Reporting on the 2026 International Union of Psychological Science General Assembly

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On behalf of the Canadian National Panel for the International Relations Committee of the CPA

The biennial General Assembly of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) took place in Florence, Italy, on July 22 and 24, 2026, bringing together representatives of the Union's national members, regional member organizations, and non-voting affiliates. Saba Safdar, Head of the Canadian National Panel and Canada's Delegate to the IUPsyS General Assembly, attended on behalf of Canada. The General Assembly provided an opportunity for members to review the work of the Union, discuss priorities for international psychology, and shape its leadership and future direction.

Election and Transition of IUPsyS Leadership

A major highlight of this year's Assembly was the transition of leadership within IUPsyS and the election of new members to the Union's Executive Committee. Brigitte Khoury of Lebanon began her term as President, while Germán Gutiérrez of Colombia assumed the role of Past President. Ava Thompson, Professor of Psychology at the University of The Bahamas, was re-elected as Secretary General.

Three new regular members were also elected to the Executive Committee: Alejandro Lleras (USA), Xun Liu (China), and Garth Stevens (South Africa). The changes in leadership and the election of new Executive Committee members brought new perspectives and regional representation to the Union's leadership and its ongoing work to support psychology internationally.

Ethics, Governance, and the Work of the Union

The Assembly also featured a presentation by Daphna Feinholz, Chief of the Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section in UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector. Daphna's presentation addressed issues related to bioethics and the ethics of science and technology.

Governance was another important topic of discussion. The Assembly considered a mandate to the Standing Committee on Governance concerning a request to remove Russia from IUPsyS membership. In response to requests of this nature, the Union has now developed a formal procedure for considering membership-related concerns.

Reports were presented by the Standing Committee on Strategic Planning, Standing Committee on Governance, Standing Committee on Publications, the *International Journal of Psychology*, the ICD-11 Book initiative, the Standing Committee on Capacity Building, and the Standing Committee on Membership and Communications. These reports provided updates on the Union's activities and priorities across publications, governance, membership, communications, capacity building, and strategic planning.

Looking Ahead to ICAP 2028

The Assembly looked ahead to the next International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP), which will take place in Melbourne, Australia, in 2028. Saba Safdar was invited to serve on the International Advisory Committee for ICAP 2028.

Celebrating 75 Years of IUPsyS

The 2026 General Assembly also marked the 75th anniversary of IUPsyS, providing an opportunity to reflect on the Union's longstanding role in bringing together psychological organizations and advancing psychology as an international science and profession. As part of the anniversary celebrations, IUPsyS presented a glass trophy to Canada in recognition of its "long standing membership, dedicated service role as legal home of IUPsyS." Saba Safdar accepted the award on behalf of Canada. The recognition acknowledged Canada's longstanding contribution to the Union and its continuing engagement in international psychology.