



**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS**  
**UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE**

## **The IUGG Electronic Journal**

**Volume 17 No. 7 (1 July 2017)**

This informal newsletter is intended to keep IUGG Member National Committees informed about the activities of the IUGG Associations, and actions of the IUGG Secretariat. Past issues are posted on the IUGG website (<http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals/>). Please forward this message to those who will benefit from the information. Your comments are welcome.

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### **1. IUGG Statement “The Earth’s climate and responsibilities of scientists and their governments to promote sustainable development”**

On 12 June 2017, the IUGG Bureau adopted the Statement “The Earth’s climate and responsibilities of scientists and their governments to promote sustainable development” This statement was drafted by the IUGG Union Commission on Climatic and Environmental Change (CCEC) and discussed with the IAMAS Executives and the IAMAS Climate Commission (ICCL), before considering and adopting by the IUGG Bureau. The statement can be downloaded from the IUGG website: [http://www.iugg.org/resolutions/IUGGstatement\\_ParisAgreement\\_USA\\_12Jun2017.pdf](http://www.iugg.org/resolutions/IUGGstatement_ParisAgreement_USA_12Jun2017.pdf).

The Earth and Space Science News (EOS) of the American Geophysical Union published a news story about the IUGG statement: <https://eos.org/articles/international-science-group-decries-trump-climate-pact-exit>.

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### **2. IUGG at the United Nations Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP), as recognized by the United Nations General Assembly, is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and the review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on disaster risk reduction. It was established in 2006 and is now the world’s foremost gathering of stakeholders committed to reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations.

The GP Opening Ceremony was held on 24 May 2017 in Cancun and was attended by H.E. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico, who delivered a speech. He mentioned that: “To protect the population from natural disasters is one of the most important humanitarian responsibilities. This is a task in which we should all participate and where we can all contribute. We should work together, society and government, to greater protect our communities.” The GP2017 is characterized by a format that facilitates dialogue and exchanges among all stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental. It features a high-level dialogue which brings together senior government officials, including heads of state and government, ministers, mayors and parliamentarians and leaders from the private sector, science and civil society.

To achieve Target E of the Sendai Framework that focuses on national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, countries will need to access and use credible and robust multi-hazard risk assessments. This includes evidence-based risk information provided by and developed together with the science and technology community. The Sendai Framework calls on the science and technology community to focus on understanding disaster risk factors and scenarios, support action by local communities and authorities, and enhance the interface between policy and science for decision-making.

Together with several international and intergovernmental bodies, IUGG co-organized a session “Contribution of Science and Technology to Achieving the 2020 Sendai Target” at the GP. The session discussed the contribution of science and technology in achieving Target E of the Sendai Framework with a focus on illustrating how appropriate global, national and local disaster risk assessments and scientific analysis have been used to inform disaster risk reduction planning and monitoring at national and local levels. The concept note of the session can be downloaded from: [http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/5922450322c17170519\\_Concept\\_Note\\_of\\_ST\\_working\\_session-2017\\_GP.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/5922450322c17170519_Concept_Note_of_ST_working_session-2017_GP.pdf). More information on the session: <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en/programme/working-sessions/view/591>.

At the GP, IUGG organized a meeting of representatives of several international and intergovernmental organizations to discuss cooperation plans to further develop the initiative on setting up an international panel for disaster risk assessment.



*Meeting participants (from the left to the right): V. Tsirkunov, T. Koike, G. McBean, C. Wannous, A. Hainsworth, J. U. Fucugauchi, T. Klose-Zuber, and A. Ismail-Zadeh*

The meeting was attended by: Jaime Urrutia Fucugauchi, President, Mexican Academy of Sciences; Alasdair Hainsworth, Chief Disaster Risk Reduction Services Division, World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Thorsten Klose-Zuber, Division for Humanitarian Assistance, German Federal Foreign Office; Toshio Koike, Chair, Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and International Coordination, Science Council of Japan; Gordon McBean, President, International Council for Science (ICSU); Vladimir Tsirkunov, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, World Bank; Chadia Wannous, Senior Advisor, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR); Soichiro Yasukawa, Earth Sciences and Geo-Hazards Risk Reduction, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and moderated by Alik Ismail-Zadeh, IUGG Secretary General. The main topic of the meeting was how disaster risk synthesis and assessment should be implemented in policymaking. The participants discussed an IUGG initiative, supported by the international scientific community, to work together with international organizations, intergovernmental agencies and other stakeholders on setting up an intergovernmental panel on disaster risk assessment. It was agreed that further discussions and negotiations with representatives of national governments are required to develop a roadmap for this initiative.

