIAA General Assemblies until 2009 might include some or all of the following:

### **6.2 Autumn 2005 (Singapore)**

- (a) Advice of the Council on the Restructuring Working Group. Work; office location; integration of competition sports; role of Council; role of Commissions; and UIAA staffing (item 4.1 on the Council Agenda).
- (b) Report and action on historical research on mountaineering and the Olympic Movement (item 8.3 on the Council Agenda ).
- (c) Endorsement of possible UIAA application in 2006 for the Winter Olympic Programme 2014 (item 8.2 on the Council Agenda).
- (d) Report of the Hon Membership working group (para 4.1-2 above).
- (e) Possible report and resolutions on the potential of tourism for mountain recreation to achieve the aims of the UN Global Mountain Partnership (in advance of International Mountain Day on 11 December) (para 2.2 above).
- (f) Possible report on, and recommendations for future action on, the Human Right of the Enjoyment of Nature (Access and Conservation Commission) (item 6.1 on the Council Agenda).
- (g) Report and resolutions on UN Year of Sport and Physical Education 2005 and UIAA's Global Youth Summit.
- (h) Proposals for celebration of UIAA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007, including a possible update to 'The First 50 Year of the UIAA 1932-82' (see [www.uiaa.ch/?c=45](http://www.uiaa.ch/?c=45)).

### **6.3 October 2006 (Banff)**

- (a) Possible changes to statutes in consequence of item 6.2 (a) above.

- (b) Follow-up to International Mountain day on mountain tourism (para 6.2(e) above)
- (c) Report and resolutions on UN Andes initiative (para 2.1(a) above).
- (d) Report and resolutions on UN Europe initiative (para 2.1(c) above)..
- (e) Report and resolutions on climate change seminar (held immediately prior to the General Assembly) (para 2.1(d) above).
- (f) Report and resolutions on mountain conservation and connectivity management (with IUCN) (para 2.3(a) above).
- (g) Any proposals for Honorary Membership as follow-up to para 6.2(d) above.
- (h) Report and resolutions on UN initiative on sport and Peace (Agenda item 8.2 above)

**6.4 October 2007 (Japan)**

- (a) Possible changes to statutes in consequence of item 6.2(a) above (if not completed in 2006).
- (b) Report and resolutions on UN Hindu Kush-Himalaya initiative (para 2.1(b) above).
- (c) Report and resolutions concerning mountain peace peaks (with IUCN) (para 2.3(b) above).
- (d) Possible advice to IOC re possible revived Olympic Alpinism Prize, if to be awarded in 2008 (items 8.2 and 8.3 on the Council Agenda).
- (e) Endorsement of possible UIAA application in 2008-2009 for the Summer Olympic Programme 2016 (item 8.2 on the Council Agenda).
- (f) Discussion of Asia issues, including any relevance of preparations for the Beijing Olympics 2008.
- (g) Possible discussion of mountain issues relevant to the IUCN quadrennial conference 2008.
- (h) Celebration of UIAA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (see para 6.2(h) above).

**6.5 October 2008 (Iran)**

- (a) Elections at the conclusion of the term 2005-08, including new President
- (b) Plans for World Games 2009
- (c) Report and resolutions concerning ecotourism in mountain protected areas (with IUCN) (para 2.3(c) above).
- (d) Further discussion of Asia issues (para 6.4(f) above).

**6.6 October 2009 (no location)**

- (a) Election or re-election of one of Officers (VP, Treasurer or Secretary) (para 5.3 above).
- (b) Report on application for summer Olympics 2016 (see para 6.4(e) above).
- (c) Report and resolutions on mountain issues in host Continent.

(A Blackshaw)  
UIAA Bern, 3 May 2005