

1 IUGG in the 21st Century

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14 **Abstract.** The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) has vigorously responded to a number of the natural,
15 scientific, and technological challenges and driving forces that have marked the 21st century thus far. This paper reviews the actions
16 of the Union that were precipitated by disasters caused by natural hazard events, climatic and environmental changes, and important
17 scientific advances, as well as the opportunities to support International Years and other cooperative programs. This period has
18 also given rise to a number of structural changes within the union. IUGG added an eighth association, the International Association
19 of Cryospheric Sciences, and inaugurated the new categories of affiliate and honorary memberships, introduced new grants, science
20 education, and recognition programs, and formed new Union commissions on climatic and environmental change, data and
21 information, planetary sciences, and a working group on history. Electronic communication was welcomed as a cultural norm.
22 Overall, the development of the scientific landscape in the 21st century and a healthy future for the Union requires emphasis on
23 fundamental Earth and space sciences as well as on transdisciplinary science to resolve urgent problems of society. IUGG will
24 continue to evolve throughout the coming decades in step with the changing world of science and its international organizations,
25 by responding to challenging problems as they arise.

26

27 1 Introduction

28

29 This is the last of three papers dedicated to the centennial history of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG).
30 The first paper (Ismail-Zadeh and Joselyn, 2019; *current Special Issue*) introduces the Union presenting its mission, membership,
31 structure, programs, products, and partners, and then overviews the formation of the Union and its development until the beginning
32 of WWII. The second paper (Joselyn and Ismail-Zadeh, 2019; *current Special Issue*) describes the IUGG's evolution and its
33 activities during the post-WWII era until the end of the 20th century.

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35 Founded by nine scientific academies of the allied nations, the number of member countries increased to 35 by 1939 and to 76 by
36 1999, although some countries joined and left the Union over time. 22 general assemblies (and two extraordinary assemblies) were
37 held in different international venues, and the number of delegates attending the general assemblies increased from a few dozen to
38 more than four thousand scientists. Each general assembly of the Union since the First General Assembly in 1922 until the XXII
39 General Assembly in 1999 has been summarized by Ismail-Zadeh and Joselyn (2019) and Joselyn and Ismail-Zadeh (2019). The
40 International Geophysical Year (IGY; 1957-1958) initiated by IUGG and its national members and co-sponsored by the

41 International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU; now the International Science Council [ISC]) and the World Meteorological
42 Organization (WMO) was an extraordinary global scientific effort. It was one of the most successful scientific and outreach
43 programs of the last century bringing together natural and social scientists, engineers, politicians, media, and society. After the
44 IGY, international multi- and interdisciplinary scientific campaigns became commonplace; many new international scientific
45 bodies were formed by ICSU with the IUGG's participation; many geophysical observatories were founded; the Union initiated
46 and rigorously supported a number of international scientific programs (see Table 1 in Joselyn and Ismail-Zadeh, 2019).

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48 This paper starts with a review of the activities of the Union related to fostering research on disaster risks, and climatic and
49 environmental changes. It discusses the IUGG involvement in and support of International Years and other cooperative programs
50 during almost two decades of the 21st century (at the time of writing). A number of structural changes occurred within the Union,
51 and the most important of which was establishment of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences, an eighth association
52 of the Union, in 2007. IUGG agreed to establish the new categories of affiliate and honorary memberships, introduced new grants,
53 geoscience education, and recognition programs, and formed new Union commissions on climatic and environmental change, data
54 and information, planetary sciences, and a working group on history. The development of the scientific landscape in this century
55 and a healthy future for the Union requires emphasis on fundamental sciences as well as on transdisciplinary science to help in
56 solving urgent problems of society.

57 58 **2 Promoting natural hazards and disaster risk science**

59
60 The early years of the 21st century have been marked by a number of extreme natural events and associated great disasters that
61 have strongly influenced both public policy and scientific research (e.g., Cutter et al., 2015). These include earthquakes (e.g., 2004
62 Aceh-Sumatra in the Indian Ocean in 2005, Kashmir (Pakistan) in 2005, Wenchuan (China) in 2008, Haiti in 2010, Tohoku (Japan)
63 in 2011, and Nepal in 2015) that triggered tsunamis and/or landslides; floods (e.g., in western and central Europe in 2002, China
64 in 2007; Taiwan and Philippines in 2009); and cyclones and hurricanes (e.g. hurricanes Katrina in 2005 and Harvey in 2017, both
65 in USA; cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in 2008). These and other extreme events have resulted in tragic losses of life and
66 infrastructure.

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68 Several of the IUGG Associations and inter-Association commissions address potentially violent geophysical processes. In August
69 2000, IUGG created the Union Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (GRC) specifically to study the likelihood of
70 hazards, their impacts and consequences as a result of the vulnerability of societies, and to recommend measures for adaptation and
71 mitigation. Thus, the commission was ready when a magnitude 9.2 earthquake struck on 26 December 2004 off the west coast of
72 northern Sumatra, South Asia. The resulting tsunamis inundated the coastal zones around the Indian Ocean and resulted in losses
73 of more than 230,000 lives across many countries. A few months before the event, the GRC had released the first catalogue of
74 tsunamis in the Indian Ocean to the public. The GRC, in cooperation with the IUGG inter-association Tsunami Commission,
75 prepared a statement that was sent to the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
76 and presented by the IUGG Vice President Tom Beer to the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe,
77 Japan (January 2005). This statement was revised and adopted as IUGG Resolution 8 "Reduction of Risk from Natural Hazards" at
78 the General Assembly in Perugia, Italy in 2007 (IUGG Archives, 2007). Several IUGG Associations responded by convening
79 workshops and symposia to study the relevant geophysical process and presented recommendations for observation, analysis and
80 warning systems. On 12 January 2010, a strong earthquake of magnitude 7 struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and resulted in a death toll

81 that was estimated to range from 100,000 to 316,000. After the earthquake, on 29 January 2010, IUGG issued a special resolution:
82 “Science on Natural Hazards and Environmental Disasters”, urging the “international science community to quantify natural hazards
83 and extreme events at all scales; to adopt integrative and comprehensive interdisciplinary approaches towards developing adaptation
84 in order to decrease vulnerability; and to produce planning tools for disaster risk reduction at all scales.” This and all other IUGG
85 statements can be found on the IUGG website under Special Resolutions and Statements (<http://www.iugg.org/about/special.php>).
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87 A political consequence of scientific efforts to understand and predict natural disasters and inform society occurred in 2009 when
88 the L'Aquila (Italy) Prosecutor's office indicted the members of the Abruzzi region's High Risk Committee for unintended murder
89 for issuing statements to calm the population before the strong earthquake of 6 April that killed about 300 people. Believing that
90 no scientist should be prosecuted for having expressed a scientific opinion based on the available knowledge that is often
91 necessarily limited, IUGG issued in June 2010 a statement on “Freedom to Conduct Science and Responsibilities of Scientists”
92 highlighting the ICSU Principle of the Universality of Science. This principle encompasses freedom in relation to expressions of
93 scientific ideas, hypotheses and forecasts, to conduct research using data, information, experiments and theories, and to
94 communicate scientific results to the public through open publications and scientific conferences. Italy's Supreme Court finally
95 cleared the committee's members in 2015, after a judicial process lasting more than 5 years (Carlidge, 2015).
96

97 IUGG released two statements related to the eruptions of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland that highlighted the importance of
98 understanding the eruptive state of each of the world's active volcanoes for the safety and health of local residents as well as for
99 air traffic and global climate. The first statement on Volcanic Ash Clouds (20 April 2010) was distributed at the Congressional
100 Briefings on Reducing Volcano Risks in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. The second statement on
101 Volcanological and Meteorological Support for Volcanic Ash Monitoring (28 May 2010) was welcomed by the WMO Executive
102 Board and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Both statements can be found on the IUGG website, as specified
103 above.
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105 On 11 March 2011 a magnitude 9.0 earthquake occurred off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku, Japan. It induced a catastrophic tsunami
106 that hit the coasts of Tohoku and Kanto. The toll of dead and missing exceeded 18,000 people and critically damaged a Japanese
107 nuclear power plant. IUGG expressed heartfelt sympathy for the victims, and again the GRC prepared a statement on the Great
108 East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami that was adopted by the IUGG Bureau.
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110 With the aim of strengthening international cooperation in disaster risk science, IUGG accepted a proposal by Secretary General
111 Alik Ismail-Zadeh and initiated in 2010 an interdisciplinary international project entitled “Extreme Natural Hazards and Societal
112 Implications – ENHANS” (<http://www.icsu-geounions.org/enhans>), then co-sponsored by ICSU and several international and
113 intergovernmental organizations. The major scientific results of the project were published in the IUGG volume *Extreme Natural
114 Hazards, Disaster Risks and Societal Implications* (Ismail-Zadeh et al., 2014). The ENHANS project concluded that a reduction
115 of disaster risk could be reached through in-depth scientific research on the topic and through disaster risk assessments.
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117 In 2011, IUGG President Harsh Gupta and Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh submitted a resolution on disaster risk assessment
118 to the 30th ICSU General Assembly. The ICSU Executive Board then opened global discussions on the need for an
119 intergovernmental body for the assessment of disaster risk and directed the preparation of a multi-disciplinary report that was
120 presented at the 31st ICSU General Assembly (2014). The assembly applauded the initiatives on disaster risk assessment

121 undertaken by the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) program, ICSU, the International Social Science Council (ISSC),
122 and the UNISDR, as well as the international scientific unions and the Council's Regional Offices, and invited individual national
123 members to support the proposed intergovernmental disaster risk assessment process. After the ICSU General Assembly, ICSU
124 and ISSC formed a joint ad-hoc group of experts, co-chaired by ICSU President Gordon McBean and IUGG Secretary General
125 Alik Ismail-Zadeh, to prepare a synthesis report on disaster risk research and risk assessment to be presented at the United Nations
126 Third Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan, in 2015 (Ismail-Zadeh and Cutter, 2015). The report was
127 published before the conference, and its executive summary was distributed among the delegates of the conference at the request
128 of the Russian Federation.

