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Dear Colleagues,

IUPsyS is a truly unique organization that includes over 70 national psychological associations and that speaks on behalf of over half a million psychologists worldwide regarding all aspects of psychology. The overall mission of IUPsyS is the development, representation and advancement of psychology as a basic and applied science regionally, nationally, and internationally. I think I can safely say that no other organization has such a broad geographical representation or comprehensive commitment to serving psychology.

However, like any living organism, IUPsyS has to adapt to new challenges continually and here I see a need to focus on some particularly important areas in the coming years. Some examples:

A large number of our members from the majority world cannot take part in our endeavours for economic and/or organizational reasons. IUPsyS will therefore place particular emphasis on providing support for psychology in the majority world.

The voices of all members from all regions of the world must be heard in the workings of IUPsyS. Thus, we have to ensure there is an extensive and regular flow of communication between IUPsyS and its members, not only on the occasion of the bi-annual General Assembly meetings.

We also need to bring psychology in general, and IUPsyS in particular, to the attention of governments and other bodies responsible for providing the frameworks for scientific training, funding of science, ethics in research and profession, international scientific collaboration, and many more such issues. Toward that end, we will endeavour to team up with others, including:

our own members, who can draw on rich experiences from their regions of the world;

other umbrella organizations of psychological associations that are natural partners at regional levels, and that have a comprehensive cover of the discipline.

I am particularly concerned that we suffer worldwide from a dramatic gap between what is known from basic and applied science, and what social policy-makers and those responsible for programming are aware of and utilize. This is of special importance to many of our member countries, whose governments are not aware of the potential contribution of psychological research and its application to major social



problems in their countries. Here IUPsyS can serve a useful role by offering its expertise to political bodies and private philanthropies at the international level, and by producing white papers concerning the state of the art of psychological knowledge related to specific social issues. Naturally we would join forces with global bodies such as WHO, ICSU and ISSC in such endeavours.

IUPsyS can also play a major role in helping raise the status and the level of psychology in universities and other institutions of higher learning of many member countries. Finally, the Union's name and statutes describe our field as *the science of psychology, both basic and applied*, but what this means exactly may not be clear to all. In my view, we can distinguish among basic science, applied science, and the growing field of "translational science." The last deals with the translation of scientific insights of whatever nature into opportunities for social policy – it identifies those causes or contexts of social problems that can be changed by intervention: Please note, these causes are not necessarily those listed in the aetiology of the problem that basic or applied scientists have in mind. I see IUPsyS as the natural home for all such programs of science – examples of social issues where many disciplines and scientific orientations have to come together include how to arrange for productive youth development in times of rapid social change, or how to match an expanding life expectancy with opportunities for life-long constructive roles through to old age. These questions, which may be particularly important for our members from majority world countries, require insights not only from psychology, but also from other disciplines, such as neuroscience and gerontology.

In sum, in the four years of my Presidency, I want to make IUPsyS more inclusive toward the majority world, which will demand improved communication and collaboration with all our National Members, and to broaden psychology's outreach and relevance for governments and other world bodies: I invite all our National Members to join me in this. So, whether you already belong to a National Member organisation, or are thinking about joining one, please look at our vibrant strategic plan for the 2008-2012 quadrennium ([see here](#)) - perhaps you can envisage a way to help us be more effective in pursuing our missions? Do also get acquainted with the new EC ([IUPsyS EC](#)), and please plan to join us for the next International Congress of Psychology – July 2012, in Cape Town, South Africa -. Hope to see you there.

Best regards,

Rainer K. Silbereisen
President