

# International Geographical Union

## 2024 Post IGC Executive Committee Meeting

29 August 2024 / 17:00 – 18:30 (Local Time)

House 7, Glasnevin, DCU, Dublin, Ireland

### 1. Welcome by the President

The Post IGC 2024 Executive Committee (EC) meeting was chaired by the newly elected IGU President Nathalie Lemarchand (NL) who welcomed Past-President Michael Meadows (MM) outgoing Past President Yukio Himiyama, (YH), Secretary-General Barbaros Gönençgil, (BG), Vice-President and Treasurer, Holly Barcus (HB), Vice-Presidents Ruben Lois-González (RL-G), Phil McManus (PM), Maria Paradiso (MP), newly elected Vice President Anindita Datta (AD), Bernardo Mançano Fernandes (BMF), former Vice President Celine Rozenblat (CR) and Assistant Secretary-General Pankaj Kumar (PK). Apologies were received from Vice Presidents Fu Bojie (FB), newly elected Vice President Marek Wieckowski (MW) and former Vice President Yazidhi Bamutaze (YB). The meeting commenced at 17h00 local time on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at DCU, Dublin.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

NL tabled the agenda which was duly adopted.

### 3. Welcome of New EC members

NL welcomed newly elected Executive Committee (EC) members, IGU Vice Presidents Anindita Datta from India, Bernardo Mançano Fernandes from Brazil and Marek Wieckowski (in absentia) from Poland. She highlighted the importance of having women representatives from the Global South and also two EC members representing BRICS countries/regional block. NL expressed her wish for the EC to work together well to increase the IGU footprint, and the influence of geography and geographers in this world. AD thanked all the voting members of all the National Committees for their support and added that it felt great to have Indian representation in the EC after the gap left by the late RB. Singh. She expressed her wish to be engaged with IGU initiatives, and to promote IGU and the discipline in the Global South generally, in India in particular. BMF highlighted recent meetings of Latin American geographers and noted the importance of organizing the Latin America Geography Commission meetings with increased IGU participation and *vice versa*. NL mentioned that newly elected V-P Wieckowski had sent her a message expressing his commitment to working within the Executive Committee.

### 4. Farewell

The EC bid farewell to outgoing IGU Past President Yukio Himiyama, former Vice-Presidents Céline Rozenblat and Yazidhi Bamutaze. NL and MM presented an engraved Irish crystal Globe with the inscription IGU 2010 to 2024 to YH as a mark of appreciation for his long-standing dedication to the IGU in various capacities, including as Vice-President, President and Past President. YH then shared his experience stating *'I joined the IGU Executive Committee in the year 2010, have a very good experience in IGU, particularly in the Executive Committee. But even before that, as a Commission chair or other positions, I had fairly good relations with the Executive Committee for a long time. One great thing in IGU, particularly in the Executive Committee, is continuity and a very good relationship of old, present, and the future generations and that's really the treasure of IGU. The farewell symbolizes the continuation of the Executive Committee. I think it helps the organization to grow steadily and more strongly. I am very happy to see the new Executive Committee members. And I'm sure that you can do a good job. I think the retired person also has something to do. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask me. I will be very happy to cooperate. Thank you very much. Thank you all.'* YH expressed

his wish to complete his unfinished task of Geodiversity Day celebration 2024 and contributing to the ISC focal point for Asia-Pacific.

NL thanked Céline Rozenblat for her contribution in reinvigorating IGU communications, the *eNewsletter*, IGU social media and for her work on UN-GGIM, GeoUnions and in promotion of GeoAI. CR agreed to continue work with UN-GGIM and GeoUnions and briefed the EC about her coordination and engagements with UN-GGIM and the IGU media sub-committee. NL expressed her appreciation for CR's various EC engagements and good work. She then acknowledged the good work done by Yazidhi Bamutaze towards increasing the IGU footprint in Africa especially to his work in developing and promoting the GORILLA (Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change) conferences, along with his active and dedicated role in various EC sub-committees.

