

International Geographical Union
Minutes of the IGU Executive Committee Meeting
09h00, Sunday, 17th July 2022,
École Normale Supérieure, 45 rue d'Ulm, Paris, France

Welcome, Apologies and Meeting Logistics

The meeting was chaired by IGU President Michael Meadows, who welcomed EC members, Past-President Yukio Himiyama, First Vice-President Iain Hay, Interim Secretary-General Barbaros Gönençgil, Vice-Presidents Nathalie Lemarchand, Elena Dell' Agnese, Holly Barcus, Céline Rozenblat, Ruben Lois-González, Bojie Fu (online) and Assistant Secretary-General Pankaj Kumar. Lemarchand was thanked for facilitating the EC meeting and for excellent logistical and social arrangements in Paris. The Executive Committee (EC) meeting commenced at 09h00 local time on Sunday 17th July, 2022.

Adoption of the Schedule and Agenda

The agenda and schedule were duly adopted.

Minutes

Minutes of the IGU EC meeting, held in person on April 11th -12th, 2022 in Paris, France, previously circulated and corrected via email, were approved. Lemarchand was thanked for preparing the French version. Both sets of minutes are to be posted on the IGU website.

Organization

4.01 IGU financial status and structure

President Meadows apprised EC regarding the IGU bank account in Cape Town. Acting Treasurer Barcus briefly reported also on the IGU bank account held at Macalester College. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the administrative role of Secretary General and Treasurer should be formally separated and that this would require a revision to the Statutes. A relatively simple arrangement would involve the EC selecting the Treasurer from among its elected members. Meadows agreed to draft the necessary wording for discussion and decision at the upcoming General Assembly.

4.02 IGU EC Members and SG Elections Results and way forward

Interim Secretary General Gönençgil reported on the outcome of the recent e-ballot election for the positions of Secretary General and four Vice Presidents. Barbaros Gönençgil (Turkey) was unanimously elected as Secretary General for the period 2022-26, while Vice Presidents Ruben Lois-González (Spain) and Bojie Fu (China) were re-elected, and Professors Maria Paradiso (Italy) and Phil McManus (Australia) were newly elected for the same period. There followed a brief discussion to consider how to deal with the vacancy arising from Gönençgil's election to the position of Secretary General. It was agreed to appoint Yazidhi Bamutaze (Uganda) as IGU Vice President for two years (2022-2024), after which he will be eligible for re-election for one further four year term. The EC decided to maintain the services of Dr. Pankaj Kumar as Assistant Secretary General until the 2024 Dublin Congress and to report this to the General Assembly for formal approval.

4.03 IGU EC Annual Report 2022

Activity reports of EC members for the period 2021-2022 were presented. It was decided it would be helpful to standardize the format of such reports in future. Gönençgil agreed to provide initial draft guidelines for such format.

4.04 EC meeting schedule 2022

The third face to face Executive Committee (EC) meeting of the year 2022 has been scheduled to commence on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th October 2022 at Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Vice President Ruben Lois-González will be the host and provide necessary logistical support.

Operations

5.01 Membership of Peru

Lois-González continues in his efforts to resolve the complex situation regarding membership of the Peru IGU National Committee.

5.02 IGU website/social media

Rozenblat highlighted several inconsistencies relating to the IGU website and made a number of suggestions to be followed up by Kumar and Meadows. The problem with the 'ghost' [igu-online](#) site was again raised and Kumar reported on the fact that his technical team has been unable to resolve the issue. Rozenblat agreed to do some further research with the assistance of her contacts. It was agreed that IGU does need to make more use of social media platforms, including *Twitter*, *Facebook* and *LinkedIn* to disseminate news and to consider also *Instagram*. The possibility of one of the Vice Presidents taking over responsibility for this task was raised and should be revisited at the next meeting.

5.03 IGU Bulletin

Meadows reported that volume 67-68 has now been printed for distribution to appropriate individuals at the upcoming General Assembly. Remaining copies are to be sent to the libraries on the circulation list. The next volume remains work in progress.

5.04 IGU e-Newsletter

Rozenblat produced the latest IGU e-Newsletter in both English and French versions and reported wide circulation, although it had been a little delayed due to work pressure. Himiyama highlighted the importance of consistent timing for the quarterly release of the e-Newsletter. Commissions and Task Force Chairs need to be encouraged to share important and timely information, both for the website and e-Newsletter.

5.05 IGU Publications/Springer AGES

Himiyama and Prof. Subhash Anand are co-editing the IGU Springer series entitled: *Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences* and welcome proposals for new volumes. Meadows noted that Prof. Jerzy Banski and he are co-editing a volume that will be dedicated to late IGU Secretary General Singh. Hay reported that a second volume in the Edward Elgar series is scheduled for publication in the year 2023 and further proposals are also encouraged. Barcus is taking over co-editorship of this series from Meadows. Meadows noted that the journal *Geography and Sustainability*, which is a product of the IGU Commission on Geography for Future Earth, has just received its first Clarivate Analytics impact factor. Meadows reported that IGU has purchased 100 copies of the printed volume 'A Geographical Century' (Springer) at a very substantial discount and that this is available as gifts.

