

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL  
FEDERATION TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN OUTER  
SPACE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS CONSTITUTION

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Abstract

The IAF, founded several years before the first man-made object was launched into orbit around the Earth, was conceived as an association of national astronautical societies. Its first Constitution, adopted in 1952, enabled the development of its activities and its growth. However, the changing conditions in the world, reflected in the life of the Federation, necessitated its further shaping. This was done by adoption of a new Constitution in 1961 which improved the legal basis of the Federation in many respects. The constitutional development of the IAF then continued by adoption of several Amendments /in 1968, 1974, 1982, 1986, and 1990/. The 1961 Constitution and its Amendments are analyzed in the article in greater detail. During the whole period of its validity, the 1961 Constitution has proven its capability to facilitate the strengthening of the Federation. On the

basis of all its constitutional documents, the IAF has become a significant forum of international space affairs, open to all national and international organizations and institutions which are ready to cooperate for attaining the purposes of the Federation.

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Introduction

The International Astronautical Federation /IAF/ was established in 1951 at the International Astronautical Congress in London, though the first Congress of this kind had been already held in Paris, 1950. However, the basic document of the IAF - its Constitution - could not be finalized in London, though its draft had been circulated among the participating societies prior to the Congress. As explained by Dr. Leslie R. Shepherd, who has been significantly involved in the IAF activities since the very beginning, "while the draft prepared by the British Interplanetary Society met with broad approval of the proposed articles, there were points of disagreement of which the most important was the question of voting rights".<sup>1/</sup> The delegates of the societies represented at the London

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Congress were not able to resolve these issues and therefore, the approval of the first IAF Constitution was deferred to the next Congress. In spite of this fact, the IAF was formally established on 4 September 1951 when its first President /Dr. Eugen Sänger of Germany/ and two Vice-Presidents /Dr. G. Loeser of the Gesellschaft für Weltraumforschung, Stuttgart Group, and Andrew G. Haley of the American Rocket Society/ were elected. Ten societies present at the plenary meetings of the London Congress became founding members of the IAF and their representatives formed the first governing body of the Federation - its Council.

Thus the adoption of the IAF Constitution became the most important point on the agenda of the Third International Astronautical Congress, which was already held under the auspices of the IAF in Stuttgart, 1952. Still in London, two Vice-Presidents of the Federation had been requested to prepare the final draft, which was then submitted for the decision of the Council in Stuttgart.<sup>2/</sup> And this draft was adopted as the first IAF Constitution which was dated September 7, 1952.

Though the main part of this paper shall be devoted to the origin, adoption and further development of the second IAF Constitution which was adopted in 1961, it will be also useful to characterize the first IAF Constitution, in order to see the points in which the second Constitution was a continuation of the first one, and the points in which both these basic documents of the Federation differed.

### Characteristics of the 1952 Constitution

According to Article 9 of the 1952 Constitution,<sup>3/</sup> the IAF was conceived as "an association of those

astronautical societies which share the common objectives of Art.1 - 7 and are duly registered according to the laws of their countries". Among the objectives of the Federation, which were spelled out in the first section of the Constitution, it should be recalled that the IAF should exist "to promote and stimulate the achievement of space-flight as a peaceful project", and that the IAF "shall have as an objective the foundation and administration of an international astronautical research institute, charged with the task of achieving space-flight for non-military purposes". While the first aim has remained one of the cornerstones of the IAF during its whole lifetime, it became obvious before the first decade of its existence was over that the foundation of an IAF research institute had been rather a dream of the enthusiastic founders of the Federation which had to be redrafted in a more realistic way.<sup>4/</sup>

The membership in the IAF consisted of two classes: one society per nation, as duly elected in accordance with the Constitution by the Council, should become a Voting Member, while another applicant or applicants from the same nation might become Non-Voting Members which could participate in all activities of the Federation, attend the IAF meetings and engage in all discussions in plenary sessions, but enjoying the right to vote on specific issues on receiving the permission of the Council. In both classes, membership was restricted to those national societies which had not less than 25 current members. This dichotomy of membership, as well as the rather strict requirement concerning the minimum size of internal membership of each applicant, remained a constant element of the IAF building for a long time, which was replaced by a new approach only during the present period of its existence.

The original structure of the IAF government was simple. The Council, which was formed by one delegate of each Voting Member society, was declared in Art.21 as "the supreme body of the IAF". Its powers and functions included election of officers and members of the Federation, decisions concerning the dates and venues of plenary meetings, adoption of bye-laws and amendments to the Constitution, appointment of a Finance and other Committees, approval of the budget and deciding on "Point Contribution System" as recommended by the Finance Committee, on the basis of which the IAF Member societies should provide the financial resources for the Federation.<sup>2/</sup>

While the Council was declared as "the supreme body of the IAF" and really acted as an organ, the officers of the Federation /in the 1952 Constitution called "Officials"/ were rather considered as individuals with which were charged specific functions. They consisted of the President, two Vice-Presidents and the Secretary. One of the vice-presidential posts was reserved for a delegate of that Member society, which had to be responsible for the next international IAF meeting. A rather independent position of the Vice-Presidents in relation to the IAF President was evident from a peculiar provision of Art.29; according to it, the Vice-Presidents, though responsible to the President, "if acting in accordance with the wishes of the Council as expressed by vote, they shall have the right to appoint any advisory committees necessary to transact IAF affairs, and co-opt individuals /not necessarily members of Member societies/ to serve on these committees".

The 1952 Constitution provided that the Secretary of the Federation should be a resident of Switzerland. At that time, such a provision was probably considered as a necessary consequence of Art.8 of

the Constitution, according to which the legal domicile of the IAF was established at Baden, Switzerland, and the applicable law was to be the Swiss law. At the same time, the functions of the Secretary, as spelled out in Art.32, were very wide, giving him full control over the activities of the Federation. He had to be responsible for the contact between the Officers, the Council and the Member societies. He was also in charge of the archives, the library and the finance. He had to attend to all secretarial work in the name of the Officers and was entitled "to engage such auxiliary personnel which is deemed necessary to cope with his task". He was also made responsible for the annual reports and statements.

In comparison with the positions of the Vice-Presidents and the Secretary, the powers and functions of the IAF President remained described in a rather general manner. The IAF President was entitled, "where possible", to take chair at all meetings of the Federation. He was also empowered to approve all public statements issued on behalf of the IAF. And according to a provision of Art.31, the President was not entitled "to act as voting delegate for some Voting Member society, except in the event of a deadlock".

