



**SIRGAS: Geocentric Reference System for the Americas
Statute adopted by the SIRGAS Directing Council on May 9, 2011**

SIRGAS is a non-profit organization that, according to its objectives and scope, has a Pan-American profile. Its performance aims at all countries of the Americas and it is regulated by the following articles.

General Objectives

Art. 1. The main objective of SIRGAS is to define, realise, and maintain a tri-dimensional geocentric reference system for the Americas, including a unified gravity field-related vertical reference system with global consistency. This objective includes:

- a) Definition of a tri-dimensional geocentric reference system;
- b) Realisation and maintenance of a geocentric reference frame (network of stations with high-precise geocentric coordinates $[X, Y, Z]$ and their variation with time $[V_x, V_y, V_z]$);
- c) Densification of the continental reference frame in the SIRGAS member countries, as well as the promotion and support of its utilization in practical and scientific applications;
- d) Definition and realisation of a unified vertical reference system based on the consistent combination of physical and geometric heights, including the determination of the reference frame variations with time.

Art. 2. The specific objectives of SIRGAS are all those related to the main objective; among them the following can be mentioned:

- a) Planning, promotion, and coordination of technical and scientific activities required to accomplish the main objective;
- b) Promotion and dissemination of the advances, results, and accomplishments of SIRGAS, in order to maximize the benefits to the countries of the region;
- c) Permanent participation in the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and in the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), in order to exchange up-to-date information and knowledge on technical and scientific subjects related to SIRGAS;
- d) Encouragement, among the member countries, of the homogeneity of the technical and scientific knowledge involved in the scope of SIRGAS, including capacity building by means of the dissemination and training activities oriented to the adequate use of SIRGAS and its national densifications;
- e) Promotion and coordination of all activities that contribute to the accomplishment of the proposed objectives, including among them the connection of the pre-existing geodetic systems to SIRGAS.

Members

Art. 3. Only American states can be members of SIRGAS. To join SIRGAS, it is only necessary to address a letter to the Executive Committee (defined in Art. 12), mentioning the interest and the will to actively work towards the accomplishment of the SIRGAS objectives. This shall include the appointment of the corresponding national representatives (according to Art. 7).

Art. 4. The International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) are considered members of SIRGAS. They have the same rights and attributions as the member countries.

Art. 5. Other countries, entities or persons can be observing members, providing that they do not aim at profits. They can manifest their intention to participate as such or they can be invited by any component of SIRGAS. In any case, they must be accepted by the Directing Council (see Art. 9).

Art. 6. In addition, it is established the category of cooperative country or entity for those that have required or have been invited by any component of SIRGAS to participate as a contributor in scientific, technical, or economic terms. The data and processing centres participating in SIRGAS are included in this category.



Art. 7. The national representatives are those persons appointed by the member countries, through the entities that congregate the scientists and technicians in Geodesy and related subjects. The election of the national representatives follows the procedures established in each country. IAG and PAIGH appoint their own representatives.

Organization

Art. 8. The SIRGAS components are:

- a) Directing Council
- b) Executive Committee
- c) Working Groups
- d) Projects
- e) Technical Meetings
- f) Scientific Council

Art. 9. The Directing Council is the supreme unit of SIRGAS. It outlines its scientific, technical, and administrative directions. Its composition and functioning are governed by the following rules:

- a) It is composed by one representative of each member country, one of the IAG, and one of the PAIGH. Each member has one vote and should appoint a substitute who will replace the representative in case he or she is not present;
- b) It ordinarily meets each 4 years. The ordinary meetings should be held during the same year as the IAG General Assembly and, if possible, simultaneously to it;
- c) It is chaired by the SIRGAS president;
- d) The SIRGAS authorities -defined in Art. 12- have voice but not vote, except when they belong to the official delegation of their country;
- e) The observers, cooperative members or entities, and members of the Scientific Council have voice but not vote.

Art. 10. The place of the next ordinary meeting will be decided at each ordinary meeting, being the place selected from the various cities offered by the members of the Directing Council. The corresponding agenda will be prepared by the SIRGAS authorities.

Art. 11. The following is established for the resolutions of the Directing Council:

- a) Quorum: it is given by the vote -in presence or by correspondence- of two third parts of the members;
- b) Vote: assuming fulfilled the quorum as mentioned in a), the proposal that has the simple majority of votes in favor is accepted.

Art. 12. The Executive Committee is composed by the SIRGAS authorities: SIRGAS president and vice-president, and the chairs of the working groups.

Art. 13. The candidates to president and vice-president of SIRGAS must be proposed to the Directing Council by the entities that sponsor them. The candidates must have conditions of technical capacity internationally recognized in the subjects covered by SIRGAS.

Art. 14. Sponsoring countries or entities are committed to support their candidates in fulfilling the responsibilities established in this statute.

