

Minutes

ICSU GeoUnions (GUs) Steering Committee Meeting

Monday, 11 April 2016, 09:00 - 17:00

Venue: Societe Geologique de France (SGF),
Maison de la Geologie 77, rue Claude Bernard, 75005, Paris, FRANCE

Present:

IAU: Secretary General Piero Benvenuti (joined after lunch)
ICA: Past President Georg Gartner
IGU: Secretary General Michael Meadow
INQUA: President Allan Ashworth (VICE CHAIR)
ISPRS: First Vice President Orhan Altan (joined after lunch)
ISPRS: Congress Director Lena Halounová
IUGG: President Michael Sideris
IUGG: Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh (CHAIR)
IUGS: President Roland Oberhänsli
IUGS: Secretary General Jose Calvo
IUSS: President Rainer Horn
URSI: President Paul Cannon

Guests:

David Black, ICSU Secretary General
Jean-Paul Cadet, Professeur honoraire, Univ. Pierre & Marie Curie, Paris
Sylvain Charbonnier, SGF Vice President

Alik Ismail-Zadeh chaired the meeting. Allan Ashworth took the Minutes.

Tour de Table & Welcome by the Host

Participants introduced themselves. Sylvain Charbonnier, SGF Vice President, welcomed the GeoUnions leaders on behalf of the SGF President who was unable to attend the meeting. Jean-Paul Cadet, Professeur honoraire, Univ. P&M Curie, Paris, our host for the meeting, reminded that the inaugural GeoUnions meeting had been held in the Maison de la Geologie in 2004.

Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2015 GeoUnions Steering Committee meeting in Trieste, Italy

The Minutes were read and accepted with minor revisions.

Updates by the Unions

Short presentations were made by nine union representatives of their current activities followed by a lengthy question and answer session. There are some similarities in the way that unions are organized, managed and conduct their business, but there are many differences. There was unanimity within the group that the exchange of ideas on a range of topics, whether it involved details of banking, or novel activities, was a valuable exercise, especially for new members.

Review of the Agenda of the ICSU Unions Meeting, 12-13 April 2016

The topics of the Agenda were reviewed and discussed.

ICSU Executive Board's proposal about the changes in voting for the Executive Board membership

David Black addressed the group on proposed changes to the nomination process for selection of ordinary

members to the ICSU Executive Board. A few months earlier, the unions and national members had been asked to respond in writing to the proposed changes. The response of the GeoUnions was generally negative to the changes, because it would weaken representation from the Unions. In total, the majority (18 of 31) of ICSU Scientific Unions responded to the proposal: 7 in favour, 9 against, and 2 undecided. Meanwhile only about 20% of National Members sent their response to ICSU (24 of 122): 19 in favour, 2 against, and 5 undecided on the proposal. David Black indicated that the total responses from unions and national members were in favour of change. He stressed that while the Executive did not have a specific plan for change to present to the Unions, change had to occur. The GeoUnions remained adamant that they are not in favour of any changes that would weaken the representation of the Unions.

Alik Ismail-Zadeh shared with the group a Power Point presentation 'Challenges and opportunities for GeoUnions within a shifting global scientific landscape' (see Appendix 1). The group participated in editing the slides of the presentation to be delivered at the ICSU Scientific Unions meeting on 12 April 2016.

ICSU Grants Programme and GeoUnions proposal(s) to the future call

ICSU is making changes to the Grants Programme process, which will lower the number of grants available but will provide more funding per grant up to three years. The GeoUnions agreed that this will provide excellent opportunities for scientists involved in different unions to work together on projects that cut across disciplinary lines.