Nevertheless, though not so described in the language of the 1952 Constitution, "the Officials" of the Federation represented, to a certain extent, another body of the Federation, for in Art.33, a number of powers and functions were entrusted to them jointly. Moreover, the Officers were empowered "to deal with any other affairs under the authority of the IAF not expressly reserved to the Council". Thus room for further development towards establishing another organ in the system of the IAF government was left open and the conditions

for filling this gap at a later stage were already created in the 1952 Constitution.

A strong position was reserved in the 1952 Constitution for the Finance Committee. Though in principle a subsidiary organ of the Council, which was empowered to appoint its members, the composition and the powers and functions of this Committee did not depend on the decision of the supreme body of the Federation, but were spelled out directly in the Constitution. Surprising was also the fact that the members of the Finance Committee remained eligible for re-election immediately and without any limitation. The Finance Committee consisted of five members including one Officer of the Federation; it was a relatively large body, if we take into account the then size of the Federation and the total amount of its annual budgets during the first decade of its existence. 6/

Part VII of the 1952 Constitution brought the rules of Voting Procedure. All elections and decisions on actions to be taken on behalf of the IAF were to be made either by "voting, personally or by proxy, at one of the periodic meetings of the IAF", or by mail. However, the rule for establishing the majority, as provided in Art.38, remained rather foggy. 7/

Finally, it should be recalled under the scope of this characteristics that while the 1952 Constitution should enter into force "as soon as it has received the approval of the IAF plenary meeting", Art.48 made any further amendments to this Constitution difficult by requesting for this purpose "the approval of a two-thirds majority of the voting Member societies represented at the plenary meeting".

### Changing Conditions in the World and Their Reflection in the IAF

The IAF was founded several years before the first man-made object was launched into orbit around the Earth. Its founders were still mostly viewed as enthusiasts, or even overenthusiasts, though a number of outstanding experts and enlightened people participated in the IAF activities since the very beginning. The general public did not have any idea about the prospects of space flights and the possible benefits which might be derived from outer space for the humanity. Even amongst renowned scientists, doubts and even contempt about astronomical "dreams" prevailed.

However, the situation was changing during the second half of the 1950s. The vast programme of international cooperation - the International Geophysical Year /IGY/ which was scheduled for 1957-1958 - also included the exploration of outer space by means of artificial Earth satellites and the intentions to launch such satellites were announced by two future "space powers". The successful launching of the first Sputnik on October 4, 1957 had a strong impact on the way of thinking of many people and also on the international community as a whole. All of a sudden, outer space, rocket technology, space research and space flights, but also space arms, became widely discussed topics.

At the international level, several significant results were achieved, some of them in different but closely related areas. In 1958, the first codification of the law of the sea was finalized and adopted at the First United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in Geneva. Though not

without gaps and problems, this codification evidenced the growing concern of nations with the order and future of the world oceans and seas. In 1959, the Antarctic Treaty was successfully negotiated and concluded at the Washington Conference. This Treaty established a legal régime for an unexplored area of our planet around the South Pole, which was based on the recognition "that Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes" and the conviction "that the establishment of a firm foundation for the continuation and development of such cooperation on the basis of freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica as applied during the International Geophysical Year accords with the interests of science and the progress of all mankind".<sup>8/</sup>

However, a significant step forward to the development of international cooperation was made also in the area of outer space affairs. In 1958, the United Nations General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space which was requested to report to the Assembly, inter alia, on the activities and resources of the United Nations, of the specialized agencies and of other international bodies relating to the peaceful uses of outer space, on future organizational arrangements to facilitate international cooperation in this field within the framework of the United Nations, and also on the nature of legal problems which might arise in carrying out programmes to explore outer space.<sup>9/</sup> One year later, a permanent body, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /COPUOS/ with an extended membership was established by the General Assembly.<sup>10/</sup> This body became a focal point of international cooperation relating to outer space, which has been developing at inter-governmental level until now.

These events and changes in the approach to space affairs in the world also reflected in the life of the IAF which, step-by-step, was growing and increasing its significance in outer space matters. First of all, the Federation was expanding its membership basis. Originally an association of a handful of societies from Western Europe, United States and Argentina, the IAF recruited during the second half of 1950s new Members in Eastern Europe and some other countries.<sup>11/</sup> The Federation thus included Member societies from almost all Europe and from two other continents /America and Asia/.

Moreover, the substantive work of the Federation was also strengthened. This became evident during the annual Astronautical Congresses, which remained the main forum for activities of the Federation. The number and value of papers presented at these meetings was increasing almost each year. During the last years of the 1950s, the IAF Congresses offered an opportunity for presentation of the results of actual space flights, and for outlining some forthcoming and more distant projects.

Finally, under the scope of the IAF, which by its Congresses offered a suitable meeting place for an ever growing number of space experts - scientists, engineers, doctors and lawyers -, two new initiatives emerged which in a couple of years led to the birth of two permanent space institutions. Starting in 1957, an idea of creating a learned society was advanced, with individual members who have distinguished themselves in one of the fields of astronautics or one of the branches of all sciences of fundamental importance for the exploration of space. During the following couple of years, this idea developed into a full project which was implemented at the 1959 Congress

in London and the 1960 Congress in Stockholm. In 1960, the International Academy of Astronautics headed by Theodor von Kármán as its Director /later on President/, consisting of three Sections, adopted its Statutes, held its first session and started its activities.<sup>12/</sup>

In addition to space science and technology, which represented the center of gravity of International Astronautical Congresses, the IAF became one of the international non-governmental organizations which drew attention to legal aspects of space activities. While the first papers on these aspects had already been presented at Astronautical Congresses shortly after the foundation of the Federation, the First Colloquium on the Law of Outer Space was organized in the Hague under the scope of the 1958 Congress. Since then, the Space Law Colloquia became regular parts of the Astronautical Congresses. In 1959, at the IAF Congress in London, it was decided to establish a permanent institute of the IAF dealing with legal issues of space activities, and in 1960, at the Congress in Stockholm, the IAF International Institute of Space Law, consisting of individuals dedicated to the development of this new legal field, was set up.<sup>13/</sup>

