



IUGG



International Association
of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy

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Paris, 31 July 2018

To whom it may concern,

At the occasion of the transfer of the World Data Center for the sunspot number to Brussels in 1981, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), via its International Association for Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), supported the establishment of this data center, jointly with other relevant unions covering other scientific domains, as International Astronomical Union (IAU) and International Union of Radio Science (URSI).

Given the importance of solar activity monitoring for geosciences, in particular Earth's magnetism and climate change, and given the central role of the World Data Center SILSO (Sunspot Index and Long-term Solar Observations) for maintaining a long-term record of the solar activity cycle, we confirm here the continued scientific endorsement by IAGA of the World Data Center SILSO, regarding the scientific usefulness and quality of the sunspot data produced and archived by this data center.

Since 1981, no formal and permanent assessment of WDC-SILSO activities was implemented within IUGG/IAGA, as this goes beyond the scope and means of our Association. However, the abundance of peer-reviewed literature based on the sunspot number time series over past years provides a good indicator of the validity and significance of this widely-used reference solar data set, in particular regarding the solar impact on the Earth environment (geomagnetic indices, upper-atmosphere chemistry, etc.) in which the IAGA is specialized.

With best regards,

Mioara Manda
IAGA Secretary General

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