

**International Geographical Union
General Assembly**

Beijing, China, 22nd and 23rd August 2016

Draft Minutes

Welcome by the President

The IGU 2016 General Assembly met in two sessions chaired by IGU President Vladimir Kolosov, who welcomed delegates, observers, and guests to the assembly.

Roll Call

Secretary-General Meadows called the roll and recorded the list of countries represented. Delegates from the respective participating countries were asked to indicate their attendance. Representatives of 46 countries attended one or more sessions of the assembly.

Countries Represented at the 2016 Beijing, China IGU General Assembly			
Australia	France	Netherlands	Sweden
Austria	Germany	New Zealand	Switzerland
Belarus	Greece	Oman	Tunisia
Belgium	Hungary	Pakistan	Turkey
Canada	India	Poland	Ukraine
Chile	Ireland	Republic of Korea	United Kingdom
China-Beijing	Israel	Romania	United States
China-Hong Kong	Italy	Russia	
China-Taipei	Japan	Saudi Arabia	
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Serbia	
Czech Republic	Latvia	Slovenia	
Denmark	Mexico	South Africa	
Estonia	Myanmar	Spain	

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda, previously circulated to National Committees, was *approved unanimously*.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 General Assembly

The assembly *approved unanimously* the minutes of the IGU General Assembly held in Cologne, Germany, in August 2012.

Appointment of Tellers

President Vladimir asked the assembly to nominate and approve the appointment of Professors Elena dell' Agnese (Italy) and Henrik Toft Jensen (Denmark) as tellers for ballots cast during the general assembly: *Approved unanimously*.

Appointment of Finance Committee

The Secretary-General and Treasurer explained the need for the General Assembly to appoint three delegates to the Finance Committee in order to carefully scrutinise the IGU accounts and make recommendations as appropriate. Professors Carol Harden (United States), Olof Stjernstrom (Sweden) and Dan Shrubsole (Canada) were nominated from the floor. *Approved unanimously*.

Approval of New National Members

Applications for membership had been received within the last few weeks from representatives of the following countries: Bolivia, Ecuador, Luxembourg and Venezuela. Membership of all four countries was *approved unanimously*.

Approval of Commissions, Task Forces, and Their Chairpersons

Secretary-General Meadows presented the recommendations formulated by the IGU Executive Committee regarding commissions and task forces for the forthcoming 2016-20 period. The Secretary-General agreed to circulate a full and updated list once this was compiled at the conclusion of the Congress and this would take account of necessary changes in the identity of chairpersons. Some adjustments to the steering committees would also be required to ensure that individuals do not continue terms of office beyond the 12 year limit as noted in the Statutes. The list below indicates 2012-16 chairpersons where this had already been decided. One new commission was established, *viz.* the Commission on Global Understanding with Professor Benno Werlen appointed as chair.

2016 General Assembly Actions on IGU Commissions and Task Forces

Code	Commission/Task Force	Chairperson 2016-20	Action
C16-01	Applied Geography	Lombard, USA	Renewed
C16-02	Biogeography and Biodiversity	Mal, India	Renewed
C16-03	Climatology	Matsumoto, Japan	Renewed
C16-04	Coastal Systems	Woodroffe, Australia	Renewed
C16-05	Cold Region and High Altitude Environments	Vlasova, Russia	Renewed
C16-06	Cultural Approach in Geography	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-07	Dynamics of Economic Spaces	Tamasy, Germany	Renewed
C16-08	Environmental Evolution	Novenko, Russia	Renewed
C16-09	Gender and Geography	Johnston, New Zealand	Renewed
C16-10	Geographical Education	Chang, Singapore, Brooks, UK	Renewed
C16-11	Geographical Information Science	Sui, United States; Su, China-Beijing	Renewed
C16-12	Geography of Governance	Nunes Silva, Portugal	Renewed
C16-13	Geography of Information, Innovation and Technology	Inkinen, Finland	Renewed
C16-14	Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change	Müller, Sweden	Renewed
C16-15	Geoheritage	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-16	Geomorphology and Society	Lin, China-Taipei	Renewed
C16-17	Global Change and Human Mobility	Dominguez-Musica, Spain	Renewed
C16-18	Global Understanding	Werlen, Germany	Established

