1. Welcome
The online EC meeting was chaired by IGU President Michael Meadows (MM) who welcomed Nathalie Lemarchand (NL) as First Vice-President, Past-President Yukio Himiyama, (YH), Secretary-General Barbaros Gönençgil, (BG), Vice-President and Treasurer, Holly Barcus, (HB), Vice-Presidents Ruben Lois-González,(RL-G),Céline Rozenblat,(CR), Yazidhi Bamutaze, (YB), Phil McManus,(PM), Maria Paradiso,(MP), Fu Bojie (FB) and Assistant Secretary-General Pankaj Kumar (PK). The Executive Committee (EC) meeting commenced at 12h00 GMT on Wednesday 31st January, 2024.

2. Adoption of the Agenda
The agenda and schedule were duly adopted.

3. Minutes
Minutes of the Delhi EC meeting, 2nd and 4th October 2023 in English, previously circulated, were reviewed and accepted following minor revision. NL agreed to translate the French version of the minutes. The final versions both in English and French are to be posted on the IGU website.

4. Organization

4.01 Financial Report and country dues
HB reported briefly on the IGU financial situation. IGU continues to carry over a positive balance from the COVID years. However, in 2024, it is projected that IGU will overspend by as much as 50,000 USD, which will be mostly on Congress and in-person EC meetings. HB also noted that the financial subcommittee, as agreed at the previous EC meeting, has yet to convene to review the structure of national committee dues and to explore other funding revenues moving forward. HB suggested that cost mitigation will also be considered by the budget subcommittee.

4.02 EC meeting schedule 2024

4.02a 2024 April, Nanjing, China EC meeting proposal
MM outlined arrangements for IGU EC, which is to be hosted by Nanjing University: arrivals (latest) in Nanjing on 9th April, departure from Shanghai on or after 14th April 2024. There will be a half-day field excursion in Nanjing, and a full day excursion is scheduled in Shanghai. The Geographical Society of China has agreed to co-sponsor the IGU EC meeting along with Nanjing University. All details about the EC meeting will be shared by the beginning of March 2024. The matter of visas was discussed and invitation letters have already been issued.
4.02b 2024 August EC Meeting Dublin (BG)
EC members arrival in Dublin is on Thursday, 22nd August, with EC meeting on Friday, 23rd and Saturday, 24th August 2024. MM noted that the post-General Assembly EC meeting, with new President and Vice-Presidents, will take place immediately following the conclusion of the Congress (30th August, 2024). BG reported that more than 3000 abstracts have been submitted. BG will communicate with the Dublin LOC regarding logistics. It was agreed that EC members should finalize their registration. The LOC had offered advice regarding accommodation arrangements during the Congress itself, and it was agreed to follow their suggestion to stay in one of the on-campus options.

4.03 Annual report 2023
MM reported that, thanks to the efforts of BG and PK, there is progress regarding the drafting of the 2023 annual report. This, along with the financial summary, will be circulated to EC members during mid-February and the final version distributed along with IGU membership invoices (HB) and the call for proposals for the 2032 Congress and 2030 Regional Conference (BG).

4.04 Commission reports and Commission Excellence Award subcommittee
MM noted the need to reconstitute the Commission Excellence Award subcommittee, which decision will be based as usual on the annual commission reports. Members of the subcommittee are NL (Chair), MP, RL-G and CR. BG reported that, in all, 36 annual reports had been received from Commissions and Task Forces (C&TFs) (34 and 2, respectively). NL agreed to share a document outlining evaluation criteria with subcommittee members. Nine commissions failed to submit a report for the year 2023. BG agreed to prepare a consolidated spreadsheet indicating the annual report submission status during 2020-23 for all Commissions. This will assist the EC and IGU General Assembly (Dublin) to make appropriate decision vis à vis continuation (or otherwise) for the next inter-Congress period. The subcommittee report and recommendation need to be completed in time for the upcoming Nanjing EC meeting.

5. Operations

5.01 IGU Bulletin
MM reported that there should be two copies of the *IGU Bulletin* prepared in time for IGC Dublin with a small number of printed copies. YH mentioned that the substantial part of the *IGU Bulletin* comprises reports of the C&TFs and these are valuable sources of information regarding IGU activities.

