

DRAFT MINUTES, of the 30th CODATA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016
11th September 2016 – Denver, Colorado, USA

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The Minutes will follow the Agenda as approved.

1. Welcome by CODATA President

CODATA President, Geoffrey Boulton welcomed Delegates and Members to the 30th CODATA General Assembly. In his remarks, the President highlighted the value of meeting in this Assembly where all recognize the importance of collaboration in realizing CODATA's strategic objectives.

2. Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes

The 30th CODATA General Assembly approves, as presented by the Secretary General, the Agenda for the 30th CODATA General Assembly and the Minutes of the 29th CODATA General Assembly (**Annex One**).

3. John Broome – Financial report – presented a summary of the 2015 Audit.

The Treasurer, John Broome, presented the Treasurer's Report, indicating that the 2015 Audit was performed by SADEC AKELYS (Paris, France) and that the presentation at this General Assembly was modeled to reflect the new Audit format. The audit was completed in Euros by the accrual method, and no issues were discovered (**Annex Two**). The Treasurer explained further that CODATA is operating, as planned, on a deficit budget, to allow enhanced activity and outputs and thereby to improve CODATA's international standing. The Treasurer also presented CODATA's Statement of Operations from 2013 to 2015, including the Budget for 2016.

The 30th General Assembly approves the Treasurer's Report as presented by the Treasurer.

4. CODATA Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director, Simon Hodson, distributed the CODATA Prospectus: Strategy and Achievement 2015-2016 to all (**Annex Three**), and gave a presentation (**Annex Four**) which was structured according to the strategic objectives set out in the distributed leaflet: Data Policy, Frontiers of Data Science, and Capacity Building. The presentation ended with a brief view of upcoming activities and events.

5. Discussion and Questions

The President pointed out that it is each meeting of CODATA's General Assembly which help identify strategic directions and activities to be undertaken by CODATA. To generate these views, the President opened a structured discussion, engaging all to discuss strategic directions for CODATA and issues for new focus.

6. Vision, strategy and key activities for 2016-2018

6.1 Vision, strategy and key activities for 2016-2018

The President gave an account of the evolution of CODATA's priorities and the redeveloped strategy which identifies three priorities:

1. promoting principles, policies and practices for Open Data and Open Science;
2. advancing the frontiers of data science;
3. building capacity for Open Science by improving data skills and the functions of national science systems needed to support open data.

The President also mapped how current and proposed Task Groups contribute to these strategic objectives. In this context, he relayed the Executive Committee's considered recommendations regarding those Task Groups which were felt to be most likely to contribute to the realisation of CODATA's strategy. The President also described emerging issues which would be important for

CODATA (including machine learning, the Internet of Things, standards for reproducibility, linked semantic data and standards for data discovery, use and interchange). In terms of forthcoming activities, the President highlighted an important initiative for an Open Science Platform in Africa which CODATA would be leading, with delivery by ASSAf, the Academy of Sciences of South Africa. Discussions are already underway for a related activity in Latin America and the Caribbean. Finally, the President discussed the importance of good partnerships among the three prominent international data organisations.

6.2 *Up-date and perspectives from ICSU*

Heide Hackmann, ICSU's Executive Director, addressed the Assembly and spoke of the issues and challenges that ICSU is facing in this time of change. These have arisen in part from the 2014 review of ICSU activities, and also due to clear shifts in current issues and trends. ICSU's response to these issues will position both ICSU and its component bodies in the future. These issues include:

1. Global science – What it means to really support the global voice of science, and the geopolitics of science.
2. Integrative science – The interdisciplinary aspects of science, especially between natural and social sciences. There will be input from the ICSU members on this issue in October 2016.
3. Open science – working towards a common understanding of the various approaches existing, and what the impact of each might be.
4. International scientific collaboration and the science policy role – ICSU should have a stronger voice at the international level in these areas.

ICSU relies on its interdisciplinary bodies to help address these issues. ICSU further recognizes its role in connecting its member organizations and unions with CODATA.

6.3 *Achievements in the 50 Years of CODATA's Existence and Priorities for the next 2-6 years*

The President reminded the Assembly that in 2016, CODATA is celebrating its 50th year of inception. Regarding this anniversary, he spoke on the CODATA strategic directions as they have evolved over the past decades. In fact, areas of CODATA's concerns have not completely changed over the decades. Rather, CODATA has remained flexible in order to focus its attention to the most pressing issues of the day, which continually evolve due to changing technological and sociological issues, while continuing to support previous areas of interest.

7. Task Group Presentations

15 Task Groups were originally proposed for selection by the General Assembly. However, during the course of the 30th CODATA General Assembly, the proposers of the new Task Group *Open Data Strategy in Africa* announced the withdrawal of this proposal. They accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to engage with the African Open Data Platform initiative and with other relevant Task Groups.

