

GEOUNIONS PROCEDURES

Mission Statement

The GeoUnions (hereinafter GUs) is a network of representatives of the international scientific unions of the International Council for Sciences (ICSU) dealing with Earth and space sciences. The GUs established a Steering Committee in 2004 to promote the sciences worldwide, to communicate and to coordinates scientific activities of individual unions, and to speak on behalf of GUs members to ICSU Executive Board, ICSU Members and its interdisciplinary bodies and at international level, especially to the United Nations organizations and other global stakeholders.

Membership of Steering Committee

Each member union appoints one representative to the meetings of the Steering Committee, normally the President or the Secretary General/Chief Executive Officer of that union. Each union's representative may be assisted at meetings by other nominees of that union. At present there are 9 members, from the following unions:

- the International Astronomical Union (IAU),
- the International Cartographic Association (ICA),
- the International Geographical Union (IGU),
- the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA),
- the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS),
- the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG),
- the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS),
- the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), and
- the International Union of Radio Science (URSI).

New members can be invited to join at any time. The Steering Committee controls no funds and individual unions are responsible for all expenses incurred by their representatives.

Administration

The Steering Committee appoints a Chair and a Vice Chair, normally by rotation through the unions. The appointment starts immediately after the end of the meeting of the Steering Committee where the officers were appointed and normally extends to one and half years. At the end of the second meeting, the Vice Chair becomes new Chair, and the Steering Committee appoints a new Vice Chair. The appointment cycle should normally coincide with the ICSU General Assembly and the ICSU Scientific Unions Meeting.

Chair of the Steering Committee normally chairs two successive meetings of the Committee and speaks on behalf of the GeoUnions externally after consulting with all members. The Vice Chair prepares the agenda and coordinates papers for meetings of the Steering Committee, takes Minutes of the meeting, and is responsible for maintenance of the GUs webpage.

Decisions will normally be taken by consensus. If required, voting in the Steering Committee is based each member having one voice. Decisions of the GeoUnions come into force with their approval by a majority of the members (2/3 of the membership of the Steering Committee of GUs).

Ad Hoc Committees

The Steering Committee can establish ad hoc committees on important topics of common interest. In urgent issues an ad hoc committee can be established by the Chair after consultation with the members of the Steering Committee. These committees must have clear goals and should be appointed for a limited time period. Each union may appoint a member to an ad hoc committee.

Meetings

The Steering Committee of GUs normally meets a day before the ICSU General Assemblies and Scientific Unions Meetings of ICSU. The Steering Committee may also choose to meet at other times.