#### Preparations for and Adoption of a New Constitution

Under these circumstances, the need for further shaping of the IAF itself by an improvement of its constitutional basis became obvious. The first steps in this direction were still made by a number of partial amendments to the 1952 Constitution. Thus already at the 1956 Congress in Rome, Art.24 was amended by increasing the number of Vice-Presidents from two to five. At the same time, however, it was decided that no Officers, other than

the Secretary, might succeed themselves, except by a unanimous vote for one year only. In addition, a Nominating Committee, consisting of five Members of the Council and elected by the Council, was provided for and asked to nominate candidates for Officers of the Federation. Later on, it was decided to establish the office of General Counsel and at the 1960 Congress in Stockholm, Andrew G. Haley, former President of the IAF, a great promoter of international cooperation in astronautics and at the same time a practicing lawyer, was unanimously elected to this office. Moreover, the idea of establishing a permanent secretariat of the Federation and moving its seat to Paris, was under consideration for several years and such a decision was finally adopted at the 1959 Congress in London. Last but not least, semiannual meetings of the enlarged group of the IAF Officers, together with the heads of the newly established permanent institutions /IAA and IISL/, to be held between the annual Astronautical Congresses mostly in Paris, emerged via facti, paving the way for a later legalization of this body in a new Constitution.

On the other hand, a certain lack of respect to some constitutional rules and amendments thereto, even those recently adopted, occurred in the IAF Council. In particular, contrary to the 1956 Amendment, some Vice-Presidents were remaining in office for several consecutive terms, and the requirement of unanimity for the re-election of the President was also omitted.

All these and other factors gave birth to the idea of a complete revision of the IAF Constitution that would better correspond to the new external and internal conditions in which the Federation should further develop. This idea, completed by the suggestion to establish an ad hoc committee for this purpose,

was raised for the first time by the British Interplanetary Society at the 1957 Congress in Barcelona and was approved there. But in 1958 in Amsterdam, neither any draft of a new Constitution was presented, nor was this topic, as such, discussed.<sup>14/</sup> Finally in London, the newly elected General Counsel /A.G. Haley/ was requested to have a complete draft Constitution ready for consideration at a meeting of the Officers of the Federation to be held in Paris in the spring of 1960. This draft was really prepared and submitted to that meeting and discussed there. The General Counsel then adjusted the draft on the basis of the comments made and circulated the revised version on 18 May to all Officers and Member societies. The then IAF President, Academician Leonid I. Sedov of the USSR, convoked a further meeting, the purpose of which was not only the finalization of the new Constitution but also the consideration of the progress in founding of the IAA. This meeting was held in Heidelberg towards the end of May 1960.

At the Heidelberg meeting, a number of additional comments were presented and some new proposals were raised. As reported later by A.G. Haley, "the so-called 'Haley Draft' of April 1960 was wholly unacceptable to the USSR Society and the members of the Presidium gathered in Heidelberg proceeded to frame the 'Revised Draft of Heidelberg Meeting, May 26, 1960'".<sup>15/</sup> The main changes made concerned the creation of a Bureau that would handle the IAF business between the annual sessions of the Council; this body should always include an Officer from both space powers, the USSR and the USA. Moreover, no actions would be taken without the affirmative consent of the Voting Societies from the USSR and the USA. Finally, some other changes were also made in the names of the bodies of the IAF and their mutual relations.

When the Heidelberg text of the draft Constitution was presented to the plenary meeting of the Council, which was held during the XIth International Astronautical Congress in Stockholm, August 1960, it met with considerable criticism. In particular, the allocation of permanent posts to both space powers and the requirement of their consent that was compared to a right of veto, were strongly opposed. Under these circumstances, upon the advice of the General Counsel, the IAF President proposed that a new Ad Hoc Committee should be appointed to discuss the controversial points and to produce the final draft. The composition of this Committee, as approved by the Council, was as follows: V. Kopal - Czechoslovakia /Chairman/; E. Brun - France; A.G. Haley and W. Pickering - USA; L.I. Sedov - USSR; and L. R. Shepherd - United Kingdom. At the same time, it was decided that the first session of what had been already provided for in the draft Constitution as "IAF Bureau" should be held in Paris in the spring 1961.

On the basis of a correspondence with the members of the new Committee, its Chairman revised the Heidelberg draft and prepared the text for the meeting of the Committee, which was to be held just before the meeting of the Bureau convened in Paris for the first week of March 1961. When sitting in Paris, the Committee considered the draft article by article in two readings.<sup>16/</sup> The Committee succeeded in resolving all issues and reached a full agreement on the final draft of a new Constitution.<sup>17/</sup> This draft was then approved by the Bureau which recommended to submit it to the plenary session of the IAF Council at the 1961 Congress to be held in Washington, D.C.

The draft of the new Constitution was sent to all Members of the IAF well before the Washington

Congress and received no adverse comments. The IAF Council /according to the draft Constitution to be called "General Assembly"/ included the report on the new Constitution in its agenda as item 5 of its first plenary session held on 1 October 1961, where the draft Constitution, following the motion of the delegates of the British Interplanetary Society and the Polish Astronautical Society, was unanimously approved. 18/

### Analysis of the 1961 Constitution

#### /a/ Main Characteristics

The new Constitution of the IAF as adopted in 1961 19/ was characterized by the following endeavours:

1. To point out in precise terms the purposes of the Federation, which would correspond to the expected role of an international non-governmental space organization and the actual practice of the IAF as it emerged during the first decade of its existence;

2. To establish clear and firm rules for the membership of the IAF and its further growth;

3. To shape the internal structure of the Federation by dividing the powers and functions between two governing bodies, the General Assembly and the Bureau, and by ensuring their mutual balance and cooperation.

4. To provide the ways of decision-making in both governing bodies so that they would correspond to their compositions and functions, in order to ensure the effectiveness of their proceedings and to enable the development and strengthening of international cooperation in astronautics.

5. To ensure the continuity of the efforts of the IAF by fur-

ther developing the already established legal basis of the Federation and by improving its juridical level.

