Welcome, Apologies and Meeting Logistics
The meeting was chaired by IGU President Michael Meadows who welcomed Nathalie Lemarchand as First Vice-President, Past-President Yukio Himiyama, Secretary-General Barbaros Gönençgil, Vice-President and Treasurer, Holly Barcus, Vice-President Ruben Lois-González, Céline Rozenblat, newly elected Vice-Presidents Yazidhi Bamutaze, Phil McManus, Maria Paradiso and Assistant Secretary-General Pankaj Kumar. Apologies were received from Vice-President Bojie Fu. Meadows thanked Ruben Lois-González for facilitating the EC meeting along with an excellent field excursion to western Galicia and fine accommodation and social arrangements in Santiago de Compostela. The Executive Committee (EC) meeting commenced at 09h00 local time on both Monday, 17th and Tuesday 18th October 2022.

Adoption of the Schedule and Agenda
The agenda and schedule, previously circulated, were duly adopted with the addition of several items inserted as appropriate.

Minutes
Minutes of the IGU EC meeting, held in person on July 17th, 2022 in Paris, France, previously circulated and corrected via email, were approved. The French translation of the minutes is to be provided by Lemarchand. Both sets of minutes are then to be posted on the IGU website.

Organization
4.01 Financial Report
The Treasurer presented a brief financial report and noted that the IGU accounts remain in good order. Subscriptions from 40 National Committees have been received in 2022. Major expenses include funds that have been distributed for Travel Grants for the Congress and thematic conferences, Commission and Task Force stipends, and membership fees for other scientific organizations.

4.02 EC meeting schedule 2023
Following discussion it was agreed to schedule the next EC meeting to coincide with the AAG Annual Meeting 2023 scheduled to take place between March 23rd to 27th 2023 in Denver, Colorado, USA. It will be possible to use this as a promotional event for IGU in general, and for as IGC 2024 in Dublin, since Ireland as a destination is likely to prove very popular with participants from North America. Dates and times to be confirmed. The next IGU e-newsletter can promote participation from the IGU community. There followed a discussion around IGU support and attendance by EC members in congresses and conferences of the other geography organisations like EUGEO, Asian Geographical Association, UGAL etc. to promote IGU activities and increase visibility. Lemarchand noted the importance of keeping in mind climate change, environmental ethics, restrictions on international travel by some institutions, along with exorbitant air fares. It was agreed that, with the exception of a Congress year, one EC meeting annually be held in person and that any others can be held in virtual format. Additional meetings, perhaps ‘one agenda item’ of shorter duration are possible.

Operations
5.01 Commission Excellence Award Committee for 2021-2022
Meadows noted the need to constitute a Commission Excellence Award Committee that would adjudicate the award based on the annual reports submitted by Commissions and Task Forces. For the 2022 award, it was agreed that the committee be chaired by Lemarchand with additional members Lois-González, McManus, Paradiso, and Rozenblat. Gönençgil agreed to remind Commission and
Task Force chairs to submit their respective activity reports by 15th December. The sub-committee will table its report at the next EC meeting.

5.02 EC Responsibilities for National Committee and Commission and Task Force update 2022-2024
Gönençgil presented a draft list of EC member liaison responsibilities to National Committees, and to Commission and Task Forces for the period 2022-2024. This was finalized following discussion (Annexures 1a and 1b).

5.03 IGU Statutes
Meadows reported on the changes to the Statute approved by General Assembly held in Paris. These follow from the decision to formally separate the positions of Secretary-General and Treasurer. English and French versions of the revised statutes need to be posted on the IGU website. Lemarchand noted that the ‘publication officer’ role appears to be redundant in that several EC members are engaged in editing volumes with various publishing houses, as well as special issues of journals. It was decided, however, not to change the wording in the Statutes, but rather not to appoint any particular EC member formally to fulfil the role.

5.04 IGU Social Media responsibilities
Meadows noted that, in addition to the website, IGU currently has a social media presence through Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn and asked for suggestions as to how to operate these accounts more actively. The possibility of this being the responsibility of a single EC member was raised but the decision was taken to establish a small social media sub-committee comprising Meadows, Gönençgil, Rozenblat, Lemarchand and Kumar, to handle the various media platforms. It was agreed that the sub-committee may meet virtually from time to time as the need arises.

