

What is COSPAR and why does it matter to CAPS?

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Topics

- *Overview of COSPAR*
- *Relevance to CAPS*
- *How to engage in an effective way*

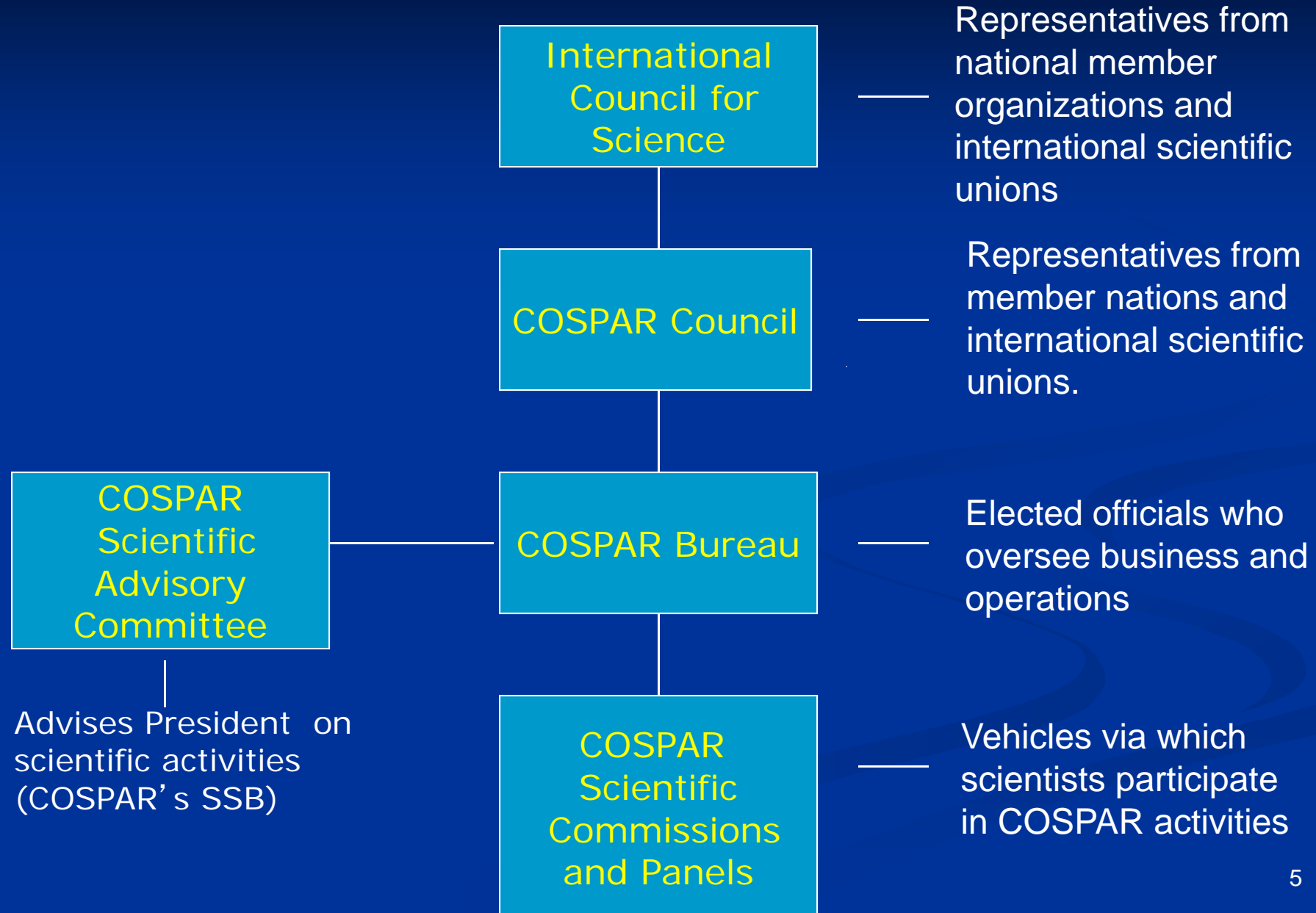
Overview of COSPAR

- **Origin:** Established by the International Council for Science (ICSU) in 1958 as an outgrowth of the International Geophysical Year and the launch of Sputnik 1.
- **Goals:** To promote international scientific research in space, with emphasis on the exchange of results, information and opinions, and to provide a forum, open to all scientists, for the discussion of problems that may affect scientific space research.
- **Mechanisms:** COSPAR addresses its goals by sponsoring scientific assemblies, symposia, etc.