The IUGG Secretary General delivered an IUGG statement at the GP on 26 May, which can be read at: [http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/IUGG\\_Statement\\_2017GPDRR.pdf](http://www.unisdr.org/files/globalplatform/IUGG_Statement_2017GPDRR.pdf) and watched at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldwx8Laoj0>.



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### 3. Report on the Fourth World Landslide Forum

The Fourth World Landslide Forum was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 29 May to 1 June 2017. Scientists, engineers, and policymakers working in the area of landslide technology, landslide disaster investigation and landslide remediation attended the Forum to share their work with the global community. A high-level panel discussion was held at the Forum. Representatives of several international and intergovernmental organizations, including IUGG, were invited to contribute to the discussion. IUGG was represented by Alik Ismail-Zadeh, IUGG Secretary General. The major topics for discussion were (i) how can the implementation of the ISDR-ICL Sendai Partnerships be generally advanced?, and (ii) how do we achieve better commitment of the Partners to the ISDR-ICL Sendai Partnerships, and better networking and interaction to enhance cooperation among Partners and to provide substantive services to developing countries?

IUGG was one of the signatory organizations of the Sendai Partnership, and the IUGG's principal commitment is to promote science to benefit society. Considering the Sendai Partnerships, Ismail-

Zadeh mentioned that contributions of the IUGG can include (but are not limited to) (i) scientific research related to understanding of landslide hazard and disaster risk; (ii) development of a scientific foundation for reliable prediction of landslides and for landslide early warning systems of increased precision; (iii) landslide hazard and vulnerability assessments, and multi-hazard risk identification; (iv) improved technologies for monitoring, testing, and analysis of landslides and their analogue and computer simulations; and (v) teaching courses and tools on natural hazards.

At present, commitments of the Partners may lead to multidisciplinary work, when each Partner determines its own priorities and tasks within the framework of the Sendai Partnerships declaration, but works independently considering specific questions, employing the methodologies related to their individual discipline, deriving independent conclusions, and disseminating their results independently. Ismail-Zadeh proposed to move from multidisciplinary to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary work. Compared to a multidisciplinary approach, interdisciplinary work allows for transferring knowledge from one discipline to another, researchers informing each other about their work, comparing individual findings, developing common conclusions whilst still working independently using their own methodologies, but often coming up with new problem sets and approaches. Such interdisciplinary work is co-designed and co-produced but still lacking the involvement of actors in public bodies, business and civil society in the academic research process. Transdisciplinary work would help the Partners work together to contribute their unique expertise. They can address a common problem and try to understand the complexities of the entire problem rather than its parts only. To achieve a common goal, Partners exchange data and information, share resources, create conceptual, phenomenological, theoretical, and methodological innovations, integrate disciplines, and move beyond discipline-specific approaches. Transdisciplinary work could allow for addressing the complexity of landslide disaster risk problems using a holistic view of the problems and the diversity of perceptions of them, involvement of actors from non-scientific fields, and implementation of research results by developing the solutions to be used in practice. Therefore, Ismail-Zadeh proposed to determine a few specific problems on which all Partners can work together in an interdisciplinary and perhaps even transdisciplinary way, all contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Partnerships on landslide disaster risk reduction.

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#### **4. News from the International Council for Science (ICSU)**

##### ***ICSU/ISSC held meetings to plan strategy and governance for merger***

Discussion at the Strategy Working Group (SWG) meeting focused on a draft high-level strategy for the new organization, following the feedback from ISSC and ICSU members on the initial draft circulated at the end of March. As highlighted in a recent webinar with ICSU and ISSC members, the strategy was further developed with reference to agenda-setting, particularly to expand on how the organization's members and leadership were involved in selecting priorities. Members of the SWG also worked to strengthen proposals on the new organization's regional presence, on relationships with members, and on developing an impactful communications strategy. The SWG meetings on 30-31 May were followed by a two-day meeting of the Transition Task Force (TTF), which is responsible for developing statutes and rules of procedure for the new organization, a consolidated budget and multi-year financial analysis, as well as a legal framework for the merger. Following the meetings, the final draft strategy and draft outputs of the TTF should be submitted to executives of ISSC and ICSU for their joint meeting to take place on 28-29 June. An updated version of the strategy and TTF outputs will be submitted to members in July 2017, ahead of the joint meeting of ICSU and ISSC that will take place during the ICSU General Assembly to be held in Taipei on 25-26 October 2017. At this joint meeting, members hold a final vote on the merger between ISSC and ICSU.