#### /b/ Purposes of the Federation

First of all, in Art.1 of the 1961 Constitution, the International Astronautical Federation was clearly characterized as "an international non-governmental scientific non-profit organization". In Art.2, the declaration of its purposes started with the aim "to foster the development of astronautics for peaceful purposes". All purposes of the Federation were spelled out in a realistic manner. Thus under para. /d/, the IAF had "to encourage participation in astronautical research or other relevant projects by international and national research institutions, universities, commercial firms and individual experts". Under para. /d/, the original vision of the foundation and administration of an international astronautical research institute, charged with the task of achieving space-flight for non-military purposes /which was already limited to some extent by one of the above-mentioned amendments to the 1952 Constitution/, was replaced by an endeavour "to create and foster as activities of the Federation academies, institutes and commissions dedicated to continuing research in, and the fostering of, all aspects of the natural and social sciences relating to astronautics and the peaceful use of outer space". In accordance with the well established practice, the IAF had "to convoke and organize with support of its respective academies, institutes and commissions international astronautical congresses, symposia, colloquia and other scientific meetings /para./f//. Finally, an important provision concerning the cooperation with other international and national, govern-



mental and non-governmental organizations and institutions on all aspects of the natural, engineering and social sciences related to astronautics and the peaceful uses of outer space, was added to the enumeration of the purposes of the IAF.

In the question of legal domicile and applicable law, no essential change was made in the 1961 Constitution. The IAF remained to be registered in Switzerland, but the legal domicile was transferred from Baden to Geneva.

### /c/ Membership

Neither the chapter dealing with membership provided any major changes. The membership basis, however, was enlarged by substituting the phrase "an association of those organizations and bodies, duly organized under the laws of their country of origin" for the old formula "an association of astronautical societies", because the latter formula had become narrow. In specific terms, the 1961 Constitution envisaged three classes of Members: Voting Members, Non-Voting Members, and Institution Members, anyone of them being entitled to participate in all activities of the Federation and receive its services. While only one Member from any one nation might be a Voting Member of the Federation entitled to vote on all matters brought before the General Assembly, further organizations from the same nation might be admitted as Non-Voting Members, which might attend the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and participate in its discussions, but might vote only with the approval of three fourths of the Voting Members present in the General Assembly on a specific issue. Unlike the Non-Voting Members, the newly provided class of Institution Members, which should include according to Art. 8 "universities, scientific or technical institutes

and other similar bodies, or their parts", might only attend the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and participate in the discussions on a specific issue "upon the invitation of the General Assembly, expressed by the majority of the Voting Members present".

Furthermore, the procedure for admission of new Members and the role of the Bureau, which was empowered to determine the applicant's eligibility for a certain class of membership, and to recommend to the General Assembly, which had to elect by a majority vote of the Voting Members present at the General Assembly meeting, was determined. The required internal membership of applicants, and also that of the Members already admitted, remained twenty-five individual members. This requirement, however, was softened during the later practice of the IAF. A number of other rules dealt with the possibilities of expulsion of Members and withdrawal from membership, as well as extinction of membership and its succession, and changes of their status.

### /d/ The General Assembly

The juridical hard core of the new Constitution was enshrined in Chapters IV, V and VI dealing respectively with the General Assembly, Officers and The Bureau. Just in these parts of the Constitution, a successful attempt at resolving the issues which had been most debated prior to its adoption was effected.

The wider body of the Federation, which was composed of the delegates of all Voting Members, and the plenary meeting of which one delegate of each Non-Voting and Institution Member might also attend, was now called "General Assembly" /instead of the former "Council"/. The General Assembly remained to be described as "the supreme govern-

ing body of the Federation". It was entrusted: to decide on all membership affairs; to approve the reports and other documents to be submitted by the Bureau, including estimates of the budget and the disbursement of funds by the Bureau; to appoint committees necessary for the performance of its functions; to elect the Officers of the Federation; to create such academies, institutes, and commissions as would be deemed necessary to carry out the work of the Federation and to approve their statutes; and to adopt such by-laws and rules as it might deem appropriate. The enumeration of the powers and functions of the General Assembly, however, was left open, since it preserved, as the supreme body of the Federation, a residual power "to exercise such other powers and functions, which are not reserved by this Constitution to another organ of the Federation, as might be necessary or proper to carry out purposes of the Federation". This provision was one of the essential elements for establishing a fair balance between the powers and functions of the General Assembly and those of the newly established Bureau.

An obvious improvement, in comparison with the 1952 Constitution, was reached by providing for a quorum and majority necessary for valid decisions of the General Assembly. According to Art. 21, a voting quorum should always consist of the majority of all Voting Members of the Federation. And unless otherwise specified in the Constitution, a majority of the Voting Members present at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly was required to pass any action of this organ. Similarly, in the specific cases of the participation of Non-Voting Members in the decision-making, a majority of the total number of Voting and Non-Voting Members present was required to pass any action. Articles 22 and 23 provided for voting by proxy and voting by mail.

## /e/ Officers

Chapter V dealt with the position of Officers of the Federation, distinguishing two categories thereof: Elective Officers and Appointive Officers. In Art. 24, the President and four Vice-Presidents were designated as Elective Officers, whereas the General Counsel, the Honorary Secretary and the Executive Secretary belonged to the category of Appointive Officers.

Article 25 then enshrined the solution of one of the most debated issues. This provision stated first that no person might be an Elective Officer of the IAF who was not a representative of a Voting Member of the Federation. This provision was followed by a formula which surmounted the dispute between the proponents and opponents of permanent seats for the representatives of Voting Members from both space powers. The agreed formula read as follows: "In the election of Officers due regard shall be specifically paid to candidates of Members from those countries where astronautics has reached the high degree of development and to the necessity of equitable geographical distribution". It was a compromise which spelled out two criteria for the selection of candidates. One criterion took into account the difference between the contributions to the development of space activities by individual countries, thus ensuring preferences to the Voting Members from the spatially most advanced nations. This was expressed, however, not by designation of specific countries, but in general terms which enabled to apply this special regard not only to the then two space powers, but in the future also to other emerging space-faring nations. The second criterion, the necessity of an equitable geographical distribution, was a general principle which was applied in the

statutes of many international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental. This criterion had to balance the weight of the former one, thus enabling candidates from smaller countries, or countries less advanced in space activities, to compete with those from the space-faring nations. Of course, the "equitable geographical distribution" had to be understood in the specific framework of the IAF membership which has not been expanded to include all the countries. In practice of the IAF elections, these two criteria permitted, though not without certain difficulties, to establish balanced lists of candidates and to choose efficient Elective Officers.