C16-19	Hazards and Risks	Oguchi, Japan	Renewed
C16-20	Health and Environment	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-21	History of Geography	Schmidt di Friedberg, Italy	Renewed
C16-22	Islands	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-23	Karst	Ravbar, Slovenia	Renewed
C16-24	Land Degradation and Desertification	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-25	Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-26	Land Use and Land Cover Change	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-27	Latin American Studies	Delgado, Peru	Renewed
C16-28	Local and Regional Development	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-29	Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses	Déry, Canada	Renewed
C16-30	Mediterranean Basin	Paradiso, Italy	Renewed
C16-31	Modelling Geographical Systems	Fotheringham, USA	Renewed
C16-32	Political Geography	Virginie Mamadouh, Netherlands; Alexander Murphy, USA	Renewed
C16-33	Population Geography	Piguet, Switzerland	Renewed
C16-34	Sustainability of Rural Systems	Schmitz, Belgium; Holly, USA	Renewed
C16-35	Toponymy	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-36	Transport Geography	To be confirmed	Renewed
C16-37	Urban Geography: Urban Challenges in a Complex World	Rozenblat, Switzerland	Renewed
C12-38	Water Sustainability	Frank Winde, South Africa	Renewed
T16-01	Olympiad Task Force	Sue Lomas, UK, Su-Min Shen, China-Taipei	Renewed
T16-02	Centennial and Sesquicentennial Task Force	To be confirmed	Renewed
T16-03	Young and Early Career Task Force	Ramdas, Singapore	Established

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2 The following Commissions have been suspended and are on probation pending development
3 of further information and plans for the period 2016-20: Arid Lands, Humankind and
4 Environment; Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples' Rights; Mountain Response to Global
5 Change; Transformation Processes in Megacities.

Report of the President for the Period 2012-16

President Vladimir Kolosov summarized the major activities of the IGU over the inter-congress period. He noted the main goals of the IGU Strategy that had been developed in consultation with the Executive Committee following his election in 2012 as follows:

- To strengthen the position of the IGU as a truly global organization
- To play a leading role in research on sustainable development and territory
- To promote geography and to foster its integration in the international media space
- To make geographical education a focus of IGU activity

Kolosov reported on the truly global nature of the IGU, given that (following the acceptance of the four new national members approved earlier) has 68 full member countries and 39 with observer status. Efforts to extend contacts with both Latin America and Africa have had varying degrees of success; the developing relationship between Union de Geógrafos de América Latina (UGAL) and IGU has recently been given considerable impetus and the 2017 hosting of an IGU Thematic Conference in La Paz, Bolivia, in association with Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina (EGAL) gives effect to this. The situation in Africa is proving more challenging, especially in the francophone countries, and IGU needs to redouble its efforts in this regard.

One of the specific objectives of the IGU in the inter-congress period was to improve the quality of its major conferences and congresses, in addition to making them more accessible to young and early career scholars and participants from low-income countries. There are some encouraging signs that this has been achieved: Cologne in 2012 attracted more than 3000 delegates, the largest ever gathering of geographers under the IGU banner (now superseded by the current Beijing Congress) and regional meetings in Kyoto (Japan, 2013); Krakow (Poland, 2014) and Moscow (Russia, 2015) had between 1300 to 1700 participants from 65-70 countries in each case.

The IGU has extended its activities into new and innovative areas of the discipline, with the establishment since 2012 of new commissions on Latin American Studies, Mediterranean Basin and Toponymy (jointly with the International Cartographic Association, ICA) and Task Forces devoted to the IGU Centennial and Sesquicentennial and to Young and Early-Career Geographers. It is clear, from the 2012-16 Commission and Task Force reports that there are now considerably more joint commission conferences and other activities. The establishment of the Commission Excellence Award in 2013 has given some effect to this, along with the increase from 2016 in the annual operating grant provided to seed Commission and Task Force activities. Many Commissions publish the proceedings of their meetings and workshops, either in special issues of journals or as edited volumes; Springer is now publishing regular contributions from commissions in the Advances in Environmental and Geographical Sciences series.