129 130 **3 Promoting climatic and environmental science**

131
132 Among the environmental problems IUGG addresses are climate, its variability and the contribution of CO₂ emission to its change
133 in order to save our planet for future generations; environmental pollution and its reduction in megacities to improve the quality of
134 life; weather and water conditions to assist farmers during harvests and provide other indispensable ecosystem services; clean
135 water and decontamination of polluted water to preserve and enhance human and ecosystem health; pollution of oceans and seas,
136 biodiversity and food security. Representing many disciplines of Earth and space sciences, IUGG has been continuously involved
137 in projects and programs related to climatic and environmental changes and their impacts.

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139 By the middle of the 20th century, the impacts of climatic and environmental changes were well understood by many experts
140 involved in relevant studies and programs of ICSU or other international bodies (Weart, 2012). The experts proposed that a major
141 scientific program on climate be established, and after long debates, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) was set up
142 by WMO and ICSU in 1980 (later the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific
143 and Cultural Organization [UNESCO] joined ICSU and WMO as a co-sponsor) in order to “determine the predictability of climate
144 and to determine the effect of human activities on climate” (from the WCRP mission statement). IUGG experts contributed to the
145 process of setting up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to help raise awareness of societies and politicians
146 about climate change (Bolin, 2007). Among them was Bert Bolin (IUGG Bureau Member, 1963-1967), who was involved in
147 setting up and development of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (Ashford, 1982) as well as WCRP, the International
148 Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, and IPCC, becoming its first Chairman (Rohde, 2013). Many IUGG experts shared the 2007
149 Nobel Peace Prize with the IPCC and Al Gore (Ismail-Zadeh, 2016).

150
151 In 2012, IUGG established the Union Commission on Climatic and Environmental Change (CCEC) to promote the advancement
152 of scientific understanding of climatic and environmental change, to boost research in reducing uncertainties in climate and
153 environmental models, to define criteria for collaborative transdisciplinary research on climate and environmental change, to fulfill
154 the objectives of IUGG and its Associations, to provide an all-Union perspective on climatic and environmental change, and to
155 make available the knowledge and insights developed through scientific research for the benefit of society and planet Earth,
156 including consideration of the science of global change, related vulnerability and impacts, and potential responses. CCEC provides
157 a focus for IUGG scientific expertise in climate and environment related areas across the breadth of all IUGG disciplines. CCEC
158 enables the breadth of IUGG expertise to be brought to bear at the global level through collaborating with, and underpinning the
159 work of ICSU and other international organizations. It also enables the geographic spread of IUGG expertise to be brought to bear
160 at the local level through involvement with national bodies in the organization of scientific meetings and other activities. The

161 research on the climatic and environmental change and high-impact of weather and climate events by the members of the CCEC
162 and the Climate Commission of the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS) of IUGG was
163 published as an IUGG volume by Cambridge University Press (Li et al., 2016). The work of CCEC demonstrated how multi- and
164 interdisciplinary research outputs from the geoscience community can be applied to tackle the physical and societal impacts of
165 climate change and to contribute to Future Earth, a major environmental program initiated by the International Science Council
166 (Beer et al., 2018).

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168 At the request of the IUGG Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh, fourteen international experts of the International Association
169 on the Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO) of IUGG together with those of the ICSU Scientific Committee on Oceanic
170 Research (SCOR) developed a synthesis report *Future of the Ocean and its Seas* (Williamson et al., 2016) for science policymakers
171 of seven economically developed countries (G7 Science Ministers). The report was prepared for the annual meeting of G7 Science
172 Ministers held in Tsukuba, Japan, in May 2016, as a response of non-governmental scientific organizations to the concern of the
173 policymakers expressed at their meeting in Berlin, Germany, in September 2015. The experts addressed topics related to plastic
174 pollution of the marine environment, deep-sea mining and its ecosystem impacts, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, ocean
175 warming, biodiversity loss, and marine ecosystem degradation.

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177 **4 International Years**

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179 The United Nations is the body that declares “International Years” (IY). The process requires both non-governmental and
180 governmental support at the highest levels. To mark fifty years after the remarkable International Geophysical Year (1957-58),
181 three related IYs to conduct scientific programs were successfully proposed. These were the International Year of Planet Earth
182 (IYPE), the International Polar Year (IPY), and the International Heliophysical Year (IHY). A fourth international program, the
183 electronic Geophysical Year (eGY), joined the others to support this scientific focus. IUGG and the Union Associations were
184 active in developing these programs and provided leadership and support for each. The four programs met in 2008 and issued the
185 Tsukuba Declaration (<http://www.egy.org>), noting that scientific cooperation among the global science community, national
186 academies of sciences, research funding agencies, industry, national governments, and inter-governmental bodies provide society
187 and its leaders with the best possible information to make decisions on a sustainable future for humankind. Table 1 lists the
188 International Years initiated and/or supported by IUGG since 2001.

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190 **5 GeoUnions**

191
192 In 2004, representatives of several ICSU International Scientific Unions dealing with Earth and space sciences met in Paris to
193 establish a partnership to better promote the geosciences worldwide, to communicate and to coordinate scientific activities of
194 individual unions, and to gain recognition by ICSU bodies, the United Nations organizations, and other global stakeholders. The
195 partnership has endured as the GeoUnions. Current members are the International Astronomical Union, the International
196 Cartographic Association, the International Geographical Union, the International Union for Quaternary Research, the International
197 Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, IUGG, the International Union of Geological Sciences, the International Union
198 of Soil Sciences, and the International Union of Radio Science.

199

200 The GeoUnions Steering Committee has developed a website (<http://icsu-geounions.org>) to inform the scientific community about
201 joint activities. The GeoUnions network has persisted and has proved powerful in fostering integrated interdisciplinary research.
202 An example of one such collaboration is the Geoscience in Africa initiative, launched in 2003 by then IUGG President Uri Shamir,
203 based on the recognition that geophysical processes are global and that African scientists suffer, more than others in the rest of the
204 world, from shortage of resources, shortage of an adequate cadre of trained scientists, and lack of government recognition and
205 support. Adopted as a science program of the GeoUnions, this effort supported the ICSU Regional Office in Africa, and
206 “eGYAfrica - better Internet connectivity for research and education institutions in Africa”, and the ENHANS project noted above.
207 Current key areas are disaster risk reduction and the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU).

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209 **6 IUGG structure**

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211 A significant change to the IUGG structure in the 21st Century was the addition of an eighth Association, the International
212 Association of Cryospheric Sciences. The new Association had its origins with the IAHS International Commission on Snow and
213 Ice (ICSI), formally established in 1948 but with roots extending back to 1894. At the 2004 IUGG Executive Committee meeting,
214 a Union Commission for the Cryospheric Sciences (IUGG/CCS) was proposed by IAHS and supported by IAMAS, IAPSO, and
215 IAVCEI. The Commission began work on its proposed Association statutes and by-laws, organized international symposia and
216 planned scientific sessions for the 2007 IUGG General Assembly. In the meantime, changes in the IUGG statutes and by-laws and
217 other administrative and financial procedures were prepared to make way for a new Association. By action of the IUGG Council
218 on 4 July 2007, the new Association was welcomed into the IUGG family.

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220 After the General Assembly in Birmingham, UK (1999), election procedures for IUGG officers were modified to allow additional
221 nominations following the report of the Nominating Committee. At the General Assembly in Perugia, Italy (2007), the duties of
222 the Bureau, the Secretary General and the Treasurer with regard to the administration were refined, and statute 27 was modified
223 so that while French and English are the official languages of the Union, the English version of the statutes is now the definitive
224 version of the text. The membership and duties of the Finance Committee were addressed at the 2003 and 2011 General Assemblies,
225 and at the General Assembly in Melbourne, Australia (2011), IUGG Honorary membership (Fellows) was instituted to honor
226 individuals for their exceptional contribution to Earth and space sciences or international cooperation in geodesy or geophysics.

227

228 At the General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic (2015), the composition of National Committees was clarified in order to
229 advance the participatory culture of the Union and improve transparency. Also in Prague, it was decided that delegates to the IUGG
230 Council should be appointed by the Adhering Bodies of Member Countries for the period between General Assemblies (normally
231 for four years) so that the Council could vote electronically and make decisions between General Assemblies. This provision
232 permitted the IUGG Bureau to propose several changes to the statutes and by-laws following the Prague General Assembly. After
233 consultations with the IUGG Council, the changes were approved unanimously on 5 April 2018 by electronic ballot. The position
234 of Vice President was replaced by President-elect, who then becomes President of the Union in the following term of office. The
235 number of members of the Finance Committee was reduced from four to three people and the terms of office of the Secretary
236 General, Treasurer, Bureau Members at large and Finance Committee members were redefined. The vote of the immediate Past
237 President at the Executive Committee was restored.

