

100 Years of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics

Original

100 Years of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics / Lalli, R; Navarro, J. - In: NATURE REVIEWS PHYSICS. - ISSN 2522-5820. - ELETTRONICO. - 4:(2022), pp. 568-569. [10.1038/s42254-022-00503-w]

Availability:

This version is available at: 11583/2970831 since: 2022-09-06T13:53:39Z

Publisher:

NATURE PORTFOLIO

Published

DOI:10.1038/s42254-022-00503-w

Terms of use:

This article is made available under terms and conditions as specified in the corresponding bibliographic description in the repository

Publisher copyright

Springer postprint/Author's Accepted Manuscript

This version of the article has been accepted for publication, after peer review (when applicable) and is subject to Springer Nature's AM terms of use, but is not the Version of Record and does not reflect post-acceptance improvements, or any corrections. The Version of Record is available online at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s42254-022-00503-w>

(Article begins on next page)

Within this new phase, the IUPAP had to face various political and territorial controversies. Especially troublesome were the two-Germany and the two-China problems. In 1958-59, physical societies from East Germany, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China in Taiwan all formally requested to join the IUPAP. The result of the negotiation within the IUPAP Executive Committee was to accept them all, under the assumption that the term 'national membership' did not imply any political claim. This led the PRC to withdraw its request because it could not accept the official recognition of Taiwan as a member. Only in 1984 did the PRC join again, after the term 'nation' had been totally dropped from the description of membership in the IUPAP statutes.

After the end of the Cold War, the quest for a truly comprehensive Union continued, with an increasing attention to the global challenges, the promotion of membership from developing countries, and an attention to gender balance. Today, it has more than 50 countries as members.

As we tried to show, the relations between political and scientific matters have shaped the function and activities of IUPAP, and these relations depended on the changing international state of affairs. The path of the IUPAP in the one-hundred years of its existence exhibits the transformations of the ideal and practices of scientific internationalism and their impacts on what is now called science diplomacy. If we look at the history of IUPAP from this perspective, we can see how the refoundation of IUPAP after World War II was the result of a learning process of physicists reflecting on the limited internationalism that had hampered its role in the interwar period. This historical process is also shaping how the IUPAP is reacting to the current challenge on the military offensive on Ukraine by Russia, the latter being a long-lasting member of the Union. At the beginning of the conflict, the Executive Council issued the statement: "In our 100th anniversary this year, we note the critically important historical role that IUPAP has always strived to play in bringing physicists together across political divides even during our most difficult years in the past. IUPAP continues to embrace and promote scientific collaboration across the world as a driver for peace."^[2] This reflects in positions that are significantly different from those of other international scientific organizations. On the one hand, Ukraine has been accepted as a new member of the IUPAP starting from the next general assembly this year. On the other, there are efforts not to break with Russia. The recent IUPAP resolution regarding international conferences in this time states, in fact, that "[i]t will be inappropriate for IUPAP to bar any scientist, especially from a member nation, from any scientific activity"^[3] as long as her of his work does not contribute to weapon capabilities. This attempt to bring Ukraine and Russia under the same organization is in line with the historical role IUPAP had designed for itself after World War II and that was already implemented during the Cold War.

¹ <https://doi.org/10.1038/s415XX-XXX-XXXX-X>

#! >(+ (0,06(!*F!(&O!76(O'6+(5%6+C!865%6!G!9=O!+6D!)HHC5OD!9&F:5!1%6!(&O!
 O:06(!%11="56!156!8J'+56!0KLL5=H+H#%3NLMH
 1%6(O6(L=HC%+D:L.O.LO3L789)9P8J'+56OPD#PDS
 3# 789)9!O,%C=(5%6!O!+'D56!156(O'6+(5%6+C!1%6GO'O610!56!(&5:!(5,O!
 &((H:KLL5=H+H#%3NLMH(O6(L=HC%+D:L.O.LO3L789)9P1%6GO'O610:#HDG

Competing interests

Q&O!+=(&10O1C+!6%11%,HO(56!156(O'D:(#

Publisher's note

>H'56!O!R+(=O!O,+56!6O=(+'C!M5(&!O!+'D!(%!S='5:D51(5%6+C!1C+5,;56!H=*C5;&OD!
 ,+H: !+6D!56:(5(=(5%6+C!+GG5C5+(5%6:

¹Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany.

²University of the Basque Country and Ikerbasque, Bilbao, Spain

*e-mail: rlalli@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s415XX-XXX-XXXX-X>

Figure 1. William Bragg, first President of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics (left), and Henri Abraham, first General Secretary (right). Left: Pictorial Press Ltd/Alamy Stock Photo, Right: Volgi archive/Alamy Stock Photo