IGU represents the discipline through its active participation in the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and, since 2015, the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH). IGU has also been successful in obtaining major research grants from ICSU, including: “Transdisciplinary Intercultural Ecological Research for Sustainability” (TIERS) and “Global Understanding Global Sustainability” (together with ICA, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing). There is greater involvement of IGU representatives in the work of international governmental organizations and committees of the UN system

1 such as the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).
2 Cooperation with the major new international (ICSU/ISSC) programme “Future Earth” is to
3 be encouraged and it is clear that the IGU should play a leading role in interdisciplinary
4 research related to territory and the environment. Both formal and informal regional
5 collaborative networks have been established and joint initiatives with high profile European
6 geographical associations Eugeo and Eurogeo are underway, including the International
7 Charter on Geographical Education.

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9 IGU has several significant specific projects. The inauguration of 2016 as the International
10 Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) is the highest profile of these, but there are other
11 important initiatives, including Our Sustainable Cities (*OurSus*) and the IGU Journals project.
12 OurSus aims to connect academic geography with municipal authorities and business
13 communities; to disseminate good practice of sustainability in cities of different sizes and has
14 thus far been particularly successful in China.

15
16 Many new tasks lie ahead. We aim to raise the profile of the IGU, to establish relations with
17 international business organizations (for instance, in the field of tourism); to establish
18 relations with the leading institutions in the field of GIS and to continue to make
19 geographical education as a strong focus of IGU activity. The forthcoming centenary of the
20 organisation, which will be celebrated at an extraordinary Congress in Paris in 2022, offers an
21 excellent opportunity for IGU to consolidate its status and give effect to existing and new
22 initiatives.

23 24 **Report of the Secretary General and Treasurer for the Period 2012-2016**

25 Secretary-General and Treasurer Meadows presented his brief report to the assembly. He
26 affirmed the country membership details outlined by President Kolosov and noted that the
27 following national committees had submitted inter-congress reports: China-Hong Kong,
28 Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, India, Italy, New Zealand, Romania, Saudi
29 Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. These would be posted on
30 the IGU website in due course along with the Commission and Task Force 2012-16 reports.

31
32 Meadows noted that one of the key duties of the IGU Secretary-General is to act as a hub and
33 conduit for communications. This manifests in several different ways, *viz.* through the
34 biannual publication of the Bulletin, the annual report, the quarterly newsletter (courtesy of
35 former Vice-President Bellezza), and through the IGU website (www.igu-online.org) which
36 is now available in French, Spanish and Arabic versions. IGU has a social media presence
37 though its Facebook page, which has now almost 3000 ‘likes’. Maintaining an updated and
38 accurate database of IGU contacts, especially national committee and commission and task
39 force chairs is one of the major tasks of the Secretary-General. The IGU Journals Project
40 database has recently been thoroughly updated.

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42 Meadows also reported on the diverse activities of the other IGU Executive Committee
43 members, which are now formally reported twice annually and include, *inter alia*, liaison
44 responsibilities with both national committees (including contact with potential new members
45 and Commissions and Task Forces. EC members attend Commission and Task Force events
46 where and when possible and review their reports as part of the process that leads to the
47 selection of the winner of the Commission Excellence Award and the inter-congress review.
48 Members of the EC are responsible for the administration of the IGU Travel grant
49 programme, represent IGU (Geography) at national and international events, set-up
50 promotional stands at exhibitions and distribute publicity materials etc. They also provide
51 material for the e-Newsletter, annual report and Bulletin etc. Moreover, the executive act as

1 'ears to the ground' regarding developments, directions and trends in the discipline of
 2 geography.
 3 As Treasurer, Meadows presented summary details regarding the financial situation of the
 4 IGU, which remains sound. This is illustrated in the data presented in Tables 1 to 3. Table 1
 5 indicates that, although there is a substantial amount of variation between years in terms of
 6 income and expenditure, income generally exceeds expenditure during most years and the
 7 total amount held in the various IGU accounts has increased over time.

