

The proposals to be voted on in Rome are:

1. To approve the package of amendments to Section 5 (“Subscription and Income”) of the IGS Bylaws, as previously circulated to Members.

Proposed Changes to Section 5 (“Subscription and Income”) of the IGS Bylaws

Existing clause number	New clause number	Existing bylaws text	Proposed new text	Reason for change
5.01.02		An entrance fee can be levied and is not refundable. It cannot exceed a one-year Membership subscription fee.	Delete	This is unnecessary and sets a barrier to entry.
None	5.01.02	None (new clause)	Subscription fees may increase each year in line with inflation, up to a maximum rate.	This allows for membership fees to be increased in the years between General Assemblies, if required to meet increased costs. There is no automatic increase: fee rises will only occur when needed and any annual increases will be limited (See 5.01.02.02 below)
None	5.01.02.01	None (new clause)	The maximum rate for individual Members may be set at a different level to the maximum rate for Corporate Members.	This allows the option to set different maximum increases in membership rates for different types of membership.
None	5.01.02.02	None (new clause)	The maximum rate(s) is set by ballot at the General Assembly.	Every four years , Members decide at a General Assembly what the maximum annual increase can be for the next four years, e.g. 3%, 5%.
None	5.01.02.03	None (new clause)	Annual increases in membership fees are decided by the Council	Every year in between a General Assembly, the IGS Council – which is elected by the Members - will decide whether an annual increase is necessary in order to meet the budget set

			as part of the annual budget.	by the Council. The Council may decide not to increase fees at all in any year. If they do decide on an increase, it may be no higher than the maximum set by the previous General Assembly. This is necessary to allow some flexibility in income to manage changes in between General Assemblies, typically due to inflation. The Council will always aim to grow income through increased membership numbers and other sources of revenue, in preference to increasing membership fees.
None	5.01.03	None (new clause)	Changes (other than annual inflation increases), including any discount schemes and rates may be recommended by the Council for approval by ballot at the General Assembly.	This clause is added to make explicit the fact that the General Assembly remains the sole decider of membership fee structures, and rates (as now). As explained above, the sole power of the Council would be limited scope to set inflationary increases in between General Assemblies.
None	5.02	None (new clause)	Subscription - individual members	This is a new heading clause to set out in detail how individual fees will be structured: see 5.02.01 to 5.02.05, below
None	5.02.01	None (new clause)	There will be one “base rate” annual subscription fee for individual members who join via a Chapter.	For every Member who joins a Chapter, a fixed amount of the annual fee they pay to their Chapter is paid to the IGS. The Chapter will normally charge each member an additional fee, which is set by the Chapter. This is no change to existing practice. The current amount is US\$30. This amount is now called the “base rate”, to set the benchmark for any discounted or premium rates to be set. The rules for discounts are set out below.
None	5.02.02	None (new clause)	The same “base rate” applies to individuals	In some countries there is no Chapter. In this case we will still want to admit individuals. These members would join the IGS

			who join in a country where no Chapter exists.	direct. This is current practice. Currently they would pay a premium rate (US\$45). This is considered unfair, as they don't have the option to join a Chapter. This measure may encourage more members in countries without Chapters, and therefore increase the chances of creating new Chapters in those countries.
None	5.02.03	None (new clause)	For individuals who join via a Chapter, a discounted rate may be offered in countries outside the World Bank's list of High Income countries	A discount may be applied to Members in countries that are not classified as "High Income Countries". This is similar to ICID practice. Many countries where we have Chapters, and where the use of geosynthetics is growing are countries with relatively low incomes. This measure allows the possibility to set discounted rates for these countries. New clause 5.01.03 above specifies that these discounted rates are set every four years by Member vote at a General Assembly.
None	5.02.03.01	None (new clause)	Such discounted rates are recommended by the Council for approval by ballot at the General Assembly.	This clause specifies how discounted rates are recommended and decided . The member-elected IGS Council, which includes representatives of each regional committee, recommends the discount rate. The rates can only be decided every four years by a Member vote at a General Assembly. This is consistent with current practice for proposing votes to the Assembly.
None	5.02.04	None (new clause)	Members may choose to join the Chapter of the country where they are based or where they are most active professionally. They may not join a	A number of Members live in one country and work mainly or exclusively in another. Or they may choose to maintain their main professional networks in their country of origin, perhaps for reasons on language, or because they are only temporarily more active/resident in another country. This clause recognises this, while barring individuals from "shopping round" for a lower rate through a Chapter in a country where they have no professional connection. This clause therefore closes an existing loophole.