### ***ICSU calls on United States to support international efforts to combat dangerous climate change***

Following the announcement of the United States of its intent to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change, the International Council for Science (ICSU) expresses its concern about the decision, warning that climate change is a problem that can only be tackled through international cooperation. The International Council for Science believes that global problems can only be tackled by global cooperation. The Council's stance is that policy should always be informed by the best available science. The Paris Agreement is the result of an unprecedented effort to build an international agreement. Its development was informed by the thousands of scientists, including those who contributed to the research of the World Climate Research Programme, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (now part of Future Earth) and other global research programs sponsored by the International Council for Science and its international partners. This research was assessed globally by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. The science shows that the human influence on the climate system is clearly causing unequivocal warming of the climate system. Changes in extreme weather and climate events, including heat waves and extreme precipitation events will become more intense and frequent. Global mean sea level is rising and threatens coastal communities around the globe, including the United States. Climate change is dangerous, and actions to limit its consequences are urgent. Greenhouse gas emissions threaten the stability of our Earth system, which supports life and is vital for our economies. As the world's second biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, the United States has a responsibility to work with the rest of the world to implement the agreement. "You can't build a wall around climate change. No matter how hard you try to ignore it, this problem is not going away. The consequences are being felt in the USA – through extreme weather and sea-level rise and other impacts. Tackling the problem of climate change is also in the best interests of the USA," said Gordon McBean, President of the Council. "What were once considered extreme climate events have now become the norm. 2016 was the hottest year ever recorded. The biggest global problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, are problems that transcend the short-term lens of national politics. They can only be solved if we put aside our national interests for the greater good of humanity, now and for generations to come".

Source: ICSU website

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## **5. Resources for Future Generations 2018**

Human existence and progress is based on a sustainable supply of energy, minerals and water. To minimize impacts, it is important to develop and utilize these resources in better and cleaner ways. The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) in cooperation with several Canadian geoscience organizations will bring industry, academia, governments and civil society together to tackle these issues. The Resources for Future Generations Conference (RFG2018) will take place in Vancouver, Canada, from 16 to 21 June 2018. It takes its theme from an IUGS initiative of the same name designed to mobilize geoscientists, policy-makers and other stakeholders to explore resource and related sustainability issues. The RFG2018 countdown is on with over 200 proposed sessions that have come in from around the globe providing a highly diverse program that will be delivered by geoscientists, industry professionals, students, educators, policymakers, and civil society. RFG2018 will showcase advances in Earth Sciences, education, and innovation. IUGG is a Technical Partner of the Conference. Important deadlines:

1 August 2017 (opens) - 15 January 2018 (closes): Call for abstracts

15 August 2017: Call for Short Courses and Field Trips closes

1 September 2017: Registration and housing central opens

1 March 2018: Notification to authors of accepted abstracts

1 April 2018: Presenters registration deadline / End of early-bird registration rate

More information on the conference can be found at <http://rfg2018.org>.

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## 6. Meeting calendar

A calendar of meetings of interest to IUGG disciplines (especially those organized by IUGG Associations) is posted on the IUGG website (<http://www.iugg.org/calendar.php>). Individual Associations also list more meetings on their websites according to their disciplines.

### July

- 2-7, ICA, Washington, DC, USA, ICC 2017 - 28th International Cartographic Conference.  
Web: <http://icc2017.org/>
- 3-5, UCPS, Berlin, Germany, 1st IUGG Symposium on Planetary Science (IUGG-PS 2017)  
Web: <http://www.dlr.de/iugg-ps2017>
- 3-7, IAG, Paris, France, 2017 IGS Workshop.  
Web: <http://kb.igs.org/hc/en-us/articles/216574478-IGS-Workshop-2017>
- 3-15, NC BRAZIL, IAMAS, Sao Paulo, Brazil, São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Climate Change: Scientific Basis, Adaptation, Vulnerability and Mitigation.  
Web: <http://www.incline.iag.usp.br/data/spsascc>
- 6-7, UNESCO-IGCP, Yaoundé, Cameroon, Training Course of the International Geosciences Programme (Project 646). Contact: [igcp646sec@yahoo.fr](mailto:igcp646sec@yahoo.fr)
- 7-9, IUGG, IAMAS, Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, Training Workshop on Processing of Cloud Particle Measurements.  
Web: <http://www.halo.dlr.de/plans/documents/TrainingWorkshopPreliminaryAgenda.pdf>
- 10-12, IAG, Paris, France, Unified Analysis Workshop.  
Web: <http://ggosdays.com/en/conferences/unified-analysis-workshop>
- 10-14, IAHS, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, IAHS Scientific Assembly 2017.  
Web: <http://cwrr.ukzn.ac.za/iahs/call-for-papers/iahs-2017-in-south-africa---invitation>
- 10-14, WCRP, UNESCO-IOC, New York City, NY, USA, International WCRP/IOC Conference on Regional Sea Level Changes and Coastal Impacts.  
Web: <http://www.sealevel2017.org>
- 11-12, IAG, GFZ, Berlin, Germany, SGI 2017 Summit. Specialized Summit on Space Geodesy and Ionosphere Research. Web: <http://misc.gis.tu-berlin.de/SGI2017/>
- 16-29, CODATA, Beijing, China, CODATA International Training Workshop in Open data for Better Science, for Researchers from Lower and Middle Income Countries. Web: <http://www.codata.org/news/159/62/Apply-for-CODATA-International-Training-Workshop-in-Open-Data-for-Better-Science-Deadline-25-April-2017>
- 25-27, GRC, IAG, Sendai, Japan, 2017 GNSS Tsunami Early Warning System Workshop.  
Web: <https://geodynamics.org/cig/events/calendar/gnss-workshop/>
- July 30 - August 4, IAG, IASPEI, Kobe, Japan. IAG-IASPEI Joint Scientific Assembly 2017.  
Web: <http://www.iag-iaspei-2017.jp/>