IGU Conferences and Congresses

6.01 Paris, Extraordinary Congress of the Centennial of IGU

Lemarchand presented details of the Opening Ceremony programme for the Extraordinary Congress of the Centennial of IGU and highlighted some important developments related to the congress and the iGEO. Around 2300 participants have registered for the congress from 79 countries with encouraging participation from Africa and Latin American countries. In total 263 scientific sessions are scheduled, some of which will occupy as many as six timetable slots. It was noted that the representatives of the GeoUnions' member unions had been invited to the Extraordinary Congress of the Centennial of IGU, and that some representatives were actually coming to the present venue later for a GeoUnions executive meeting.

6.02 General Assembly of IGU

Gönençgil reported on the preparation of the agenda and supporting documents for the upcoming General Assembly. Agenda, roll call, minutes of 2021 General Assembly (in both English and French), and IGU Statutes would be available as printed copies at the meeting. The General Assembly would be available in online format as well. Meadows presented a draft of the proposal to expel the IGU Russia National Committee in response to the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian military. This would be presented for consideration, discussion, amendment as necessary, and adoption or rejection by the IGU General Assembly.

6.03 Commission Chairs Business Meeting

Gönençgil highlighted the IGU Commission and Task Force Chairs meeting scheduled during the Paris Congress. It was agreed that the meeting would have a simple 'Open Agenda' but that he and Meadows draft a document highlighting the roles and responsibilities of chairs to be tabled for discussion.

6.04 Thematic Conferences-Commissions meetings

Lois-González noted that a third thematic conference was proposed for 2023, (Mexico, 20th to 23rd August 2023) entitled 'Urban Transformations Towards Resilient Cities'. Six IGU commissions *viz.* Urban, Geography of Governance, Geography of Tourism, Geoheritage, Latin American Studies, Population Geography are collaborating in the thematic conference. It was noted that the centennial anniversary of the first ever IGU Congress would be 2025 and that geographers in Egypt had expressed significant enthusiasm to host a thematic conference in Cairo in commemoration of this event.

Cooperation and Outreach

7.01 UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies

Meadows noted that IGU had not been centrally involved with this group but that we were scheduled to take over as Chair from August 2022 onwards. Following discussion, it was agreed that IGU needs to engage more actively with the group but that taking over the chair would prove to be challenging. Meadows suggested that he approach the outgoing chair explaining this situation and ask for a postponement of IGU taking the chair.

Other Business

No other business was tabled.

Adjourn

Meadows thanked all for their attendance and, in particular, Lemarchand and her colleagues for all arrangements and hospitality. The meeting adjourned at 12h00 local time on Sunday 17th July 2022.

International Geographical Union
Minutes of the Follow-on IGU Executive Committee Meeting
04h00 pm, Friday, 22nd July 2022,
Société de Géographie, 184 bvd Saint-Germain 75006 Paris

The meeting was chaired by IGU President Michael Meadows, who welcomed EC members, Past-President Yukio Himiyama, outgoing First Vice-President Iain Hay, newly elected Secretary-General Barbaros Gönençgil, Vice-Presidents Nathalie Lemarchand, Holly Barcus, Céline Rozenblat, re-elected Vice President Ruben Lois-González, newly elected Vice Presidents Maria Paradiso and Phil McManus and Assistant Secretary-General Pankaj Kumar. Apologies were received from outgoing Vice-President Elena dell' Agnese, Vice-President Bojie Fu and newly elected Vice-President Yazidhi Bamutaze. The Executive Committee (EC) meeting commenced at 16h00 pm local time on Friday 22nd July, 2022.

Farewell to the Outgoing EC members

Meadows, on behalf of EC members, noted that it was with a heavy heart that we must bid farewell to First Vice-President Iain Hay and to Vice-President Elena dell' Agnese. In praising the excellent contributions of both, he lauded their strong commitment during their long tenure in the IGU. Meadows then presented a unique hand-made ostrich eggshell photograph frame as a token of appreciation to Iain Hay (dell' Agnese having been presented with hers the day before). Hay shared his warm memories and feelings of his long association with IGU EC and reiterated his commitment to the IGU and its future activities.

Welcome to newly elected Vice-Presidents

Meadows welcomed newly elected Vice-Presidents Maria Paradiso and Phil McManus. Along with Yazidhi Bamutaze (*in absentio*) to the IGU Executive Committee.

EC meeting schedule 2022

The third face to face EC meeting of the year 2022, which had been scheduled for Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th October 2022 at Santiago de Compostela, Spain, was confirmed.

Adjourn

Meadows again thanked Lemarchand, who would be IGU First Vice-President for the period 2022-24, for a highly successful Congress and in particular to the warm hospitality that had been afforded all EC members. The meeting adjourned at 04h40 pm local time on Friday, 22nd July 2022.