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 9 **Table 1:**

IGU Income and Expense 2011-2015			
<i>Year</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expense</i>	<i>Surplus (Deficit)</i>
2011	\$167,148.72	\$140,518.00	\$ 26,630.72
2012	\$138,916.26	\$146,209.01	(\$ 23,111.13)
2013	\$223,508.90	\$187,891.21	\$ 36,617.69
2014	\$151,903.86	\$131,196.39	\$ 20,707.47
2015	\$120,405.12	\$125,272.32	(\$4,867.20)

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 19 Table 2 illustrates two key elements of the IGU accounts, viz. the operating account balance
 20 at year-end, the annual cost of EC member attendance at IGU events and the total amount
 21 disbursed to Commissions, Task Forces and special projects. It is apparent that the net assets
 22 continue to grow in dollar terms, the EC costs are being reduced in general, and that the funds
 23 disbursed to the community of geographers by the IGU have grown substantially since 2008.

Table 2:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Operating account balance at year end</i>	<i>EC costs</i>	<i>Grants to Commissions and projects</i>
2008	\$124,104.33	\$57,313.00	\$24,300.00
2009	\$165,617.92	\$34,274.00	\$13,300.00
2010	\$179,072.94	\$39,343.77	\$9,300.00
2011	\$205,947.56	\$28,508.87	\$31,700.00
2012	\$162,139.10	\$45,007.75	\$61,100.00
2013	\$186,957.76	\$37,219.77	\$89,700.00
2014	\$207,666.40	\$41,059.63	\$52,400.00
2015	\$202,798.03	\$31,657.13	\$71,500.00

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 26 **Table 3:**

IGU Endowment Fund			
Date	Notes	Deposit	Balance
13/01/01	Opening Balance*	\$4 509,11	\$4 509,11
13/03/27	ESRI Contribution	\$25 000,00	\$29 509,11
13/07/14	Cologne LOC Capitation	\$6 411,00	\$35 920,11
13/07/29	Anonymous	\$655,00	\$36 575,11
13/10/24	Interest	\$9,22	\$36 584,33
13/12/26	Kyoto LOC Capitation	\$10 000,00	\$46 584,33
14/01/31	Interest	\$9,22	\$46 593,55

14/04/30	Interest	\$5,74	\$46 599,29
14/07/31	Interest	\$5,81	\$46 605,10
14/10/31	Interest	\$5,87	\$46 610,97
15/01/26	Interest	\$5,88	\$46 616,85
15/04/24	Interest	\$5,74	\$46 622,59
15/04/30	Krakow LOC Capitation	\$12 600,00	\$59 222,59
15/12/31	Interest	\$21,81	\$59 244,40
16/03/11	Moscow LOC Capitation	\$11 000,00	\$70 244,40
16/04/24	Interest	\$14,77	\$70 259,17
16/05/12	Anonymous	\$528,71	\$70 787,88
16/06/02	Anonymous	\$165,66	\$70 953,54
*The IGU Endowment was established in 2003. A number of small contributions over the next ten years created the balance as of 1 January 2013			

Table 3 illustrates progress in the endowment fund, which is now growing consistently due to Promotion and Solidarity Fund contributions from the local organising committees of the IGU Congresses and Regional Conferences as a result of the development of the conference and congress memorandum of understanding. Past-President Abler, under whose supervision the funds are held in the United States, has agreed to source higher interest rate, yet still conservative, options for these funds.

