

Unapproved Minutes of the 122nd IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting Saturday – Sunday, 2-3 March 2024 Hotel Andaz am Belvedere, Vienna, Austria

The meeting presentations are available at the IEEE agenda tool: <https://agd.ieee.org/mpt/Agenda.aspx?eid=18642>. R8 Section's, Committee's and OpCom Reports, as well as other backup documentation, can be downloaded from the Region 8 web page: <https://ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2024-march-vienna/>.

Agenda points in these minutes are numbered as they are presented at the meeting in the IEEE agenda tool.

Meeting Agenda

Day 1: Saturday, 2 March 2024, 9:00-17:30h CET

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to order and welcome (Piuri) 2. Housekeeping (Karadzinov) 3. Roll call (Karadzinov) 4. Approval of the agenda (Piuri) 5. Approval of the consent agenda (Piuri) 6. IEEE President address (Coughlin) 7. IEEE Vice President for Member and Geographic Activities (Mathur/Luque) 8. IEEE-USA President (Moore) 9. IEEE Region 2 Director address (Lowery) 10. IEEE Region 3 Director address (Grigorian) 11. IEEE Region 4 Director address (Ozburn) 12. IEEE Region 6 Director address (Hayashi) 13. IEEE Region 7 Director address (Murad) 14. IEEE Division VIII Director address (De Floriani) 15. Coffee Break 10:30-11:00 16. Director's report (Piuri) 17. Director-Elect's report (Hinchey) 18. Treasurer's report (Jastrzebski) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Treasurer's motions (Jastrzebski) 20. R8 Diversity, equity and inclusion (Abandah) 21. Section anniversary (Piuri) 22. Recognitions (Piuri) 23. Group photo (Karadzinov) 24. Lunch 12:30-13:30 25. Vice Chair Technical Activities report (Antoniou) 26. Vice Chair Technical Activities motions (Antoniou) 27. IEEE Future Directions - Metaverse initiative (Metra) 28. IEEE Technology Center for Climate (Neppel) 29. IEEE Ad Hoc Cmte Leadership Continuity and Efficiency (Koehler) 30. R8 Publications and communications (Sultan) 31. Coffee Break 15:30-16:00 32. Breakout sessions for best practices and strategies 33. Reporting of breakout sessions 34. R8 Section vitality and development (Madureira) 35. IEEE Local Groups (Stasopoulos) 36. Adjourn of the Day 1 |
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Day 2: Sunday, 3 March 2024, 9:00-13:30h CET

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 37. Call to order (Piuri) 38. Vice Chair Students Activities report (Aliyu) 39. Vice Chair Students Activities motions (Aliyu) 40. Coffee Break 10:30-11:00 41. Call for Awards (Luque) 42. Call for Nominations (Luque) 43. Vice Chair Members Activities report (Lesic) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 44. Vice Chair Members Activities motions (Lesic) 45. Region realignment: Zone Representative (Luque) 46. Next meeting (Piuri) 47. Old business (Piuri) 48. New business (Piuri) 49. Adjourn (Piuri) 50. Lunch 13:30-14:30 |
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Attendance

R8 Committee voting members present:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Algeria Section Chair Kouzou Abdallah 2. Austria Section Chair Werner Drexel 3. Bahrain Section Chair Adel Abdulla 4. Benelux Section Chair Olexander Yarovyi 5. Bosnia and Herzegovina Section Chair Branko Blanus 6. Bulgaria Section Chair Valentina Markova 7. Croatia Section Chair Ana Katalinic 8. Cyprus Section Chair Aikaterini Papanikolaou 9. Czechoslovakia Section Representative Kristian Hengster-Movric | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Denmark Section Chair Amjad Anvari-Moghaddam 11. Egypt Section Chair Ahmed Madian 12. Estonia Section Chair Dmitri Vinnikov 13. Finland Section Chair Mahdi Pourakbari 14. France Section Chair Rene Garelo 15. Germany Section Chair Jan Haase 16. Ghana Section Representative Maxwell Addison 17. Greece Section Chair Antonios Kladas 18. Hungary Section Treasurer Aniko Szakal 19. Israel Section Chair Shmuel Auster 20. Italy Section Chair Gianfranco Chicco |
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| 21. Jordan Section Chair Mousa AL-Akhras | 39. Spain Section Chair Edgardo Castronuovo |
| 22. Kenya Section Chair Kithinji Muriungi | 40. Sweden Section Chair Andrei Gurtov |
| 23. Kuwait Section Chair Abdullah Alqallaf | 41. Switzerland Section Chair Almedin Kavaz |
| 24. Latvia Section Vice-Chair Leonids Ribickis | 42. Tunisia Section Chair / Zone Representative Habib Kammoun |
| 25. Lebanon Section Secretary Mohamad Awad | 43. Turkey Section Chair Nizamettin Aydin |
| 26. Lithuania Section Chair Borisas Levitas | 44. Ukraine Section Chair Iryna Ivasenko |
| 27. Malta Section Past-Chair Conrad Attard | 45. United Arab Emirates Section Chair Hussian Al Ahmad |
| 28. Mauritius Section Chair Robert Ah King | 46. United Kingdom and Ireland Section Chair Paul Cunningham |
| 29. Morocco Section Vice-Chair Zoubida Alaoui Mdaghri | 47. R8 Director Vincenzo Piuri |
| 30. North Macedonia Section Chair Anastas Mishev | 48. R8 Director-Elect Mike Hinchey |
| 31. Norway Section Chair Kiran Raja | 49. R8 Past Director Antonio Luque |
| 32. Oman Section Chair Ahmed Al Maashri | 50. R8 Secretary Ljupco Karadinov |
| 33. Poland Section Chair Marek Jasinski | 51. R8 Treasurer Adam Jastrzebski |
| 34. Portugal Section Chair Rodolfo Oliveira | 52. R8 Vice-Chair Member Activities Vinko Lesic |
| 35. Romania Section Chair Lucian Toma | 53. R8 Vice-Chair Student Activities Abdullateef Aliyu |
| 36. Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair Mladen Koprivica | 54. R8 Vice-Chair Technical Activities Marios Antoniou |
| 37. Slovenia Section Chair Joze Guna | |
| 38. South Africa Section Chair Udochukwu Bola Akuru | |

