



*International*  
*Virtual*  
*Observatory*  
*Alliance*

## Charter for the IVOA IAU Liaison Group

### Version 1.0

*IVOA Note 2023-08-07*

**This version:** NOTE\_IAU\_Liaison\_Group\_v1.0\_20230807

**Previous version(s):**

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### Abstract

This note describes the Charter of the IVOA IAU Liaison Group, including its membership, objectives, working process and relation to the IVOA Executive Committee.

### Status of This Document

*This is an IVOA Note expressing suggestions from and opinions of the authors. It is intended to share best practices, possible approaches, or other perspectives on interoperability with the Virtual Observatory. It should not be referenced or otherwise interpreted as a standard specification.*

Commented [CA1]: This should become an IVOA Endorsed Note, endorsed by the Exec

Commented [GB2R1]: Agreed!

## Charter for the IVOA IAU Liaison Group

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## Charter for the IVOA IAU Liaison Group

### 1 The Purpose of the IVOA-IAU Liaison Group (IILG)

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) promotes research, communication, education and development in astronomy, through international cooperation. The IVOA has been engaging with the IAU to support the broad astronomical goals of the IAU, and to promote the value of IVOA activities to the IAU and the astronomy community. So far, a functional working group on the Virtual Observatory has been established within Division B (Facilities, Technology and Data Science), of the IAU; an MoU has been signed between the IVOA and the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development to support its activities. IVOA members gave presentations at sessions of the IAU General Assembly in August 2022 and supported the organization of the Division B meeting at the General Assembly.

The purpose of this group, the IVOA-IAU Liaison Group (IILG), is to provide future coordination of these activities.

Concurrently with the preparation of this document, the IAU functional WG is preparing a corresponding document describing the establishment of its Organizing Committee. This Committee is essentially a twin of the IILG, with the principal difference that the IAU WG Committee will include members of the IAU community.

### 2 IILG Membership

The IILG shall be appointed by the IVOA Executive Committee and consists of:

- The Chair, who will ordinarily also function as the Chair of the IAU Functional Working Group. The term of service for the IILG chair will be three years.
- The vice-chair, who will ordinarily be expected to succeed the Chair at the end of their term. The term of service will be three years.
- Four members who are active in the IAU or wish to contribute to the IVOA's activities within the IAU. These members will serve for a period of three years.

As the Chair and Vice-Chair successor are expected to head the IAU Functional Working Group, they must be members of the IAU. Membership would be beneficial for the remaining members but is not required.

The IILG shall report directly to the IVOA Executive Committee.

Commented [CA3]: Do you want to mention the upcoming Organizing Committee of the IAU Functional WG on VO ?  
(This IILG is basically the twin of this IILG, correct ? )

Commented [GB4R3]: Yes

### 3 Objectives of the IILG

The IILG's role is to support the IAU's goals in astronomy and promote the value of the Virtual Observatory, and especially its value in promoting Open Science and FAIR principles, to the IAU's international community.

Specific objectives include:

- Participation in IAU General Assemblies (GAs). This participation will include:
  - Supporting the organization of meetings within Division B, chairing sessions and giving presentations.
  - Supporting the organization of other meetings at IAU GAs, giving presentations and co-authoring papers as appropriate.
  - Proposing to hold VO-specific Focus Sessions or other IAU meetings.
- Delivering to the IAU the Annual Report of the Functional Working Group.
- Providing other reports to the IAU as requested.
- Updating as needed the IAU Working Group web page at [https://www.iau.org/science/scientific\\_bodies/working\\_groups/336/](https://www.iau.org/science/scientific_bodies/working_groups/336/).
- Identifying opportunities for participation and leadership in IAU activities.
- Providing feedback to the TCG, WGs and IGs in where IAU activities can inform their technical priorities and development of the IVOA Roadmap.
- Identify opportunities for the IAU to participate in the IVOA and attend IVOA meetings.
- Encouraging IVOA participation in appropriate IAU Symposia
- Provide continuous feedback to the IVOA Executive Committee on IVOA support activities within the IAU.

### 4 IILG Working Process

The IILG will establish an IVOA web page to record its activities and the IILG will be accessible through a dedicated mailing list.

#### 4.1 Meetings

##### 4.1.1 IILG meetings

The IILG Chair will organize virtual meetings to discuss the status of work and ensure coordination of activities. We anticipate 2-3 such meetings each year, with additional meetings as needs dictate. The IILG also holds group meetings, intended to be open to all, at IVOA interoperability meetings. Reports and documents from all such meetings (note, slides etc.) and teleconferences shall be

Commented [CA5]: So will you record activities in two places (IAU web and IVOA web) ?

Commented [GB6R5]: Yes

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published on the IILG web page. The teleconferences and meetings will use e-mails for follow-up discussion.

### **4.1.2 IILG presence at IVOA Executive Committee meetings**

If the IILG Chair is not a member of the IVOA Executive Committee, he or she will attend the IVOA Executive Committee meetings to ensure reporting on technical issues and status; the Vice-Chair may be asked to attend also. The IVOA Chair may, at his or her discretion, ask IILG members to attend Executive Committee meetings to discuss specific issues.

### **4.1.3 IILG Focus Meetings**

Should specific issues arise concerning relations with the IAU or topics that affect WGs and IGs, the IILG will organize as needed virtual meetings amongst the relevant WGs/IGs chairs and vice-chairs.

## **4.2 IVOA Roadmap and Interoperability Standards**

The IILG will be responsible for informing the TCG, the WGs and IGSs of technical issues that have arisen in deliberations with the IUA that inform the IVOA Roadmap and the development of IVOA Technical Standards.

## **5 Engagement With The IAU**

Engagement with the IAU will primarily be through the activities of IAU Functional WG on VO within Divisions B and C (Education). The IVOA will participate in and (where appropriate) offer leadership in their activities, such as workshops, tutorials, conference sessions, preparation of reports and papers. These will be centered on, but not limited to, the biennial General Assemblies. IILG members should join the mailing lists of the Commissions to be kept up to date with IAU activities and bring them to the attention of the rest of the group.

### **Change log**

V1.0 created o August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.