

REGULATION FOR THE JINR PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Approved with amendments by the JINR Scientific Council at its 121st session held on 23–24 February 2017

1. General provisions

1.1. The Programme Advisory Committees (PACs) are advisory bodies to the JINR Directorate and to the JINR Scientific Council, established with a view to facilitating the development and implementation of the scientific programme of JINR in its major areas of research.

1.2. The Programme Advisory Committees:

- evaluate proposals for projects of experimental research at basic facilities of JINR and of other research centres;
- review the progress and results of on-going experiments in the evaluation of proposals for their continuation or termination;
- review projects for the upgrade and further development of JINR facilities, and for the construction of new facilities;
- evaluate topics of theoretical research at JINR and their relevance to the needs of experiments carried out at JINR;
- evaluate developments in the fields of accelerator technology and experimental techniques, information technology, as well as consider educational programmes of JINR;
- provide advice in the development of medium-range and long-range strategies of JINR.

1.3. To implement these functions, at their meetings the PACs evaluate proposals from international scientific collaborations, scientific institutions — partners of JINR in the Member States and other countries, JINR Laboratories and scientists. These proposals are submitted for consideration to the PACs by the JINR Directorate in accordance with the Rules for the Preparation of Projects at JINR.

1.4 The PACs carry out the examination of projects and formulate their conclusions in written form based on the following evaluation criteria:

- scientific merits and intellectual contribution;
- technical feasibility of the project within the proposed timescale;
- compliance of the requested financial resources with the project objectives;
- availability of adequate human resources at JINR and in the collaborating institutions.

1.5. The PACs independently establish their operating procedures. Specific criteria, methods and forms of examination of projects submitted to the PACs for evaluation are developed and applied by the PACs in consultation with the JINR Directorate.

1.6. For each PAC session, a written report containing the results of its work and the corresponding recommendations, signed by the Chairperson and by the Scientific Secretary of the PAC, is submitted to the Scientific Council and JINR Director.

1.7. In view of the major areas of research established at JINR by the Scientific Council and by the Committee of Plenipotentiaries, the following Programme Advisory Committees have been set up:

- PAC for Particle Physics;
- PAC for Nuclear Physics;
- PAC for Condensed Matter Physics.

1.8. The further establishment or the cancellation of PACs is carried out by a joint decision of the JINR Directorate and the Scientific Council.

2. Composition and structure

2.1. The Scientific Council appoints to each PAC, upon proposal by the JINR Director, from 8 to 12 outside experts in the relevant fields. They are appointed for an initial term of three years. Every three years, one third of the PAC members can be replaced by new members with a view to ensuring both change and continuity.

2.2. The JINR Director appoints members of the JINR Directorate, Directors of the Laboratories and leading scientists of JINR as *ex officio* members to each PAC without a right to vote.

2.3. The Chairpersons of the PACs are appointed by the JINR Scientific Council upon proposal by the JINR Director for a term of three years which can be renewed for an additional three-year mandate.

2.4. In consultation with the Chairperson of the PAC, the JINR Directorate appoints a Scientific Secretary of the PAC responsible for the organizational aspects and for providing technical support to the PAC activities.

3. Procedure

3.1. The PACs meet at JINR at least once a year, usually twice a year.

3.2. The Chairperson and the Scientific Secretary of the PAC are responsible for the preparation of the agenda of the meetings, in cooperation with the JINR Directorate.

3.3. Proposals prepared in accordance with the Rules for the Preparation of Projects at JINR are submitted by the JINR Directorate to the relevant PAC Chairperson not later than two months before the meeting.

3.4. All proposals for projects are presented at public sessions of the PACs. Each proposal is reviewed by at least one PAC member.

3.5. Proposals for the agenda of a PAC meeting are submitted to the Chairperson of the PAC by the Scientific Secretary in consultation with the JINR Directorate not later than 6 weeks before the meeting.

3.6. The material for a PAC meeting is prepared by its Scientific Secretary and is dispatched to the members not later than one month before the meeting.

3.7. The PACs aim at consensus, and their recommendations are adopted at PAC closed sessions, with a required quorum of two thirds of their members being present at the meeting. The PAC recommendations are published and sent to all PAC members, leaders of the projects discussed at the meetings, and to the members of the Scientific Council.

3.8. If necessary, the PACs may carry out evaluation of projects by means of electronic communications, set up panels to consider specific issues and convene dedicated meetings.

3.9. If necessary, joint meetings of several PACs may be held upon recommendation of the Scientific Council or the PAC Chairpersons.

3.10. In order to control the implementation of large projects, the PACs may appoint one or two of its members to perform continuous monitoring of a specific project jointly with the principal investigator.

3.11. The Chairpersons of the PACs are invited by the JINR Directorate to present the recommendations of the PACs at sessions of the JINR Scientific Council.

3.12. The evaluation of a project is accomplished by one or several PAC members. Outside experts can also be invited for the evaluation, taking into account the common standards on potential conflicts of interests. The principle of the proposal evaluation consists in producing written referee reports, summarizing the evaluation of a project according to the criteria mentioned in paragraph 1.4. Each referee report should be structured following the evaluation criteria. At the end of the report the referee summarizes the weaknesses and strengths of a project. The final recommendation is made at the general discussion during the PAC meeting based on the available referee reports with the

possibility for PAC members to reconsider or modify their initial assessment following the debate at the meeting and the additional opinions that emerged in the discussion.