

ISC GeoUnion Steering Committee meeting

Virtual Meeting

22nd February 2023 11h00 to 13h00 CET

Present:

Kevin Govender (KG)	IAU
Tim Trainor (TT)	ICA P
Michael Meadows (MM)	IGU, P
Yukio Himiyama (YH)	IGU, PP
Thijs van Kolfcholten (TvK)	INQUA P
Lena Halounova (LH)	ISPRS P, GeoUnion Chair
Kathryn Whaler (KW)	IUGG P
John Ludden (JL)	IUGS, P
Makoto Ando (MA)	URSI PP

Guest

Alik Ismail-Zadeh (AIZ)	ISC Foundation Fellow
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MINUTES

- 1. Welcome by Chair**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda was approved.

- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the GU Steering Committee virtual meeting on 17th July 2022**

The Minutes from the virtual meeting held on 17 July 2022 were approved .

- 4. Important News from the Unions**

IUGG is holding a General Assembly in Berlin, July 11-20, and has received more than 5000 abstracts for over 200. Russian participants are allowed to take part in only as individuals but cannot represent Russia. Russian members currently do not pay membership fees.

INQUA is organizing its next quadrennial Congress in Rome, July 14-20, 2023 with around 4500 abstracts. 255 travel grant applications have been approved from 1100 applications. The programme will be divided into 14 parallel sessions and poster sessions. Russian scientists are not allowed to attend the Congress only in their individual capacities.

URSI is holding the XXXV General Assembly (GA) and Scientific Symposium (GASS) in Sapporo in Japan, August 19-26, 2023. The last GA took place a 1,5 year ago. It is expected that individual Russian delegates will be allowed to attend, although confirmation depends on the Japanese government. URSI has not received membership fees from Russian members.

IUGS will hold the 37th International Geological Congress in Busan, Republic of Korea, August 25-31, 2024. Some 8000 delegates are expected. The last one which should have been in Sankt Peterburg was cancelled. IUGS actively attempting to improve its relationship among African countries. IUGS has taken a very strong stance on Russia and cancelled membership of Russian organisations and these are not paying membership fees.

IAU will organise the XXXII IAU General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa, August 5-16, 2024. The Union, which now has 12,000 members, is attempting to attract more members from Africa and education and outreach in general form a very important part of IAU activities. The most recent GA was held in 2022.

ICA is preparing the 31st International Cartographic Conference (ICC) to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, August 13–18, 2023. ICA is cooperating with the UN in Africa in organising the SDG data alliance week on geospatial sustainability. Two centres of Excellence have been created in Germany and Beijing (April 2023) where the fourth Data Forum will be organised. ICA comprises 28 Commissions and Working Group and is planning to develop an interest in “ethics and mapping”. Given the situation around COVID-19 and the Ukrainian war, IAC needs to update its Statutes and is following ISC policy on the matter of Russian membership.

IGU held its Centennial Congress in Paris with more than 2500 delegates. The GA there confirmed expulsion of membership of the Russian National Committee of the IGU.

ISPRS has had three editions of their XXXIV ISPRS Congress. Two (in 2020, 2021) were virtual with proceedings, the third one in hybrid form was held in Nice in June 2022, where the hybrid GA was held. ISPRS did not cancel Russian’s membership, although two ordinary members proposed this. An online discussion was organised during GA with representatives of the Russian and Ukraine ordinary membership. The ISPRS GA decided by vote not to discuss this issue since it is not performable with application of the ISPRS Statutes..

5. Report from ISC about Ukraine and Russia and Ukraine

AIZ mentioned that Peter Gluckman will contact UN and UNESCO to find out what are their rules.

6. Participation at 2023 Mid-Term Meeting of ISC Members: Capitalizing on Synergies in Science

The ISC mid-term meeting to be held in Paris from 9th to 12th June inclusive has attracted a lot of interest. There will be several participants from individual unions in Paris, so there is a possibility of holding a GeoUnions meeting depending on the detailed meeting programme.

7. Relations with ISC

7.1 ISC Distinguished Lecture Series (initiated by GeoUnions); evaluation and continuation of the International Year of Basic Science for Sustainable Development

AIZ noted that the ISC GeoUnions sub-committee, created to develop the webinar series has received a good number of excellent proposals from individual are proving to be well-attended, and are scheduled to the third week of each month. The average number of registrations is around 100, and typically around 60 actually attend. The International Year of Basic Science for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD) is planned to be developed as an International Decade and continue until at least 2030.

7.2. Creation of An Expert Group on the anniversary of the Sendai Protocol

An Expert Group comprising 50 % ISC members and 50 % UN Members was set up on the anniversary of the Sendai Protocol.

7.3. ISC GeoUnions Standing Committee on Disaster and Risk Reduction

AIZ stressed the importance of defining the position of the Standing Committee in relation to IRDR.

Cooperation between the ISC GeoUnions Standing Committee on Disaster and Risk Reduction and UNDRR needs to be coordinated together with ISC Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR).

8. Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair proposal

Michael Meadows (IGU) was approved to become the new ISC GeoUnions Chair. LH suggested that the new chair, in consultation with other members, propose a new Vice-Chair.

9. Items to be discussed in during the ISC Mid-Term Symposium in Paris

GeoUnions (GU) members highlighted the following issues as indicated:

- IUGS: energy transition and important role of the GUs
- COP 2022 has not many real solutions. 2023 should bring more real solutions on key issues.
- AIZ recommends focusing on small but for detailed exactly determined problems.
- KW confirmed that IUGG will not take part in 2023 COP to indicate its disappointment in the lack of progress and quality of the discussion at COP 2022.
- INQUA highlighted the importance of biological geoscience and reported on his intention to participate at a forthcoming meeting in Japan where the main topic is biodiversity.
- IGU has established a group to help promote the annual Geodiversity Day (this year, 6th October).
- Statisticians should work on evaluation of data to achieve SDGs. Other countries and unions should support data collection in developing countries to become an equal partner in the geospatial network.

10. Any Other Business

AR offered to help with the GU web site. It was also stressed that ISC Fellows, should work for ISC and its members, as proposed by the ISC President.

11. Next meeting

GeoUnions may be able to convene during the ISC mid-term meeting or, if not possible, during the IUGG meeting in Berlin in July 2023.

Lena Halounova