

IUPAP Statement on the Universality of Science (Draft)

The principle of the Universality of Science is fundamental to scientific progress. This principle embodies freedom of movement, association, expression and communication for scientists, as well as equitable access to data, information and research materials.

In pursuing its objectives with respect to the rights and responsibilities of scientists, the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) actively upholds this principle, and, in so doing, opposes any discrimination on the basis of such factors as ethnic origin, religion, citizenship, language, political stance, gender, or age. IUPAP should only sponsor conferences and events at institutions and in countries that uphold this principle. If scientists are excluded from attending IUPAP-sponsored international conferences by a host institution or country on the basis of any of these factors, IUPAP should register its concern at the highest level of that institution or country, and should not sponsor any future events in that country until such exclusions have been eliminated.

Background:

Currently IUPAP documents and website refer to the ICSU Statement on Freedom in the Conduct of Science or ICSU resolutions on the Free Circulation of Scientists. However, these statements and resolutions are long, complicated, hard to find, and often revised. Therefore the IUPAP Council decided that it was important that IUPAP have its own Statement on the Universality of Science. The statement above is based in part on previous ICSU statements, but is aimed at reflecting IUPAP's own beliefs and needs. If approved, this statement will be placed on the IUPAP website where it should be easy to locate.