FDSN Opening Plenary - Minutes

IUGG/IASPEI Joint Scientific Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, August 31, 2025

ISEL, Auditorium A.0.6

These minutes document the parts of the plenary not covered by the accompanying slides. Those slides give detail on many important topics including membership fees and updates, licensing recommendations, proposal framework update recommendations, simplified working group agendas, and regional reports. Unfortunately, detailed attendance was not taken, but a full list of participants and a partial list of attendees can be found at the end of these minutes.

1. Welcome

Nick chaired the meeting. Approximately 40 people were present. Participants are named inline below.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, unopposed.

3. Message from the chair

Michelle welcomed everyone to the opening plenary and mentioned that it is very impressive how far FDSN has progressed since it started. She mentioned collaboration and outreach are important to increase the membership.

4. Action tracking list from last plenary

Licensing and redistribution

Slides presented by Jerry and he requested that we circulate his 2-pager document to vote on by closing plenary.

Javier: This question is especially important in the context of AI data mining.

Jon: This works both ways in terms of attribution.

John: Is there a need for a change in the documentation of the DOI?

Javier: A licensing field exists, FDSN recommendations simply skipped this step.

Jerry: Who owns the data when the network operator no longer exists?

Javier: A lack of a license can end up being a bottleneck for datacenters.

Johannes: Many network operators have their own DOIs – they will appreciate explicit instructions on how to change the DOI.

Javier: Institutions that mint their own DOIs will know what to do.

Nick: The DOI doesn't need to change, just the metadata.

Website updates: responsibilities

Nick described how, over the last two years, he and Adam Clark of EarthScope worked to improve the "Structure" page at https://www.fdsn.org/structure/. That page is now driven from the same set of tables that determine the content for https://www.fdsn.org/membership/ and should therefore be better synchronized and easier to update. Please inform Nick of any errors or omissions you see.

Working group pages are still the responsibility of working group chairs to maintain.

Membership Fees

Michelle voiced concerns that our commitments so far - 6 supporting members and 4 contributing members - are modest.

Carlo advocated that we get started collecting the fees, and spending them, and other members will see the benefits of becoming supporting or contributing members.

Nick pointed out that some organizations have a hard time awarding grants and would more readily pay an invoice for a product or service.

Chad noted that maintenance of documentation is something that the FDSN does, that takes effort and could be seen as such a service.

Framework Recommendations

Jerry presented slides explaining how the recommended changes simplify approval of "type A" proposals (the promotion of an existing feature to an FDSN standard).

Nick agreed to circulate (along with licensing recommendations) via steering committee email list, in advance of a vote to adopt at the closing plenary.

ISO Standards

Michelle: Drive for this is coming from the CTBTO, where it is called "type approval". Aim is that when there's a change in equipment or personnel, it should not affect data quality or more importantly credibility. Session next week at CTBT SnT on metrology. In 2027, CTBT aims to share presentations, specification.

Chad: Will this overlap with the FDSN standards?

Michell: I will have to get back to you on that.

Chad: Is there compatibility with existing equipment?

Michelle: We're testing what the instruments can withstand, as well as checking against manufacturer's specifications, and interoperability.

5. Regional FDSN reports

See slide deck for reports on Asia, Latin America, North America and Europe.

Latin America

Marcelo B: Pointed out that in Brasil, many network codes have assigned FDSN, but have no associated public data, not even station metadata. His view is that these network codes are effectively "garbage". Should registration of a network code require that a datacenter be declared?

Africa

Michelle: Spoke to the lack of a regional presentation from Africa. She recently attended meetings of the African Seismological Commission (AfSC). One challenge at the FDSN is a lack of members [Nick: currently there are 5, but of those 3 currently have no representative). At AfSC concerns raised were lack of funding, lack of expertise, and turnover of staff. The AfSC is starting to look at integrated approaches, with the African Union. One item of good news that came out of the AfSC meeting was that AfricaArray did get funded, so we can look forward to collaborations there. Another challenge that came up was training; this is why workshops should be a focus of FDSN outreach.

6. Working group updates (preview of WG meeting issues)

Agendas for working groups 1-3 were briefly introduced (see slides).

Michelle explained that that both Spiro Spiropolous and Steve Myers were unable to travel to the conference, and nobody was nominated to lead the WG4 discussion in their absence.

After some brief discussion, it was moved that the WG4 meeting should be cancelled, and nobody opposed.

Nick noted that a similar situation applied to WG5, in that both the chair (Joel Simon) and co-chair (Yinshuang Ai) were unable to attend IASPEI.

Wayne, however, indicated that he had proposals to present to WG5, so the meetings should take place regardless.

It was moved that since WG4 was to be canceled, WG5 could be moved to its more favourable time slot (12:30 rather than 18:00 on Thursday September 4). There was no opposition to this motion.

Johannes offered to have the C-IN conference app updated; Nick agreed to confirm the details with him.

7. Membership updates

Nick presented lists of new members, new representatives, and members for which we've lost contact with the representative (see slides).

8. Proposed new Working Group

A new working group has been proposed, by Tim Ahern, to deal with legacy seismic data (see slides).

It was pointed out that there is a CoSOI working group on legacy data.

Michelle agreed to attend the relevant CoSOI meeting, to ensure that if both groups are working on the topic, the work should be complementary.

Javier pointed out that a clear definition of the working group's mandate was needed.

9. Executive Committee Nominations

Three positions are up for election at the closing plenary, including the new position of Treasurer. Michelle indicated that she will be stepping down as chair.

Chair	Tim Ahern
Treasurer	Reinoud Sleeman
WG1 Chair	Wen-Tzong Liang
	Irene Molinari

10.   Any other business

Nick noted the issue raised by Marcelo B. during the regional reports could be discussed further, but that there were only 5 minutes remaining in the allotted time. Johannes suggested we adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.

Participants

Chair: Michelle Grobbelaar (CTBTO, Austria)

Secretary: Nick Ackerley (NRCan, Canada)

WG1 Chair: Wen-Tzong Liang (Inst. Earth Sciences, Taiwan)

WG2 Chair: Javier Quinteros (GFZ, Germany)

WG3 Chair: Chad Trabant (EarthScope, USA)

Xyoli Pérez-Campos (UNAM, Mexico)

Johannes Schweitzer (NORSAR, Norway)

Jerry Carter (EarthScope, USA)

Carlo Cauzzi (ORFEUS, Europe)

Jonathan Hanson (GNS, New Zealand)

John Clinton (ETH, Switzerland)

Marcelo Bianchi (University of São Paulo, Brazil)

Present

Lucia Margheriti (INGV, Italy)

Dmitry Storchak (ISC)

Ludek Vecsey (IG CAS, Czech)

Marcelo Assumpcao (University of São Paulo, Brazil)

Martin Vallee (IPGP, France)

Göran Ekström (USA)

Reinoud Sleeman (KNMI, Netherlands)

Vunganai Midzi (CGS, South Africa)

Thifhelimbilu Mulabisana (CGS, South Africa)

Tamara Makhateng (CGS, South Africa)