

ISC GeoUnion Steering Committee meeting

Virtual Meeting

3 February 2022 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. GMT

Participants:

Jose-Miguel Rodriguez (JMR)	IAU SG
Tim Trainor (excused) (TT)	ICA P
Michael Meadows (MM)	IGU P, GeoUnions Vice Chair
Yukio Himiyama (YH)	IGU PP
Thijs van Kolschoten(TvK)	INQUA P
Lena Halounová (LH)	ISPRS SG, GeoUnions Chair
Orhan Altan (OA)	ISPRS Honorary Member
Kathryn Whaler (KW)	IUGG P
Edoardo Constantini (EC)	IUSS PE
John Ludden (JL)	IUGS P
Hiroshi Kitazato (HK)	IUGS Tr
Giuliano Manara (GM)	URSI VP
Makoto Ando (MA)	URSI PP

Guests:

Alik Ismail-Zadeh (AIZ)	IUGG
Harsh Gupta (HG)	IUGG

AGENDA

1. Welcome by Chair
2. Introduction of participants
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of the Minutes of the GeoUnions Steering Committee virtual meeting on December 14, 2020
5. GeoUnions matrix table update and changes of GeoUnions members – new representatives
6. Important news from the Unions, reaction to the COVID-19 situation in individual Unions
7. News from the ISC Governing Board
8. ISC GeoUnions Standing Committee on Risk and Disaster Management
9. Any other business
10. Next GU Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome of Chair

The Chair welcomed all participants, especially those who were participating for the first time.

2. Introduction of participants

All participants briefly presented themselves and indicated the latest activities, including upcoming major meeting. It was agreed that the GU Steering Committee should ideally meet twice each year.

Himiyama stressed the importance of the GeoUnions within ISC. Altan and Gupta agreed to prepare a white paper on the significance of the GeoUnions to be submitted to the ISC Board with a request that this be made available on the ISC web site.

The participants remembered R.B. Singh, IGU Secretary General and Treasurer who died in 2021.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the GeoUnions Steering Committee virtual meeting on December 14, 2020.

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on December 14, 2020, were approved.

5. GeoUnions Matrix table update and changes of GeoUnions members – new representatives

The Chair requested all Unions to update the Matrix table and send her names of new representatives where appropriate. The table should list two representatives per Union, including full name, e-mail address, and affiliation. A photograph is also required to enable updating of the GeoUnions website.

6. Important news in Unions, reaction to the COVID-19 situation in individual Unions

Himiyama highlighted the need for the GeoUnions to support global sustainability initiatives and to note our relationship with, for example, ISC and Future Earth. He reminded the meeting that the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development was proclaimed by the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly 2 December 2021 for 2022, stressing that the applications of basic sciences in various spheres of the human life towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Ludden reported that IUGS will be holding the XXXVI International Geological Congress in virtual format in March 2022.

Constantini noted that many IUSS events had either been postponed or held online in 2020 – 2021 but had successfully hosted a series of webinars during this period. He invited participants to the XXII

Congress of World Soil Science to be held in Glasgow, UK, from July 31 to August 5, 2022. IUSS will celebrate its centenary in Florence, Italy, in 2024.

Meadows invited all Unions to celebrate the IGU Centennial and Extraordinary General Assembly, which will be held in Paris from July 18 to 23, 2022. It was agreed that the meeting represents an opportunity for some GU representatives to meet person.

Ando reported that the next URSI GA is planned to take place in May 2022 in the Canary Islands with the same fee for on-site and remote participants in May 2022. The Union had plans to celebrate its centenary in 2021 but this was postponed due to the COVID-19 situation. Special historical sessions and a book dedicated to the centenary were prepared. URSI has a special budget for young scientists and launched a competition for the best student paper in 2021; the second competition will take place in 2022. The 35th URSI Congress will be held in Sapporo, Japan in August 2023.

Thijs van Kolschoten announced that INQUA has launched a newsletter and planning for the XXI Congress in Rome on July 13 – 20, 2023 (in-person only) is underway. INQUA has established a Secretariat in Budapest and aims to increase its funding base.

Whaler noted the preparations for the next IUGG General Assembly (July 11-20, 2023). The organisation, which may still fall under the influence of the COVID-19 situation is anticipated to be on-site with an important focus on young scientists to enable them to engage face to face with more senior participants.

The issue of a 'position paper' having been raised at a previous GU meeting, Whaler, Ludden and Meadows agreed to collaborate on this to highlight the importance of integrating the social sciences into the geosciences.

7. News from the ISC Governing Board

The Chair reported on the virtual meeting that Peter Gluckman, the new ISC President, held in January 2022 with member Unions. Several GU steering committee members had attended. The President indicated that he would like to strengthen relations between the ISC Governing Board and ISC members and is planning to organise virtual meetings with ISC members in the future. It was noted that the ISC is seeking the appointment of a new CEO since Heide Hackman is returning to South Africa. ISC has plans to open a Regional ISC office in Latin America and Unions will be invited to nominate individuals to the steering committee. The venue for the next ISC GA (2024) has not yet been decided.

8. ISC GeoUnions Standing Committee on Risk and Disaster Management

Altan reported on the establishment of this committee which comprises members from the Union representatives (<http://www.iscgdrr.com>) and reported on several of its activities.

He requested that all GU member organizations promote the work of this standing committee by sharing website details and including links to the various Policy Briefs in their E-Bulletins.

The committee has been asked by the UNDRR to co-organise a session at the Seventh Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Bali, Indonesia from 23-28 May 2022. This will take place in "Thematic Session 3: Breaking the Silos – Toward Multi-hazard, Multi-sectoral Approaches to Managing Risk"

The committee has also been invited to nominate Guest Editors for a special issue of the journal *Sustainability* entitled "Monitoring and predicting natural hazards and environmental risk."

Members of the committee participated in the virtual GI4DM in 2020, the next version of which will be in Beijing November 2022.

The Power Point presentation attached to these minutes contains further information on the committee and its role.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12h05 GMT.

11. Next GU Meeting

The next meeting will be held in Paris on the occasion of the IGU Centennial (July 18 to 23 2022). A Doodle Poll will be distributed nearer the time