

MINUTES of the 31st CODATA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2018
9-10 November 2018 – University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana

ATTENDANCE LIST: VOTING DELEGATES

	Last Name	First Name	Country	Representing
1	Ahituv	Niv	Israel	Delegate Israel
2	Ashino	Toshihiro	Japan	Delegate Japan
3	Boyko	Ernie	Canada	Delegate Canada
4	Brase	Jan	Germany	Delegate ICSTI
5	Chen	Bob	USA	Delegate USA
6	Chuang	Tyng-Ruey	Taiwan	Delegate China: Taipei
7	Faustman	Elaine	USA	Delegate IUTox
8	Hartshorn	Richard	New Zealand	Delegate IUPAC
9	Helliwell	John	UK	Delegate IUCr
10	Jones	Sara	UK	Delegate UK
11	Laine	Heidi	Finland	Delegate Finland
12	Lee	Jeonghoon	Korea	Delegate Korea
13	LI	Jianhui	China	Delegate Mongolia (by proxy)
14	LI	Jianhui	China	Delegate IGU (by proxy)
15	LI	Jianhui	China	Delegate IUBS (by proxy)
16	LI	Jianhui	China	Delegate WFCC (by proxy)
17	LIAO	Fangyu	China	Delegate China
18	Mabaso	Refiloe	South Africa	Delegate South Africa
19	Maras	Pam	UK	Delegate IUPsyS
20	Murayama Edmunds	Yasuhiro Rorie	Japan UK	Delegate WDS Day One Delegate WDS Day Two
21	Mazisana	Audrey	Botswana	Delegate Botswana
22	Mons	Barend	Netherlands	Delegate Netherlands
23	Munshi	Usha	India	Delegate India
24	Nyssen	Marc	Belgium	Delegate IUPESM
25	Rybkina	Alena	Russia	Delegate Russia
26	Rybkina	Alena	Russia	Delegate IUGG
27	Wafula	Joseph	Kenya	Delegate Kenya
28	Wyborn	Lesley	Australia	Delegate Australia
28	Wilkinson	Ross	Australia	Delegate RDA

ATTENDANCE LIST: PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

	Last Name	First Name	Country	Representing
1	Akuku	Boniface	Kenya	TG Agricultural Data
2	Boulton	Geoffrey	UK	CODATA President
3	Broome	John	Canada	CODATA Treasurer
4	Carroll	Bonnie	USA	CODATA Secretary General
5	Chen	Yu	China	Observer China
6	Cox	Simon	Australia	Candidate ExComm Australia
7	Hey	Tony	UK	Candidate President UK
8	Hodson	Simon	UK	CODATA Executive Director
9	Inoue	Junya	Japan	Observer Japan
10	Kim	Eri	Korea	Observer Korea
11	Lee	Der-Tsai	China: Taipei	Observer China Taipei
12	Murray	Virginia	UK	Candidate ExComm UK
13	Sherief	Hussein	Sudan	Observer Sudan
14	Uhlir	Paul	USA	Observer USA

These minutes record the decisions made at the General Assembly. Detail of discussions on strategy and activities will be provided in other documents. The Annexes will be available from the CODATA website.

Day One, Friday 9 November

1. Welcome by CODATA Secretary General

As the CODATA President, Geoffrey Boulton, would be late in arriving as returning from a meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the General Assembly was opened by the CODATA Secretary General, Bonnie Carroll, who welcomed delegates and observers.

2. Approval of Agenda

The 31st CODATA General Assembly approved, as presented by the Secretary General, the Agenda for the 31st CODATA General Assembly. **(Annex One)**.

3. CODATA Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director, Simon Hodson, referenced the latest CODATA Prospectus: Strategy and Achievement 2016-2018 **(Annex Two)**, and gave a presentation which highlighted CODATA strategic activities, including the Data Policy Committee, contributions to the advancement of the FAIR agenda, the African Open Science Platform and the Data Integration Initiative. Sarah Jones (UK) presented on the CODATA-RDA Schools of Research Data Science. The presentation also covered the Data Science Journal, the Saint Petersburg and Göttingen Conferences and CODATA Task Groups. Finally, the presentation discussed membership issues, emphasised the need to increase membership and underlined the importance of the revised constitution in assisting this objective. **(Presentations Annex Three)**

