

ISC GeoUnions Steering Committee meeting

In presence meeting (Muscat, Oman)
26th January 2025 17h30 (Muscat time)

Present:

Giuliano Manara, GM: URSI
Hassina Mouri, HM: IUGS
Ludwig Stroink, LS: IUGS
David Cohen, DC: IUGS
Edoardo Costantini, EC: IUSS
Thijs van Kolfscholten, TvK: INQUA
Chris Rizos, CR: IUGG
Mioara Manda, MiM: IUGG
Alex Rudloff, AR: IUGG
Diana Worrall, DW: IAU
Nathalie Lemarchand, NL: IGU
Yukio Himiyama, YH: IGU
Nadja Zupan Hajna, NZH: UIS
Johannes Mattes, JM: UIS

Guests:

Alik Ismail-Zadeh AIZ: ISC Foundation Fellow
Maria Paradiso, IGU – ISC Board
Irene Fabbri, IUSS Secretariat
Jun Chen, ISPRS, Former President
Rania Kosti, United States National Academy of Sciences, Eng., and Med.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome and introduction

The meeting was held in person in Muscat (Oman) in the framework of the Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue and Third International Science Council (ISC) General Assembly. Due to health problems, Michael Meadows, Chair of the Steering Committee, was unable to attend. Consequently, the meeting was chaired by GM, Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee. GM welcomed all present. He also noted that eight GeoUnions over ten were represented.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda, previously circulated, was adopted. The agenda is reported below for convenience:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of the agenda
3. GeoUnions Chair 2025-2027
4. IDSSD webinar series: next steps
5. Open discussion about GeoUnions positions in relation to the General Assembly agenda. Plus date of next meeting.
6. Any other business

3. GeoUnions Chair 2025-2027

A general discussion was opened at the end of which the current Vice-Chair was asked if he was willing to assume the position of Chair of the Committee. GM declared that with everyone's trust he was available to take on the role of chair and do the best in his availability for a correct and efficient management of GeoUnions. GM was unanimously appointed Chair of the GeoUnions Steering Committee for the term 2025-2027. The discussion also highlighted the desire of GeoUnions to try to build the capacity to organize multidisciplinary projects, which was welcomed and accepted by the incoming chair. GM reminded that a social dinner of GeoUnions was organized soon after the end of the meeting.

4. IDSSD webinar series: next steps

GM, with the support of AIZ and YH, summarized the efforts done by GeoUnions to organize the ISC – GeoUnions Distinguished Lecture Series (DLS), which was started in 2022 in support of the International Year of Basic Science for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD). In particular, six webinars were organized in this first block. At the end of 2023, ISC informed GeoUnions that they were happy to continue the DLS, but the management of the DLS webinars should have been taken by GeoUnions, having ISC a shortage of staff and resources to manage the activity. GeoUnions decided to directly manage the DLS webinars, including the use of a Zoom platform for broadcasting the webinars (that was provided by URSI), moderating the events, disseminating the information about the events, and other aspects. This also coincided with the ratification by the United Nations of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD). A new series of webinars was launched and started in September 2024, with a second webinar in November 2024. The idea was to proceed with the organization of this new series of webinars until the end of the IDSSD. In particular, the list of webinars already prepared will be brought to fruition and a new call for contributions will be organized within GeoUnions.

5. Open discussion about GeoUnions positions in relation to the General Assembly agenda. Plus date of next meeting.

GM introduced the Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue and Third ISC General Assembly program. In particular, the Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue includes on 27 January the session, "Ocean Science for Sustainability", with contributions from GeoUnions as required by MP, who has been involved in the organization of the session. The day after (January 28) the session "The Decade of Science for Sustainability: The Post-2030 Agenda," has been organized by Michael Meadows as reported in the

last meeting of the GeoUnions Steering Committee (4 December 2024). Due to Michael Meadows' unavailability, the session will be chaired by Vanessa McBride, and the joint presentation of GeoUnions will be given by NL. A session on "Science Education for Our Future" is also planned for 28 January. Moreover, the ISC General Assembly on 29 January includes a Category 1 Member Forum co-chaired by EC and a session on "Union Membership Issues," with contributions from IUGS by HM and DC and IUGG by MiM. All GeoUnions representatives have been invited to participate to the above sessions, also in view of the final panel discussions.

6. Any other business

There being no further business, GM closed the meeting.