### August

- 1-2, IACS, Lanzhou, China, International Workshop on Cryosphere Change and Sustainable Development.  
Web: <http://www.nieer.cas.cn/tzgg/ywtz/201612/P020161226414382929083.pdf>
- 6-11, AOGS, Singapore, Asia Oceania Geosciences Society Annual Meeting. Web: <http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2017/public.asp?page=home.htm>

- 14-18, IAVCEI, Portland, USA, IAVCEI Scientific Assembly 2017. Web: <http://iavcei2017.org/>
- 19-26, URSI, Montreal, Canada, 32nd URSI General Assembly & Scientific Symposium. Web: <http://www.ursi2017.org/>
- 27-30, YES, Tehran, Iran, 4th YES Congress. Web: <http://conf.yesnetwork.ir/index.php>
- August 27 - September 1, IAPSO, IAMAS, IAGA, Cape Town, South Africa, Joint Scientific Assembly 2017. Web: <http://www.iapso-iamas-iaga2017.com/>
- August 30 - September 1, CODATA, Berlin, Germany, DCH 2017 - Interdisciplinary Conference on Digital Cultural Heritage. Web: <http://dch2017.net/scope.shtml>

### **September**

- 4-8, ICTP, IUGG, Kigali, Rwanda, ICTP-Rwanda Joint School on Subseasonal to Seasonal Weather and Climate Prediction. Web: <http://indico.ictp.it/event/7984/>
- 4-13, GFZ, Potsdam, Germany, Potsdam Summer School. Human Environments in a Changing World. Web: <http://potsdam-summer-school.org/>
- 10-15, IUGG, IACS, IAPSO, SCAR Trieste, Italy, Past Antarctic Ice Sheet Dynamics (PAIS) Conference. Web: <http://pais-conference-2017.inogs.it/>
- 11-15, GFZ, Potsdam, Germany, EGSIM Autumn School for Satellite Gravimetry Applications. Web: <http://www.egsim.eu/autumn-school>
- 11-15, IUGG, IUSS, WMO, Prague, Czech Republic, WMESS 2017. World Multidisciplinary Earth Sciences Symposium. Web: <http://www.mess-earth.org/>
- 18-22, COSPAR, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 3rd COSPAR Symposium. Web: <http://cospar2017.org/>
- 18-22, ISPRS, Wuhan, China, ISPRS Geospatial Week 2017. Web: <http://gsw2017.3snews.net/>
- 18-23, IUGG, IAGA, L'Aquila, Italy, International School of Space Science. Advanced Course on Complexity and Turbulence in Space Plasmas. Web: <http://www.cifs-iss.org/futurecourses.asp>
- 19-21, IAG, Bonn, Germany, IAG Workshop: Satellite Geodesy for Climate Studies. Web: <http://www.igg.uni-bonn.de/apmg/index.php?id=ws2017>
- 21-22, IAHS, Warsaw, Poland, STAHY 2017. Web: <http://www.stahy2017.org/>
- September 24 - October 3, IAVCEI, Ecuador, 13th Gas Workshop. Web: <http://www.iavcei-ccvg.org/workshops/>
- 25-27, IAG, IAU, Alicante, Spain, Journées des Systèmes de Référence et de la Rotation Terrestre. Furthering our knowledge of Earth Rotation. Web: <https://web.ua.es/journees2017/>
- 25-29, UNESCO/IGCP, Ibadan, Nigeria, Second Workshop and Field Trip "Long and short-term geodynamic interaction in tropical Africa". Contact: [Igcp646sec@yahoo.fr](mailto:Igcp646sec@yahoo.fr)
- 30 September - 7 October, IUGG, IAGA, Hekla, Iceland, 8th Nordic Workshop - Paleogeography, Paleoclimate and the Geomagnetic Field. Web: TBA

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*IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 17 Number 7 (1 July 2017)*

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