			Chapter elsewhere simply to pay a lower subscription fee.	
None	5.02.05	None (new clause)	In countries where a member opts not to join the existing Chapter a “non-Chapter base rate” annual subscription fee will apply. This non-Chapter base rate will always be higher than the “base rate” fee for joining via a Chapter.	This is the same as current practice, but now made explicit in the Bylaws. The rationale is that Members are encouraged to join a Chapter wherever one is available. The additional fee is set every four years by a Member vote at a General Assembly.
5.02	5.03	5.02 Payment of subscription	5.03 Payment of subscription	Clause is renumbered due to new clauses inserted before it.
5.02.01	5.03.01	The annual subscription fee shall become due on the thirty first day of January each year unless otherwise decided by the Council	The annual subscription fee is due on the thirty first day of January each year.	Simplification. There is no need in practice for the Council to decide any date other than 31 January.
5.02.02	5.03.02	Any Member whose payment is in arrears may be submitted to penalty charges as established by the Council, or, after due notice, be dismissed for non-payment.	Any Member whose payment is in arrears: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may be submitted to penalty charges as established by the Council • may not take part in membership votes • after due notice may be dismissed for non-payment. 	Creates additional incentive for members to be up to date in their payments by stating only those who are up to date may vote.

5.02.03	5.03.03	Corporate Members are required to pay the subscription fee for their associate Corporate Members.	Corporate Members are required to pay the subscription fee for their associate Corporate Members.	Clause is renumbered due to new clauses inserted before it.
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Proposed Section 5 (“Subscription and Income”) of the IGS Bylaws

As proposed by the IGS Council, for approval by the IGS membership

5.00 SUBSCRIPTION AND INCOME

5.01 Subscription - all memberships

- 5.01.01 Subscription fees shall be determined at each meeting of the General Assembly.
- 5.01.02 Subscription fees may increase each year in line with inflation, up to a maximum rate.
 - 5.01.02.01 The maximum rate for individual Members may be set at a different level to the maximum rate for Corporate Members.
 - 5.01.02.02 The maximum rate(s) is set by ballot at the General Assembly.
 - 5.01.02.03 Annual increases in membership fees are decided by the Council as part of the annual budget.
- 5.01.03 Changes (other than annual inflation increases), including any discount schemes and rates may be recommended by the Council for approval by ballot at the General Assembly.

5.02 Subscription - individual members

- 5.02.01 There will be one “base rate” annual subscription fee for individual members who join via a Chapter.
- 5.02.02 The same “base rate” applies to individuals who join in a country where no Chapter exists.
- 5.02.03 For individuals who join via a Chapter, a discounted rate may be offered in countries outside the World Bank’s list of High Income countries.
 - 5.02.03.01 Such discounted rates are recommended by the Council for approval by ballot at the General Assembly

- 5.02.04 Members may choose to join the Chapter of the country where they are based or where they are most active professionally. They may not join a Chapter elsewhere simply to pay a lower subscription fee.
- 5.02.05 In countries where a member opts not to join the existing Chapter a “non-Chapter base rate” annual subscription fee will apply. This non-Chapter base rate will always be higher than the “base rate” fee for joining via a Chapter.

5.03 Payment of subscription

- 5.03.01 The annual subscription fee is due on the thirty first day of January each year.
- 5.03.02 Any Member whose payment is in arrears:
 - may be submitted to penalty charges as established by the Council
 - may not take part in membership votes
 - after due notice may be dismissed for non-payment.
- 5.03.03 Corporate Members are required to pay the subscription fee for their associate Corporate Members.

Existing Section 5 (“Subscription and Income”) of the IGS Bylaws

5.00 SUBSCRIPTION AND INCOME

5.01 Subscription

- 5.01.01 The annual subscription fees shall be determined at each meeting of the General Assembly. Changes may be recommended by the Council for approval by ballot.
- 5.01.02 An entrance fee can be levied and is not refundable. It cannot exceed a one-year Membership subscription fee.

5.02 Payment of subscription

- 5.02.01 The annual subscription fee shall become due on the thirty first day of January each year unless otherwise decided by the Council.
- 5.02.02 Any Member whose payment is in arrears may be submitted to penalty charges as established by the Council, or, after due notice, be dismissed for non-payment.
- 5.02.03 Corporate Members are required to pay the subscription fee for their associate Corporate Members.