In subsequent provisions of Chapter V, the posts of individual Officers were defined. In Art. 27, in the description of duties of the President, it was specifically stated that as "the chief executive officer of the Federation", he might succeed himself only once. Moreover, the President or his deputy in this function should not act in the General Assembly as a delegate of any Member and should vote in the General Assembly only in case of a tie. In Art. 28, the Vice-Presidents were made responsible to the President and deputize for him. The 1961 Constitution did not include any provision concerning the division of work between the four Vice-Presidents; this concern was left open to practice which finally found a solution in the form of a supplementary document that was adopted recently. However, Art. 28 included an important provision in the event of resignation of the President before the end of his term. In this case, the remaining members of the Bureau should select one of the Vice-Presidents to serve as President until the next election. This particular provision was then applied by analogy in the event

of the death of the President. 20/

The definitions of the positions of Appointive Officers represented another innovation of the 1961 Constitution. All of them had to be appointed by the IAF Bureau /only the appointment of the General Counsel was still subject to the confirmation by the General Assembly/, and they should serve until they would resign or would be replaced. In addition to a wide definition of the function of the General Counsel, 21/ and to that of the Honorary Secretary /this post was preserved also in the new Constitution for a Swiss citizen/, the function of the Executive Secretary of the Federation was established in connection with the establishment of the permanent headquarters of the IAF in Paris. 22/

#### /f/ The Bureau

The third of these important parts of the new Constitution was Chapter VI, which put on a firm foundation the Bureau as another body of the Federation and defined its powers and functions.

According to the original version of Art. 32, the Bureau was composed of the Elective Officers of the Federation /i.e. the President and the Vice-Presidents/, the General Counsel, and the last retired President of the Federation as voting members. Moreover, the Directors of Academies and Institutes of the Federation /IAA and IISL/, and the Chairmen of its Commissions, should be non-voting members of the Bureau. According to the already existing practice, the Bureau should meet at such time and places as would be determined by the majority of its members - in fact it has been always in the spring at the headquarters of the Federation in Paris, and then during the Astronautical Congresses at their different venues. Precise rules were provided

in the new Constitution for the quorum at the Bureau meetings: four voting members constituted a quorum. The required minimum presence was set relatively low, but this provision was necessary due to the risk of absence of one or more Officers which would prevent the Bureau to act.

Art.32 dealing with decisions of the Bureau was the result of another significant compromise. The adopted formula was inspired by Article 27 of the United Nations Charter to the extent that it differentiated between questions of procedure, in which decisions should be taken by a majority of the voting members of the Bureau present at the meeting, and other than procedural questions, in which decisions should be made with unanimity of all voting members of the Bureau present at the meeting. Thus the idea of a privileged position of some of the voting members of the Bureau, which appeared in the Heidelberg draft of the Constitution but met with opposition of non-privileged Member societies of the IAF, was rejected and equality of all voting members of the Bureau maintained. In fact, the adopted formula of "generally agreed decisions" was the first form of the principle of consensus which was later also introduced as the main method of decision-making in the IAF General Assembly.<sup>23</sup>

As the IAF General Assembly, the Bureau, too, was permitted to vote by mail, if necessary and if so decided by the President, under analogous terms as provided for regular decisions at the plenary meeting.

Under Art.35, the administrative and recommendatory power was entrusted to the Bureau with regard to all membership affairs, the purpose of which was to prepare and facilitate the decisions of the General Assembly in this respect. Furthermore, the Bureau was requested

to recommend and supervise the arrangements for the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and for congresses, symposia, colloquia and other meetings of the Federation.

In para. /f/ of Art.35, another key provision governing the mutual relations between both main bodies of the IAF was enshrined. Pursuant to Art.18 the General Assembly was designated as the supreme governing body of the Federation which, in addition to a number of responsibilities, was empowered to exercise all other functions which were not reserved by the Constitution to another organ of the Federation. The Bureau from its part was requested in para./f/ of Art.35 "to prepare and submit an agenda of the matters to be considered at the plenary meetings of the General Assembly". The managing role of the Bureau was then made particularly evident in the second sentence of this para., according to which "all matters which are to be decided by the General Assembly shall be considered in advance by the Bureau". This provision, however stopped short of any decisive position of the Bureau, for "consideration by the Bureau", though it may lead to presenting recommendations to the General Assembly, does not mean that the latter body could not make its own conclusions that would differ from the opinion of the Bureau.

With regard to the establishment of the Bureau, the role of the Finance Committee, as provided in the 1952 Constitution, became superfluous, and its duties were taken over by the Bureau itself. The Finance Committee, however, remained one of the administrative committees of the Federation.

Finally, the Bureau was also empowered to appoint "interim committees" to discharge tasks arising from the last plenary meetings of the General Assembly and to per-

form such additional duties as might be directed by the General Assembly.

### /g/ Other Provisions

The remaining articles /Chapters VII to IX/ included a number of formal provisions regarding procedure of dissolution of the Federation, winding up of its affairs and amendments to the Constitution. In Art.38, it was provided that any amendments to this Constitution should be made with the approval of two-thirds of the Voting Members and, unless otherwise provided therein, should take effect immediately upon such approval. This rather general rule allowed to decide on amendments either at a plenary meeting of a General Assembly, or by mail. In practice, all subsequent amendments were considered in advance in the Bureau, recommended by the Bureau to the General Assembly and finally adopted at the plenary meetings of the supreme governing body.

The last provision of the 1961 Constitution dealt with the official languages of the IAF. Unlike the 1952 Constitution which declared only "the English version" as "the authoritative text of the interpretation of this Constitution", the 1961 Constitution augmented the official languages to four /English, French, German and Russian/. In one of the later Amendments, the Spanish language was added to the official languages of the Federation.

### Amendments to the 1961 Constitution

#### /a/ The 1968 Amendments

While in 1963, 1964, 1966 and 1967 a number of minor amendments to the 1961 Constitution were adopted, <sup>24</sup> a more substantive change was effected in 1968 by enabling to widen the membership basis of the

IAF which became a major concern of the Federation at that time. The three classes of Members inserted in the 1961 Constitution corresponded to the situation which existed around 1950. Let it be recalled that at that time the Federation was conceived as an association of national societies and bodies which would normally become Voting Members. Besides, classes of Non-Voting Members and Institution-Members were provided, but they were considered more or less as secondary. There was no question of membership of international space organizations or agencies, which did not exist at all or were just in their beginning.

