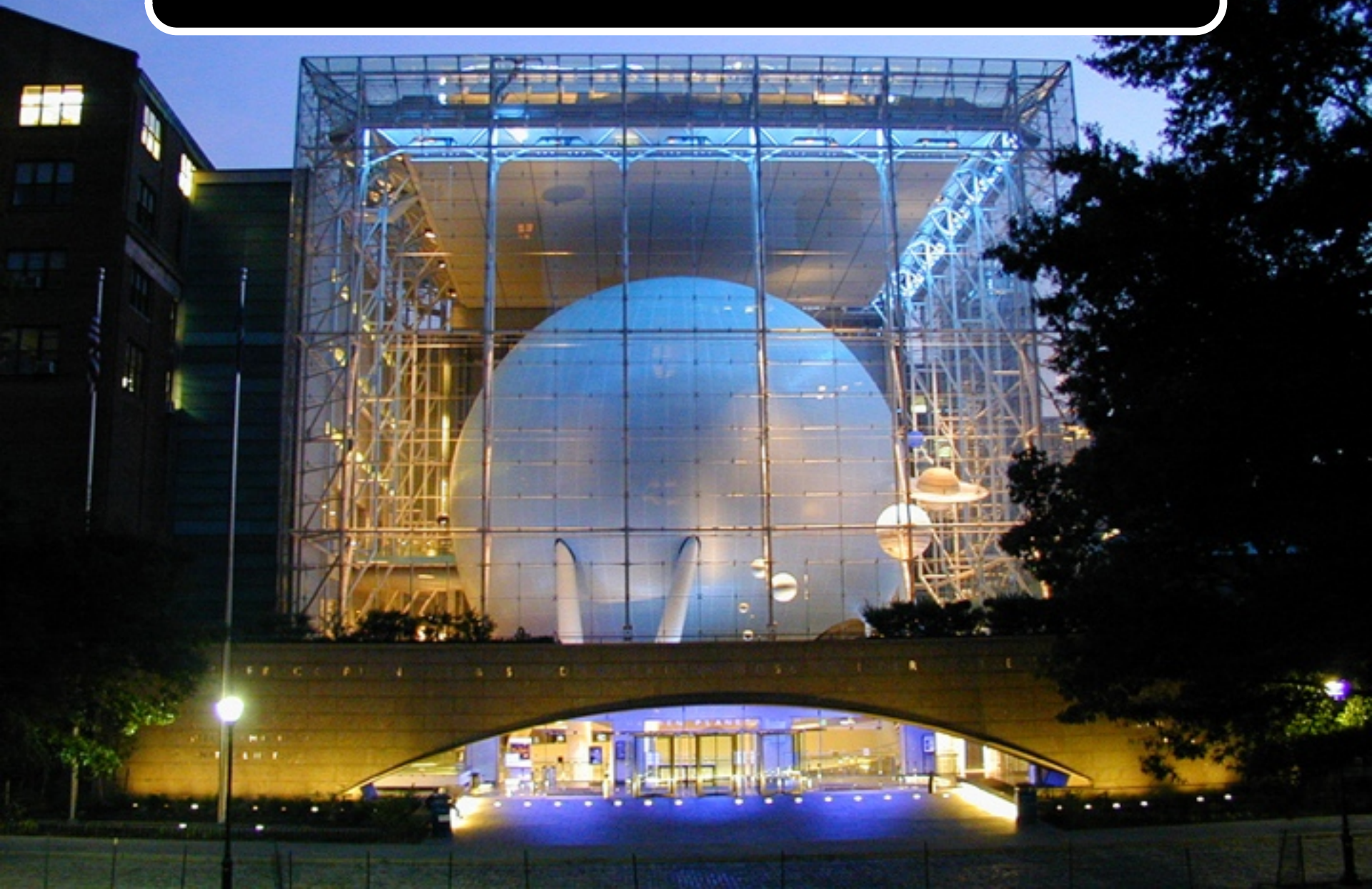


BEGINNING OF GAME

1999 Debate in NYC



TIME PASSES

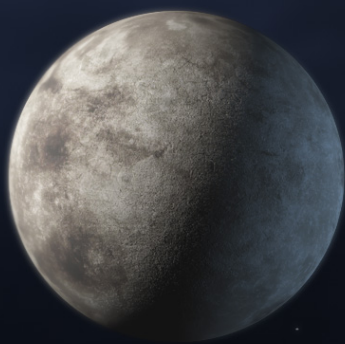
2000 to 2005

The logo is circular with a blue border. Inside the circle is a white silhouette of a castle with multiple spires. The text "IAU PRAGUE 2006" is written along the top inner edge of the circle, and "26th General Assembly" is written along the bottom inner edge. There are small blue stars separating the top and bottom text.

