

Statute of the SIRGAS Project

Geocentric Reference System for the Americas

The SIRGAS Project (Geocentric Reference System for the Americas) by its objectives and scope has a Pan-American profile, its execution aims at all nations of the Americas and the Caribbean, and its regulation is contained in the following articles.

General Objectives

Art. 1. The main objective of the SIRGAS Project is to define, materialize and maintain the tri-dimensional geocentric reference system for the Americas. This objective includes:

- a) Definition of a tri-dimensional geocentric reference system.
- b) Establishment and maintenance of a geocentric reference frame (set of stations with high precision geocentric coordinates $[X, Y, Z]$ and their variation with time $[V_x, V_y, V_z]$).
- c) Definition and establishment of a geocentric datum.
- d) Definition and materialization of a unique vertical reference system with consistent physical and geometric heights and the determination of the variations of the reference frame with respect to time.

Art. 2. The specific objectives of the SIRGAS Project are all those related to the main objective, among them the following can be mentioned:

- a) Planning, promotion and coordination of the technical activities required to accomplish the main objective.
- b) Promotion and dissemination of the advances, results and accomplishments of the Project, in order to maximize the benefits to the countries of the region.
- c) Permanent participation in the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and in the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), in order to exchange up-to-date information and knowledge on technical and scientific subjects related to the Project.
- d) Encouragement, among the member states, of the homogeneity of the technical knowledge involved in the scope of the Project, including the dissemination of the scientific and technological advances which contribute to its improvement.

- e) Promotion and coordination of all activities that contributes to the accomplishment of the proposed objectives, including among them the connection of the pre-existing geodetic systems to SIRGAS.

Members

Art. 3. Only American and Caribbean states can be **Members** of SIRGAS. To join the Project, it is just necessary to write to the Steering Council (defined in Art. 12) mentioning the interest and the will to actively work towards the accomplishment of the objectives and to appoint corresponding representatives (according to Art. 7).

Art. 4. The sponsoring institutions of the Project –International Association of Geodesy (IAG), Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) and U.S. National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA)– are considered **Members** with the same rights and attributions as the member states.

Art. 5. Other states, entities and persons can be **observing** members, providing that they do not aim at profits, and they manifest their intention to participate as such or they are invited by the Project. In any case they must be accepted by the Executive Committee (defined in Art. 9).

Art. 6. In addition, it is established the category of **cooperative** state or entity for those that have required or have been invited by the Project to participate as a contributor in scientific, technical or economic terms. The processing centers that participate in the Project are considered as such.

Art. 7. The **national representatives** will be the persons appointed by the member states, through the entities that congregate the scientists and technicians in geodesy and related subjects, throughout procedures established in each country. The sponsoring entities will appoint their own representatives.

Organization

Art. 8. The following **structure units** with corresponding roles, defined in the next articles, are established:

- a) Executive Committee
- b) Steering Council
- c) Working Groups
- d) Technical Meetings
- e) Scientific Council

Art. 9. The **Executive Committee** is the supreme unit of the SIRGAS Project and establishes its scientific, technical and administrative directions. Its composition and functioning will be governed by the following rules:

- a) It will be composed by one representative of each member state and one of each sponsoring institution. Each member will have one vote and can

appoint a substitute representative who will replace the representative in case he or she is not present.

- b) It will ordinarily meet each 4 years. The ordinary meetings will be held during the same year as the General Assembly of IAG and, if possible, simultaneously to it.
- c) It will be chaired by the president of the Project.
- d) The authorities –defined in Art. 12– will have voice but not vote, except when taking part of the official delegation of his or her country.
- e) The observers, cooperative states or entities and the members of the Scientific Council will have voice but not vote.

Art. 10. The place of the next ordinary meeting will be decided at each ordinary meeting, being the place selected from the various cities offered by members of the Project. The corresponding agenda will be prepared by the Project authorities.

Art. 11. It is established for the resolutions of the Executive Committee:

- a) Quorum: it is given by the vote –in presence or by correspondence- of two third parts of the members.
- b) Vote: assuming fulfilled the quorum as mentioned in a), the proposal that has the simple majority of votes in favor is accepted.

Art. 12. The **Steering Council** is composed by the Project **authorities**, who are: the president and the vice-president of the Project and the presidents of the working groups.