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239 **7 IUGG membership and finance**

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The IUGG Council has approved a number of changes regarding membership since 1999. At the General Assembly in Birmingham, UK in 1999, the category of Associate Membership (characterized by exemption from paying annual dues) was created; Associate members were not allowed to sit in Council meetings (as opposed to members in Observer status, who could attend Council meetings but without vote). A By-Law change clarified that scientists from all countries could attend scientific meetings of the Union and of the Associations and participate as observers in Commissions of the Union and in the Associations. At the General Assembly in Sapporo, Japan (2003), it was decided that one delegate from each Associate member country could attend Council meetings as listeners only. It was also agreed that other “Listeners” could attend Council meetings with the permission of the President, although a vote of Council members could exclude Listeners if appropriate. At the General Assembly in Perugia, Italy (2007), the number of financial categories to determine membership dues was increased to fourteen. At the General Assembly in Melbourne, Australia (2011), Affiliate membership was added to provide a mechanism to formalize linkages with various international and regional organizations dealing with Earth and space sciences, and the statutes and by-laws were clarified with regard to Associate and Observer membership status. At the General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic (2015), a change was made to allow a representative of an Associate Member to speak (without the right to vote) at Council meetings, and individuals from countries in Associate or Observer status or from non-Member countries could be elected to Association office (except for the position of the Association President because the Association President is a member of the IUGG Executive Committee).

As of 1 January 2019, IUGG had 72 National Members (see Appendix 1 for the IUGG Members since 1919, and Table 2 for the changes in the number of members for the last twenty years). The paying members are placed in categories from 1 to 14 depending on their financial contribution to the Union (the membership dues rise with increasing category number). At present, the highest category used is category 11. The members pay dues according to a number of units assigned to their category (in category 1 the number of units is 1, and in category 11 the number is 35). According to a decision made at the XXII IUGG General Assembly in Boulder, USA (1995), the price of 1 unit is determined every year using an inflator index obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The funds received as dues are the basis for the IUGG’s operations as a scientific union, although Union Associations may have their own funds earned through donations, book sales, or other fundraising efforts. The funds are spent to support scientific activities of Union Associations and Commissions; international scientific programs, projects and services; general and scientific assemblies and other meetings; the IUGG Grants and Geoscience Education programs; the International Lithosphere Program; the International Science Council; travel of students, early career scientists, and scientists from developing countries to attend scientific meetings; and administration and management.

8 The IUGG Secretariat

The IUGG Secretariat has undergone significant changes to allow for modern governance, especially making use of the World Wide Web and digital technologies. The Union has had a web site since 1999 maintained by a web-master located in France (1999-2000, 2005-2007), USA (2000-2005), and Russia (since 2007), and overseen by the IUGG Secretary General. The IUGG Yearbook was first published electronically in 2004. Annual reports since 2001 (and earlier as digital scans become available) are also posted online. Since November 2014, the Secretariat has used web-conferencing software to support real-time communications between IUGG Bureau and Executive Committee Members through text-based instant messages, voice and video chat, online presentations, web conferences, and desktop sharing. This technology increases communication and productivity, conserves time and reduces

279 travel expenses, and accelerates the decision-making process. IUGG is on Twitter (twitter.com/theiugg) and Facebook
280 (<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalUnionGeodesyGeophysics>).

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282 The IUGG Electronic Journal began monthly publication on 1 February 2001, as a means to communicate the actions of the Union
283 and the Associations. A web-based IUGG Central Electronic Library (CEL) was established (2013) for stimulating the exchange
284 of scientific knowledge through (i) archiving, (ii) presenting, and (iii) publishing IUGG-related documents; at present one single
285 platform for all of this is under construction. IUGG-related documents include reports, yearbooks, e-journals, newsletters,
286 conference abstracts, oral/poster presentations, and more, originating from the IUGG and its Union Associations, Union
287 Commissions, Committees, Liaisons, Research Programs, and Science Education Events. New digital IUGG-Association logos
288 were professionally designed and approved by the Executive Committee in December 2016.

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290 From mid-1999 to 2007 the office of the IUGG Secretary General was hosted by the University of Colorado at Boulder, USA,
291 within the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES). The IUGG Secretariat moved to Karlsruhe,
292 Germany in 2007, where it was hosted by the Geophysical Institute at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT; former Karlsruhe
293 University). On 7 June 2013, at the invitation of Prof. Dr. Reinhard Hüttl, Scientific Executive Director of the GFZ German
294 Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ-Potsdam), the office of the IUGG Secretariat was relocated to Potsdam, Germany. Salary
295 and facilities for an Executive Secretary (Assistant Secretary General) to support the Secretariat are provided by the GFZ-Potsdam.
296 Additional financial support to the Secretariat comes from the German Research Foundation (DFG), which provides funds for the
297 position of Assistant of the Executive Secretary and for business travel of the IUGG Secretary General.

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299 The IUGG historical records were transferred in 2001 to the Niels Bohr Library of the Center for the History of Physics of the
300 American Institute of Physics. The historical records consist of documents and correspondence dating from the origin of the Union
301 in 1919, and extending into the mid-1990's; additional material was sent in December 2007 (AIP, 2019).

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303 **9 Highlights of IUGG General Assemblies**

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305 As the 21st century began, the actions from the XXII General Assembly held in Birmingham, UK in 1999 were in place. There was
306 one change in the officers of the Bureau elected in Birmingham: L. Vere Shannon (South Africa) resigned, and by action of the
307 Executive Committee, was replaced by Tom Beer (Australia).

308

309 **9.1 XXIII General Assembly (30 June – 11 July 2003, Sapporo, Japan)**

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311 IUGG President Masaru Kono (Japan) presided. Vice President was Uri Shamir (Israel), Secretary General was Jo Ann Joselyn
312 (USA), Treasurer was Aksel W. Hansen (Denmark), and Bureau members were Junyong Chen (China), Harsh Gupta (India), and
313 Tom Beer (Australia). This was the first IUGG General Assembly to be held in Asia. His Majesty The Emperor of Japan addressed
314 the Opening Ceremony (Fig. 1). Seiya Uyeda chaired the Local Organizing Committee, and Atsuhiko Nishida chaired the Scientific
315 Programme Committee. The theme of the General Assembly was “State of the Planet: Frontiers and Challenges”, and featured four
316 Union lectures and 182 scientific sessions including eight Union Symposia. The IUGG volume “The State of the Planet: Frontiers
317 and Challenges in Geophysics” was published in the AGU Geophysical Monograph series (Sparks and Hawkesworth, 2004).

318 Attendance was impacted by a serious global outbreak of the Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS); some had to delay or
319 cancel travel arrangements due to precautionary requirements.

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321 Three special committees presented reports: IUGG Structure, Goals, and Objectives; IGY+50, which began as a simple celebration
322 but culminated in four major international programs as described earlier: eGY, IHY, IPY, and IYPE. A special Union Symposium
323 "Geosciences – The Future" was presented by a working group of young scientists that was initiated by Vice President Uri Shamir,
324 to stimulate involvement and leadership by early career scientists. A discussion of IUGG Structures, Goals, and Objectives centered
325 on the responses to questionnaires that had been submitted to the IUGG Adhering bodies, National Committees, and Associations.
326 An addition to Council business was an informal meeting of the delegates led by R. Stewart (Canada) during which delegates could
327 freely express ideas and opinions.

328
329 During this quadrennium, IUGG allocated financial support for meeting attendance and inter-Association initiatives to benefit
330 developing countries (22 meetings, workshops and schools in 17 different countries), as well as interdisciplinary and inter-Union
331 initiatives that particularly benefited developing countries. ICSU also awarded grants to promote Association research objectives.

332
333 Resolutions (IUGG Archives, 2003) were adopted that supported geophysical seafloor observations, ocean modeling, a geodetic
334 observing system, Earth monitoring with synthetic aperture radar, data access under the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
335 (CTBT), and the need for release of airborne and marine magnetic data.

336 337 **9.2 XXIV General Assembly (2-13 July 2007, Perugia, Italy)**

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339 IUGG President Uri Shamir (Israel) presided. Vice President was Tom Beer (Australia), Jo Ann Joselyn (USA) continued as
340 Secretary General, Aksel W. Hansen (Denmark) as Treasurer, and Bureau members were Yun-tai Chen (China), Harsh Gupta
341 (India), and Ali A.A. Tealeb (Egypt). Held in the historic Umbria Region of Italy, Lucio Ubertini chaired the Local Organizing
342 Committee and Paola Malanotte-Rizzoli chaired the Scientific Program Committee. The theme was "Earth: Our Changing Planet",
343 and the assembly featured four Union lectures, thirteen Union symposia, and 187 Association and inter-Association symposia and
344 workshops.

345
346 The International Association for Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) became the 8th IUGG Association (Fig. 2). A new document,
347 Guidelines on IUGG Administration, was introduced. The 50th Anniversary of the IGY was celebrated, and the eGY was
348 inaugurated, joining the other IGY+50 scientific programs: IHY, IPY, and IYPE.