Since then the situation has changed. Besides astronomical societies, which in some countries were still composed mostly of promoters and enthusiasts, national space agencies of different types were emerging. Furthermore, some international organizations were founded which had to join the efforts of a number of countries or enable a participation of smaller countries in programmes of space powers. A number of such bodies, though governmental by their nature, demonstrated their interest in the development of international scientific cooperation and the exchange of information at a non-governmental level. For these reasons, they were seeking a direct association with the IAF.

In order to meet these attempts, the Federation, acting under the leadership of the then President Luigi Napolitano who initiated these changes, decided to open the way to admission of all types of national organizations, bodies and institutions to become Members of the Federation, provided that they shared the purposes of the IAF and recognized its principles; and to open the Federation for association with international space organizations

and bodies, whose goals were consistent with the purposes of the Federation. At the same time, an equal position of all Members as to their participation in activities of the Federation, attendance at the IAF General Assembly, and moreover now, opportunities to designate candidates for the election as IAF Officers, was guaranteed. On the other hand, the principle of reserving the right to vote in the General Assembly to only one Member for each nation was preserved. Finally, in accordance with current practice, a category of Observers was introduced in addition to Members, which was destined especially for those national and international organizations, whose participation in the IAF would be welcomed.<sup>25/</sup>

#### /b/ The 1974 Amendments

At the plenary meetings of the IAF General Assembly held in Vienna, 1972, the members of the then Committee on Nominations expressed in their report a number of ideas concerning the expansion of the Bureau and procedures to be followed in selecting candidates for President and other Elective Officers of the Bureau. While some of these suggestions did not require constitutional changes, an ad hoc group, established by the Bureau in 1973 and headed by Dr. M. Barrère /France/ recommended to increase the number of Vice-Presidents of the IAF to five and, moreover, to establish an office of Treasurer. Due to this increase in the number of Elective Officers, the presence at a meeting or written answers of voting members of the Bureau /quorum/ was also raised from four to five.<sup>26/</sup> These Amendments were adopted at the plenary session of the General Assembly at Amsterdam, 1974. At the same time, a set of principles to govern the procedure of nominations of Elective Officers were recommen-

ded by the Bureau and approved by the General Assembly.

#### /c/ The 1982 Amendments

In 1982, an attempt at introducing more substantive changes in the life of the Federation, inspired by the then President Luboš Peřek /Czechoslovakia/, was developed. The substance of these changes tended to adoption of a biennial frequency in holding plenary meetings of the IAF General Assembly, which was projected in a number of provisions concerning the election of Officers and the preparatory work for the meetings of the General Assembly. As emphasized by the Bureau, this set of Amendments should not have any immediate effect on the frequency of the IAF Congresses, this problem to be settled separately. However, the adoption of these Amendments would permit the Federation to adjust its functioning to such a transition in the future.

This attempt, however, failed when the majority of Members of the Federation, after controversial discussions on this topic at the plenary meetings of the General Assembly first in Rome /1981/ and then in Paris /1982/, felt that the annual frequency of the IAF Congresses, and consequently the same frequency of the General Assembly meetings, were essential for the existence of the Federation.<sup>27/</sup>

On the other hand, another initiative for a major Amendment to the IAF Constitution was received favourably by the General Assembly. The 1968 Amendments already permitted the Federation to widen its membership basis by admitting different bodies, both national and international, which played an active role in furthering and performing space exploration. They also entitled any Member to participate in all activities of the Federation and

in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly. These Amendments, however, did not give all Members an adequate basis for their participation in decision-making, in order to preserve a certain balance in the geographical distribution of votes amongst the participating countries. Therefore, the original concept of one Voting-Member only for each country - a widespread principle applied in most of the existing international organizations - remained one of the fundamental features of the IAF structure.

In 1982, the reason for maintaining this balance was still valid. Nevertheless, it was quite possible to strengthen the opportunity for all Members of the IAF other than Voting Members to influence the decision-making by introducing the general agreement of all Members represented at a given meeting as a regular method of deciding on any matters concerning activities of the Federation. This method /generally known at that time as the principle of consensus/ became usual in a growing number of international organizations and bodies, both intergovernmental and non-governmental. Particularly, it has been successfully applied in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space /COPUOS/ and both its Subcommittees. In fact, this method was via facti also introduced into use of the Federation and its different organs, particularly in the work of the International Programme Committees of the IAF Congresses.

On the basis of these considerations, Art.5, para./a/ dealing with Rights of Members, was supplemented by a provision according to which any Member of the Federation, in addition to existing rights, was also entitled "to take part in endeavours to reach decisions on any matters concerning ac-

tivities of the Federation by general agreement". The necessity of deciding by vote has now been limited to some specific categories of questions or to such situations in which the vote would remain indispensable, i.e. when all endeavours to reach a general agreement would be exhausted. Then and only then, the Voting Members, representing all countries participating in the Federation on the basis of their equality, would have to decide the given question by vote. In subsequent practice, such cases have become more and more exceptional and the method of consensus expanded even to those areas which have still remained reserved for deciding by vote. 28/

A number of other Amendments were also approved by the IAF General Assembly in 1982. According to a newly adopted para./b/ of Art.28, one of the Vice-Presidents, as designated by the Bureau, was entrusted to be in charge of financial matters of the Federation instead of a Treasurer. He became Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Federation appointed by the General Assembly under Art. 19, para./f/.

And last but not least, the IAF Bureau was requested by a new para. /k/ of Art.35 "to take appropriate measures for developing the cooperation of the Federation with national and international organizations, societies, bodies and institutions in the field of astronautics and the peaceful uses of outer space, on the basis of guidelines established by the General Assembly". As a matter of fact, this was not only a consequence of the changes developing in the membership basis, but also a reflection of already existing practice. 29/

#### /d/ The 1986 Amendments

The process of transformation of the membership basis continued

under the presidency of Jerry Grey /USA/. At the 1986 Congress in Innsbruck, upon a recommendation of the Bureau, the General Assembly approved the proposal by the Activities and Membership Committee that the different IAF classes of Members be eliminated, since the development in the field of astronautics made such differentiations largely obsolete. By the amendment adopted on 10 October 1986, a single class of Members was established, and according to a new version of Art.4, the IAF became "an association of those organizations and institutions, duly established under national laws or international agreements, which share the purposes declared in Art.2 and were elected in accordance with Art.6 and 7 of this Constitution". This action meant that all existing and future members should be identified simply as "Members", except that one Voting Member from each country would remain, subject to restrictions of this principle which had been made earlier by the 1982 amendments to the Constitution and in subsequent practice.