R8 Committee voting members absent:

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| 55. Belarus Section Chair VACANT | 62. Russia (Northwest) Section Chair Victor Sheludko |
| 56. Iceland Section Chair VACANT | 63. Russia (Siberia) Section Chair Roman Gorbunov |
| 57. Iran Section Chair Hossein Askarian Abyaneh | 64. Russia Section Chair Sergey Bankov |
| 58. Iraq Section Chair Abbas Sattar Bader Al-Maliki | 65. Uganda Section Chair VACANT |
| 59. Nigeria Section Chair Ifeyinwa Achumba | 66. Western Saudi Arabia Section Chair Abdullah BinLadin |
| 60. Saudi Arabia (East) Section Chair VACANT | 67. Zambia Section Chair Ariel Phiri |
| 61. Qatar Section Chair VACANT | |

R8 officers/volunteers present:

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| 68. Isaac Adekanye | Africa Council Chair |
| 69. Dennis Mwigusa | Tanzania Subsection Chair |

Committees of R8 members present:

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| 70. Magdalena Salazar Palma | Member | Strategic Planning Committee |
| 71. Peter Nagy | Member | Awards & Recognition Committee, R8 Director-Elect Candidate |
| 72. Andreas Koltes | Member | Finance Committee |
| 73. Pascal Lorenz | Member | Finance Committee |
| 74. Mohamed Neji | Member | Finance Committee |
| 75. Gheith Abandah | Chair | Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee |
| 76. Ana Madureira | Chair | Section Vitality & Development Committee |
| 77. Adeel Sultan | Chair | Publications & Communications Committee |
| 78. Mohammad Hossein Babaee | Member | Publications & Communications Committee |
| 79. Fatma Zamil | Member | Publications & Communications Committee |
| 80. Maja Matijasevic | Member | Publications & Communications Committee |
| 81. Nick Wainwright | Member | Publications & Communications Committee |
| 82. Mariya Antyufeyeva | Chair | Membership Development Committee |
| 83. Sara Barros | Member | Membership Development Committee |
| 84. Mohab Mangoud | Member | Membership Development Committee |
| 85. Fairouz Fattoum | Member | Membership Development Committee |
| 86. Ines Inacio | Chair | Young Professionals Committee |
| 87. Ali Alfayly | Member | Young Professionals Committee |
| 88. Seif El Hajjem | Member | Young Professionals Committee |
| 89. Georgia Saridaki | Member | Young Professionals Committee |
| 90. Mistura Muibi-Tijani | Member | Young Professionals Committee |
| 91. Wadee HajAli | Member | Young Professionals Committee |
| 92. Barbara Vujkov | Member | Young Professionals Committee |

93. Wafa Ben Hmida	Chair	Women in Engineering Committee
94. Maria-Alexandra Paun	Member	Women in Engineering Committee
95. Ana Margarida Trigo	Member	Women in Engineering Committee
96. Efthymia Aravinitis	Member	Women in Engineering Committee
97. Peter Magyar	Chair	Life Members Committee
98. Ayat Khaleel	Member	Entrepreneurship Committee
99. Theodoros Chatzinikolaou	Chair	Humanitarian Activities Committee
100. George Papadimitriou	Member	Humanitarian Activities Committee
101. Lucija Brezočnik	Member	Humanitarian Activities Committee
102. Omar Salameh	Member	Humanitarian Activities Committee
103. Martin Bastiaans	Chair	History Activities (HA) Committee
104. Tiziana Tambosso	Chair	Conference Coordination Committee
105. Anna Litvinenko	Chair	Chapter Coordination Committee
106. Filippo Sanfilippo	Member	Chapter Coordination Committee
107. Andrejs Romanovs	Chair	Professional and Educational Activities Committee
108. Dalius Navakas	Member	Professional and Educational Activities Committee
109. Toni Mattila	Chair	Action for Industry Committee
110. John Matogo	Member	Action for Industry (Afi) Committee
111. Nihel ben Youssef	Member	Action for Industry Committee
112. Sohaib Qamar Sheikh	Member	Action for Industry Committee
113. Simay Akar	Past Chair	Student Activities Committee (SAC)
114. Vera Markovic	Chair	SAC - Contests, Awards and Recognitions AdHoc Committee
115. Khalidoun Taktak	Chair	SAC - Training and Leadership Support AdHoc Committee
116. Vildana Hrnjić	Chair	SAC - New Initiatives
117. Lee Crudgington	Member	SAC - Contests, Awards and Recognitions AdHoc Committee
118. Soula Vasiliki-Seie	Member	SAC - New Initiatives AdHoc Committee
119. George Michael	Chair	Electronic Communications Team
120. Maria Efthymiou	Member	Electronic Communications Team
121. Costas Stasopoulos	Chair	R8 Sections Congress Coordinator, IEEE Local Groups
122. Mohamed Amin	Chair	Careers AdHoc Committee
123. Mona Ghassemian	Chair	Standards coordination AdHoc Committee
124. Nadezhda Kunicina	Chair	Cross-section Technical Cooperation AdHoc Committee
125. Albert Lysko	Chair	Educational Infrastructures AdHoc Committee
126. Nadine Abbas	Chair	Alternate membership payments AdHoc Committee
127. Dusanka Boskovic	Chair	Senior Members Search AdHoc Committee, R8 Director-Elect Candidate
128. Maria Teresa Correia de Barros	Chair	Fellow Members Search AdHoc Committee
129. Claire Lajoie-Mazenc	Chair	IEEE Milestones Awareness AdHoc Committee

