

International Mathematical Union



August 31, 2019

IMU AO Circular Letter 14/2019

To: The Adhering Organizations of the International Mathematical Union (IMU)

From: Helge Holden, IMU Secretary General

Report from the ICM Structure Committee

Dear colleagues,

As you may recall, the 2018 General Assembly decided to create an ICM Structure Committee (SC) charged with the task to propose the structure for the ICMs. The decision of the actual speakers is left with the Program Committee (PC).

Terence Tao chaired the committee, whose membership is public. The SC has now finalized its report (attached). The IMU is very grateful to the members of the SC for their thorough job within the given tight timeframe.

The IMU Executive Committee (EC) has discussed the report and made the following decisions:

For the ICM 2022:

1. The EC endorses the proposal of creating:
 - i. A new Section 17 (Statistics and Data Analysis) which replaces the old Section 17 (Mathematics in Science and Technology), and which also incorporates the Statistics part of the old Section 12 (Probability and Statistics), which now becomes Section 12 (Probability).
 - ii. A new Section 18 (Stochastic and Differential Modeling), which expands on aspects of the old Section 17 (Mathematics in Science and Technology).

The rationale for these changes is to start the process of enhancing the representation of applied mathematics in the ICM, and to keep up with recent ground-breaking developments in applied mathematics.

2. The EC endorses the given Sections with its descriptors and with the given base lecture slots.
3. The EC endorses the proposal to leave 20 sectional talks to the discretion of the PC, as described in the SC report.
4. The EC endorses the proposal to leave 2–3 plenary for “special plenary lectures” as described in the SC report.
5. The EC recommends that the opening ceremony be streamed, while the recording of other lectures should be made available later to the mathematical community by the organizers in a timely fashion. Videos are to be stored at the IMU Secretariat.

6. The EC asks that local organizers conduct an exit survey for ICM participants in order to guide subsequent SCs in their work.

For ICMs past 2022:

7. The EC asks that the SC proposes a dynamic mechanism on how the size of each Section can reflect the activity in the various subfields of mathematics. This can be applied for the ICM 2026.

Sincerely

Helge Holden
Secretary General of the International Mathematical Union