4. John Broome, Treasurer's Report: A Summary of the 2017 Audit.

The Treasurer, John Broome, reported that the 2017 Audit was performed by SADEC AKELYS (Paris, France). The audit was completed in Euros by the accrual method, and no issues were identified **(Audit and Presentations Annex Four)**. The Treasurer also presented CODATA's Statement of Operations from 2016 to 2018, including the Budget for 2018. The Treasurer explained further that CODATA had operating, as planned, on a deficit budget for the years 2015-2017, to allow enhanced activity and outputs and thereby to improve CODATA's international standing. Having pursued this strategy and obtained funding for a number of activities, CODATA would aim to break even in 2018.

The 31st General Assembly approved the Treasurer's Report.

5. CODATA Governance: Revised CODATA Constitution

The proposed revised Constitution, including the change in name (Statute 1), was presented by the Secretary General, Bonnie Carroll. Amendments had been received from IUCr and from the US National Committee. The IUCr amendments were discussed, further modified then approved by a majority of delegates. The US National Committee amendments were discussed and then approved by a majority delegates. Finally, the full revised constitution, incorporating the amendments was approved by a majority of delegates. **(Constitutional Documents Annex Five)**

The 31st General Assembly approved the revised CODATA Constitution 2018

6. President's Report and Strategy Session

Having arrived from Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the CODATA President, Geoffrey Boulton, greeted and welcomed participants of the General Assembly and gave a presentation on CODATA's evolving strategy and priorities, highlighting key issues for 2018 and the near future.

Presentations were then given by Barend Mons and by Tony Hey, the two candidates for CODATA President. The presentations were not given as hustings, but to outline visions of strategic priorities in relation to research data and the role of CODATA. The General Assembly then discussed the issues raised. **(Presentations Annex Six)**

7. National Committees and Unions – Activities and national priorities

Bonnie Carroll, Secretary General, and John Broome, Treasurer led a session based on a survey of National Committees' and Unions' priorities in relation to data and CODATA activities. The General Assembly had substantial discussion on the issues raised. **(Documents Annex Seven). As a result of the discussion, all members were asked to submit their top priorities and the Secretary General agreed to collate them as input to planning for 2019-2020.**

Action: All members were asked to submit input about National priorities either during the meeting or by e-mail following it.

Day Two, Saturday 10 November

8. Election of CODATA Officers and Executive Committee

The elections at the 31st General Assembly were for the following positions: President, Vice-President (x2) and eight (8) Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee. The candidates were listed on the CODATA website and all documentation circulated to CODATA members. Additionally, all candidates submitted blog posts in support of their nomination. At the General Assembly, all candidates gave short presentations. Following questions, the formal process to elect these positions was undertaken, and the votes in each round were counted by three individuals nominated by acclamation from the observers of the General Assembly.

The 31st General Assembly elected the following Officers and Ordinary Members

President

Barend MONS (Netherlands) (2018-2022)

Vice-Presidents

Alena RYBKINA (Russia) (2018-2022)

LI Jianhui (PR China) (2018-2022)

Ordinary Members (2018-2020)

Toshihiro ASHINO (Japan)

Ernie BOYKO (Canada)

Tyng-Ruey CHUANG (China: Taipei)

Simon COX (Australia)

Richard HARTSHORN (IUPAC)

Virginia MURRAY (UK)

Daisy SELEMATSELA (South Africa)

Joseph WAFULA (Kenya)

In accordance with the CODATA Constitution, **Bonnie Carroll** (USA) remains **Secretary General** (2016-2020); **John Broome** (Canada) remains **Treasurer** (2016-2020); and **Geoffrey Boulton** (UK) becomes **Past President** (2018-2022).

9. Selection of CODATA Task Groups

Presentations were given by nine Task Group representatives. Following questions, the formal process of approving or rejecting the Task Group proposals was undertaken and the votes were counted by the same three individuals nominated by acclamation from the observers of the General Assembly.