Art. 13. The candidates to the position of authorities must be proposed to the Executive Committee by the entities that sponsor them and must have conditions of technical capacity internationally recognized in the subjects of the Project.

Art. 14. The states or the sponsoring entities will commit themselves to support their candidates in fulfilling the responsibilities established in this statute.

Art. 15. The president and vice-president of the Project will be elected at the ordinary meetings of the Executive Committee, and their term will last 4 years, being eligible to be re-elected for a second term. The presidents of the working groups will be appointed by the president of the Project in coordination with the Executive Committee, and there will be no fixed time for their term.

Art. 16. The presidency of the project and of the working groups will specially take into account the opinion of the scientific council when taking decisions and writing resolutions, considering the recognized professional hierarchy of its components.

Art. 17. The **working groups** will be established or dissolved by the Executive Committee according to the Project needs. At the moment of their creation, their general and particular objectives will be established.

Art. 18. The working groups and their objectives will initially be the following:

- I – Reference System: to define the geocentric reference system for the Americas and to coordinate its establishment and maintenance.
- II – Geocentric Datum: to coordinate the densification of the geocentric reference frame for the Americas within each member estate of the Project.
- III – Vertical Datum: to define a unified height system for the Americas and to coordinate its establishment and maintenance.

Art. 19. The working groups will be composed by their presidents and by experts who have scientific and technical knowledge and experience in the subject. The names of such experts can be proposed by members or be invited by the Project authorities. In any case the final incorporation of an expert to a Working Group will be performed by the corresponding Working Group president, and ratified by the president and vice-president of the Project.

Art. 20. The presidents of the working groups will permanently keep the presidency of the Project posted about the activities carried out in the scope of the working groups.

Art. 21. The **technical meetings** will be held whenever scheduled by the Executive Committee or called by the president of the Project or by the presidents of the working groups. Their agenda will be prepared by the corresponding presidents.

Art. 22. The **Scientific Council** will have the following missions:

- a) To advise the presidency of the Project about geodetic techniques, procedures and executions, and eventually about related subjects that better satisfy the imposed requirements.
- b) To intervene with working groups and national representatives in order to give directions to their activities, from the scientific point of view, in a way to better contribute to the accomplishment of the Project objectives.
- c) To explain, at the general meetings of the Executive Committee or at the particular meetings of the working groups, its opinion about the progress of the activities, recommendations that can improve, according to its understanding, the efficiency, and its own analysis about possible action steps that would enable to optimize results and to facilitate future activities.

Art. 23. The Scientific Council will be governed by the following rules:

- a) The appointment of members of the scientific council, among those proposed by representatives in the Executive Committee, observers, Project authorities or cooperative entities, will have a permanent nature, and must be accepted by the Executive Committee.
- b) The incorporation proposal must be submitted along with a report of the professional experience showing the competence and expertise necessary to occupy the position.
- c) Periodically they will inform the presidency of the Project and of the working groups about the developed activities.

Data policy

Art. 24. The national representatives will deal with the authorities of their respective countries to get the corresponding authorizations to have all data needed by the Project freely available to it.

Art. 25. The availability mentioned in Art. 24 will be for scientific and/or educational use only and the sources that provide them will be explicitly mentioned every time they are used.

Art. 26. The use and distribution of the national data utilized during the Project execution will be regulated by the particular rules of each member state, being requested to the national representatives to arrange their widest availability.

Art. 27. The member states will collaborate with the publication of the respective metadata in the webpage of the Project, including the required conditions for their use.

Art. 28. The computation centers will facilitate to the member states and to the cooperative entities the access to data, to computation procedures, to their results and to all available information related to the Project.

Language

Art. 29. The official languages of the Project will be Spanish, Portuguese and English. In any case, the Spanish version of this statute will prevail.

Webpage

Art. 30. The Project will have a webpage, whose edition will be under the president's responsibility, with the collaboration of the vice-president. The presidents of the working groups will have the obligation of supplying the information to be published. The participant states, the observing members and the sponsoring and cooperative entities will also contribute with relevant news

and periodic information. All Project reports will be released through the webpage.

Art. 31. The page contents should be constantly updated, being recommended a complete review at least two times a year.

Art. 32 (transitory). The present statute will take effect at the moment of its approval by the Executive Committee.