Election of the 2012-2016 IGU President and Executive Committee Members

Nominations for vacancies on the IGU Executive Committee were solicited from the chairs of national committees in October 2015 to be received at the IGU Secretariat no later than 1st March 2016. One nomination was received for president (Yukio Himiyama, Japan) and eight individuals were nominated for four vice presidential seats on the IGU Executive Committee. In a secret ballot, Himiyama was elected President 2012-2016 until the conclusion of the Istanbul 34th International Geographical Congress (43 votes, one abstention). The election for four Vice President vacancies, with the votes cast in their favour, produced the following result:

<i>The Netherlands</i> -- Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, University of Amsterdam	32
<i>Turkey</i> --Barbaros Gönençgil, University of Istanbul	23
<i>Slovenia</i> --Anton Gosar, University of Primorska	11
<i>France</i> --Nathalie Lemarchand, University of Paris VIII	21
<i>Finland</i> --Jarkko Saarinen, University of Oulu	19
<i>Israel</i> --Izhak Schnell, University of Tel Aviv	9
<i>India</i> --RB Singh, University of Delhi	32
<i>Canada</i> --Rémy Tremblay, TéléUniversité (University of Quebec)	20

Accordingly, Droogleever-Fortuijn, Gönençgil, Lemarchand and Singh were elected as Vice-Presidents for the period 2016-2020 through the 34th Istanbul International Geographical Congress. Given that Himiyama, who was now elected Vice-President for the period 2014-18, was elected President, this created a Vice-President vacancy for the remaining period. The General Assembly agreed that a runoff ballot should be held between the four originally

1 nominated candidates who were not elected in the initial ballot. The result of the runoff
2 ballot was as follows:

<i>Slovenia</i> --Anton Gosar, University of Primorska	11
<i>Finland</i> --Jarkko Saarinen, University of Oulu	8
<i>Israel</i> --Izhak Schnell, University of Tel Aviv	9
<i>Canada</i> --Rémy Tremblay, TéléUniversité (University of Quebec)	15

5
6 Accordingly, Rémy Tremblay is elected to the position of Vice-President for the period 2016-
7 18 with a possibility of renewal for a further term of four years.

9 **Selection of the Location of the 2024 36th International Geographical Conference**

10 Four invitations to host the IGU Congress in 2024 were received from the following IGU
11 National Committees: Denmark/Sweden (Copenhagen-Malmö); Ireland (Dublin); Australia
12 (Melbourne); Czech Republic (Prague). Following presentations to the General Assembly by
13 representatives of the bids, the EC presented its rank order recommendation to the General
14 Assembly as follows: 1. Melbourne, 2= Copenhagen/Malmö and Dublin, 4 Prague.
15 Following presentations by representatives of the bids, the ballot, with votes cast in favour,
16 produced the following result:

<i>Denmark-Sweden:</i> Copenhagen-Malmö	6
<i>Ireland:</i> Dublin	19
<i>Australia:</i> Melbourne	12
<i>Czech Republic:</i> Prague	7

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19 Accordingly, Dublin is selected as the location of the 2024 36th International Geographical
20 Congress.

21 **International Year of Global Understanding**

22 Benno Werlen, Director of the International Year of Global Understanding presented a brief
23 report on progress in respect of the IYGU. Thanks to strong support from ICSU, ISSC and
24 CIPSH, IYGU was officially launched in Jena, Germany, in early February and 2016 was
25 proclaimed the Year of Global Understanding. The infrastructure is based on Regional
26 Action Centres (RACs), which now include Belgrade, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Quebec, Ibadan,
27 Hiroshima, Tehran, Genoa, Luneburg, Santiago de Compostela, and Taipei. Numerous RACs
28 have had their official opening ceremonies: Beijing, Washington, New Delhi, Santiago de
29 Compostela, Genoa, and Taipei. Other RACs, in Belgrade, Vilnius, Tunis, Buenos Aires,
30 Hamilton, Warsaw, Skopje, Leipzig, Hamilton, and Melbourne have begun activities in
31 recent months.

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34 The online IYGU presence has been expanded by adding to and updating the IYGU website
35 (www.global-understanding.info). A Facebook page, Twitter account, and YouTube channel
36 have been created and are frequently updated. Media and press coverage increased before and
37 following the opening ceremony. In Germany, the local TV stations, MDR, and Jena TV
38 covered the event, and the Repórter Eco in Brazil, and RTP Portugal discussed the IYGU.