R8 guests and meeting presenters:

130. Thomas Coughlin	IEEE President & CEO
131. Andrew (Drew) Lowery	IEEE Region 2 Director
132. Eric Grigorian	IEEE Region 3 Director
133. Vickie Ozburn	IEEE Region 4 Director
134. Kathy Hayashi	IEEE Region 6 Director
135. Tom (Thamir) Murad	IEEE Region 7 Director
136. Cecilia Metra	IEEE Division V Director-Elect
137. Leila De Florian	IEEE Division VIII Director
138. David Koehler	IEEE Ad Hoc Cmte Leadership Continuity and Efficiency
139. Clara Neppel	Senior Director, European Business Operations, IEEE Global Office in Europe

Others present:

140. Ramesh Ramadoss	Chair, IEEE Blockchain Technical Community
141. Kathleen Weeks	IEEE Senior Corporate Development Manager
142. Massimo Pellegrino	European Public Policy Program Manager, IEEE Technology Centre, Vienna
143. Eszter Lukacs	IEEE Technology Centre, Vienna
144. Joshua Horowitz	IEEE Technology Centre, Vienna
145. Hermann Brand	IEEE Technology Centre, Vienna
146. Irene Kitsara	IEEE Technology Centre, Vienna

147.Izzet Kale	Region 8 Director-Elect Candidate, UK&I Section Past-Chair
148.Ali Zolait	Bahrain Section additional representative
149.Jasim Saif	Bahrain Section additional representative
150.Ilja Galkins	Latvia Section additional representative
151.Eliana Silva	Portugal Section additional representative
152.Pedro Fonseca	Portugal Section additional representative
153.Grigore Stamatescu	Romania Section additional representative
154.Qinghua Wang	Sweden Section additional representative
155.Ilhem Kallel	Tunisia Section additional representative

Local organizing team:

156.Thomas Strasser	Austria Section Past Chair
157.Norbert Eidenberger	Austria Section Secretary
158.Simone Gahleitner	Local organizing team
159.Lukas Burrer	Local organizing team
160.Michael Wojak	Local organizing team
161.Ronja Stimmeder	Local organizing team

Meeting minutes

Day 1: Saturday, 2 March 2024

1. Procedural – Call to order and welcome (Piuri)

Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director, calls the Committee to order at 09:00 h CET and opens the 122nd IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting.

2. Procedural – Housekeeping (Karadzinov)

Ljupco Karadzinov, Region 8 Secretary, presents the housekeeping rules, the meeting schedule and the social events.

3. Procedural – Roll call (Karadzinov)

Ljupco Karadzinov, Region 8 Secretary, takes a roll call of R8 Committee voting members and confirms there is a quorum of majority of the Section Chairs (46 out of 59) and also a total majority of all voting members (54 out of 67).

4. Motion – Approval of the agenda (Piuri)

Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director, presents the proposed agenda. There is no discussion. The motion passes unanimously; the agenda is approved.

5. Motion – Approval of the consent agenda (Piuri)

Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director, presents the items in the consent agenda:

Motion 1: Approval of the minutes of the previous 121st IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting with appendixes

Motion 2: Approval of the changes to the IEEE Region 8 Bylaws:

- Changes in R8-3.1.7.1 VICE CHAIR-MEMBER ACTIVITIES
- PROPOSED ACTION: Resolved that the changes to the Region 8 Bylaws are approved as presented
 - Alignment of the name of the R8 Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee with the name of the IEEE Humanitarian Activities Board (HTB)
 - Putting R8 Entrepreneurship Committee under the coordination of the Vice Chair - Member Activities

Motion 3: Approval of the changes to the IEEE Region 8 Operations Manual:

