STATUTES

International Medical Geological Association

Article 1.

Denomination, Headquarters and Duration

1. The Association, a policy neutral and non-profit international organization, adopts the name of International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), herein referred to as the Association, and is established for undefined time.
2. The legal headquarters of the Association are at Campus Universitário de Santiago, Universidade de Aveiro, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal.
3. The Association has the fiscal number of collective person 514.055.987

Article 2.

Aims of the Association

1. The purpose of the Association is to facilitate and promote cooperation between geoscientists and biomedical researchers, decision-makers and public health professionals to address human and animal health problems caused by geologic materials and/or processes.
2. The IMGA´s activities include:
   a) the organization of meetings, such as the International Conference on Medical Geology – MEDGEO, national and international workshops and symposia, field excursions, webinars, among other scientific events;
   b) the distribution of a periodical Newsletter and the maintenance of a website to inform members of news from national and international Medical Geology groups and of activities concerned with or related to Medical Geology, including educational opportunities;
   c) the cooperation with other organizations having an interest in Medical Geology.

Article 3.

Revenues

1. The Association's revenues come from:

a) the dues paid by the members of the Association;

b) the income from the assets of the Association and the revenues from scientific activities such as MEDGEO conference series, and relevant scientific, training and educational activities organized or sponsored by the Association

d) non-profit donations accepted by the Association

e) subsidies granted to the Association

f) research grants, proposals and/or awards granted to the Association for the development of medical geology.

Article 4.

Governance Structure

1. The Association governance bodies are the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Supervisor Board.

2. The General assembly of members shall be convened by the General Assembly Board. The Executive Committee administers and represents the Association. The Supervisor Board has the role of supervise the accounts and reports of the association

3. The General Assembly Board, the Executive Committee and the Supervisor Board are elected by the General Assembly for mandates of two years up to a total of four years.

Article 5.

General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is composed by all permanent members in good standing with the payment of their dues.

2. The general competences and operation of the General Assembly are set out in the Portuguese Civil Code, namely by the Articles 170 and 172 to 179. In compliance with this legislation, the following specific responsibilities of the General Assembly:

a) The election of the General Assembly Board, the Executive Committee and the Supervisor Board from members of the Association;

b) Assess and vote the annual budget presented by the Executive Committee for the following year;

c) Assess and vote the activities and financial reports of the outgoing Executive Committee;

d) Review and approve changes, additions, and/or modifications to the Statutes and Bylaws

e) The extinction of the Association.

3. The General Assembly Board is composed by three members, one Chair, one Co-Chair and one Secretary;

4. The rules of its operation are defined by the Bylaws.

Article 6.

Executive Committee

1. The total number of Executive Committee (EC) members must be an odd number: one Chair; two Co-Chairs (one for Geological Sciences and another for Medical Sciences), one Secretary, one Treasurer and six councillors.

2. The functions of the Executive Committee are the social, administrative and financial management and the representation of the Association. Specific functions the Executive Committee are:

a) Decide actions regarding the necessary means to fulfil the Association's goals and the time for their completion;
b) Decide over the admission or exclusion of 'honorary members', 'permanent members' and 'correspondent members';
c) Propose and declare the exclusion of members;
d) Determine the dues for members;
e) Present the annual budget for the following year;
f) Present the performance and financial reports before the election of a new Executive Committee and request the convocation of a General Assembly;
g) Nominate up to four IMGA Senior Advisors that will take part in the EC meetings;
h) The implementation of the Bylaws and internal regulation.

3. The jurisdiction of its regulation is determined in the article 171 of the Portuguese Civil Code;

4. The Chair of the Executive Committee is the Chair of the Association. She/he has the power to sign on its behalf and to represent the Association to other societies and she/he will have a casting vote. In case of Chair’s absence, she/he may be substituted by either of Co-Chair. In absence of these three Officers the Acting Chair will be a member unanimously voted by the Executive committee.

5. All members of the Executive Committee have vote rights.

Article 7.

Supervisor Board

1. The Supervisor Board is composed by one Chair and two members.

2. The Supervisor Board must accompany the administrative and financial actions of Executive Committee, supervise the accounts and reports and present to the General Assembly an opinion regarding the documents mentioned in article 6, number 2, points f) and g).

3. The general operation of the Supervisor Board is set out in the Portuguese Civil Code, Article 171.

Article 8

Admission or exclusion of members

1. Membership is open to all individuals Members, corporate Members (institutions and companies), and Affiliated Societies (national, regional or international organizations), since they fulfill all admission criteria established by the Bylaws.

2. Members must contribute with dues, being the amount and payment periodicity determined by the General Assembly upon the Executive's proposal.

3. Members have the right to participate in all initiatives of the Association.

4. The status of associate member or member will be revoked to anyone who:

a) Sends a letter to the Executive Committee stating his/her renouncement;

b) Fails to pay dues for more than a year;

c) Severely disrespects the rules, objectives and principles of the Association.

5. Other specific conditions of admission and exclusion of members, their categories, rights and obligations will be determined in the Bylaws.

Article 9

Amendments to Statutes

1. Amendments to the Statutes shall be adopted if approved by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members in good standing of their rights responding by mail or electronic mail ballot. To take effect this decision must be voted by a minimum of twenty percent (20%) of the total members of IMGA.

2. Amendments to the Statutes may be proposed:

a) by the Executive committee;

b) by at least ten percent (10%) of the Members of the Association.

3. Amendments to the Statutes must be proposed at least six months before the General Assembly with a justification from the proponents, and from the Executive Committee in the case of 2b, which must be sent by email and put on the website to all members of the Association.

Article 10

Extinction. Destination of goods

1. Extinguished the Association, the destiny of the goods that are part of the social patrimony of the Association, and that are not affected for a particular purpose and that have not been donated or left with a burden, will be defined by deliberation of the members.

2. Any proposal for dissolution of the Association must bear the signatures of at least fifty percent (50%) of members from at least five IMGA Chapters in good standing, which must be received by the Secretary at least nine calendar months before an International Conference on Medical Geology. The proposal must be communicated to all members, along with comments of Executive Committee and a ballot, at least six weeks prior to the commencement of an International Conference on Medical Geology.

Article 11

Bylaws

1. Rights, duties and liabilities of the members of the Association, rules for elections of Governance Bodies, and any other issue related to the day-life of the Association are provided in the Bylaws.