349
350 During the preceding four years, IUGG allocated funds to the organizers of 32 symposia, workshops, schools or meetings in 25
351 different countries, most of them developing countries. In addition, grants were allocated in the years 2004 and 2005 to support
352 eight inter-Association initiatives that specifically benefited developing countries. By action of the 2005 Executive Committee, the
353 grants were suspended for 2006-2007 in order to build a reserve that could be used to seed potential initiatives under Geosciences
354 in Africa. This program, adopted by the GeoUnions, cooperated with the ICSU Regional Office in Africa and supported the eGY-
355 Africa program to help to reduce the digital divide through better Internet access for scientists (and others) in Universities and
356 similar institutions in Africa. In addition, IUGG supported inter-Union activities, including ILP, WCRP, and the Federation of
357 Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS). IUGG received competitive grants from ICSU to promote IAGA

358 and IAHS research objectives; nominated persons for numerous panels and working groups, and endorsed the ICSU “Agenda for
359 Action” with regard to Science in the Information Society.

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361 Resolutions (IUGG Archives, 2007) adopted included support of an International Astronomical Union’s resolution on
362 nomenclature and definition of TDB (Temps Dynamique Barycentrique); support of Geocentric and International Terrestrial
363 Reference Systems (GTRS and ITRS) and the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS); eGY and Data Rescue; Ionosphere
364 Satellites; The Urgency of Addressing Climate Change; Intensified Study of Aerosol Pollution Effects on Precipitation; and
365 Reduction of Risk from Natural Hazards.

366 367 **9.3 XXV General Assembly (27 June - 8 July 2011 - Melbourne, Australia)**

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369 IUGG President Tom Beer (Australia) presided. Vice President was Harsh Gupta (India), Secretary General was Alik Ismail-Zadeh
370 (Germany/Russia), Aksel W. Hansen (Denmark) continued as Treasurer, and Bureau members were Yun-tai Chen (China), David
371 Jackson (USA) and Ali A.A. Tealeb (Egypt). This was the second IUGG General Assembly to be held in Australia, and the third
372 time it was held outside of Europe and North America. Ray Cas chaired the Joint Australia and New Zealand Organizing Committee
373 and Peter Manins coordinated the Scientific Program Committee. The theme was “Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable
374 Planet”, and the assembly featured nine Union lectures and a total of 198 symposia and workshops.

375
376 The Royal Society (the UK Adhering Body to IUGG) developed a program to engage African scientists in the work of ICSU
377 international unions, and paid for three years membership dues of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, and Morocco, IUGG
378 Associate Members, allowing them to participate in full in Union’s activities. IUGG co-sponsored and took an active part in the
379 international programs dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the IGY. Association scientific assemblies were held in Reykjavík,
380 Iceland (IAVCEI); in Cape Town, South Africa (IASPEI); MOCA, a joint assembly of IAMAS, IAPSO and IACS was held in
381 Montreal, Canada; IAGA held its assembly in Sopron, Hungary; IAG met in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and IAHS held its assembly
382 together with the International Association of Hydrogeologists in Hyderabad (India). The IUGG Union Commissions organized
383 several conferences and symposia: two CMG conferences on mathematical geophysics in Longyearbyen (Norway), and in Pisa
384 (Italy), two SEDI conferences in Kunming (China), and Berkeley (USA), and three GRC symposia in Barcelona (Spain), Oslo
385 (Norway), and Torino (Italy). GRC took active part in the organization and running of the ICSU-sponsored ENHANS project
386 events in Iguassu (Brazil), San Francisco (USA), Pretoria (South Africa), Antalya (Turkey), and Melbourne (Australia). A new
387 Union Commission for Data and Information was set up to provide a focused and sustainable organizational structure that supports
388 and strengthens IUGG science through integrated scientific information activities. Four new Union Committees on Capacity
389 Building and Education, Honours and Recognition, Membership Issues, and Visioning were set up to increase IUGG visibility
390 worldwide.

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392 Seven multi- and interdisciplinary international scientific projects were supported through the IUGG Grants Program. IUGG
393 meeting support was allocated to the organizers of 43 symposia, workshops, schools or meetings in 31 different countries, most of
394 them in developing countries. ICSU competitive grants were awarded to promote research on natural hazards and disaster risks as
395 well as geophysical research and geoinformation in Africa. IUGG also supported inter-Union activities, including ILP, the WCRP,
396 and FAGS, now transformed into the World Data System (WDS).

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398 Resolutions (IUGG Archives, 2011) that were adopted included the issue of standardizing terminology for glacier mass balance
399 measurements and for classification of snow on the ground; endorsement of the International Celestial Reference Frame; the need
400 for gravity and magnetic field satellite missions; and adoption of the International Thermodynamic Equation of Seawater – 2010
401 (TEOS-10). It was noted that the IUGG Executive Committee had adopted several resolutions and statements during the inter-
402 General Assemblies period with regard to several natural disasters (noted elsewhere).

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404 **9.4 XXVI General Assembly (22 June - 2 July 2015, Prague, Czech Republic)**

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406 IUGG President Harsh Gupta (India) presided. Vice President was Michael Sideris (Canada), Secretary General was Alik Ismail-
407 Zadeh (Germany/Russia), Aksel W. Hansen (Denmark) was Treasurer, and Bureau members were Isabelle Ansorge (South Africa),
408 Pierre Hubert (France), and Kenji Satake (Japan). Prague was the only city to host the IUGG assembly for the second time, having
409 hosted the Third IUGG General Assembly in 1927. Vladimir Cermak chaired the Local Organizing Committee and Eduard
410 Petrovsky chaired the Scientific Program Committee. The Theme of the General Assembly was “Earth and Environmental Sciences
411 for Future Generations”. There were nine Union lectures and 11 Union symposia; Nobel Prize winner Y.T. Lee presented a Union
412 lecture on “Transformation of human society for sustainable future.” The scientific program included 198 symposia and workshops.

413

414 The Visioning Committee prepared, and the delegates approved, a draft Strategic Plan for 2016-2023 to be developed along with
415 a plan for implementation (the final plan was approved by the Council by electronic ballot in 2016; the implementation actions
416 were approved by the Bureau in 2017). A new category of Union Membership, Affiliate, was established to strengthen cooperation
417 with geoscientific organizations worldwide. Since 2012, six scientific organizations became IUGG Affiliate Members: the
418 Commission for the Geological Map of the World, the Young Earth Scientists Network, the American Geosciences Institute, the
419 International Association for Mathematical Geosciences, the International Landslides Consortium, and the International
420 Association for Geoethics.

421

422 The first IUGG awards were presented (Fig. 3). The full list of IUGG Early Career Scientist Awards, Elected Fellows who have
423 made outstanding contributions to geodesy and geophysics, and Conferred Fellows honored for service as officers of IUGG and
424 the Associations, is maintained on the IUGG website. The IUGG Gold Medal was awarded to Sir Brian J. Hoskins (UK) for “his
425 scientific contributions that have been pioneering and profound in almost all aspects of the atmospheric and climatological sciences,
426 with strong linkages to IUGG and its Associations.”

427

428 An agreement was signed with Cambridge University Press to develop a new series of special publications of the IUGG to publish
429 peer-reviewed books on perspectives and reviews in multidisciplinary research. The first volume of this series, “*Extreme Natural
430 Hazards, Disaster Risks and Societal Implications*” was published in 2014 (Ismail-Zadeh et al., 2014), the second volume
431 “*Dynamics and Predictability of Large-Scale, High-Impact Weather and Climate Events*” in 2016 (Li et al., 2016), and the third
432 volume “*Global Change and Future Earth*” in 2018 (Beer et al., 2018). IUGG established a new Science Education Program to
433 enhance geophysical and geodetic science education. In 2012-2015, IUGG funded 24 advanced schools and workshops at the
434 Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy. ICSU grants promoted geophysical research in
435 Africa and funds to network the magnetic community in the northern Indian Ocean region. Also, nine interdisciplinary international
436 scientific projects were supported through the IUGG Grants Program.

437

438 In 2013 IAVCEI proposed to open membership of IUGG to individual scientists at the same time as the IUGG Executive
439 Committee was discussing various possibilities for individual Union membership. Based on the majority of the opinions from
440 Union Associations and National Members, the IUGG Executive Committee agreed that the Union should continue with National,
441 Affiliate, and Honorary Memberships, and each Union Association may introduce individual membership programs to allow active
442 scientists from non-Member countries to participate in activities of Associations. Association scientific assemblies were held on
443 several continents in 2013: the joint Scientific Assembly DACA-13 of cryospheric (IACS) and atmospheric (IAMAS) scientists in
444 Davos, Switzerland; the IAGA Scientific Assembly in Merida, Mexico; the joint Scientific Assembly of hydrologists (IAHS),
445 oceanographers (IAPSO) and seismologists (IASPEI) “Knowledge for the Future” in Gothenburg, Sweden; the IAVCEI Scientific
446 Assembly in Kagoshima, Japan; and the IAG Scientific Assembly in Potsdam (Germany) celebrating the 150th anniversary of the
447 association. The IUGG Union Commissions organized seven scientific events in Asia, Europe, and North America. The Union co-
448 sponsored 43 international scientific events.