In addition to this major Amendment, a number of minor changes that should bring the wording of some other provisions of the Constitution in harmony with the new membership structure, were adopted in 1986. 30/

### /e/ The 1990 Amendments

In 1988, a kind of interim change was effected by an Amendment which increased the number of Vice-Presidents from five to six. This change reflected to some extent the growth of the Federation which was enabled by the foregoing transformation of its membership structure. At the same time, it was also felt that some kind of rotation, which thus far was obligatory only for the office of the President, should be also ensured amongst the

other Elective Officers, which in practice tended to retain their positions for a longer time. The Amendment adopted at the 1988 Congress in Bangalore brought, however, only a partial improvement, for it made mandatory the replacement of "at least one Vice-President each year". In this and some other respects, the Federation was still waiting for a major reform.

This change was accomplished in 1990 under the presidency of George P. van Reeth /ESA/, who was the first President representing an international organization. At its spring session in April 1990, the IAF Bureau considered a number of questions relating again to the structure of the Bureau and the election of its members, and also to some extent to the membership of the Federation. 31/ A series of recommendations resulted from these considerations.

First of all, it was found desirable to extend the mandate of the IAF President in order to give him a better opportunity to develop and implement the programme of the Federation. This should be done by election of the President for the term of two years /instead of one year as provided in the Constitutions of the IAF up to 1990/, with the possibility of his re-election for another two year term.

Due to the extension of the term of the President, it was no longer felt necessary to maintain the status of voting member of the Bureau for the last retired President. However, the Past President would remain a non-voting member and this position would enable him to participate in the considerations of the Bureau by his experienced advice.

Furthermore, it was agreed that with regard to the continuing increase of the IAF membership effected in recent years, its compo-



sition should be further enlarged by raising the number of Vice-Presidents from six to eight. Similarly as the term of the President, the mandate of the Vice-Presidents should be also extended from one to two years. At the same time, however, a rotation of these Officers should be ensured by replacing at least two Vice-Presidents at each election.

Finally, since the mandate of the President and the Vice-Presidents should be based on the principle of two year terms, the election could be held only every second year. By this amendment, a greater continuity and effectivity in the work of the Bureau could be achieved and the General Assembly would have more time for consideration of substantive issues of the IAF business at its plenary meetings held between the election years.

The General Assembly, at its plenary meeting held in Dresden on 8 October 1990, approved after a longer discussion these Amendments, which were inserted in Articles 22, 25 and 29 of the Constitution. However, the General Assembly decided to increase the rotation of the Elective Officers by replacing at least three Vice-Presidents at each election. 32/

Moreover, the General Assembly did not adopt, and advised to reconsider, another recommendation of the Bureau, which was based on a suggestion by the Committee for Liaison with International Organizations and Developing Nations. According to it a special category of membership should be granted to qualified societies or institutions in developing countries for a limited period of time which would allow them to further develop their internal structure and activities. After this period they should either apply for regular membership under the valid conditions of the IAF Constitution or decide on termination of their

association with the Federation. The majority in the General Assembly, however, felt that the adoption of such an amendment would run counter to the approved concept of a single membership category and that a wider participation of developing countries, though desirable, could be achieved on the basis of the constitutional provisions in force.

### Conclusion

During the whole period of its validity lasting now more than three decades, the 1961 Constitution of the IAF has proved its capacity to facilitate the growth and vitality of the IAF and at the same time to serve the purposes of international cooperation in astronautics. It also has proven its potential to absorb new phenomena and achievements in the development of space exploration, and has also enabled to pay due regard to substantial changes in the world. The 1961 Constitution was conceived in a fairly flexible manner, which permitted to elaborate appropriate Amendments from time to time, in order to adjust its rules to the changing conditions. At the same time, all transformations of the 1961 Constitution were effected gradually and it is desirable to maintain this approach to the need for constitutional changes in the future.

On the basis of its constitutional documents, the 1952 and 1961 Constitutions with the subsequent Amendments, the IAF has become, step-by step, a significant forum of international space affairs, whose input in the development of international cooperation has become more and more visible. The Federation can play a substantive role in this respect also during the 1990s and beyond the turn of the century, helping to pave the way for a new growth of space exploration to the benefit of all mankind.

## Endnotes

1. Shepherd, Leslie R., The International Astronautical Federation. The Prelude and First Ten Years /1951-1961/, mimeographed, p. 11. According to this author, "the main issues were questions of whether or not the size of a Member society should be a determining factor in its voting strength, and should more than one society in any country have a vote." /Ibidem./
2. As reported ten years later by one of the Vice-Presidents /A. G. Haley/, "the original Constitution of the IAF was written by Dr. Günter Loeser. His draft was referred to me for changes and corrections. I worked over the document at best I could but my work was not very effective because I believed I was not privileged to change the entire format. The resulting document was rather "rough", both from the standpoint of the English language and the substantive contents." /Minutes of the IAF Plenary Sessions, Georgetown University Institute of Languages and Linguistics, Washington, D. C., First Plenary Session, Oct. 1, 1961, p.5./
3. The text of the 1952 Constitution was published as an internal document of the IAF whose provisions are quoted in this article.
4. The original wording of this objective was amended at the 1959 Congress in London. In the new text, the International Astronautical Research Institute was only charged "with the task of achieving space work for peaceful purposes".
5. According to Art.40 of the 1952 Constitution, "a certain number of points shall be set out and the Finance Committee appointed by the IAF Council shall recommend how many points of the whole each Member society should pay, the final decision on these matters resting with the IAF Council. This point contribution system shall be given the form of a Bye-law".
6. As already mentioned, the Federation was founded by ten national societies. The total number of Members /including Non-Voting Members/ grew progressively, but not dramatically. The first annual budget of the Federation, as reported by Shepherd, was all in all US \$ 560 and towards the end of the first decade of the existence of the Federation, its accumulated capital reached about US \$ 3,600. / Shepherd, L.R, l.c., pp. 15 and 41./
7. In this provision, it was declared that in either of these ways of voting, decisions should be taken "on the basis of a simple majority vote, unless otherwise stated or described by law." It is unclear whether the majority should be counted on the basis of the number of Voting Members present /or even of Members present and voting/, or the majority should be established on the basis of the total number of Voting Members of the IAF, including those not represented at the plenary meeting of the Council. The same comment also applies to the number of replies in the case of voting by mail. Neither was any quorum of Members for the validity of such a decision established.
8. Cf. the language of the preamble of the Antarctic Treaty, which was signed by twelve most interested nations at Washing-