5.05 IGU Bulletin
Meadows requested Kumar to share all Commission and Task Force annual reports for the years 2019-2020. Meadows will prepare the next volume with a view to publication by March 2023. The pdf of the bulletin will be placed on our website for wider circulation.

5.06 IGU e-Newsletter
Rozenblat noted that the next IGU e-Newsletter is scheduled for circulation in November in English and French versions and requested EC members to share their news and to contact the relevant Commission and Task Force Chairs for their updates. Rozenblat was acknowledged for producing what is now a dynamic and stylish e-Newsletter which is now compatible also with mobile phones for accessibility.

5.07 IGU Publications/Springer AGES
Himiyama reported that the IGU Springer series entitled: Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences is proceeding well. Lois-González noted that Springer plans a forthcoming volume on Brazilian geography. Barcus reported that the second volume in the Edward Elgar series is scheduled for publication in 2023. Lemarchand added that she is involved in another Elgar project. Meadows and Jerzy Banski are co-editing a Springer volume that will be dedicated to late IGU Secretary-General Singh.

5.08 IGU Handbook preparation
By way of context, Meadows reported that former IGU Secretary-General and President, Ron Abler, had prepared, with subsequent inputs from Meadows, a handbook for the IGU to document its processes and procedures. Meadows is working on a further iteration and seeking assistance. It was decided that Gönençgil, Meadows, Lemarchand and Lois-González would work on this and report back at the next EC meeting.

5.09 International Encyclopaedia of Geography
Meadows circulated a request received from associate editor of the *International Encyclopaedia of Geography* to rewrite the IGU profile for the next issue. Himiyama agreed to update and extend the profile by the end of January 2023 and presented a proposed outline for comment.

5.10 IGU Online meeting security problems

Meadows outlined the distressing security breach that impacted a virtual session of the IGU Gender and Geography Commission on the final day of the Paris Congress. Representatives of the commission had reported and were justifiably seeking explanations and assurances that the situation should not arise again in IGU events. Both Meadows and the Paris local organizing committee had independently expressed their sincere apologies to those impacted. Measures are needed to maintain adequate cyber security in future. It was agreed that an appropriate instruction, to be drafted by Gönençgil, should be added to the IGU Congress and Conference Memorandum of Agreement template to highlight the need to ensure that unauthorized persons are not able to access online conference sessions etc. Meadows agreed to write again to the chair of the Gender and Geography Commission regarding the commitment.

5.11 IGU’s responsiveness and inclusiveness for colleagues in low-income countries

Barcus outlined the need for the EC to address the issues of responsiveness and inclusiveness that had been raised during the Paris General Assembly. In brief, there are particular problems for participants from low income countries to attend IGU events. Key concerns included early visa letters and acknowledgements, developing a standardized format for visa letters, offering a more flexible registration structure (fee structure based on income or similar indicator) to enable wider participation from low income countries, different ways of subsidizing such participants and offering more, or different, travel grants support options. Bamutaze and Kumar emphasized that visa issues are critical, especially concerning the timing of letters of support from the local organizing committees, as this influences the success or otherwise of applications for local grants, obtaining leave, and completing visa application formalities. It was agreed that Meadows and IGC Dublin 2024 are to promote inclusiveness keeping in mind key concerns. Meadows, Gönençgil, Barcus and Pankaj would meet to decide the particulars in relation to the Dublin 2024 Congress and further agreed to offer a subsidy of US $30,000 to IGC Dublin 2024 to support this initiative.

5.12 Status of IGU Task Forces

Meadows noted that IGU currently has three Task Forces, viz. Centennial and Sesquicentennial Task Force, which has now completed its task and is discontinued, the Olympiad Task Force, and the Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force, both of which have been operating for many years. Meadows suggested it seems redundant to consider these Task Forces as different in practice from a Commission and that they should be offered the opportunity to be renamed as such. The Olympiad Task Force has already initiated the name change and it was agreed that this would be renamed the IGU Olympiad Commission, although the co-chairs should be encouraged to invite further steering committee members from the Global South countries. In respect of the Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force, the chair would be requested to provide a brief justification, whereafter the EC can approve the change. Both changes will ultimately need to be ratified by the General Assembly. Gönençgil will contact the respective chairs and communicate these decisions.