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450 Resolutions (IUGG Archives, 2015) that were adopted included the Role of Ocean in Climate, Future Satellite Gravity and
451 Magnetic Mission Constellations, the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, Real-time GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System)
452 Augmentation of the Tsunami Early Warning System, and cooperation in Geo-energy Resources and International Scientific
453 Activities.

454
455 The members of the Bureau for the ensuing quadrennial were elected: President Michael Sideris (Canada); Vice President Kathryn
456 Whaler (U.K.); Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Russia/Germany); Treasurer Aksel W. Hansen (Denmark); Bureau
457 Members: Isabelle Ansonge (South Africa), Pierre Hubert (France) and Chris Rizos (Australia). A vote of the delegates selected
458 Montreal, Canada as the venue of the XXVII IUGG General Assembly (8-18 July 2019).

459 460 **10 IUGG Tomorrow**

461
462 IUGG is entering its second century. A healthy future for the Union requires emphasis on basic Earth and space sciences as well
463 as science for society. The landscape of Earth and space sciences is changing: we are witnesses of pressing challenges, such as
464 sprawling towns and the growth of megacities, climatic and environmental change; ocean acidification and sea pollution; disasters
465 due to natural and human-induced hazards and associated losses due to vulnerability of societies; unsustainable land use; food
466 insecurity; and depletion and scarcity of mineral resources and water. The importance of scientific understanding of the urgent
467 problems of society has never been greater, as humanity engages in the problems of living sustainably on planet Earth.
468 Governments, funding agencies, international and national organizations, professional societies and international unions are
469 dedicating more attention to the aspects of research related to the environment, renewable natural resources, clean water, disaster
470 reduction, resilience and others. To address these challenges, the scientific community decided in 2017 to form a new council, the
471 International Science Council (ISC), merging ICSU and ISSC, to create a unified, global voice of science with a powerful presence
472 in all regions of the world and representation across the natural and social sciences. As a founding member of ISC, the Union has
473 a responsibility to ensure that its activities align with the ISC’s agenda.

474 475 **10.1 Basic research**

476

477 Geoscientists need to continue to put their basic results to use, and inter- and trans-disciplinary (ITD) approaches are vital to
478 making progress in science for society. The coupling between the spheres of the Earth and space sciences as well as between those
479 and social sciences is often lost. Integrated research combining expertise from relevant disciplines will help quantify the observed
480 processes and, more importantly, elucidate which interactions between spheres are essential. According to Adams (2013), the best
481 science results from international collaboration, and hence IUGG should think about new ways and incentives to enable more
482 scientists to participate in international networks. This need for increased collaboration is set against changes in the current science
483 landscape and sociopolitical environment that make international cooperation more difficult. Given these realities, IUGG will have
484 to work especially diligently to adapt to this new environment and promote cooperation.

486 **10.2 Data issues**

487
488 The Internet and advances in technology have been enhancing the ability of scientists to collect, archive, and distribute data across
489 all fields and nations. Strengthening norms around openly accessible research and broadening global access to data, digital
490 technologies, and reliable internet connections would be a boon to scientists in developing countries and to
491 independent/unaffiliated scholars everywhere, enabling them to further advance their own research thanks to prompt and equal
492 access to advanced datasets and model results. In order to make the promises of the digital age a reality, existing geodetic and
493 geophysical data centers and data services should be expanded, and new multi-disciplinary data centers and data services should
494 be established to enable scientists to work in interdisciplinary areas with unrestricted access to data for scientific research. Also,
495 such centers could make data produced with public participation (sometimes called “citizen science” data) more valuable, e.g. ash
496 samples collected after the 2010 eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland or felt earthquake information.

497
498 A significant challenge facing geosciences is to combine “big data” (that is, the large volume, high velocity and/or variety data
499 assets that demand modern forms of processing enabling deep insight and decision making) with state-of-the-art models for better
500 understanding of nature’s complex systems. This will be a key component of progress in geosciences in the near future. IUGG, via
501 its permanent geodetic and geophysical services, should continue to promote the development of existing and new sophisticated,
502 cutting-edge methodologies and tools in data collection, transmission, analysis, and dissemination of outputs to help address
503 challenging problems in Earth and space sciences. The IUGG’s role in promoting an open data policy as well as the activities of
504 observational and data services and in encouraging international investment in observing systems is, and will continue to be,
505 important. We envisage that IUGG will enhance its working relationship with such bodies as the intergovernmental Group on
506 Earth Observations (GEO), CODATA and WDS to promote data curation and openness and data analysis for new discoveries.
507 Knowledge transfer can be accomplished successfully by utilizing mass media outlets as well as by traditional ways of cooperation
508 with policymakers. The web and social media are the best ways to reach the youth audience, a key demographic in ensuring the
509 future of geoscientific research, as well as a broader audience more generally, including communities that may not have had much
510 access to advanced scientific findings in the past (e.g. communities lacking financial or scholarly resources).

512 **10.3 Interdisciplinarity**

513
514 Societal problems need an integrated, trans-disciplinary scientific approach (e.g., Ismail-Zadeh et al., 2017). The way forward for
515 IUGG and other scientific unions and professional societies is to foster fundamental science for new discoveries and promote co-
516 designed/co-productive ITD research. IUGG should place an emphasis on scientific investigations for interventions, that is, foster

517 action-oriented solutions of societal problems. For example, for disasters caused by natural hazard events, relevant research can
518 be integrated and co-produced. A way of integration and co-production could be through the maturation of disaster science and
519 through trans-disciplinary approaches aiming at in-depth investigations using systems analysis approaches. Systems analysis
520 allows a disaster and/or disaster risk problem to be decomposed into its component parts to study how well they work, interact,
521 and contribute to the overall aim of risk reduction. The final goal of the ITD approach is to issue recommendations for actions to
522 reduce risks and to improve societal resilience (Cutter et al., 2015). Hence, IUGG should promote both disciplinary and ITD
523 approaches in science education. Training and education within geoscience as well as practice domains can, through co-engaged
524 and co-produced knowledge, enhance our understanding of the needs of vulnerable regions and populations, and enable
525 practitioners and policymakers to use it to better effect.

526
527 One of the needs for co-productive research is to evaluate the quality and the success of ITD studies (NAS, 2004). IUGG has a
528 role to play in such assessments. Together with other international scientific bodies, IUGG can lead in proposing and developing
529 norms for ITD practice and geoscience education. For example, IUGG might develop appropriate standards and relevant skills to
530 be mastered by students and scientists who participate in ITD education and research. The Union, via National Committees, could
531 lobby national funding agencies to support ITD research projects and promote success stories of international ITD findings.

532 533 **10.4 Future of international scientific organizations**

534
535 Looking into the future, one may ask: Does modern science need international non-governmental organizations? Can the national
536 and regional organizations replace them? What would happen if international scientific unions disappear? Historically, IUGG and
537 other international scientific unions were set up as a response to the need for cooperation between nations, as many aspects of
538 geosciences required international collaboration. Neither national nor regional professional societies (e.g., the American
539 Geophysical Union [AGU], the Asia Oceanic Geosciences Society [AOGS] or the European Geosciences Union [EGU]) can truly
540 replace international unions, as national and regional societies' major concern is typically their own nation or geographical region.
541 Three possible scenarios could be drawn up for future development of the IUGG and other international unions (Ismail-Zadeh,
542 2016): (1) integration of international geoscientific unions (e.g., GeoUnions of the ISC) and professional societies of geoscientists
543 (e.g., AGU, AOGS, EGU); (2) reshaping of scientific priorities and structures of current geoscience organizations and their
544 independent development in a cooperative way; and (3) competition between international, regional and national unions and
545 societies.

546
547 The first scenario could possibly lead to the development of an international geosciences union with major regional branches in
548 Africa, Central and South America, Asia/Oceania, and North America/Europe and with major disciplinary and interdisciplinary
549 associations. After convergence, integration, and finally fusion of international geoscientific unions, on the one hand, and
550 convergence or alliance of national and regional geoscience societies, on the other hand, the international geosciences union could
551 then act as a (self-maintained financially) scientific body, coordinating activities of its regional branches and its scientific
552 associations. This union could provide a full spectrum of services and benefits to its members: from scientific meetings and
553 publications to involvement in the initiation, promotion, and implementation of national, regional and international scientific
554 programs, scientific specialized commissions and working groups, and geoscientific services and outreach programs linking
555 science to society and national and international policy. Such an international organization could become a single but powerful
556 voice of Earth and space sciences and promote science to benefit humanity in a more efficient way.

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The second scenario is more conservative. International scientific unions as well as national and regional societies of geoscientists would continue their operations reshaping their structure and activities to meet modern scientific challenges. They could establish/strengthen cooperation amongst themselves using a complementary rather than competitive approach. In the long-term, this scenario may lead to a fusion (such as in the first scenario).