3.1. Changes in R8M-6.1.12 REGION 8 HUMANITARIAN TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

- PROPOSED ACTION: Resolved that the changes to the Region 8 Operations Manual related to Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee are approved as presented.
 - Change the name of the Humanitarian Activities Committee (HuAC) to Humanitarian Technology Activities (HTA) Committee and update its mission

3.2 Addition of R8M-6.1.19 REGION 8 SECTION VITALITY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- PROPOSED ACTION: Resolved that the changes to the Region 8 Operations Manual related to Section Vitality and Development Committee are approved as presented

- Creates the Region 8 Section Vitality and Development Committee as a standing committee of R8

Motion 4: Approval of changes to the IEEE Region 8 Committees' Operations Manuals

4.1 Approval of the changes to the IEEE R8 Awards & Recognitions Committee Operations Manual

- PROPOSED ACTION: Resolved that the Region 8 Awards & Recognitions Committee (ARC) Operations Manual is approved as presented
 - Adapts the name of one award managed by the R8 Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee and updates its eligibility

4.2 Approval of the updated version of the R8 Conference Coordination Committee (CoCC) Operations Manual

- PROPOSED ACTION: Resolved that the R8 CoCC Operations Manual is hereby approved as presented
 - Modifications regarding: the scope of the R8 steering committee for the R8 flagship/portfolio conferences; definition of the role of the Section Conference Coordinators; AFRICON – inclusion of 20% FCS of the Africa Council; HISTELCON – updated as the new multi-regional conference; and modifications of the R8 benefits and requirements for flagship/portfolio conferences.

4.3 Approval of the changes to the IEEE R8 Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee Operations Manual

- PROPOSED ACTION: Resolved that the R8 Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee Operations Manual is approved as presented
 - Name change to Humanitarian Technology Activities (HTA) Committee and updates its mission and programs to align with IEEE's mission and activities in the area and current practices

Motion 5: Approval of the IEEE R8 flagship/portfolio conferences - R8 Conferences Coordination Committee motions

5.1 ENERGYCON 2026 – PROPOSED ACTION:

- Resolved that the organization of the 2026 edition of IEEE ENERGYCON is hereby approved as follows:
 - Title: IEEE ENERGYCON 2026
 - Dates: 27-29 October 2026
 - Venue: National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts (CNAM), Paris, France
 - General co-chairs: René Garelo (IEEE France Section Chair), François Gerin (SEE President, France)
 - Number of participants: 150
 - Registration fee: US\$ 277-429 (reduced-regular)
 - Budget: US\$ 93,775 incomes, US\$ 74,921 expenses, US\$ 18,854 (25%) surplus
 - Region 8 share: 30% of the surplus (US\$ 5,656)

5.2 MELECON 2026 – PROPOSED ACTION:

- Resolved that the organization of the 2026 edition of IEEE MELECON is hereby approved as follows:
 - Title: IEEE MELECON 2026
 - Dates: 2-4 February, 2026
 - Venue: Egypt University of Informatics, New Cairo, Egypt
 - General co-chairs: Reem Bahgat (President, Egypt University of Informatics), Amr Adly (IEEE Fellow: President, Egypt Japan University for Science and Technology), Ahmed Madian (IEEE Egypt Section Chair, Nile University), Ahmed Hassan Yousef (IEEE Egypt Section past chair, Egypt University of Informatics)
 - Number of participants: 270
 - Registration fee: US\$ 270-380(reduced-regular)
 - Budget: US\$ 86,570 incomes, US\$ 71,480 expenses, US\$ 15,090 (21%) surplus
 - Region 8 share: 30% of the surplus (US\$ 4,527)

5.3 RTSI 2026 – PROPOSED ACTION:

- Resolved that the organization of the 2026 edition of IEEE RTSI is hereby approved as follows:
 - Title: IEEE RTSI 2026
 - Dates: 19-21 August, 2026
 - Venue: Aalto University, Espoo, Finland
 - General chair: Pourakbari Kasmaei Mahdi (Finland Section Chair)
 - Number of participants: 150
 - Registration fee: US\$ 350-450 (reduced-regular)
 - Budget: US\$ 87,250 incomes, US\$ 70,090 expenses, US\$ 17,160 (24,5%) surplus
 - Region 8 share: 50% of the surplus (US\$ 8,580)

The full texts of the motions and full texts with proposed changes of the IEEE R8 Bylaws, IEEE R8 Operations Manual and Committees' of R8 Operations Manuals are given as attachments in the appendixes of these minutes.

Kouzou Abdallah, Algeria Section Chair, raises a question about the provision in the IEEE R8 Operations Manual, part R8M-8: SECTIONS, that it can be good practice for the Committee to approve only those petitions where the growth potential of the petitioning Section is such that a membership of at least 250 voting members is a realistic future prospect; while a Section is IEEE operating unit constituted by a minimum of fifty (50) voting members. R8 Director Piuri, removes the motion “3.2 Addition of R8M-6.1.19 REGION 8 SECTION VITALITY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE” and the full texts of the IEEE R8 Operations Manual from the Consent Agenda and this motion to be discussed in the agenda point 48. New business.

The consent agenda is **approved unanimously** (without the removed motion “3.2 Addition of R8M-6.1.19 REGION 8 SECTION VITALITY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE”).

Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director, presents the Obituaries for:

- Bruce B. Barrow, 1929-2023, USA, IRE Section Secretary/Treasurer in 1959 and the promoter of the petition for creating IRE Region 9 which became IEEE Region 8.
- Tunde Yusuff Salihu, 1963-2023, Nigeria, IEEE Nigeria Section Chair, 2006-2010.

6. Discussion – IEEE President address (Coughlin)

Tom Coughlin, 2024 IEEE President & CEO, presents his priorities for 2024, IEEE Board of Directors and other OU Activities in 2024, IEEE Strategic Plan Refresh Objectives and other IEEE President’s Remarks.

7. Discussion – IEEE Vice President for Member and Geographic Activities (Mathur/Luque)

Antonio Luque, 2024 IEEE Vice President-Elect MGA, on behalf of Deepak Mathur, 2024 IEEE Vice President MGA, presents the MGA strategic plan 2020-2025, 2024 MGA priority projects, activities and focuses in 2024. He emphasizes the good news of reaching a number of 460,709 members, which is an all-time record. The next IEEE Sections Congress 2026 will be in Glasgow, UK.

8. Discussion – IEEE-USA President (Moore)

Moore, IEEE-USA President, is absent and there is no presentation under this agenda point.

9. Discussion – IEEE Region 2 Director address (Lowery)

Drew Lowery, IEEE Region 2 Director, presents Region 2 statistics, 2024 priorities, and regional realignment update.

10. Discussion – IEEE Region 3 Director address (Grigorian)

Eric Grigorian, IEEE Region 3 Director, presents Region 3 statistics and activities.

11. Discussion – IEEE Region 4 Director address (Ozburn)

Vickie Ozburn, IEEE Region 4 Director, presents Region 4 statistics and best practices.

12. Discussion – IEEE Region 6 Director address (Hayashi)

Kathy Herring Hayashi, IEEE Region 6 Director, presents Region 6 overview and activities.

13. Discussion – IEEE Region 7 Director address (Murad)

Tom Murad, IEEE Region 7 Director, without PPT slides presents Region 6 overview.

14. Discussion – IEEE Division VIII Director address (De Floriani)

Leila De Floriani, IEEE Division VIII Director and 2020 IEEE Computer Society President, presents the IEEE Computer Society strategic plan outline, emerging technology funds and chapter incentive funding and grants.

15. Coffee Break [10:45–11:15]

16. Discussion – Director's report (Piuri)

Vincenzo Piuri, R8 Director, presents his reports with highlights on the Region 8 goals and areas of action, R8 Ad-Hoc Committees and implementation of the 2023 Section Congress recommendations in the Region.

17. Discussion – Director-Elect's report (Hinchey)

Mike Hinchey, IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect, reports on the activities of the R8 Committees of R8 under his coordination and events attended representing R8.

18. Discussion – Treasurer's report (Jastrzebski)

Adam Jastrzebski, R8 Treasurer, presents the Treasurer's and Financial Report including: summary of recent activities, Activities of the AdHoc Committee on Alternate Membership Payments, R8 Sections financial reporting 2023 and 2024, financial challenges in Region 8, Concur and NextGen R8 Budget coding structure, 2023 IEEE R8 Budget report revenue and expenses summary, R8 financial position end 2023 and as of 28/02/2024, R8 Budget financial position and assets history, recent trend (2018-2023) and forecast, operational surplus available for special new activities in 2024, and Budget 2024 proposal. Highlights from the presentation:

- An avalanche of last-minute end of year payments
- Working in IEEE AdHoc on NextGen Volunteer Adoption
- Ad Hoc Committee on Alternate Membership Payments has a main goal is to identify payment constraints across our Region and find alternative payment methods
- Financial Challenges in Region 8
 - There are 12 Sections/Subsections in Region 8 under OFAC (USA) restrictions, Concur not available
 - Many volunteers simply cannot afford or cannot use their own credit cards to buy their travel tickets
- 2023 IEEE R8 Budget Report Revenue and Expenses Summary:
 - Slightly larger Revenue than anticipated
 - Further expenditure of \$158,077 has already been committed to 2024 (accruals)
 - The end-of-year budget spending was 63%.
 - The committed budget spending was about 75% (in 2023 it was 72%)
 - There seem to be a repeating pattern of over-budgeting by the committees, who try to secure larger budgets just in case
- R8 Financial Position – Comments
 - The reduction in R8 activities due to COVID in 2020-21 resulted in the budget underspending and the increase of the Liquid Assets by \$918,497.
 - There has been no increased spending in 2022-23 to compensate for the previous two years of reduced activities. We still have not recovered from the COVID effects. The main reasons were unexpected events such as wars, travel visa restrictions, hyperinflation, and economic sanctions, which unfortunately affected Region 8 recently.
 - As the result, the R8 Actual Expenses were approximately equal to R8 Actual Annual Income and R8 Liquid Assets remained quite stable in the last three years.
- Budget 2024 Proposal Comments
 - Proposed budget update has been agreed by OpCom reflecting realistic expectations of actual expenses.
 - The overall budget is reduced but it is comfortably above the actual spending in 2022 and in 2023.
 - Request to MGA to use 50% + \$150,000 Operational Surplus in the Budget 2024 has been sent for approval. This is the same request as in 2023.