5.13 Draft MOA for Thematic Conferences

The need for a Memorandum of Agreement document for IGU Thematic Conferences, similar to that already in use for IGU Congresses and Regional Conferences has been identified in view of an increased number of such conferences in hybrid and/or in-person mode. Gönençgil shared a draft version of MOA document for suggestions and feedback from EC members. The final approved version of this document will be included in the IGU Handbook, with the inclusion of an additional paragraph to highlight the necessity of ensuring cyber security for hybrid events. Barcus also suggested the addition of a clause to emphasize the need for measures to promote inclusiveness and accessibility.
IGU Conferences and Congresses

6.01 Extraordinary International Geographical Congress, Paris 2022 and iGEO
Lemarchand presented a brief report of IGC 2022 to EC pending submission of a final report on the Congress. Main highlights of the Centennial Congress, from 18 to 22 July 2022, in Paris were presented. Organized by the French National Committee of Geography (CNFG), this historic congress took place in the most emblematic places of French geography, i.e., the Sorbonne, Institut de Géographie, and Société de Géographie. The opening ceremony was held at the Maison de l'Océan, an institution founded in 1906 by Albert I, Prince of Monaco, a pioneer in oceanography. More than 2,300 scientists, including nearly 2,100 face-to-face participants from nearly 80 countries, exchanged views in more than 263 sessions organized over 5 ½ days in 30 rooms and 600 time slots. Participants engaged with the most important contemporary themes, including for example, Anthropocene, climate change, environment, biodiversity, borders, cyberspace and digitization, urbanization, territorial governance, migrations and mobilities, wars, pandemics, gender and diversity. Three round tables ("Anthropocene", "A Planet of Migrants" and "Open Science") and three plenary conferences ("Space and Disability"; "Meta Geographies: Major Divisions to tell the World", and "Himalayan Mountains in Transition") were organized, bringing together geographers from all parts of the world. Three IGU Commission Excellence Award winners (Geography of Tourism; Urban Geography; Geography of Governance) presented their valedictory lectures. Numerous festive and scientific events punctuated the week of meetings, including a ‘Top Carto’ competition, a documentary festival, a Nuit Blanche, inspired by the Nuit de la Géographie. This centenary congress offered an opportunity to underline the significance of the IGU as an international scientific organization for geographers from all over the world, in all their diversity. The participation of a very large number of geographer colleagues from all regions of the world is testimony to this, as are the meetings of the regional geography associations and the international thematic working groups held during the congress.

Paradiso emphasized the need for a general policy to obtain detailed reports from organizers of IGU events on completion. A financial report is also required, although the format is not stipulated. It is expected that the Paris Congress will be able to make a contribution to the Promotion and Solidarity Fund. Meadows reported that IGU has purchased 100 copies of the volume ‘A Geographical Century’ (Springer) at a very substantial discount and that this is available for distribution as mementos.

6.02 IGU Thematic Conference 24-25 November 2022, Mahandregarh, India
Kumar presented a brief update regarding the IGU Thematic Conference to be held between 24-25th November 2022 in Mahandregarh. IGU Secretary General Gönençgil and First Vice-President Lemarchand will represent the IGU EC in the conference and the IGU President will send a recorded message to be broadcasted in the opening ceremony. The theme of the conference is Sustainability, Future Earth, and Humanities: Opportunities and Challenges, with the aim of drawing attention to innovative, actionable, solution-oriented, fundamental and/or applied research efforts aimed at achieving global sustainability. The conference theme further includes three major sections i.e., Sustainability, Future Earth, and Humanities and 16 IGU Commissions are engaged with 28 sub-themes. A dedicated website (https://igu2022.cuh.ac.in/) of the Conference is already in place.

6.03 IGU Thematic Conference 4-6 April 2023, Osaka, Japan
Gönençgil reported that IGU Thematic Conference on "Islands in Relations: Conflicts, Sustainability, and Peace" is scheduled to be organized in Osaka Metropolitan University, Osaka, Japan during 4-6 April 2023. Himiyama mentioned that travel grant applications are being scrutinized for selecting probable awardees for the conference. The Conference will be organized in a hybrid format (a combination of in-person and virtual sessions) with the online broadcasting of keynote speeches. Conference update and detailed information can be found at https://polgeog.jp/igu-tc2023/.
6.04 IGU Thematic Conference 6-8 June 2023, Milan – Italy
Gönençgil outlined that this thematic conference is planned in association with the Osaka Thematic Conference. Calls for abstracts are already out and further details are available on the IGU website https://igu-online.org/igu-thematic-conference-on-the-ocean-and-seas-in-geographical-thought/.