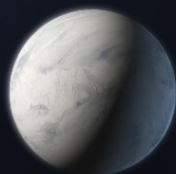
IAU XXVth General Assembly

2006 Vote in Prague

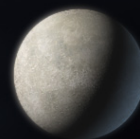
2003 UB₃₁₃

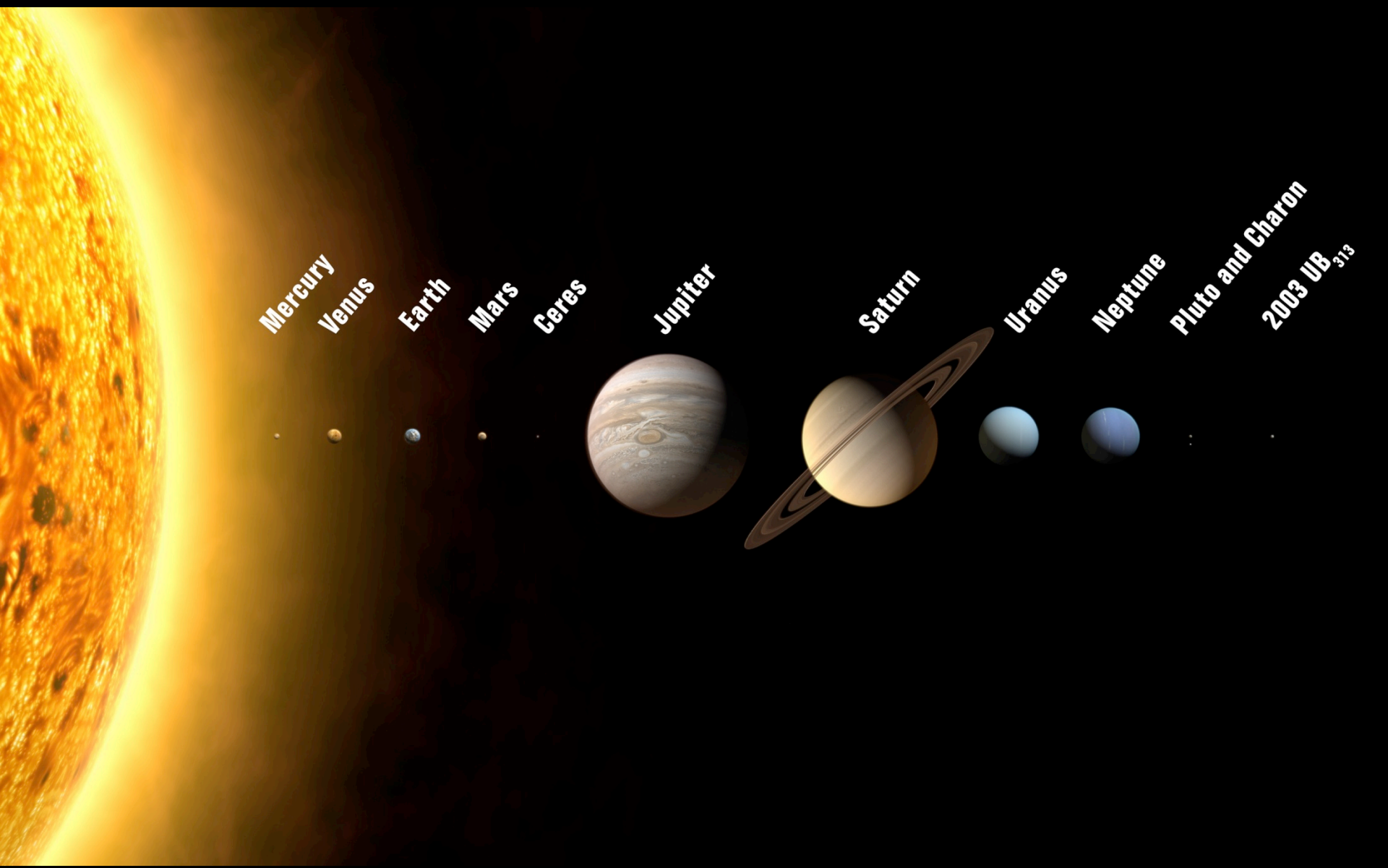


Charon



Ceres





Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Ceres

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

Pluto and Charon

2003 UB₃₁₃

2003 EL₆₁



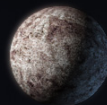
2005 FY₉



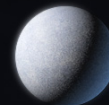
Sedna



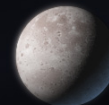
Orcus



Quaoar



2002 TX₃₀₀



2002 AW₁₉₇



Varuna



Ixion



Vesta



Pallas



Hygiea



Original Proposal of the Planet Definition Committee

A planet is a celestial body that (a) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (b) is in orbit around a star, and is neither a star nor a satellite of a planet.

Dr. Fernández's Proposed Definition

- (1) A planet is a celestial body that (a) is by far the largest object in its local population, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, (c) does not produce energy by any nuclear fusion mechanism.
- (2) According to point (1) the eight classical planets discovered before 1900, which move in nearly circular orbits close to the ecliptic plane are the only planets of our Solar System. All the other objects in orbit around the Sun are smaller than Mercury. We recognize that there are objects that fulfill the criteria (b) and (c) but not criterion (a). Those objects are defined as "dwarf" planets. Ceres as well as Pluto and several other large Trans-Neptunian objects belong to this category. In contrast to the planets, these objects typically have highly inclined orbits and/or large eccentricities.
- (3) All the other natural objects orbiting the Sun that do not fulfill any of the previous criteria shall be referred to collectively as "Small Solar System Bodies".

New Compromise Definition

RESOLUTION 5A

The IAU therefore resolves that planets and other bodies in our Solar System, except satellites, be defined into three distinct categories in the following way:

1. A "planet"¹ is a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape, and (c) has cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.
2. A "dwarf planet" is a celestial body that (a) is in orbit around the Sun, (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape², (c) has not cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit, and (d) is not a satellite.
3. All other objects³, except satellites, orbiting the Sun shall be referred to collectively as "Small Solar System Bodies".

¹ The eight planets are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

² An IAU process will be established to assign borderline objects into either dwarf planet and other categories.