1 The RAC in Brazil has officially confirmed a partnership with the Brazilian Philosophy
2 Academy-ABF. Further, they have agreements with the National Association of Entities that
3 Promote Innovating Entrepreneurship (ANPROTEC), Organização dos Estados Ibero-
4 americanos (OEI), Engineers Club of Brasilia (CEnB), and the Latin American University of
5 Social Sciences (FLACSO), which have all been lined up to sign. It has been confirmed that
6 H.E. José Manuel Ramos-Horta, who won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1996, is the newest
7 IYGU Patron. Currently, Mr. Ramos-Horta is the United Nations' special representative and
8 Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

9
10 Many individual projects are underway that deal with the diverse aspects of the IYGU, from
11 science to education and art and music. Concrete progress has been made on three of the
12 Springer Briefs. A partnership has been proposed between the IYGU and the OEI, with the
13 latter offering to translate and potentially publish the six briefs into Spanish and Portuguese.
14 So far, the first three briefs that are nearing publication are: a) *Working/Housing/Urbanizing*
15 (editors: Jennifer Robinson, Allen Scott, Peter Taylor; release date: August 23, 2016);
16 b) *Eating/Drinking/Surviving* (editors: Peter Jackson, Walter Spiess, Farhana Sultana; release
17 date: end of August 2016); c) *Communicating/Networking/Interacting* (editor: Margaret
18 Robertson; release date: mid September, 2016).

19 20 **International Charter on Geographical Education**

21 The IGU Commission on Geographical Education has been pioneering efforts to re-establish
22 a revised International Charter on Geographical Education. The charter (attached to these
23 minutes as Appendix A) is due to be officially signed and ratified at a special ceremony at the
24 Beijing IGU 33rd Congress.

25 26 **Memorandum of Agreement between International Geographical Union and** 27 **International Association of Geomorphologists**

28 Following discussion over the previous few months, the International Geographical Union
29 and the International Association of Geomorphologists has prepared a memorandum of
30 understanding in order to facilitate co-operation on activities and projects of mutual interest.
31 The memorandum is attached to these minutes as Appendix B) and was signed at the General
32 Assembly by the President of the International Association of Geomorphologists (Professor
33 Eric Fouache) and IGU President Kolosov.

34 35 **Future Earth**

36 Meadows outlined the major elements of this initiative which has been launched by *inter alia*
37 ICSU and ISSC. He noted that it represents a major opportunity for the involvement of
38 geographers, as many of the existing and planned project activities are consistent with the
39 objectives of the IGU, its Commissions and Task Forces. Geographers are encouraged to
40 engage with Future Earth, an initial point of contact being the Future Earth website at:
41 www.futureearth.org

42 43 **ICSU and ISSC Merger Proposal**

44 Following discussion over several years, the proposal to formally merge ICSU and ISSC will
45 be presented at a Special Joint ICSU/ISSC General Assembly to take place in Oslo, Norway,
46 on 23rd October 2016. Given that IGU is an active member of both ICSU and ISSC it is
47 acknowledged that its input will be crucial to the development of appropriate structures and
48 operations. Secretary-General Meadows had canvassed the opinion of the broader IGU
49 community via email communications and, while there is widespread support for the
50 proposed merger, there is an emerging sense that this must not be at the expense of the social
51 sciences *per se*. Meadows noted that IGU will represent this view at the Joint General
52 Assembly and carefully monitor developments as the merger takes effect.

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4 **Announcement of IGU Honors and Awards**

5 President Kolosov announced the IGU awards, as recommended by the IGU Awards
6 Committee, to be conferred in 2016 as follows: *IGU Planet and Humanity Medal*: Professor
7 Carl Folke, University of Stockholm. *IGU Lauréat d'Honneur*: Professor Ian Burton
8 (University of Toronto, Canada), Maria Dolores Garcia-Ramon (Autonomous University of
9 Barcelona, Spain), Benno Werlen (Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany).

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11 **Schedule of Future IGU Meetings**

12 The schedule of IGU meetings through 2024 is as follows:

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- 15 • 2018 Quebec, Canada Regional Conference
 - 16 • 2020 Istanbul, Turkey, 34th International Geographical Congress
 - 17 • 2022 Paris, France, Extraordinary International Geographical Congress
 - 18 • 2024 Dublin, Ireland 36th International Geographical Congress
- 19 .