Art. 15. The SIRGAS president and vice-president are elected at the ordinary meetings of the Directing Council, and their term is 4 years. They can be re-elected for a second term. The chairs of the working groups are appointed by the SIRGAS president in coordination with the Directing Council, and there is no fixed time for their term.

Art. 16. The SIRGAS authorities should specially take into account the recommendations of the Scientific Council when taking decisions and formulating resolutions.



Art. 17. The working groups will be established or dissolved by the Directing Council according to the needs of SIRGAS. At the moment of their creation, their general and particular objectives will be established.

Art. 18. The working groups and their objectives initially are the following:

- a) I - Reference System: to define a geocentric reference system for the Americas and to coordinate its realisation and maintenance.
- b) II - SIRGAS at national level: to coordinate the densification of the geocentric reference frame for the Americas in each member country and to support the development of SIRGAS activities at national level.
- c) III - Vertical Datum: to define a unified vertical reference system for the Americas and to coordinate its realisation and maintenance.

Art. 19. The working groups are composed by a chair and experts who have scientific and technical knowledge and experience in the corresponding subjects. The names of such experts can be proposed by members or be invited by the SIRGAS authorities. In any case, the final incorporation of an expert to a working group will be performed by the corresponding working group chair and ratified by the SIRGAS president and vice-president.

Art. 20. The chairs of the working groups are requested to keep the SIRGAS presidency posted about their activities and advances.

Art. 21. The working groups can establish specific projects oriented to a determined topic of interest. These projects will have a coordinator appointed by the chair of the corresponding working group and will have a term of 4 years. If the results of the project conduce to the establishment of activities to be carried out in a regular basis, those activities will be integrated into the structure of the respective working group.

Art. 22. The technical meetings are held whenever scheduled by the Directing Council or called by the SIRGAS president or by the chairs of the working groups. Their agenda will be prepared by the SIRGAS president or the corresponding chair.

Art. 23. The Scientific Council have the following missions:

- a) To advise the SIRGAS authorities about geodetic techniques, procedures, and innovations, and eventually about related subjects that better satisfy the imposed requirements;
- b) To interact with the working groups and the national representatives in order to orientate their activities from the scientific point of view, in a way to better contribute to the accomplishment of the SIRGAS objectives;
- c) To present, at the general meetings of the Directing Council or at the individual meetings of the working groups, its opinion and recommendations that can improve the on-going SIRGAS activities.

Art. 24. The Scientific Council is governed by the following rules:

- a) The appointment of members of the Scientific Council, among those proposed by representatives in the Directing Council, observers, SIRGAS authorities or cooperative entities, have a permanent nature, and must be accepted by the Directing Council;
- b) The incorporation proposal must be submitted along with a report of the professional experience showing the competence and expertise necessary to occupy the position;
- c) They should periodically inform the SIRGAS president and the working group chairs about the developed activities.

Data policy

Art. 25. The national representatives should deal with the authorities of their respective countries to get the corresponding authorizations to have all data needed by SIRGAS freely available to it.



Art. 26. The availability mentioned in Art. 25 are for scientific and/or educational use only and the sources that provide them will be explicitly mentioned every time the data are utilized.

Art. 27. The use and distribution of the national data required to accomplish the SIRGAS objectives are regulated by the particular rules of each member country, being requested to the national representatives to arrange their widest availability.

Art. 28. The member countries are requested to collaborate with the publication of the respective metadata in the SIRGAS webpage, including the conditions for their use.

Art. 29. The SIRGAS data and analysis centres should facilitate to the member countries and to the cooperative entities the access to data, processing procedures, results, and all available information related to SIRGAS.

Language

Art. 30. The official languages of SIRGAS are Spanish, Portuguese, and English. In any case, the Spanish version of this statute will prevail.

Webpage

Art. 31. SIRGAS must have a webpage. Its edition and maintenance are under the president's responsibility, with the collaboration of the vice-president. The the working group chairs and projects coordinators are requested to supply the information to be published. The national representatives and the observing members, as well as the sponsoring and cooperative entities shall also contribute with relevant news and periodic information. All documentation generated within SIRGAS must be included and disseminated through the webpage.

Art. 32. The page contents should be constantly updated, being recommended a complete review at least two times a year.

Changes to the statute

Art. 33. The SIRGAS components shall review the statute to ensure an up-to-date structure and operability of SIRGAS every eight years. Proposals for a change of any article or the addition of a new one must reach the SIRGAS president at least 4 months before the announced date of the SIRGAS meeting at which it is to be considered. The SIRGAS president will notify the Directing Council members of all proposed changes in order to get their vote (in favor, against, or abstention) during the 6 weeks before the announced date of the SIRGAS meeting. Changes can be individually voted; i.e. some changes may be adopted, others may be not. The new version of the statute comes into force at the close of the respective SIRGAS meeting.