EC members humbly thanked all three for their collegiality and commitment and wished to have their continued support in future.

### **5. Formalisation of new positions of EC members**

NL announced her decision to appoint RL-G as First Vice-President of the IGU and he graciously accepted for the period 2024-28. NL thanked Ruben.

### **6. Liaisons of NCs and IGU commissions**

BG reported on the need to allocate EC member responsibilities for IGU National Committees and Commissions, to be finalized at the next EC meeting. MP emphasized the need for better communication between EC liaisons, NCs and Chairs IGU Commissions and BG agreed to ensure that liaison information is visible on the IGU website. NL noted her intention to organize two online meetings annually with national and commission chairs.

### **7. Guidelines for EC meetings (travel and accommodation)**

NL noted that IGU EC generally schedules two or three meetings each year and that a decision had been taken previously to hold one of these in online format. She suggested that online meetings can be used when a limited number of specific agenda items are tabled for decision. BG noted that EC members undertake to organise one meeting in his or her country during their term of office, subject to financial constraints. The host is typically required to take care of local expenses including food and accommodation for four days across the duration of the meeting, while travel costs are borne by individual EC member as per convention. EC members are encouraged to obtain support for travel from their home country. In the even that this proves impossible, the IGU Treasury can be approached for reimbursement. NL reminded the EC that the finance subcommittee has committed to limiting meeting expenditure to keep the balance of payment in favour. Citing examples from New Delhi and Nanjing, NL reminded that it has become practice to organise EC meetings in such a way as to facilitate interaction with the local community of geographers, including young scholars.

BG called for proposals to organise the next EC meeting. RL-G suggested that Mallorca, Spain, would be suitable locality during November as accommodation costs are modest at this time. The proposal was accepted, subject to scheduling a suitable date via Doodle Poll (BG).

### **8. Supporting Academic Freedom and the voice of Iranian Students**

NL briefed the EC about an appeal for IGU support in defending academic freedom and the rights of students in Iran. It was agreed that NL compile a suitable reply both in English and French and MM agreed to produce a first draft.

### **9. Renaming the IGU commission on IGU-GFE to IGU-GeoSus**

MM reported on the proposed renaming the IGU commission on IGU-GFE to IGU-GeoSus and noted that the Commission hosts a highly successful Elsevier journal, *Geography and Sustainability* such that the renaming is logical as it consolidates the brand. Such a name change is within the purview of the EC to approve. Although 'sustainability' is a name already appearing in several IGU Commission names, MM argued that the concept is sufficiently broad. The EC approved the change, which should be announced to the broader community in due course.

#### **10. Proposal for the IGU Commissions on Geomorphology and Society: Past, Present and Future, and Islands**

BG reported that the Dublin General Assembly had affirmed the suspension of the IGU Commissions on Geomorphology and Society: Past, Present and Future, Islands, and Environmental Evolution. Since that decision, BG had been approached by a colleague from Japan who expressed willingness to take responsibility for reviving the Geomorphology Commission with a new Steering Committee. It was agreed that the co-chairs and members of the lapsed Steering Committee of this Commission should be appraised of the proposal from Japan as some members may be willing to continue their engagement. There is also need in this case to appraise the International Geomorphological Association (IGA) of the decision as this Commission is a Working Group of the IGA. MP reported on the IGU Commission on Islands, and noted that it had been active in the Dublin IGC. She suggested that further information on the activities of this Commission be obtained in order to consider the way forward, especially since interest in taking over the responsibility of this Commission has been expressed by several other colleagues. It was agreed to table this for discussion and decision at the next EC meeting. MP also noted that the selection of a new chair for the Mediterranean Commission was still in the process of being finalized.

#### **11. Adjourn**

NL thanked all for their attendance and positive contribution and for completing the agenda timeously. The meeting adjourned at 16h30 on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024.