The third scenario would have a negative impact on international cooperation and development. National and regional societies of geoscientists would continue to enhance their activities and to attract more and more scientists (especially those of younger generations) to membership and to address national and regional policies encouraged by national governments or regional political structures (e.g., the European Union). National scientific institutions or academies provide the funds necessary for adherence to the international Unions. If these bodies in some developed countries were to adopt shortsighted policies by withdrawing from membership of the Unions or reducing the amount of membership dues paid, the international Unions would lose the ability to continue their operations and would cease to exist. The disappearance of international scientific unions would (i) lead to “nationalism” in science (e.g., US, European or Chinese science), which may lead to replacement of “science for peace” by “science for defense”, and to significant polarization; (ii) result in the disintegration of many important scientific programs already established; (iii) harm (if not end) new international multidisciplinary programs; and (iv) become a destructive force for the world’s scientific development and cooperation, as many developing nations get involved in scientific programs mostly via international programs and through the activities of international scientific unions. Also, climatic and environmental change influences the world globally, and disasters caused by natural hazard events do not respect political borders. We need globally-collected and shared data and joint research cooperation efforts to understand, model and forecast these and many other phenomena and their societal impacts. Our global networks of sensors and observatories, remote sensing missions, and international marine cruises to collect data over the oceans, are crucial. Science with borders does not serve anyone well.

These scenarios describe a wide range of possibilities for the future development of IUGG and other international scientific unions, and being extreme case scenarios the first and third scenarios are unlikely to be realized in full.

10.5 Scientific challenges

IUGG will continue to provide balanced, factual, and independent scientific information within its remit of Earth and space sciences. Besides knowledge, which satisfies the curiosity of human beings related to the planet on which they live, and to the Moon, planets, Sun, and stars, which they observe every day, IUGG provides information, understanding, and guidelines on important society-relevant problems to deliver science for the benefit of humanity. Among the problems IUGG has been addressing and will continue to address are: (i) climate variability and the contribution of CO₂ emission to its change to ensure continued habitability of our planet for future generations; (ii) environmental pollution and its reduction in megacities to improve the quality of life; (iii) natural hazards (e.g., hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides) and mitigation/prevention of disasters to save lives and infrastructure; (iv) weather, water, and soil conditions to assist farmers to grow food and provide other indispensable ecosystem services; (v) mineral resources for future generations; (vi) clean water and reduction in contamination to preserve and enhance human and ecosystem health; (vii) space and geodetic measurements for navigation of airplanes and satellites and other applications; and (viii) pollution of oceans and seas, biodiversity and food security. IUGG will continue to increase geoscience literacy through capacity building activities globally and especially in the developing world.

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One of current challenges of scientific organizations, including IUGG, is to promote and to strengthen research cooperation fostering development for science policy within a complicated scientific landscape with emerging policy-oriented international programs. Science policy and diplomacy have been always essential components of IUGG activities and should remain in its core activities. Recent examples of science policy and diplomacy work include a synthesis report on science for disaster risk reduction presented at the UN Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 (Ismail-Zadeh and Cutter, 2015), a report on future of the ocean submitted to the G7 Science Ministers meeting in 2016 (Williamson et al., 2016), and publications on global change and the future of our planet (Beer et al., 2018), and disaster-related science diplomacy (Kontar et al., 2018).

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a new way of thinking about how better to link issues such as climate change, natural disasters and education. It intertwines social, economic, and environmental targets in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs; UN, 2015). IUGG has been contributing, and will continue to do so, to many of the SDGs; in particular, IUGG deals with promotion of studies in air pollution (sub-goal 3.9), climate and environmental issues (1.5, 2.5, 3.9, 11.6, and 13.3), hazard and disaster risk (1.5, 2.5, 11.5, 11b, 13.1, and 15.3), education and capacity building (4.7, and 4b), energy (7a), oceans and seas (14.1-14.3, 14a, and 14c), research and innovation (9.5, and 9b), water issues (3.9, 6.3-6.7, 15.1, and 15.3), and the Union continually seeks to improve its gender balance (5.5). All Union Associations, the Union Commissions such as GRC, CCEC, and UCDI, and the IUGG Committee on Capacity Building and Education will contribute to the SDGs mentioned above. For example, the IAMAS Commission on Atmospheric Chemistry and Global Pollution and the IAHS International Commission on Water Quality contribute to sub-goal 3.9 “to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from [...] air, water [...] pollution and contamination”; the IASPEI-IAVCEI-IAPSO’s International Heat Flow and Tsunami Commissions advance knowledge on geothermal energy and tsunamis, respectively; and IAPSO and IAHS contribute to issues of the ocean, seas and water (Ismail-Zadeh, 2016).

In 2016, IUGG issued its first Strategic Plan (IUGG-SP, 2016) and its implementation actions until 2023 (IUGG-IA, 2017). Among the important future key actions are to (i) promote the IUGG to its constituents, and to geoscientists, policy-makers and to society in general; (ii) encourage closer cooperation between the IUGG groups and more effective engagement with sister organizations, and other partner agencies; (iii) assist underrepresented geoscientists to more fully participate in international science activities; (iv) strengthen the effectiveness of the Union’s Council and the Executive Committee; (v) strengthen the promotion of fundamental research and education in the geosciences; and (vi) encourage more countries to become a member of the Union.

IUGG will maintain and enhance the links between scientists by initiating and developing various scientific, educational and outreach programs and scientific meetings, including the Union general assemblies and Association scientific assemblies, in cooperation with other international and intergovernmental organizations. It will continue to help in setting international geoscientific agendas, policies, recommendations, and guidelines.

IUGG played a significant role in the promotion of Earth and space sciences via international cooperation in the 20th century (the International Geophysical Year is a shining example of such cooperation). And the Union still has the potential to do so in the 21st century by playing an important role in Earth and space sciences, particularly in establishing the terms and conditions for international research cooperation, setting scientific standards and nomenclatures, preparing universal tools, and supporting and

636 promoting excellence, innovation, scientific freedom, inclusivity, diversity, and free access to geophysical data / services and to
637 science education.

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639 **11 IUGG leadership**

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641 Finally, in this section we highlight the Presidents and Secretaries General, who have contributed significantly to the development
642 of the Union and its Associations at the beginning of the 21st century.

643
644 Masaru Kono, President (1999–2003)



Masaru Kono (Japan, born in 1939) is a geophysicist, and his research is concerned with the magnetic field of the Earth, in particular, paleomagnetism and dynamo theory. Kono graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1963 and received his PhD from the same university in 1971. From 1968, he worked as Research Associate and then as Associate Professor at Geophysical Institute of the University of Tokyo. Since 1980, he held professor's positions at Tokyo Institute of Technology, the University of Tokyo, and Okayama University, until his retirement in 2005. Kono was IAGA Vice President (1991-1995), and then President (1995-1999). He also served as Vice Chair of the IUGG-SEDI, as a Member of the Scientific Boards for the International Geoscience Program of UNESCO and IUGS, for the Science Council of Japan, and for the International Ocean Drilling Program. He is Fellow of IUGG, AGU, Japan Geoscience Union, IAGA, and honorary Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

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646 JoAnn Joselyn, Secretary General (1999-2007)



JoAnn Joselyn (USA, born in 1943) is an astrogeophysicist who grew up during a period of, and achieved, amazing firsts, when advances in science and space exploration captured the imagination of people around the world. Following an undergraduate degree in applied mathematics at the University of Colorado (CU) at Boulder, she became the first woman to earn a doctoral degree at CU in astrogeophysics, the study of solar-planetary interactions. As a space scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, she showed that ejections of solar wind associated with disappearing solar filaments caused magnetic storms that can disrupt communications, electrical power transmission, space flight, and other emerging technologies. Joselyn became the first woman to be elected IAGA Secretary General (1995), and then the first woman and first American to be elected IUGG Secretary General. She is an IUGG Fellow.

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649 Uri Shamir, President (2003–2007)



Uri Shamir (Israel, born in 1936) is a hydrologist. He graduated from the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology in 1962, and received his PhD in 1966 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA. Since 1979, Shamir has been Professor (Emeritus from 2004) in the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Founding Director (1992-2003) of the Stephen and Nancy Grand Water Research Institute, at the Technion. In 1992. Shamir has been Visiting Professor in various universities and research institutes in the USA and Canada, and was Chairman of the Israeli Association of Hydrology. He served as IAHS President (1991-1995), IUGG Vice President (1995-2003), and a Member of the ICSU Executive Board (2005-2011). He chaired the Technical Advisory Committee of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP-TAC), the UN water programme led by UNESCO. He is Fellow of IUGG, AGU, American Society of Civil Engineers, and Foreign Member of the Spanish Academy of Science.

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651 Tom Beer, President (2007–2011)



Tom Beer (Australia, born in 1947) is an atmospheric scientist. Beer graduated from the University of Sydney in 1966, and obtained his PhD from the University of Western Ontario in 1971. He led the Climate Research Program of the Centre for Australian Weather and Climate Research, a partnership between the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. Beer served IUGG as Bureau Member and Vice President before he was elected President. Beer was a founder of the IUGG GRC in 2000, becoming its first Chair, and of the IUGG CCEC in 2011, also becoming its first Chair. He served on the ICSU Committee for Scientific Planning and Review. He was awarded Doctor of Science degree by the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. He was elected Fellow of several societies and foreign member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

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653 Harsh Gupta, President (2011–2015)



Harsh Gupta (India, born in 1942) is a geoscientist and seismologist. He received his BSc (Hons) and MSc degrees from the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad before he obtained his PhD degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. He worked in the University of Texas at Dallas (USA) before he returned to India and became Director of the Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram in 1982. He kept positions of Vice Chancellor of Cochin University of Science and Technology, Director of the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in Hyderabad, Secretary at the Department of Ocean Development of the Government of India. At present, Gupta is a Raja Ramanna Fellow at NGRI. Before Gupta was elected IUGG President, he served the IUGG Bureau as Member (1999-2007) and Vice President (2007-2011). He served on the ICSU Committee for Scientific Planning and Review. Gupta held leadership roles in several national and international scientific organizations. He is AGU Fellow and member of several national academies.