The 31st General Assembly approved the following eight CODATA Task Groups

1. Advanced mathematical tools for data-driven applied systems (**New Task Group**)
2. Applying Data Integration and Data Science Tools toward Research of Urban Life and Smart Cities (**New Task Group**)
3. Digital Representation of Units of Measure (DRUM) (**New Task Group**)

4. Improving Data Access and Reusability (IDAR-TG) **(New Task Group)**
5. Agriculture Data, Knowledge for Learning and Innovation **(Continuing Task Group)**
6. CODATA–WDS TG on Citizen Science for the SDGs – Aligning Citizen Science outcomes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals **(Continuing Task Group)**
7. Linked Open Data for Global Disaster Risk Research (LODGD) **(Continuing Task Group)**
8. Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in/for/with Developing Countries (PASTD) **(Continuing Task Group)**

The 31st General Assembly did not approve one Task Group proposal with the recommendation that the proposers collaborate with the CODATA-RDA Schools of Research Data Science strategic initiative.

1. Data Literacy for Researchers and Academics from Low and Middle Income Countries

10. 2018 CODATA Prize

President Geoffrey Boulton proposed that the 2018 CODATA Prize exceptionally be awarded to the past and present members of the Task Group on Fundamental Physical Constants to recognize the significance of re-definition of the International System of Units (SI) for the kilogram, ampere, kelvin and mole based on fundamental laws rather than measurement. The proposal was approved by unanimous acclamation. The prize rewards outstanding achievement in advancing data for science. It is the first time that the prize has been awarded to a group rather than an individual. Arrangements will be made for the prize to be formally presented at the 2019 CODATA Conference, Beijing.

The 31st General Assembly awarded the 2018 CODATA Prize to the Task Group on Fundamental Physical Constants.

11. Special Resolutions

The following Special Resolutions were proposed and accepted by the General Assembly:

Special Resolution of Thanks: the International Data Week Organising Committee, the local hosts at the University of Botswana, the Botswana Ministry of Education, Research, Science and Technology (MoTE) and all other sponsors and supports for their contribution to an exceptionally successful IDW and SciDataCon 2018

The 31st General Assembly approved this resolution of thanks by unanimous acclamation.

Special Resolution of Thanks: Outgoing President Geoffrey Boulton

It was observed that as President of CODATA, Geoffrey Boulton has made an enormous contribution to the organisation, far beyond the call of duty. His legacy includes the focussing of the CODATA Strategy, the Science International Accord on Open Data in a Big Data World, the African Open Science Platform and the Data Integration Initiative. A gift in honour of his contribution to the organisation was presented by Simon Hodson, Executive Director.

The 31st General Assembly approved this resolution of thanks by unanimous acclamation.

Special Resolution of Thanks: Outgoing Vice-Presidents Takashi Gojibori and Niv Ahituv

It was observed that **Takashi Gojibori** had served on the Executive Committee since 2008 and as Vice-President since 2010. As vice-president, among other contributions, he had convened a symposium on Big Data at the Science Academy of the Holy See. He was thanked for his long service and contribution to CODATA.

It was observed that **Niv Ahituv** had served on the Executive Committee since 2010 and as Vice-President since 2014. Niv had made great contributions to the organisation and hosted the Executive Committee meeting at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in March 2014.

The 31st General Assembly approved this resolution of thanks by unanimous acclamation.

Special Resolution: Thanks to Outgoing and Long-Serving Ordinary Members DT Lee and Mary Zborowski

It was observed that DT Lee had served on the Executive Committee since 2012. He was instrumental in organising the 2012 CODATA Conference in Taipei. He was thanked for his long service and contribution to CODATA.

It was observed that Mary Zborowski had served on the Executive Committee since 2012. She had made a major contribution to the activities of the Executive Committee, often assisting with minutes for previous General Assemblies. It was observed in particular that she had made major and selfless contributions to the management of abstracts for SciDataCon conferences in 2014, 2016 and 2018. She was thanked for his long service and contribution to CODATA.

The 31st General Assembly approved this resolution of thanks by unanimous acclamation.

12. Passing the Gavel

The gavel was symbolically passed from outgoing President Geoffrey Boulton, to new President Barend Mons.

13. Close of the 30th General Assembly

The General Assembly was closed by the newly elected President, Barend Mons, at approximately 13:00 hrs, 10 November 2018.

14. Annexes

All annexes will be linked from the CODATA website at

<http://www.codata.org/events/general-assembly/general-assembly-2018>