

From: Debra Elmegreen IAU President <no-reply@iau.org>

Subject: President's Letter to IAU Members

Date: 24 October 2023 at 2:42:31 GMT-4

Dear IAU members,

I write with news on two IAU fronts: the General Secretary and IAU Values in a time of violence.

General Secretary: I regret to announce that IAU General Secretary José Miguel Rodríguez Espinosa has resigned from his position due to unforeseen personal circumstances. The IAU thanks José Miguel for his service and efforts over the past five years, starting as Assistant General Secretary in 2019.

In accordance with the IAU Statutes, the Executive Committee fills vacancies that occur among its members. We are pleased to announce that past General Secretary Piero Benvenuti has agreed to be Interim General Secretary, effective Nov. 1 until the conclusion of the General Assembly in August 2024. During that time, he will temporarily step down as Director of the Center for the Protection of the Dark and Quiet Sky from Satellite Constellation Interference (CPS), and the Interim CPS Director will be Richard Green.

IAU Values in a time of violence: The IAU has been watching with great concern the devastating effects of the Hamas-Israeli war, and I extend deepest sympathies to our impacted colleagues and their families. Acts of terrorism and violence, especially against civilians, can never be justified. Such acts destroy our future by decimating communities, disrupting education, and undermining scientific advances.

In keeping with our core mission of promoting and safeguarding science, the Executive Committee has added two sentences to our IAU Values: <https://www.iau.org/values/>.

I note that the International Science Council, of which the IAU is a member, works to respond to threats to scientific freedoms (<https://council.science/what-we-do/freedoms-and-responsibilities-of-scientists/>), and currently is monitoring 30 science-impacted incidents around the world.

Best wishes,
Debra Elmegreen
IAU President