COSPAR and the SSB

- The SSB is the U.S. National Committee for COSPAR
- NRC appoints U.S. Representative to COSPAR based on SSB nomination
- U.S. Representative was automatically one of COSPAR two vice presidents (second vice president appointed by the Soviet Academy of Sciences) until democracy won the day in 1994. Since then, the position has been held by:
 - Louis J. Lanzerotti (1994-2002)
 - Edward C. Stone (2002-2010)
 - Robert P. Lin (2010-2012)
 - Len Fisk (2012-2014, elected President of COSPAR in 2014)
 - Charlie Kennel (2014 -)

COSPAR Governance



What Does COSPAR Do?

Well Known

- Holds the biennial Scientific Assembly. 4,000+ abstracts received in all space-science disciplines. 30+ parallel sessions over a 7-day period, plus interdisciplinary lectures and other plenary presentations.
- Publishes *Advances in Space Research*, a peer-reviewed journal which accepts papers in all space-science disciplines.
- Publishes *Space Research Today*, a quarterly newsletter.

Less Well Known

- COSPAR “develops, maintains and promulgates” the world’s Planetary Protection Policy

COSPAR Scientific Structure

- SC A—Space Studies of the Earth's Surface, Meteorology and Climate
- SC B—Space Studies of the Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies
- SC C—Space Studies on the Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets including Reference Atmospheres
- SC D—Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Magnetosphere
- SC E—Astrophysics from Space
- SC F—Life Sciences as Related to Space *[home to astrobiology]*
- SC G—Materials Sciences in Space
- SC H—Fundamental Physics in Space

*Yellow font
denotes areas of
particular
relevance to CAPS*

Plus 11 special purpose panels devoted to, e.g., Capacity Building, Space Weather, Planetary Protection, Exploration and Exoplanets (New)

COSPAR Scientific Assemblies

- 1st—London, U.K., 1958
- 5th—Washington, D.C. USA, 1962
- 14th—Seattle, WA, USA, 1971
- 19th—Philadelphia, PA, USA, 1976
- 29th—Washington, D.C., USA, 1992
- 32nd—Nagoya, Japan, 1998
- 34th—Houston, USA, 2002
- 35th—Paris, France, 2004
- 36th—Beijing, China, 2006
- 37th—Montreal, Canada, 2008
- 38th—Bremen, Germany, 2010
- 39th—Mysore, India, 2012
- 40th—Moscow, Russia, 2-8 August 2014
- 41st—Istanbul, Turkey, 2016
- 42nd—Pasadena, CA, USA, 2018



Relevance to CAPS

1. Planetary Protection Policy
2. Extensive international scientific engagement

Background on Planetary Protection (1)

■ Terms of Reference (<https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/scientific-structure/ppp>):

“The Panel is concerned with biological interchange in the conduct of solar system exploration, including: (1) possible effects of contamination of planets other than the Earth, and of planetary satellites within the solar system by terrestrial organisms; and (2) contamination of the Earth by materials returned from outer space carrying potential extraterrestrial organisms. **The primary objectives of the Panel within COSPAR are to develop, maintain, and promulgate planetary protection knowledge, policy,** and plans to prevent the harmful effects of such contamination, and through symposia, workshops, and topical meetings at COSPAR Assemblies to provide an international forum for exchange of information in this area....”

Background on Planetary Protection (2)

- Current PPP leadership:
 - Chair: G. Kminek (ESA/ESTEC), 2014-2018
 - Vice-Chairs:
 - C. Conley (USA), 2014-2018*
 - V. Hipkin (Canada), 2014-2018*
 - H. Yano (Japan), 2014-2018
 - All four leadership positions are up for re-election at the 2018 Scientific Assembly in Pasadena. Conely and Hipkin may only be elected to a higher position – chair.
- The current PPP Policy was adopted in 2002
(see <https://cosparhq.cnes.fr/sites/default/files/ppppolicy.pdf>)
 - It is due for revision with discussions beginning at the 2016 Istanbul Assembly, culminating in adoption by the Panel vote at the PPP business meeting at the 2018 Pasadena Assembly.

How to engage in an effective way

- Attend and participate in the 2016 Assembly!
 - 30 July – 7 August, Istanbul
 - Call for papers is open until 12 Feb 2016
 - See for details: <https://www.cospar-assembly.org>
- Attend and participate in the *business meetings* of the PPP and Commission B
 - This is where officers are nominated and elected and where the outlines of the next Assembly (Pasadena, 14-21 July 2018) are created
 - It is where issues related to Planetary Protection are raised and discussed (at the PPP business meeting especially)

In Conclusion

1. By engaging with the PPP (Planetary Protection Panel) you can influence the next major update to the Policy.
2. In general, attending, presenting and engaging at the biannual Scientific Assemblies is rewarding scientifically, and offers opportunities for expanded collaboration with international colleagues.

Thank You