

2026 General Assembly of the International Union of Psychological Science Florence, Italy | 22 and 24 July 2026

Governance and Statutory Amendments

The General Assembly discussed amendments relating to governance and accountability following a request submitted by the Ukrainian psychological association concerning the membership of the Russian psychological association.

Following a legal review, the General Assembly approved by majority vote amendments affirming that a member of the Union should not be expelled on the basis of a political dispute, while maintaining adherence to the provisions of the Statutes and limiting the Union's activities to its scientific mandate.

The Chair provided an opportunity for different views to be expressed, while representatives of several associations called for membership decisions to remain insulated from the effects of political disputes between countries.

Leadership Transition and Executive Committee Elections

The General Assembly expressed its appreciation to Professor Germán Gutiérrez, President of the Union for the 2022–2026 term, as well as to former President Professor Pam Maras and Executive Committee members Andrew Zamani and Prakash Padakannaya, on the completion of their terms of office.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Professor Brigitte Khoury assumed the presidency of the Union. Dr. Ava Thompson was unanimously re-elected as Secretary-General. Professor Shun Liu of China, Professor Alejandro Lleras of the United States, and Professor Garth Stevens of South Africa were elected as members of the Executive Committee.

Meetings Held on the Sidelines of the General Assembly

On the morning of 24 July, and in coordination with Professor Brigitte Khoury, a number of Union members who were present in Florence met with Princess Hessa bint Hamad of Hamad Medical Corporation in Qatar. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Sajer Abdullah Hamad and Professor Othman Al-Khader of Kuwait University.

The meeting addressed the situation of psychology professionals in Qatar and the possibility of establishing a Qatari psychological association. Princess Hessa expressed interest in the proposal.

The participants also discussed opportunities to strengthen communication and revitalize the psychological association in Kuwait in coordination with Professor Othman Al-Khader.