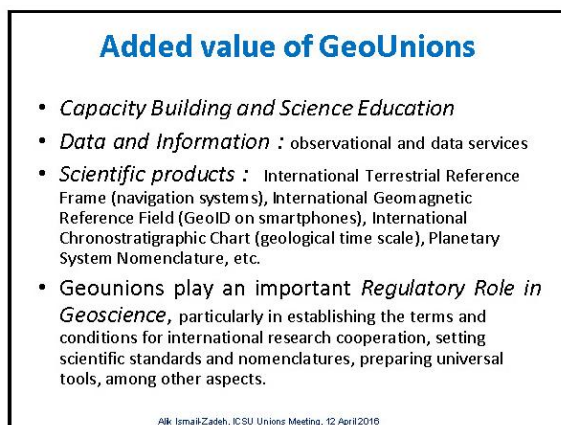
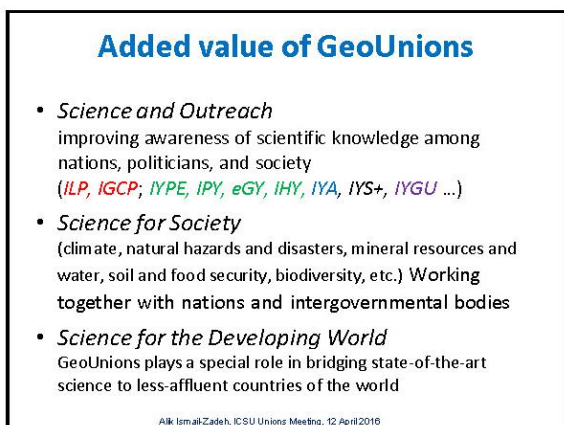
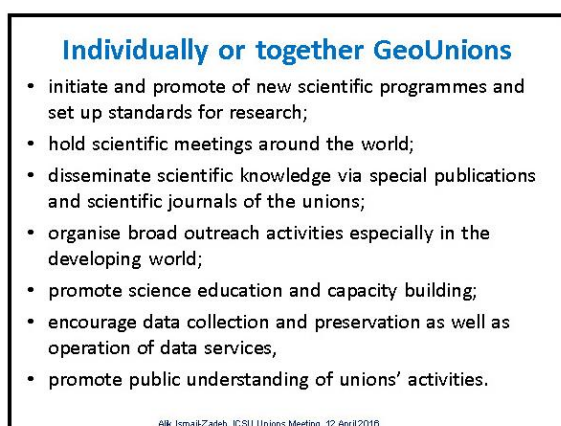
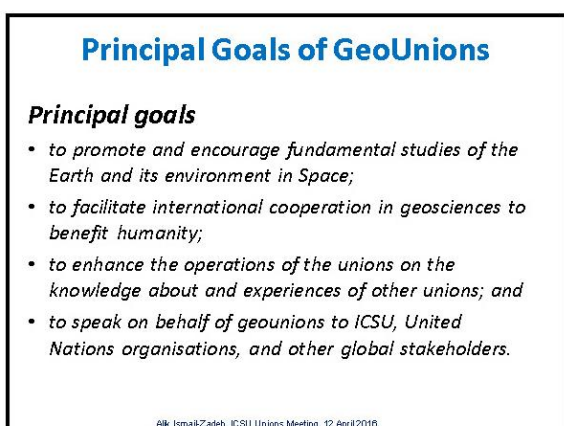
The meeting was closed at 17:00. A cocktail party was offered by SGF and IUGG. A group photo was shot during a lunch.



Group photo during a lunch on 11 April 2016:

(left-to-right) Jose Calvo, Rainer Horn, Roland Oberhänsli, Georg Gartner, Jean-Paul Cadet, Lena Halounová, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Michael Sideris, Paul Cannon, Michael Meadow, and Allan Ashworth

APPENDIX 1. PPT presentation at the ICSU Scientific Unions Meeting on 12 April 2016



Scientific Challenges

- A healthy future for the geosciences requires emphasis on *fundamental science*. Scientific discoveries should *benefit humanity* and demonstrate the importance of scientific investigations.
- *Inter- and trans-disciplinary studies and co-designed/co-productive work* (with policymakers and other stakeholders) are vital to making progress in science for society.
- A significant challenge facing geosciences is to combine *big data with state-of-the-art models* to better understand the complex systems in nature.
- *Youth audience*, a key demographic in ensuring the future of geosciences.

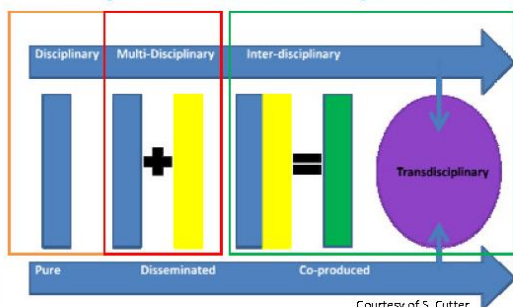
Alik Ismail-Zadeh, ICSU Unions Meeting, 12 April 2016

Structural Challenges

- Visibility of the Scientific (geo)Unions
- GeoUnions, National & Individual Memberships (IAU & IUGG back to 1919) – ORIGINAL scheme, BUT new insight is required
What could GeoUnions offer individual scientists?
- GeoUnions & professional societies of geoscientists
cooperation vs. competition.
- Emerging administrative & management issues

Alik Ismail-Zadeh, ICSU Unions Meeting, 12 April 2016

Ways of Research Cooperation



Alik Ismail-Zadeh, ICSU Unions Meeting, 12 April 2016

Opportunities

- The International Council for Science (ICSU) and GeoUnions : *WORKING TOGETHER for the benefit of society*
- Closer cooperation of ICSU Unions within Clusters and between Clusters
- Enhancement of cooperation with ICSU's Interdisciplinary Bodies and Regional Offices
- GeoUnions are enjoying 12 years of close cooperation and will strengthen this cooperation in the future working together with professional societies, intergovernmental organizations, industry and public

<http://www.icsu-geounions.org/>

Alik Ismail-Zadeh, ICSU Unions Meeting, 12 April 2016





Follow up - Alik Ismail-Zadeh representing the GeoUnions at the meeting of the ICSU Scientific Unions, Fondation Simone et Cino del Duca, Paris, France, 12 April 2016