6.05 IGU Thematic Conference 20-23 August 2023, Mexico City – Mexico
Lois-González reported on progress of the Mexico thematic conference which will now be held over five days between 18th to 25th August 2023. The theme of the conference is Urban Transformations: Towards Resilient Cities. Six IGU Commissions, including Urban Commission: Re-thinking Cities and the Urban, Geography of Governance, Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change, Geoheritage and Geoparks, Latin American Studies, and Population Geography are partners. Concern was raised about the substantial increase in registration fees for the conference, but it was recognized that this was related to the extended duration. Rozenblat noted the need for a conference website as soon as possible so that she can disseminate information about this conference in the IGU e-newsletter.

6.06 International Geographical Congress, Dublin 2024
Gönençgil reported that he and President Meadows had signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of IGC Dublin 2024. The Dublin organising committee is well prepared, has already launched the congress website, and has promised a heightened level of communication from the beginning of 2023. The call for Congress sessions is scheduled to begin between May to September 2023, while abstract submissions will remain open from 3rd October 2023 to 12th January 2024. By the end of May 2024, a detailed congress programme will be available online. Registration fees are euros 430 for super early-bird full delegate, while the equivalent for students is Euro 210. Full delegate standard registration is Euro 480 and for students it is 260 euros. The IGC 2024 opening ceremony is scheduled for 24th August 2024. The LOC has established communications with IGU Commission chairs to assess their plans for participation in the Congress. It was further noted that the LOC is exploring ways of supporting more young and early career geographers to join IGC 2024 and also to provide them with reasonably-priced accommodation in Dublin.

6.07 IGU Thematic Conference, 3-5 June 2024, Quito, Ecuador
Lois-González reported on his meeting with the director of the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO, Ecuador). FLACSO is proposing the Quito thematic conference. The LOC needs to engage formal support of at least four IGU commissions to ensure that the meeting can be branded as an IGU Thematic Conference. Lois-González agreed to contact the local organizers in this regard.

6.08 IGU Thematic Conference, 2025, Cairo, Egypt
Meadows apprised EC that an informal proposal has been received to organise an IGU Thematic Conference in the year 2025 at Cairo, Egypt which would coincide with the centennial of the first ever International Geographical Congress.

6.09 IGU Regional Conference 2026
The IGU Regional Conference 2026 will be held in Istanbul, Turkey 17-21 August, 2026. A formal bidbook was received from the National Committee for Turkey for the event to be held in Istanbul (August 17th to 21st 2026). Given the quality of the proposal, EC agreed to recommend Istanbul as host of the IGU Regional Conference in 2026.

6.10 International Geographical Congress, Melbourne 9-14 July 2028
Nothing new to report on this item.
Cooperation and Outreach

7.01 IGU UN-GGIM
Meadows mentioned that Rozenblat has been appointed as the point of contact between IGU and UN-GGIM (United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management) and that she will ultimately take over the position of chair of this group.

7.01b ISC
Paradiso, who is a member of the International Science Council (ISC) Governing Board and sits on its Outreach and Engagement Committee, reported on recent developments and highlighted that the current President wishes to increase visibility in marginalized regions and wishes to develop ISC as a much stronger voice among global scientific communities. The ISC is keen on opening an Asia Pacific hub in Australia and is working to establish proper links between unions and national academies. Paradiso foresees stronger roles for geography and geographers in the ISC in near future in promoting its activities especially among the GeoUnions. The debate has just started about the opening of a committee on science education which has long been called for by both Himiyama and Meadows and it is hoped that education for sustainability will be a focus. It was noted that ISC communications appear to be improving.