20 **Comments by the President-Elect**

21 Himiyama briefly thanked the assembly for having the confidence in him as President of the
22 IGU for the next four years. He paid tribute to the work of outgoing President Kolosov and
23 the Executive Committee and was looking forward to working hard to further the aims of the
24 IGU.

25 **Report of the General Assembly Finance Committee**

26 The General Assembly Finance Committee consisting of Olof Stjernström (Sweden), Carol
27 Harden (United States) and Dan Shrubsole (Canada) reported that, on review of the various
28 statements provided (e.g., bank, Executive Committee expense claims and travel grants), it
29 finds these financial accounts to be in good order. It is recommended that IGU Secretary-
30 General and Treasurer Meadows be discharged from liability for the period 2012 to July 15
31 2016. The Finance Committee concluded that Meadows has done an excellent job in
32 managing the accounts of the IGU, and that the workload has increased substantially over the
33 last four years. He is thanked for his dedicated service to the IGU.

34
35 The Finance Committee observes that since 2008, the size of the IGU's Operating Account
36 has increased from about \$124,000 (US) to over \$200,000 (US) (Appendix D). Over the
37 same time period, the grants to commissions and projects has varied between \$9300 (US in
38 2010) to over \$89,000 (US in 2013), and has been over \$52,000 (US) between 2012 and
39 2015. As the activities of the IGU and its Commissions increase, these amounts are expected
40 to increase. We note that the IGU has established an endowed fund, which currently has a
41 balance of over \$70,000. At present, managing this high level of activity is the responsibility
42 of the Secretary-General and Treasurer, and the review of the accounts is conducted every
43 four years by the Finance Committee, which coincides with the General Assembly.

44
45 The Finance Committee believes it is appropriate that the Secretary-General and Treasurer
46 have some assistance in the management of the IGU Accounts. Additionally, since it is
47 already and will become more difficult for the Finance Committee to conduct a thorough
48 review of the IGU accounts, it is recommended that the IGU appoint an appropriate
49 independent auditor to conduct an annual review of the IGU's financial statements starting in
50 2017. These audited statements should be made available to the membership via the web

1 every year, and for the past four years at the General Assembly. Any relevant amendments to
2 the IGU statutes should be introduced as per accepted procedure.

3
4 The Finance Committee also reflected on the comments made at yesterday's General
5 Assembly by the Secretary-General and Treasurer concerning fluctuations in the South
6 African rand. Given the increasing amounts of funds being managed by the IGU, including
7 the Endowed funds, it is recommended that the IGU Executive seek appropriate advice
8 concerning the desirability and feasibility of reducing its financial risk by adopting a risk
9 management approach to its currency and/or investment portfolios (e.g., GICs, money
10 market, bonds, equity).

11
12 In reviewing the accounts, the Finance Committee observed that periodically, it is necessary
13 for the Secretary-Treasurer to travel across national borders with considerable amounts of
14 cash. The Finance Committee found appropriate documentation of these transactions in the
15 form of signed receipts. In order to reduce the need for cash, the Finance Committee
16 recommends the use of e-banking and cheques as much as possible. If cash is required at
17 IGU General Assembly and Regional meetings, the Finance Committee recommends that the
18 Secretary-Treasurer and the Local Organizing Committee collaborate to make arrangements
19 for the cash to be collected by the Secretary Treasurer in the relevant nation.

20
21 The assembly *unanimously approved* the General Assembly Finance Committee's report.

22 23 **Other Business**

24 No items of other business were tabled

25 26 **Votes of Thanks**

27 President Kolosov offered appropriate expressions of appreciation both to the organizers of
28 the Beijing Congress and to the retiring members of the IGU Executive Committee,
29 Professors Abler, Soyez and Saarinen. The assembly expressed its appreciation in the
30 appropriate manner.

31 32 **Adjourn**

33 President Kolosov closed the meeting at 16h15 on Wednesday 23rd August 2016.

34
35 *-Respectfully Submitted, Michael E Meadows,*
36 *Secretary-General and Treasurer*
37