19. Motion – Treasurer's motions (Jastrzebski)

Adam Jastrzebski, R8 Treasurer, presents the 2024 R8 Budget motion.

Motion: Approval of the 2024 Region 8 budget

PROPOSED ACTION: Resolved that the 2024 Region 8 budget as presented shall be approved. This budget includes:

- A 2024 balanced Budget without material surplus or loss.
- 2024 budget expenses of \$ 1,162,414.
- 2024 budget income of \$ 1,162,414 consisting of: actual annual income and savings of \$696,044, accruals of \$158,077, and \$308,293 transfer from actual 2023 operating surplus.

The motion comes from the Fin Com and OpCom and doesn't need a second. The motion is approved unanimously.

20. Discussion – R8 Diversity, equity and inclusion (Abandah)

Gheith Abandah, R8 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) Chair, presents the R8 diversity and volunteer inclusion analysis and his committee plans.

21. Discussion – Section anniversary (Piuri)

Vincenzo Piuri, R8 Director, presents to the Jordan Section Chair Mousa AL-Akhras the 25th anniversary banner.

22. Discussion – Recognitions (Piuri)

No recognitions presented under this agenda point.

23. Procedural – Group photo (Karadzinov)

Group photo is taken at the stairs in front of the Lower Belvedere 1&2 meeting room, at 12:40 h CET.



24. Lunch [12:40-13:40]

25. Discussion – Vice Chair Technical Activities report (Antoniou)

Marios Antoniou, R8 Vice-Chair Technical Activities, presents the R8 technical activities highlights, progress and plans. Then he invites the Chairs of the Committees of R8 under his portfolio to present their respective activities:

1. Tiziana Tambosso, Conference Coordination Committee Chair
2. Anna Litvinenko, Chapter Coordination Committee Chair
3. Andrejs Romanovs, Professional and Educational Activities Committee Chair
4. Toni Mattila, Action for Industry Committee Chair

Vice Chair Antoniou invites the Chairs of the six AdHoc Committees under his portfolio to present the recent activities:

1. Mona Ghassemian, Standards Coordination AdHoc Committee Chair
2. Nadezhda Kunicina, Cross-Section Technical Cooperation AdHoc Committee Chair
3. Peter Nagy, Cooperation with IEEE S/TCs and National Associations AdHoc Committee Chair
4. Paul M Cunningham, Climate Change AdHoc Committee Chair
5. Albert Lysko, Educational Infrastructure AdHoc Committee Chair

26. Motion – Vice Chair Technical Activities motions (Antoniou)

Motions from the R8 Conferences Coordination Committee are included in the Consent Agenda, so there are no motions presented by the Vice Chair Antoniou at this agenda point.

27. Discussion – IEEE Future Directions - Metaverse initiative (Metra)

Cecilia Metra, IEEE Metaverse Initiative Co-Chair, presents the initiative mission and the goal to be an enabler for collaboration among IEEE constituencies on Metaverse's challenges and risks, as well as 2024 program plan and activities.

28. Discussion – IEEE Technology Center for Climate (Neppel)

Clara Neppel, Senior Director European Business Operations, IEEE Technology Center for Climate (ITCC) Lead, presents the ITCC aims, European Public Policy efforts related to climate change current projects, meetings, webinar series and plans.

29. Discussion – IEEE Ad Hoc Cmte Leadership Continuity and Efficiency (Koehler)

David Koehler, IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Leadership Continuity and Efficiency Chair, presents the committee scope, activities and key deliverables.

30. Discussion – R8 Publications and communications (Sultan)

Adeel Sultan, R8 Publications & Communications Committee Chair, presents his activities, progress and plans. Then he invites the members of his Committee to present their respective activities:

1. Maja Matijasevic, Region 8 News Editor in Chief
2. Ftama Alzamel, Region 8 Today Editor in Chief
3. George Michael, R8 Electronic Communications Committee Chair
4. Nick Wainwright, R8 New Web AdHoc Committee Chair
5. Mohammad Hossein Babaee, R8 Social Media Platforms AdHoc Committee Chair

31. Coffee Break [15:45–16:10]

32. Discussion – Breakout sessions for best practices and strategies (Piuri)

Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director, gives introduction about the topics to be discussed in two breakout sessions and invites the meeting attendees to split into two equal groups.

- Break-out Session 1: Attracting and retaining members (all grades), Room Belvedere 1&2
 - Moderator R8 Past Director Antonio Luque
- Break-out Session 2: Supporting industries and industry members, Room Belvedere 3
 - Moderators R8 Director-Elect Mike Hinchey

33. Discussion – Reporting of breakout sessions (Piuri)

Antonio Luque, moderator of the break-out session 1: Attracting and retaining members (all grades), reports on the discussion conclusions and outcomes.

Mike Hinchey, moderator of the break-out session 2: Supporting industries and industry members, reports on the discussion conclusions and outcomes.

34. Discussion – R8 Section vitality and development (Madureira)

Ana Maria Madureira, R8 Section Vitality and Development Committee Chair, presents the committee objectives and the updated IEEE election procedures for Sections/Subsections, Chapters and Affinity Groups.