5.02 IGU ethics and research integrity
MM highlighted the need for an ethics and research integrity document/statement to be placed on IGU website. This was kindly brought to IGU attention by Virginie Mamadouh, with valuable input from former First Vice-President, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn. The website of International Association for Promotion of Geoethics (IAPG) is a useful resource. CR suggested that The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) could be integrated with the proposed IGU ethics and research integrity statement. NL and MP agreed to prepare a first draft of such a statement for consideration and adoption at the Nanjing EC meeting.
5.03 IGU archives
MM appraised EC that over the 14 years of his involvement in IGU, as Vice-President, Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General and President, he has accumulated a substantial volume of material related to IGU activities. It was agreed that these materials, where appropriate, should be deposited in IGU archives in Leipzig. It was agreed that MM would ship these for the attention of Bruno Schelhaas and that the cost of shipment should be met out of IGU funds.

6. IGU Conferences and Congress

6.01 IGU Thematic Conference, 15-17 May 2024, Quito - Ecuador
RL-G reported to the EC that recent security concerns in the country have had no effect on the organising committee preparing for the IGU Thematic conference. The LOC has signed the memorandum of understanding and received 95 abstracts for presentation. RL-G noted that the required list of IGU Commissions that are supporting this conference is still not on the website. BG agreed to urgently contact the LOC in this regard, otherwise the ‘IGU Thematic Conference’ status cannot be authorized. EC members NL, RL-G and HB are intending to participate.

6.02 International Geographical Congress, Dublin 2024 (BG)

6.02a IGC Dublin 2024
BG reported that preparations for the IGC Dublin are proceeding well and that LOC is highly active of all social media platforms. It was agreed that PM and YB will review the list of IGU travel grant applicants (more than 300 have been received) and will update the Dublin LOC by end-February to confirm if the selected candidates have accepted abstracts. Thereafter, the award letters can be distributed.

6.03 IGU Thematic Conference, 2025, Cairo, Egypt (BG)
BG reported that he had already sent an MoU for this thematic conference to LOC, Cairo and is waiting for their response. MM suggested communicating through WhatsApp to LOC. More details will be available at the Nanjing meeting.

6.04 IGU Regional Conference, 2026 (BG)
BG reported that Istanbul Regional Conference 2026 LOC is working on a conference time schedule and he will table an update at the Nanjing EC meeting.

6.051 International Geographical Congress, Melbourne 9-14 July 2028 (PM)
PM will report back at the Nanjing EC meeting in April.

7. Cooperation and Outreach

7.01 ISC/GeoUnions
MM reported to the EC about the development and current status of proposed amendments to the ISC statutes/constitution which will be tabled and voted on at an Extraordinary ISC General Assembly (online) scheduled for 28th February, 2024. EC members MM, NL, YH and BG will attend the ISC general assembly meeting, with BG the official voting delegate for IGU. MM noted that concerns had been raised over the last year by a number of Unions regarding the addition of a new category of ISC membership, and on the voting protocol especially related to scientific matters,
although many of these would seem to have been resolved. YH mentioned that ISC is in the phase of transformation and that IGU strongly defends the proportional voting rights of Category 1 members. MM stated that the current President of ISC appears to take the views of the Unions very seriously in regard to the new constitutional arrangements and is keen to widen participation. MM reported that the International Geomorphological Association (IGA) has applied for ISC membership but that the necessary approval process has not yet been initiated. It is important that the IGU advertises and encourages nominations from our community, especially from younger colleagues, to suitable ISC structures and committees. IGU has representation on several ISC-related bodies, including the UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies (CR, chair), GeoUnions (MM chair), ISC Standing Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (MM) and the CODATA international data policy committee (PK), and YH as a member of the ISC Regional Focal Point Asia-Pacific Advisory Council. YH briefed the EC regarding BRIDGES, a humanities-driven UNESCO coalition for sustainability, with focus on its relation with CIPSH.

7.02 IYBSSD and IDSSD
The International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD) 2024-2033, has been approved by the UN General Assembly. The GeoUnions, chaired by MM, are considering the continuation of the successful webinar series that had accompanied the IYBSSD in 2023.

7.03 Geonight 2024
NL reported that Geonight 2024 is scheduled on both 5th & 12th April 2024.

8. Other Business

8.01. Discussion on strategic positioning of the IGU
This agenda item will be held over for discussion at the Nanjing EC meeting in April 2024.

9. Adjourn
MM thanked EC members for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 14h00 GMT on 31st January 2024.