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Michael Sideris, President (2015–2019)

Michael Sideris (Canada, born in 1958 in Greece) is a geodesist with the expertise in the fields of satellite Earth observation. He received his Diploma (Hons) from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece in 1981, M.Sc. (1984) and PhD (1987) from the University of Calgary, Canada. Since 1988 Sideris been working in the Department of Geomatics Engineering at the University of Calgary, where he is currently Professor and Associate Head (Graduate Studies). He has also served the university as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Associate Dean Research of the Schulich School of Engineering. He has been visiting Professor at several Asian, Australian, European, and South American universities/institutes. He was IAG Vice President (2003-2007) and President (2007-2011), and IUGG Vice President (2011-2015). Since 2016 Sideris has been serving on the GEO Program Board. He is an A. von Humboldt International Research Fellow, IAG Fellow, and IAG Honorary President.

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Kathryn Whaler, Vice President (2015-2019)

Kathryn Whaler (UK, born in 1956) is a geophysicist with expertise in the fields of core dynamics, crustal magnetization, magnetotellurics, and geomagnetic observations. She received BSc in Mathematical Physics from the University of Sussex in 1977 and PhD from at the University of Cambridge in 1981. Whaler joined the University of Leeds in 1983 as a lecturer, and in 1994, she moved to the University of Edinburgh to take up the Chair of Geophysics. She was the President of the Royal Astronomical Society (2004-2006). She served IAGA as Executive Committee Member (2003-2007), Vice President (2007-2011), and President (2011-2015) before she was elected IUGG Vice President (2015-2019). She has visited the NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Harvard University, the University of California at San Diego (as Green Scholar), Victoria University of Wellington, and Göttingen University (as Gauss Professor). Whaler is Fellow of AGU, the Institute of Physics, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

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Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Secretary General (2007 - 2019)

Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Germany/Russia, born 1961 in Azerbaijan) is a mathematical geophysicist, graduated from Baku State University (mathematics) and Lomonosov Moscow State University (physics) before being awarded PhD and DSc degrees in geophysics from the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS). He has been Chief Scientist/Research Professor of RAS in Moscow since 1998, and Senior Scientist at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany since 2001. He was a visiting professor at several universities including in China, France, Japan, Sweden, UK, and USA. He is a co-founder of the IUGG-GRC (Chair, 2004-2007) and a co-founder of the AGU Natural Hazard Section (Chair, 2009-2012). He has served or is serving on governing or advisory committees of international and intergovernmental organizations and programs including AGU, CTBTO, UNISDR, and

UNESCO. He was elected the first ISC Secretary (2018-2021). He is elected member of Academia Europaea and honorary Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

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12 Conclusion

Since its formation in 1919, IUGG has been committed to dedicated to initiating, promoting and coordinating international scientific studies and observations of the Earth and its environment in space. Today, as a vibrant modern scientific union of nations and individual scientists from all over the world, the Union is proud to promote research, science education, and capacity building via international cooperation, linking scientific knowledge to societal needs, and working toward a sustainable Earth (Ismail-Zadeh, 2016).

IUGG’s centennial history (Appendix 2) illustrates how hundreds of thousands of Earth and space scientists have developed and cooperated in international research to benefit society and promoted fundamental science as well as science for society. The Union encourages the application of this knowledge to societal needs, such as the mitigation of impacts from natural hazard events, the sustainable use of energy and mineral resources, and environmental preservation (Ismail-Zadeh and Beer, 2009). Particularly, IUGG responded vigorously to the challenges associated with climatic and environmental changes, disasters, water issues and many others, promoting research and scientific cooperation. The Union has played an important regulatory role in geodetic and geophysical sciences, particularly in establishing the terms and conditions for international research cooperation, setting scientific standards and nomenclatures, preparing universal tools and data products, among other aspects. IUGG brought state-of-the-art science to less-affluent countries through capacity building and science education. The Union links scientists via its scientific, educational and outreach programs to programs of intergovernmental organizations and assists in establishing international scientific agendas, policies, recommendations, and guidelines (Ismail-Zadeh, 2016).

Since the beginning of the 21st century, IUGG has been involved in the process of reshaping its structure and activities to meet its scientific and organizational needs (see Ismail-Zadeh, 2016, for more detail). The most notable of these changes are:

- To make the Union more vibrant in terms of decision making, the Council has become a continuously operating body.
- Scientists from any country are now eligible to hold most positions within the IUGG family with a few exceptions, which can only be held by scientists from Member Countries.
- Four standing Union Committees on Membership Issues, Capacity Building and Education, Honor and Recognition, and Visioning have been formed to help the Union reshape its membership structure and science education programs, establish Union awards and medals, and develop IUGG strategic planning.
- Affiliate membership of IUGG was established to strengthen cooperation with geoscientific organizations worldwide.
- Three Union Commissions – Data and Information, Climatic and Environmental Change, and Planetary Sciences – as well as the Union Working Group on History have been established to coordinate activities across IUGG associations and other international organizations on relevant scientific topics.
- IUGG established a new Grants Program to support interdisciplinary projects, which will explore new scientific ideas and develop future international initiatives.
- IUGG renewed its publication policy, and agreed to produce a series of works entitled “Special Publication of the IUGG” published by the Cambridge University Press.

- 697 - The Union put forward a new initiative to enhance geophysical and geodetic science education centered on less-affluent
698 areas of the world and developed a fruitful cooperation with the Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics.
699 - IUGG established the honors program to recognize Earth and space scientists for their outstanding contributions to
700 geodesy and geophysics and for unselfish international scientific cooperation.
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702 Changes such as these enable the Union to do its best work in support of its mission, which is to continue to advance, strengthen
703 and promote Earth and space sciences for the benefit of humanity, through international research cooperation and education, and
704 to communicate the knowledge to governments and policy-makers (IUGG-SP, 2016). The application of Earth and space sciences
705 to societal needs requires coordinated efforts between IUGG and other scientific bodies and stakeholders including professional
706 societies and intergovernmental organizations. IUGG will continue to evolve throughout the coming decades in step with the
707 changing world of science and its international organizations, responding to the challenging problems of society.
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709 **Appendix 1. Member Adhering Bodies of IUGG (1919-2019)**

#	Members	Dates of admission & termination	#	Members	Dates of admission & termination
1	ALBANIA	1997	51	KOREA	1960
2	ALGERIA	1971-2006, 2018	52	KOREA DEM. REP.	1967-2000
3	ARGENTINA	1927	53	LEBANON	1967-2003
4	ARMENIA	2000	54	LIBYA	1979-1996
5	AUSTRALIA	1919	55	LUXEMBOURG	1971
6	AUSTRIA	1948	56	MACEDONIA, F.Y.R.	1995-2001, 2010
7	AZERBAIJAN	2010	57	MADAGASCAR	1967-1995
8	BELGIUM	1919	58	MALAYSIA	1967-2002
9	BOLIVIA	1960-2000, 2006	59	MAURITIUS	2003
10	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	2003	60	MEXICO	1922
11	BRAZIL	1922	61	MONACO	1967-2013
12	BULGARIA	1930	62	MONGOLIA	1995-2001
13	BURUNDI	1987-1995	63	MOROCCO	1924
14	CANADA	1919	64	MOZAMBIQUE	1983
15	CHILE	1924	65	MYANMAR (BURMA)	1957-2003
16	CHINA – CAST	1977	66	NEPAL	1975-1987
17	CHINA – Acad. Sci. in Taipei	1995	67	NETHERLANDS	1925
18	COLOMBIA	1938-1971, 2000	68	NEW ZEALAND	1927
19	CONGO DEM.REP. (*)	1991-1997, 2004	69	NICARAGUA	2014
20	COSTA RICA	2010	70	NIGERIA	1971
21	CROATIA	1992	71	NORWAY	1923
22	CUBA	1960-1996	72	PAKISTAN	1952
23	CZECH REP.	1993	73	PERU	1925-1979, 2000
24	DENMARK	1923	74	PHILIPPINES	1951-2015
25	DOMINICAN REP.	1957-1971	75	POLAND	1924
26	EGYPT	1924	76	PORTUGAL	1919
27	ESTONIA	1991	77	ROMANIA	1930
28	ETHIOPIA	1952-2000	78	RUSSIA(**)	1954
29	FINLAND	1927	79	SAUDI ARABIA	1971-2001, 2012
30	FRANCE	1919	80	SENEGAL	1960-1995
31	GEORGIA	2009	81	SERBIA (***)	1996-2006, 2018
32	GERMANY	1951	82	SIERRA LEONE	1967-1983
33	GHANA	1957-1987, 2006	83	SLOVAK REP.	1993
34	GREECE	1922-2003, 2008	84	SLOVENIA	1994
35	GUATEMALA	1957-2000	85	SOUTH AFRICA	1924
36	GUINEA	1987-1995	86	SPAIN	1922
37	HAITI	1956-1971	87	SUDAN	1955-2000

38	HUNGARY	1930	88	SWEDEN	1923
39	ICELAND	1967	89	SWITZERLAND	1923
40	INDIA	1947	90	SYRIA	1948-1995
41	INDONESIA	1951	91	TANZANIA	1975-2000
42	IRAN	1957	92	THAILAND	1923
43	IRAQ	1983-1996	93	TUNISIA	1927-2001
44	IRELAND	1946	94	TURKEY	1949
45	ISRAEL	1951	95	UK	1919
46	ITALY	1919	96	URUGUAY	1924-2000, 2019
47	IVORY COAST	1975-1996	97	USA	1919
48	JAPAN	1919	98	VENEZUELA	1975-2008
49	JORDAN	1979	99	VIETNAM	1931
50	KENYA	1975-1997	100	ZIMBABWE	1967-2000

(*) Adhesion in 1991 under the name Zaire, membership terminated in 1997

(**) Adhesion in 1954 under the name of the USSR; Russia since 1992

(***) Adhesion in 1996 under the name of the Fed. Rep. of Yugoslavia which was changed to Serbia & Montenegro in 2003, and changed to Serbia in 2018.