35. Discussion – IEEE Local Groups (Stasopoulos)

Costas Stasopoulos, Local Groups Working Group Chair, presents the key advantages, examples, benefits and latest developments in the IEEE local groups: 61 approved covering all geographic areas and more waiting to be approved.

36. Info – Adjourn of the Day 1

The meeting recesses at 17:35 h (CET)

Day 2: Sunday, 3 March 2024

37. Procedural – Call to order Day 2 (Piuri)

Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director, calls the Committee to order at 09:05 h CET.

38. Discussion – Vice Chair Students Activities report (Aliyu)

Abdullateef Aliyu, R8 Vice-Chair Students Activities, presents the Student Activities Committee (SAC) goals, 2023 R8 student membership and student R8 OUs statistics, status of annual reporting and dissolved R8 SB in 2023, R8 2023 Cross Sectionals Congresses, R8 success in IEEEExtreme 17.0, and planned activities for 2024.

Ines Inacio, Young Professionals Committee Chair, gives details on the forthcoming 2024 SYP Congress in Grenoble, France, 15-19 July 2024.

Vice Chair Aliyu invites the Chairs of the AdHoc Committees under his portfolio to present the recent activities:

1. Kaldun TakTak, AdHoc on Training and Leadership Support Chair

2. Vera Markovic, AdHoc on Contests, Awards and Recognition Chair
Lee Crudgington, Awards coordinator & IEEEDuino Student Contest Chair
 - Announcement of the IEEE Region 8 Student Awards Winners
 - Student Branch of the Year 2022
 - First Place: IEEE ESPRIT Student Branch - Tunisia Section
 - Second Place: National Institute of Applied Sciences & Technology (INSAT)- Tunisia Section
 - Third Place: Universidade do Porto Student Branch – Portugal Section
 - IEEE Larry K Wilson Award:
 - Iraqy Ali Iraqy, Benha University – Egypt Section
 - Outstanding Student Branch Website Award 2023:
 - First Place: IEEE National Technical University of Athens - Greece Section
 - Second Place: IEEE Technical University of Kenya Student Branch - Kenya Section
 - Third Place: IEEE University of Pavia Student Branch - Italy Section
3. Vildana Hrnjic, AdHoc on New Initiatives Chair
4. Abdullateef Aliyu, on behalf of Fay Elhassan, AdHoc Electronics Communications Chair

39. Motion – Vice Chair Students Activities motions (Aliyu)

No motions are presented by the Vice Chair Aliyu.

40. Info – Coffee Break [10:35-11:10]

41. Discussion – Call for Awards (Luque)

Antonio Luque, R8 Awards and Recognition Committee Chair, presents the IEEE, MGA and R8 awards and recognitions programs, IEEE joint awards with national societies, preparing a successful nomination, calls for nominations and the timeline for 2024 awards.

42. Discussion – Call for Nominations (Luque)

Antonio Luque, R8 Nominations and Appointments Committee Chair, presents the IEEE Election Activities in 2024 and the IEEE Electioneering Policies and Guidelines.

IEEE Elections 2024 (will be open from 15 August to 1 October 2023):

- 2025-2026 IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect election
 - Dusanka Boskovic
 - Izzet Kale
 - Peter Nagy
 - More candidates can be added by petition from membership. Deadline 15 April 2024
- 2025 IEEE President-Elect election
 - Mary Ellen Randall
 - John P. Verboncoeur
 - S. K. Ramesh
 - No candidates will be running by petition.

R8 2024 elections for the 2025-2026 R8 officers:

- R8 officer positions open for nominations:
 - Vice Chair, Member Activities (two-year commitment)
 - Vice Chair, Student Activities (two-year commitment)
 - Vice Chair, Technical Activities (two-year commitment)
 - Secretary (two-year commitment)
 - Treasurer (two-year commitment)
 - Zone Representative (two-year commitment)
- Election schedule and deadlines:
 - 5 March: first call to be distributed to members
 - 15 June: deadline for nominations
 - July 2024: N&A meeting to finalize the recommended slates
 - At least 28 days in advance of the Fall meeting: slate to be sent to R8 Committee
 - 15 days before the election date: candidates added by petition of at least 15 R8C voting members
- Elections during the 123rd R8 Committee meeting

43. Discussion – Vice Chair Members Activities report (Lesic)

Vinko Lesic, R8 Vice-Chair Member Activities, presents the Membership Activities team, expenditure 2023 including R8 (\$90,847) and sponsors (\$175,601) funding, vTools reported events (YoY difference +39.31%), and membership summary: 82,607 members R8 end of Jan 2024; and 88,646 R8 members (485,912 IEEE) on 29 Feb 2024. Then he invites the Chairs of the Committees of R8 under his portfolio to present their respective activities:

1. Women in Engineering Committee, Chair Wafa Ben Hmida
2. Humanitarian Activities Committee, Chair Theodoros Chatzinikolaou
3. Young Professionals Committee, Chair Ana Ines Inacio
4. Membership Development Committee, Chair Mariya Antyufeyeva
5. History Activities Committee, Chair Martin Bastiaans
6. Life Members Committee, Chair Peter Magyar
7. Entrepreneurship Committee, Ayat Khaleel (Amr), member, on behalf of the Chair Rawane El Jamal
8. Careers New Initiative AdHoc Committee, Chair Mohamed Amin
9. EPICS in IEEE AdHoc Committee, Zoubida Alaoui Mdaghri, member, on behalf of the Chair Samarth Deo
10. Territories in Crisis AdHoc Committee, Chair Almedin Kavaz
11. IEEE Milestones Awareness AdHoc Committee, Chair Claire Lajoie-Mazenc
12. Senior Member Search AdHoc Committee, Chair Dusanka Boskovic
13. Fellow Members Search AdHoc Committee, Chair Maria Teresa Correia de Barros

44. Motion – Vice Chair Members Activities motions (Lesic)

No motions are presented by the Vice Chair Lesic.