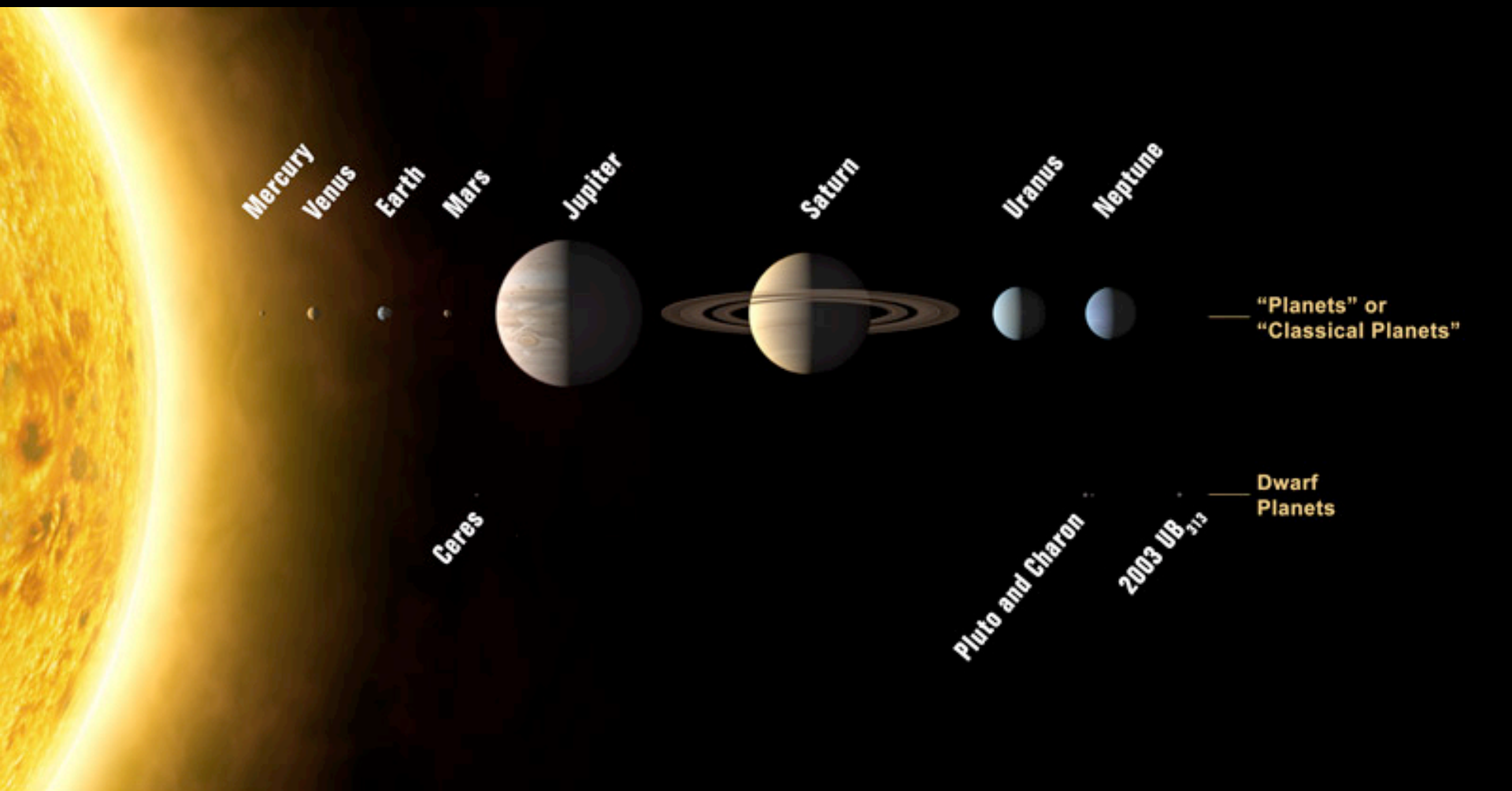
³ These currently include most of the Solar System asteroids, most Trans-Neptunian Objects (TNOs), comets, and other small bodies.

RESOLUTION 5B

Insert the word “classical” before the word “planet” in Resolution 5A, Section (1), and footnote 1. Thus reading:

(1) A classical "planet"¹ is a celestial body...

¹ The eight classical planets are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.



Mercury

Venus

Earth

Mars

Jupiter

Saturn

Uranus

Neptune

— "Planets" or
"Classical Planets"

Ceres

Pluto and Charon

2003 UB₃₁₃

— Dwarf
Planets

Umbrella for
“Planets”

Classical
Planets

Dwarf
Planets



Vote on Proposition 5A



...nets and other bodies,
...can be defined into three
...
...is in orbit around the
...self-gravity to overcome
...as a hydrostatic
...and (c) has cleared the

...that (a) is in orbit
...demon for its self-gravity
...that it assumes a
...hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round shape); (c) has not
...cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit; and
...is not a satellite.

(2) All other objects, except satellites, orbiting the Sun shall
be referred to collectively as "Small Solar System Bodies".

...shall be defined as those objects that (a) are in orbit
...the Sun and have not cleared their neighbourhood of
...other objects; (b) are in orbit around the Sun and are
...not satellites; and (c) have not cleared their
...neighbourhood of other objects.

Vote on Proposition 5B



RESOLUTION 6A

The IAU further resolves:

Pluto is a "dwarf planet" by the above definition and is recognized as the prototype of a new category of trans-Neptunian objects.

RESOLUTION 6B

The following sentence is added to Resolution 6A:

This category is to be called "plutonian objects."

Vote on Proposition 6A



Vote on Proposition 6B



END OF GAME