

ISC GeoUnions Steering Committee meeting

Online

2nd October 2025 10h00 UTC

Present:

Giuliano Manara (GM) (Chair): URSI
Michael Meadows (MM): IGU
Hassina Mouri (HM): IUGS
David Cohen (DC): IUGS
Edoardo Costantini (EC): IUSS
Thijs van Kolfscholten (TvK): INQUA
Alex Rudloff (AR): IUGG
Yukio Himiyama (YH): IGU
Nadja Zupan Hajna (NZH): UIS
Johannes Mattes (JM): UIS
Jie Jiang (JJ): ISPRS
Diana Worrall (DW): IAU

Guests:

Alik Ismail-Zadeh (AIZ): IUGG Commission Chair / IRDR Scientific Committee Chair
Maria Paradiso (MP): IGU/ISC Governing Board

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome and introduction

The chair welcomed all to the meeting and noted that all but one of the GeoUnions members was represented online.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda, previously circulated, was adopted as follows:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of the GeoUnions Steering Committee meeting on 26th January 2025 (Muscat, Oman)
4. Appointment of Vice-Chair
5. GeoUnions Matrix table update
6. News from the Unions
7. ISC – GeoUnions DRR report

8. IDSSD ISC – GeoUnions Distinguished Lecture Series
9. Building the capacity to propose joint projects (example: Ocean Sustainability)
10. Organizing an event for the World Science Forum
11. Any other business

3. Approval of the Minutes of the GeoUnions steering committee meeting held in Muscat, Oman, 25th January 2025

The minutes had been previously circulated but would remain open for corrections and additions until October 18th 2025. Any changes to be sent to GM and MM by email.

4. Appointment of Vice-Chair 2025-2027

Following a brief discussion as to the correct procedure for selecting a Vice-Chair for the period 2025 to 2027, GM reported that he had approached HM who has agreed to fulfil this role for the two-year term, following which she will assume the position of Chair. She noted that her decision is subject to the availability of a meetings secretary; MM agreed to prepare draft minutes for future meetings during her term of office. The appointment of HM was unanimously approved. There was a general discussion regarding GU rules and procedures, resulting in an a proposal that the immediate past-Chair, incumbent Chair and Vice-Chair (*de facto* Chair-elect) form the GU 'exco'. AIZ offered to prepare a presentation for the next meeting highlighting the history and achievements of the GU to be posted, subsequently, on the GU website.

5. GeoUnions matrix table

The matrix table was presented and colleagues encouraged to send updated contacts to GM and MM. The updated table is attached as Appendix I.

6. News from the Unions.

IAU: DW reported that the union is currently very active in fundraising. The next scientific conference will be the 7th Middle East and Africa Regional IAU Meeting to be held in Jordan 11th to 13th November 2025.

IGU: The next IGU event is a Thematic Conference, to be held in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 27th October to 1st November 2025 under the title: "Diverse Geographies of Peace, Environmental Impacts, Territorial Conflicts, and War in the Contemporary World". The next IGU Regional Conference is scheduled for Istanbul in August 2026.

INQUA: The next Congress is scheduled for February 2027 in Lucknow, India. Several project and fellowship opportunities are currently open for application.

ISPRS: The 3rd International Conference on Advanced Remote Sensing and the 2025 Wuhan Remote Sensing Week is scheduled for 17th to 19th October 2025 and, from 27th to 31st October 2025, Makassar, Indonesia, will host the 46th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing.

IUGG: AR reported that successful meetings had been held recently by several IUGG scientific associations. The Executive Committee had convened recently in Incheon, Republic of Korea, which is the site of the next General Assembly (2027).

IUGS: The next Congress (IGC 2028) will be held in Vancouver, Canada, in August. HM reported that IUGS had been represented and exhibited at several international conferences recently, including at the 30th Colloquium of African Geology 2025, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2025.

IUSS: The Decade of Soil Sciences for Sustainable Development (2025-2024) is underway under the auspices of UNESCO in conjunction with the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development. The 23rd World Congress of Soils is scheduled for Nanjing, China, 7th to 12th June 2026. The annual World Soil Day is on 5th December 2025.

UIS: The 19th International Speleology Congress was held successfully in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in July. NJH reported that UIS has proposed to UNESCO that September 13th be declared the International Day of Caves and Karst.

URSI: The next Scientific Symposium and General Assembly will be held in Krakow, Poland, from 15th to 22nd August 2026.

HM suggested that, in future, a more structured approach be adopted for the “News from the GeoUnions” agenda item. It was agreed that this item should provide concise updates on events or activities hosted recently or planned for the coming year.

7. ISC-GU SC DRR report

Meeting no. 27 of the International Science Council’s GeoUnions Standing Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (ISC-GU SC DRR) was held on 25th September 2025. Agenda items included the upcoming Geoinformation conference in Mérida, Mexico, 24th to 28th November 2025, and the need for a new chair for the committee. AIZ underlined the importance of an active and effective collaboration between ISC-GU SC DRR and the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Programme co-sponsored by ISC and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). AR, MM, GM, and EC agreed that there should be an effort for joining forces and strengthening the collaboration.

8. IDSSD-ISC-GU Distinguished Lecture Series

The ISC Secretariat has agreed to resume administrative and technical support for the lecture series, including publicity, facilitating technical aspects, editing of recordings, and sharing of the recording with registered participants. There was discussion regarding the future of the series, and it was agreed to invite contributions from the wider ISC membership in 2026. Two lectures, for November and December 2025 are to be scheduled under the existing administrative arrangements. A sub-committee (AIZ, GM, YH, HM and MP) will take the initiative forward.

9. Building Capacity to Propose Joint Projects

This matter was originally raised at the Muscat meeting. It was suggested this be taken forward at a future meeting following the presentation by AIZ.

10. World Science Forum

There was some discussion as to the nature of this biennial event and whether or not it is possible to propose sessions. Further research by GM and AIZ resolved that there is not typically an open call for contributions. The next edition will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held (online) in early February 2026 and it is hoped to be able to hold one in-person in association with the ISC mid-term meeting in Beijing in 2026.

12. Closure

There being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 12h05 UTC.