45. Discussion – Region realignment: Zone Representative (Luque)

Antonio Luque, R8 Past Director, presents the background information on the IEEE Regions realignment process, definition of the R8 Zone Representative (ZR) position and functions in the MGA Operations Manual, the previous R8 committees to make the ZR voting member of the R8 Committee and ex-officio member of some committees of R8. Then he explains that the topic of the discussion today is whether ZR should be a member of R8 OpCom. After extensive discussion the R8 Committee expresses the following opinion and conclusions:

- The R8 Zone Representative shall be included as a member of the R8 OpCom
- A motion on this matter cannot be voted today as changing the R8 Bylaws requires distribution of such motion to voting members at least 28 days in advance
- Antonio Luque, R8 Past Director, will prepare all necessary motions for changing the R8 governing documents (R8 Bylaws and R8 Operations Manual) for the next R8 Committee meeting

46. Procedural – Next meeting (Piuri)

Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director announces that the next 123rd R8 Committee meeting will be held on Saturday-Sunday, 19-20 October 2024, at the Renaissance Bordeaux Hotel, Bordeaux, France.

47. Procedural – Old business (Piuri)

No issues reported under this agenda point.

48. Procedural – New business (Piuri)

1) Motion from the Africa Council: Isaac Adekanye, Africa Council Chair, presents a motion from the Africa Council for reduction of the IEEE eMembership dues proportionally to the country's Gross National Income (GNI). He explains the traditional membership dues and existing discounts, the current and alternate model of IEEE eMembership dues, why such a change is needed, as well as an example of the proposed alternate model of IEEE eMembership Dues:

- Professional eMembership: 1% of the GNI (e.g. \$40 for a country with GNI \$4,000 - \$5,000)
- Students: 1/3 of the professional eMembership (e.g. \$13.33 USD for a country with GNI \$4,000 - \$5,000)

Motion: Recommendation to MGA to reduce IEEE e-membership dues for African countries

PROPOSED ACTION: The IEEE Africa Council requests the IEEE Region 8 to endorse motion for the IEEE Board of Directors to reduce the IEEE eMembership dues, to become proportional to the country's Gross National Income (GNI).

The motion is seconded, discussion follows explaining its scope is to all low GNI countries, not only Africa, voting follows. The motion **passes unanimously**. Region 8 Director Piuri will bring the motion to the MGA for analysis and further action.

2) HISTELCON 2027: Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director, and Tom Murad, IEEE Region 7 Director, announce the agreed cooperation between the two Regions to organize the next HISTELCON 2027 in Region 7 (Ottawa, Canada).

3) Motion: Changes to the Region 8 Operations Manual related to Section Vitality and Development Committee

Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director, opens discussion on this motion that was removed from the consent agenda.

Motion 3: Approval of the changes to the IEEE Region 8 Operations Manual:

3.2 Addition of R8M-6.1.19 REGION 8 SECTION VITALITY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- PROPOSED ACTION: Resolved that the changes to the Region 8 Operations Manual related to Section Vitality and Development Committee are approved as presented
 - Creates the R8 Section Vitality and Development Committee as a standing committee of R8

Discussion follows on changing the number of required at least 250 voting members for a petitioning Section, while a Section is constituted by a minimum of fifty (50) voting members. R8 Director Piuri, explains that the number of 250 is a recommendation only and the OpCom looks at the activities not only member numbers. Any change to the numbers in the R8 governing documents requires distribution of such a motion to voting members at least 28 days in advance, so additional formal motion on this matter cannot be voted on today. Director Piuri proposes to work with the R8 OpCom on how to reconsider and improve the presentation of the criteria by implementing more clear wording according to common sense. The motion 3.2 is voted and **approved unanimously**.

4) Breakdown sessions: Director Piuri informs that the reports will be posted in the agenda tool the next couple of weeks.

5) Hoisting the next meeting: Director Piuri invites Section Chairs who want to host the next 124th R8 Committee Meeting in spring 2025 to send email to him and the R8 Secretary Karadzinov.

49. Procedural – Adjourn (Piuri)

Vincenzo Piuri, Region 8 Director, invites all participants to join him in the middle of the meeting room forming a circle around a basket of flowers and gives a closing and thank-you speech, comparing the work we did with planting the good seeds that now need to be nurtured and given care, like are our actions that need to follow this meeting.

The meeting adjourns at 14:08 h (CET).

50. Info – Lunch (14:10)

Respectfully submitted,
Ljupco Karadzinov, IEEE R8 Secretary

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