Appendix 2. IUGG Timeline (1919-2019)

YEAR	ACTIVITY	PLACE
1919	IUGG was founded with six Sections (Geodesy, Terrestrial Magnetism and Electricity, Meteorology, Physical Oceanography, Seismology, and Volcanology)	Brussels, Belgium
1922	Seventh Section, Scientific Hydrology, was added	Rome, Italy
1932/1933	The Second International Polar Year	
1933	Sections were renamed International Associations	Lisbon, Portugal
1946	Extraordinary General Assembly to reconstitute IUGG following WWII	Cambridge, UK
1946	IUGG and U.N. Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed a working agreement	Paris, France
1951	The International Association (IA) of Seismology became the IA of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI)	Brussels, Belgium
1952	First issues of the IUGG Bulletin, which became the IUGG Chronicle (ceased in 1995)	
1954	IUGG and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) signed a working agreement	Geneva, Switzerland
1957/1958	The International Geophysical Year (IGY)	
1957	The IA for Terrestrial Magnetism and Electricity became the IA for Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA)	Toronto, Canada
1960	Cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO started	Paris, France
1967	First use of the present day IUGG logo	Zurich, Switzerland

1967	The IA of Volcanology became the IA of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI)	Zurich, Switzerland
1967	The IA of Physical Oceanography became the IA for the Physical Sciences of the Ocean (IAPSO)	Zurich, Switzerland
1971	The IA of Scientific Hydrology became the IA of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)	Moscow, USSR (now Russia)
1971	The Inter-Association Committee on Mathematical Geophysics (now the Union Commission on Mathematical Geophysics - CMG) was established	Moscow, USSR (now Russia)
1975	Cooperation with the International Hydrological Program of UNESCO started	Paris, France
1987	Union Committee on the Study of the Earth's Deep Interior (now the Union Commission SEDI) was established	Vancouver, Canada
1988	The first International Terrestrial Reference Frame is released by the IAG	
1991	The International Lithosphere Program becomes an IUGS/IUGG inter-Union body	Vienna, Austria
1995	The International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics (IAMAP) becomes the IA of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS)	Boulder, USA
1998	IUGG website established	
2000	Union Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (GRC) was established	
2001	IUGG monthly E-Journal established	
2003	Early Career Scientist Union Symposium series was established	Sapporo, Japan
2004	ICSU GeoUnions consortium was established	Paris, France
2007	International Association for Cryospheric Sciences was established	Perugia, Italy
2008	The IUGG Grants Program was established	
2007/2008	The Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) The International Heliophysical Year (IHY) The International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) The International Polar Year (IPY)	
2008	The Union Commission for Data and Information (UCDI) was established	
2011	IUGG and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) agreed to develop a joint geophysical and geodetic science education program	Trieste, Italy
2011	Affiliate Membership and Honorary Membership were established	Melbourne, Australia
2012	The Union Commission on Climatic and Environmental Change (CCEC) was established	
2012	The Working Group on History was established	

2012	IUGG signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Cambridge University Press to publish a series of works entitled "Special Publications of the IUGG"	
2013	IUGG became a Participating Organization of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)	Geneva, Switzerland
2015	First IUGG Awards (Gold Medal, Silver Medal, IUGG Fellows, and Early Career Scientist Award) presented	Prague, Czech Republic
2015	The Union Commission on Planetary Sciences (UCPS) was established	
2016	New Association logos designed and approved	
2016	Strategic Plan 2016-2023 and its Implementation Plan were adopted	
2017	IUGG became an Observer Organization of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	Geneva, Switzerland
2019	IUGG Centennial	Montreal, Canada

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Table 1. International Years initiated or supported by IUGG (2000-2019)

<i>International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE; 2007 - 2010)</i>	IYPE (http://yearofplanetearth.org) was the first UN Year for Earth Sciences initiated and led by the International Union of Geological Sciences. In December 2005, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2008 as the UN Year of Planet Earth – Earth Sciences for Society. IUGG had supported the drive toward IYPE since 2003. Nine science objectives and relevant teams were established: hazards (chaired by Tom Beer, IUGG President 2007-2011); groundwater; climate; oceans; Earth and health; resources; megacities; deep Earth; and soils. IUGG scientists were valued members of many of these teams. A series of monographs were published that report on each of these topics (https://link.springer.com/bookseries/8096).
<i>International Polar Year (IPY; 2007 - 2008)</i>	Previous IPYs (1882-1883, 1932-1933, and IGY 1957-58) successfully promoted unprecedented exploration and discoveries, and fundamentally changed how science was conducted in Polar Regions. The fourth IPY (http://ipy.org) brought together tens of thousands of investigators to collect and analyze data in diverse disciplines in the physical, life, and social sciences, including engagement of the native communities. The IPY Data and Information Service (IPYDIS) addressed the challenge of data coordination. The IPYDIS participated in the IUGG-led Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) and applied eGY principles to IPY data management. Building on the precedent set by the Antarctic Treaty, the data generated during the campaign have been archived in the Polar Information Commons, an open-access information resource about the Earth's polar regions (http://www.polarcommons.org). Major publications and conferences emerged from the IPY. The final IPY conference, From Knowledge to Action, was held in Montréal, Canada in 2012.
<i>Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY; 2007 – 2008)</i>	Initiated by the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), the opening ceremony was held during the IUGG General Assembly in Perugia, Italy in 2007. The Electronic Geophysical Year (http://www.egy.org) provided the international framework for mobilizing the science community to achieve a step increase in making past, present, and future geoscientific data readily, rapidly, conveniently, and openly available. The eGY promoted the development of a network of virtual observatories and focused on themes of electronic data location and access, permission and release of data, conversion of data into modern digital form, data preservation, outreach, and capacity building in developing countries, especially in Africa.
<i>International Heliophysical Year (IHY; 2007 - 2008)</i>	Several IAGA commissions participated in this broad international effort which addressed all aspects of the connected Sun-Solar system while also engaging the public, and students all over the world. It was coordinated with the UN Basic Space Science Initiative through their Office for Outer Space Affairs. The IHY Organizing Committees included 75 nations, and the activities involved representation from nearly all of the 192 United Nations member states. More information on the IHY and its legacy, the International Space Weather Initiative, can be found at: http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/bssi/ihy2007.html
<i>International Year of Deltas (IYD; 2013-2014)</i>	This year focused on the value and vulnerability of river deltas worldwide. IYD was co-sponsored by IUGG under the auspices of the International Association of Hydrological

	Sciences (IAHS) and the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO), who appointed liaisons to the IYD Scientific Committee. It was extended in 2015 to the International Decade of Deltas programme. More information on the IYD: https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1029/2011EO400006
<i>International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU; 2016-2017)</i>	Co-sponsored by IUGG, IYGU was initiated by the International Geographical Union and endorsed by ICSU, ISSC and the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH). IYGU aimed to build bridges between global thinking and local action by addressing sustainable development and fostering policies on critical global challenges such as climate change, food security and migration. In 2018, this year was extended to the International Decade of Global Understanding programme. More information on the IYGU: http://www.global-understanding.info/

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Table 2. IUGG General Assemblies from 1999 to 2019, and IUGG Presidents and Secretaries General elected

No. GA	Year	Place	No. attendees	No. Member countries	President	Secretary General
XXIII	2003	Sapporo, Japan	4151	65	U. Shamir (Israel, 2003-2007)	J. A. Joselyn (USA, 1999-2007)
XXIV	2007	Perugia, Italy	4375	66	T. Beer (Australia, 2007-2011)	A. Ismail-Zadeh (Germany/Russia, 2007-2019)
XXV	2011	Melbourne, Australia	3392	70	H. Gupta (India, 2011-2015)	
XXVI	2015	Prague, Czech Rep.	4231	71	M. Sideris (Canada, 2015-2019)	
XXVII	2019	Montreal, Canada		72		

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Figure Captions

Figure 1: Opening ceremony of the XXIII IUGG General assembly. S. Uyeda, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee (welcoming the assembly's participants) on the left, and His Majesty The Emperor of Japan and The Empress of Japan on the right of the photo (courtesy: S. Uyeda).

Figure 2: IUGG's congratulations on the occasion of the birth of IACS. Featured is Georg Kaser, the first IACS President (source: IUGG archives)

Figure 3: Award ceremony at the XXVI IUGG General Assembly, Prague, Czech Republic, 2015