The remaining 14 Task Groups proposed are listed below. A representative for each gave a short presentation to the Assembly.

- Advancing Informatics for Microbiology (*EXISTING*)
- Agriculture Data, Knowledge for Learning and Innovation (*NEW*)
- Building Foundational Training in Research Data Science (*NEW*)
- Citizen Science and the Validation, Curation, and Management of Crowdsourced Data (with WDS) (*NEW*)
- Coordinating Data Standards amongst Scientific Unions (*NEW*)
- Data at Risk (*EXISTING*)

- Earth and Space Science Data Interoperability (*EXISTING*)
- Globalising Open Science & Access to Research Software (with GYA) (*NEW*)
- Linked Open Data for Global Disaster Risk Research (*EXISTING*)
- Materials Data in IoT and Big-Data Era (*NEW*)
- Practice and Impact of Digital Data Citation (*REFOCUS OF EXISTING*)
- Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries (*EXISTING*)
- Protecting Historical Data (*NEW*)
- Science and Management of Physical Objects in the Digital Era (*EXISTING*)

8. Task Group Selection

The formal process to approve Task Groups ensued, and votes were counted by Members of the Executive Committee (Mark Thorley, Sarah Callaghan, Sara Graves) and 3 volunteers (William Michener, Leighton Christianson, and Usha Mujoo Munshi), all being regarded as neutral to the process and results.

The Following Task Groups were approved for the period 2014-2016:

- Agriculture Data, Knowledge for Learning and Innovation (*NEW*)
- Building Foundational Training in Research Data Science (*NEW*)
- Citizen Science and the Validation, Curation, and Management of Crowdsourced Data (with WDS) (*NEW*)
- Coordinating Data Standards amongst Scientific Unions (*NEW*)
- Earth and Space Science Data Interoperability (*EXISTING*)
- Linked Open Data for Global Disaster Risk Research (*EXISTING*)
- Practice and Impact of Digital Data Citation (*REFOCUS OF EXISTING*)
- Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries (*EXISTING*)

9. Election of CODATA Executive Committee

The slate of nominees includes one nomination for the position of Secretary General, one for the position of Treasurer, and 15 for the 8 positions of Ordinary Members. The formal process to elect these positions ensued, and the votes were counted by same six individuals, identified above.

The 30th CODATA General Assembly elected the following Officers and Ordinary Members

Secretary General

Bonnie CARROLL (USA) (2016-2020)

Treasurer

John BROOME (2016-2020)

Ordinary Members (2016-2018)

Jane HUNTER (Australia)

Paul LAUGHTON (RSA)

Der-Tsai LEE (China Taipei)

Jianhui LI (China)

Alena RYBKINA (Russia)

Paul UHLIR (USA)

Joseph MULIARO WALFULA (Kenya)

Mary ZBOROWSKI (Canada)

In accordance with the CODATA Constitution, **Geoffrey Boulton** (UK) remains **President** and **Niv Ahituv** (Israel) and **Takashi Gojobori** (Japan) remain **Vice Presidents**. Likewise, **Huadong Guo** (China) remains **Past President**.

10. Closing Remarks and Resolutions

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

Special Resolution: Thanks to the Outgoing Secretary General

The 30th General Assembly formally thanks the outgoing Secretary General, Sara Graves, for her extensive contributions to the organization over the years from 2006 to 2016 and wishes her continued success in her new activities.

Special Resolution: Thanks to Outgoing Ordinary Member Mark Thorley

The 30th General Assembly formally thanks outgoing Ordinary Member, Mark Thorley, for his extensive contributions to the organization over the years from 2010 to 2016 and wishes him continued success in his new activities.

Special Resolution: Congratulations to the 2016 CODATA Prize Winner

The 30th General Assembly congratulates Dr. David Lide, who was named the Winner of the 2016 CODATA Prize. From 1969 to 1988, Dr. Lide was the Director of the NIST Standard Reference Data Program (NSRDS), the first centralized program to systematically collect and evaluated S&T data, and served both as Secretary General and President of CODATA between 1982 and 1990.

Special Resolution: Thanks to the International Data Week Organising Committee for IDW and SciDataCon 2016

The 30th General Assembly sincerely thanks the International Data Week Organising Committee:

11. Close of the 30th General Assembly

The General Assembly concluded at approximately 16:00 hrs, September 11th, 2016.

12. Annexes

Annex One: Minutes of 29th General Assembly

Annex Two: Treasurer's report

Annex Three: CODATA Prospectus: Strategy and Achievement, 2015-2016

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.165830>

Annex Four: Executive Director's Presentation

Annex Five: President's Presentation