

To: National Committees and Representative Members of SCOR  
From: SCOR's Constitution Committee<sup>1</sup>

## Changes in SCOR Constitution

### *Why are we writing to you?*

SCOR's Constitution is an over-arching document that defines how SCOR works. It is written at a high-level and does not define fine detail – that is left to the SCOR's Executive and its Executive Director to decide on an *ad-hoc* basis. SCOR's Constitution needs to be fit-for-purpose and this involves reviewing it from time-to-time. For instance, it can be made more relevant to the changing circumstances. However, any changes require the agreement of the voting members of SCOR; these are the Nominated Members of National Committees and Representative Members. Changes can only be agreed at the 'Ordinary' SCOR meetings which occur in even-numbered years. Our forthcoming virtual meeting in October 2020 is such an occasion. The Constitution Committee has reviewed the document and is now writing to you to advise you of its recommendations. We ask for any informal feed-back<sup>2</sup> well before these revisions are presented formally at the October meeting. We hope that this will ensure the smooth passage of the changes at the meeting!

### *Some recent history.*

As you may know, SCOR was reviewed by ICSU a few years ago and one of its recommendations was that revision of our Constitution should be considered. Accordingly, a Constitution Committee was set up and reported at the 2018 Annual Meeting. This result in a change in the voting procedure - namely that National Committees not present at the Meeting could vote after the meeting. This was the only change that had been made to our Constitution since 1996. Please note that the voting issue needed to be resolved before the more significant changes, that are shown here, could be made more.

### *Proposed Changes*

The Constitution Committee recommends the following changes<sup>3</sup>:

- 1) General : the presentation order of the Articles and Clauses Constitutional has been rearranged to make it flow more logically. The header and layout reflect the requirements for a US non-stock corporation. The Article on Meetings is brought forward and appears before the section on the Executive Committee. The term 'National SCOR Committee' is now used wherever appropriate.
- 2) ARTICLE I: PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS. This has been brought up to date - SCOR is now part of ISC. Two typos have been removed
- 3) ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP. SCOR'S Membership now comprises two categories of members with 'Invited members' being dropped. SCOR meetings are open, so anyone can participate. This includes scientists from countries that are considering joining SCOR. However, these countries cannot vote and are therefore not formal members. Formal voting members remain as 'Nominated Members' and 'Representative Members'. Note that as ISC no longer has Special Committees – this term has been deleted from the text.
- 4) ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION RELATIONSHIPS. This remains substantially the same with presentation changes (e.g. Clause 6 instead of Article 6). Remove 'normally' from Clause 6.
- 5) ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS. Here we have removed the terms "Ordinary" and "Executive" Meetings and replace with "Meetings". Why? In our earlier Constitution, SCOR's meetings are termed "Ordinary" (even years) traditionally attended by the full body of formal voting members, and "Executive" (odd years) attended only by the SCOR's Executive. However, over the last several decades, this differentiation has blurred as a) more people attended the meetings in odd years and b) the

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<sup>3</sup> Please see attached file: Final Draft Constitution ver 2020-10-17

agendas for meetings in both odd and even years became similar. These terms are now superfluous. SCOR will continue both to meet annually and to deal/vote on major issues such as Changes in Constitution (if required) and Changes in its Executive (needed every two years) only on even numbered years. This means a slightly fuller agenda in even years. This is as stated in Clause 14 of the old Constitution (now Clauses 8 and 9).

- 6) ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Clause 10 to 12 are taken from the previous Constitutions' Clause 8 to 10.
- 7) ARTICLE VI: SUBSIDIARY BODIES. Clause 13 & 14 are taken from the previous Constitutions' Clauses 11 & 12.
- 8) ARTICLE VII: FINANCE. Clauses 15 to 21 are taken from the previous Constitutions' Clauses 16 to 21 with minor changes that reflect how SCOR works. These include a) ICS for ICSU; b) funds deposited with SCOR rather than ICSU both in section 15; the Executive Director and Finance Committee will prepare budgets in Clause 16; the Executive to take responsibility for oversight of the budget in Clause 17; accounts ...maintained ....according to the country in which SCOR is incorporated in Clause 19; Clause 20 is moved from the previous Constitutions' Clause 15. Clause 21 remains the same
- 9) ARTICLE VIII. GENERAL. This section remains the same with the incorporation of Appendix 2.

As part of the Constitution, Appendix 1 which outlines the Nomination and Election of SCOR Officers is now annexed to the Constitution. The terminology of Appendix 1 has been modified to fit to the Constitution.

Similarly, Appendix 2, adopted in 2018, has been annexed to the Constitution.

It is anticipated that the above changes will ensure the Constitution is now fit-for-purpose to serve SCOR into the future.