7.02 GeoUnions
7.02a IYBSSD (International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development)
Meadows briefed EC members that 2022 has now formally been declared by the UN as the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development. At the GeoUnions meeting in Paris held just before the Paris IGC, members discussed ways to contribute to this initiative and the idea of launching a webinar series in the form of series of high-profile online lectures by eminent scientists. The call went out for nomination of possible speakers and the IGU Commissions responded very positively, and six formal proposals were submitted. A sub-committee of GeoUnions was tasked with selecting the first three of these webinars, which are intended to be presented regularly from 2023 onwards and be marketed and broadcasted using the ISC online platform. Final arrangements are still in hand, but Himiyama will communicate developments as they arise.

7.03 EGAL/UGAL
Lois-González reported to the EC that the organizing committee of the XIX Meeting of Geographies of Latin America and the Caribbean (EGAL 2023) to be held from June 26 to 30, 2023, at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD), in the Dominican Republic and that EC members are formally invited for this face-to-face meeting in the Caribbean, with the theme “Role of Geography: Sustainable Development, Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change: Latin America and the Caribbean”.

7.04 Other organizations
7.04a Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress
Kumar was the IGU nominee at the Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC 2022) in Hyderabad, India, from 10-14 October 2022 and presented a brief report. The five-day conference was hosted by the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and convened by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). With the theme of “Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No One should be Left Behind”. The meeting reflected on the importance of integrated geospatial information infrastructure and knowledge services to support the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development goals. The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi (through online platform), the Union Minister for Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh, Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UN-GGIM Secretariat, United Nations Statistics Department, Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Co-chair of UN-GGIM, Kingdom of Belgium, Dr S Somnath, Secretary, of the Department of Space, Dr Srivari Chandrasekhar, Secretary, of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India inaugurated UNWGIC 2022. Around 2000 delegates comprising more than 700 international participants representing more than 120 counties covering a wide section
of people ranging from eminent scientists and policy-makers, geospatial stakeholders including ground-level beneficiaries shared their experiences on cross cutting areas of sustainable development goals, digital transformation and technological development, environmental and climate challenges, spatial ethics, knowledge infrastructure, governance and policies during the congress. See: https://unwgic2022.in/ for further details.

7.04b Mountain Partnership
Gönençgil outlined the case for IGU accepting membership of the Mountain Partnership, which is hosted under the platform of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations with headquarters in Rome, Italy. The importance of this alliance was highlighted, especially in the context of climate change and increased mountain vulnerability. It was agreed that IGU should apply for membership of the Mountain Partnership and that Gönençgil will initiate the process.

7.04c RGS/OU
The project to develop an online, open access Open University course in partnership with the Open University and the Royal Geographical Society is now well advanced. Several filming sessions have already taken place and the MOA signed that will provide IGU with funds to allow participation in the annual event that will be used to promote the course. The launch is planned for 2024.

7.04d FIG
Lemarchand noted that the theme of 34th edition of the Festival International de Géographie (FIG) is ‘Emergencies' and is scheduled for 29th September to 1st October 2023. The focus country is Chile.

7.04e Geodiversity Day
Himiyama noted that the inaugural International Geodiversity Day of UNESCO was celebrated on 6 October 2022. Bringing together people, communities, organizations, and countries across the world, it included educational, awareness raising, and public and policy engagement activities. The IGU EC, under the direction of Himiyama, organized an online webinar on the day. Some 24 participants from across the world and representing several commissions participated in the zoom webinar. Takashi Oguchi, Chair of the IGU Commission on Hazard and Risk represented International Geomorphological Association (IGA) and Dongying Wei, Chair of the IGU Commission on Geoheritage and Parks made presentations. Participants, including the IGU President, agreed to form a ‘geodiversity group’ to share information. Meadows proposed an online lecture series to celebrate geodiversity in different countries and thanked Himiyama for taking this initiative and successfully organizing the event.

7.05 Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SCGES) representation
Meadows noted that the IGU has representation on the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SCGES). Rozenblat and Paradiso are appointed as first and second points of contact for this standing committee.

Other Business
Gönençgil noted that the updated list of Executive Committee responsibilities has been shared for reference, along with the updated IGU letter head and the pro forma for EC members’ annual report. Bamutaze reported that IGU is co-branding the upcoming second International Conference on Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change (GORILLA) conference in December in Kampala, Uganda and encouraged EC member attendance.

Adjourn
Meadows thanked all for their attendance and, in particular, Lois-González and his colleagues for a wonderful field excursion and all logistical arrangements for the EC meeting and related hospitality. The meeting adjourned at 17h30 local time on 18 October, 2022.