- ton on Dec. 1, 1959, and entered into force on June 23, 1961.
9. U.N.G.A. Res. 1348/XIII, Dec. 13, 1958, operative para. 1.
  10. U.N.G.A. Res. 1472 A/ XIV, Dec. 12, 1959.
  11. New Member societies were admitted particularly at the 1956 Congress in Rome /France, which had been one of the Founding Members but later on was not represented in the Federation for a couple of years; Poland, the USSR, and also a new Non-Voting Member society from Germany/. At the 1958 Congress in Amsterdam, Greece, Hungary, Israel and Taiwan, and also a Non-Voting Member from Japan were admitted, and applications of two competing societies from Canada were received. Finally, at the 1959 Congress in London, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and India, as well as additional societies from the United States and Italy were admitted as Non-Voting Members to the IAF.
  12. As to greater details on the foundation of the IAA and its present status, Kopal, Vladimír, Evolution of the Statutes and Membership of the International Academy of Astronautics, 15 Acta Astronautica, Journal of the International Academy of Astronautics, 771-778 /1987/, as well as the papers of other authors in the same issue.
  13. As to greater details on the foundation and evolution of the IISL, Pépin, Eugène, History of the International Institute of Space Law of the International Astronautical Federation /1958-1982/, AIAA, 1982, 9-16.
  14. Shepherd, L.R. l.c., p.27 ff.
  15. Minutes of the IAF Plenary Sessions, Georgetown University Institute of Languages and Linguistics, Washington, D.C., First Plenary Session, Oct. 1, 1961, p. 3.
  16. The reason for the second reading was the late arrival of one member of the Committee /Dr. L. R. Shepherd/ who came to Paris on the second day of the session. While the other members agreed on most of the issues already during the first reading, the whole text was considered once again the next day in the full composition of the Committee.
  17. As reported by A.G. Haley later in Washington: "There were differences of opinion, but they were resolved in amicable deliberation. There was unanimous agreement on the form which the new Constitution should take. Dr. von Kármán and Professor Pérès were also at this meeting". /Supra, note 2, pp. 3-4./
  18. In the Minutes from the Plenary Session, the following statement of the IAF President L.I. Sedov was recorded: "I take the liberty of stating my satisfaction for the unanimous support which the new Constitution is receiving. We can adopt it as a working document now and in the future at regular Congresses we can raise the question of perfecting it in appropriate way. I ask, therefore, for a vote. All those in favour of adopting the Constitution ? /The vote was carried unanimously in favour of adopting the Constitution. /" /The document mentioned Supra, note 2, p.4.
  19. The text of the 1961 Constitu-

- tion was published as an internal document of the IAF and distributed to all its Members. Later on, it was published twice in two of the official languages of the Federation /English and French/; the second of these booklets included the Amendments adopted up to Oct. 10, 1986. Since then, the Constitution was published annually in the form of an internal document of the IAF reflecting all the respective Amendments.
20. This regrettable event occurred just four months after the adoption of the 1961 Constitution when Prof. J. Pérès, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Paris, passed away.
21. The definition of the General Counsel was originally made to measure for Andrew G. Haley, Past President of the Federation, who became the IAF General Counsel prior to the adoption of the 1961 Constitution. He was then confirmed in this position pursuant to Art. 29 of the new Constitution. A.G. Haley died in 1966, and when a new General Counsel was about to be appointed /V.Kopal in 1967/, this definition was shortened by leaving out some of the duties of this Officer. He also became only a non-voting member of the Bureau.
22. This role belonged for many years to Miss Hélène van Gelder /USA/ who was succeeded by Mrs. Michelle Pigé-Claudin /France/.
23. Attention should be drawn to the fact that the rule of unanimity applicable to decisions on all questions of substance, which later on became generally known as the principle of consensus, had been spelled out in the 1961 Constitution one year before a similar rule was agreed upon in the United Nations as the method of work for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and its Subcommittees.
24. The more important amongst them were: the requirement of notice of any proposed amendment to the Constitution at least three months in advance of the date fixed for the vote on such amendment, which was added to Art. 38, and the above-mentioned redrafting of the mandate of the General Counsel. /Doc. IAF/ XVIII Cong/Plen. 1 of July 20, 1967./
25. The text of these Amendments in Doc. IAF/14 of July, 12, 1968 /Draft Amendments to Chapter III and Related Provisions of the IAF Constitution, submitted by Dr. V. Kopal, General Counsel/.
26. The circular of the Executive Secretary to all IAF Voting Members dated June, 14, 1974.
27. As a matter of fact, the finances of the IAF, which was receiving only small contributions from the Members of the Federation, depended to a substantial degree on a share of income from the registration fees paid by the participants in the IAF Congresses. Moreover, the number of papers submitted to the Congresses were increasing each year and also the number of invitations from National Members wishing to host an IAF Congress were higher than ever before.
28. IAF Doc. Notice of Proposed Amendments to the IAF Constitu-

tion, 1982, Explanatory Note and Part II: Draft Amendments to the IAF Constitution suggested by the General Counsel upon the request of the Bureau on the basis of its consideration. See also the text of the Constitution of the International Astronautical Federation, as amended Sept. 27, 1982.

IAF Doc. including the Constitution, Bureau Members, Membership List, Terms of Reference for Technical Committees, and Committee List, January 1993, pp.1-8.

29. Thus e.g. the IAF Bureau regularly included in the agenda of its spring sessions consultative meetings with representatives of other international organizations developing activities in space matters. The role of the IAF in international cooperation, which already successfully developed in its relations with UNESCO, ITU and some other specialized agencies of the UN system in past years, was particularly growing after the granting of an observership status with the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1976. /Report of the COPUOS, G.A.O.R.: Thirty-First Session, Supplement No.20 /A/ 31/20/, United Nations, New York, 1976, pp.2 and 3./
30. IAF Doc. Draft Amendments to the IAF Constitution suggested by the General Counsel upon the request of the Bureau on the basis of its consideration /revised version as of 14 April 1986/. See also the text of the Constitution of the International Astronautical Federation, as amended on Oct. 10, 1986.
31. Circular of the IAF President to all Members of the IAF dated June 27, 1990.
32. The text of the Constitution of the IAF as amended on Oct. 8, 1990 is reprinted in the