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Front cover: The Sciences II Building of the University of Geneva which will host the 39th IUPAC General Assembly (see pages 96–104).

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The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), formed in 1919, is a voluntary non-governmental, non-profit association of organizations, each of which represents the chemists of a member country.

Its objectives are:

- to promote continuing co-operation among the chemists of the member countries;
- to study topics of international importance to pure and applied chemistry which need regulation, standardization, or codification;
- to co-operate with other international organizations which deal with topics of a chemical nature;
- to contribute to the advancement of pure and applied chemistry in all its aspects.

The membership of IUPAC presently comprises 39 countries, each represented by a national organization, such as an academy of science or research council.

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