

Report of the IAG Secretary General

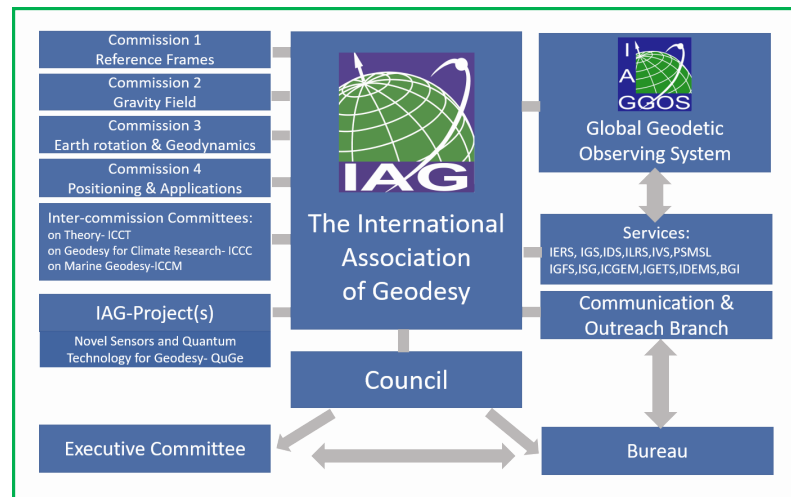
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1 Introduction

The structure of IAG comprises several components: four Commissions (1. Reference Frames, 2. Gravity Field, 3. Earth Rotation and Geodynamics, and 4. Positioning and Applications), the Inter-Commission Committees on Theory (ICCT), Climate Research (ICCC), and Marine Geodesy (ICCM), as well as the IAG Project Novel Sensors and Quantum Technology for Geodesy (QuGe). Furthermore, IAG has twelve International Scientific Services, the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), and the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB).

The Commissions are divided into Sub-commissions, Study Groups and Working Groups. The Inter Commission Committees (ICCs) and the Project investigate scientific geodesy-related topics in close cooperation with the Commissions and GGOS. The Services generate scientific geodetic products by maintaining – amongst others – Operations, Data, Analysis and Combination Centres.



The GGOS is a component of IAG that works closely together with the IAG Services to provide the geodetic infrastructure necessary for monitoring the Earth system and allow global change research. GGOS ensures the basis to maintain a stable, accurate and reliable global geodetic reference frame, which is crucial for all Earth observations. In order to do so, GGOS postulated the requirements in view of the terrestrial reference frame to be 1 mm accuracy and 0.1 mm/y stability.

The COB covers external communication, public information and outreach activities, in particular via the IAG website, social media channels and the monthly Newsletters. Additionally, the COB is responsible for the promotional activities of the IAG and the communication with its members.

The IAG General Assembly, the Council, the Executive Committee, the Bureau, and the Office carry out the administration of IAG. The Council is composed of the delegates appointed by the national adhering bodies. The Bureau comprises the IAG President, Vice-President and Secretary General. The Executive Committee consists of 20 members. The IAG Office assists the Secretary General in fulfilling his/her duties and is dealing with the day-to-day business.

2 Administration

2.1 IAG Executive Committee (EC)

The new EC for 2023-2027 held its first meeting at the end of the IUGG General Assembly, in Berlin (Germany), on July 20, 2023. The 2nd meeting was held as hybrid on December 10, 2023, in San Francisco (USA). The EC held its 3rd meeting online on February 13, 2024. The 4th and 5th meetings took place as in-person meetings (with hybrid option) in Vienna (Austria), on April 14, 2024, and in Thessaloniki (Greece), on September 3, 2024, respectively. The 6th meeting took place as in-person meeting (with hybrid option) in Vienna (Austria), on April 26, 2025. The 7th meeting will take place as in-person meeting (with hybrid option) in Rimini (Italy) on August 31, 2025.

2.2 IAG Bureau

The IAG Bureau (President, Vice-President, and Secretary General) discussed day-to-day decisions through e-mail exchanges and regular monthly online meetings. In April 2024, Martin Sehnal from BEV (Austria) joined the IAG Bureau as assistant secretary.

2.3 Planned IAG Sekretariat at BEV

GGOS Coordinating Office and COB together with the IAG Office have been reorganising the outreach and web activities in order to improve the visibility of IAG and its Services and to avoid duplication of work. This re-structuring is one of the largest internal efforts during the period 2023-2027; it bore already first fruits with the launching of the new IAG website in June 2025.

Building on the recent success of the GGOS Coordination Office hosted at the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV – Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen) in Austria, IAG proposed the establishment of a Sekretariat at BEV - an idea warmly embraced by all parties involved. The future IAG Sekretariat will take over long-term tasks of the IAG Secretary General (IAG Office) as well as all IAG public relations currently performed by the COB. It is planned to formalize the establishment of the IAG Sekretariat by the corresponding changes in the IAG Bylaws

at the next IUGG General Assembly in 2027, subject to final confirmation by the IAG Council.



Fig. 1. At BEV, on April 16, 2024, after signing the MoU, which initiated the establishment of the future IAG Secretariat. From left to right: Wernher Hoffmann (BEV President), Harald Schuh (past IAG President), Richard Gross (IAG President), Franz Blauensteiner (Head of Reference Systems Department, BEV), Daniela Thaller (IAG Secretary General), Martin Sehnal (Director of GGOS Coordination Office and prospective Executive Secretary at IAG Secretariat, BEV), Peter Teunissen (IAG Vice-President).

3 Activities

3.1 IAG General Assembly 2023

A total of 580 IAG registered participants were present at the General Assembly in Berlin (IUGG had in total about 5000 participants). 661 abstracts were submitted for IAG Symposia. Six Symposia were IAG-only, and seven IAG-lead joint Symposia with other Associations.

3.2 IAG Scientific Assembly 2025

IAG has been intensively organising its quadrennial Scientific Assembly, which will be held in-person in Rimini (Italy) on September 1-5, 2025 (<https://eventi.unibo.it/iag2025>). Under the theme “Geodesy for a changing environment” 14 symposia have been announced, covering the scientific scope of all IAG components as well as the broader importance of geodesy in data management, outreach and networking with science and policy. Thus, the Assembly sets geodesists’ focus on the impacts

of environmental variations, extreme events of different nature and on developing strategies to capture the onset of abrupt changes in the Earth system. Four Highlight Sessions covering topics on the forefront of geodetic research and with high impact on society will be a special part of the Assembly.

3.3 Activities of Commissions, Inter-Commission Committees, GGOS, QuGe Project and Services

The IAG components report on their past activities in their respective chapters inside this Travaux Volume. They also maintain their web pages (accessible also via the IAG homepage) where more details can be found.

3.4 Selected Meetings of IAG Components and IAG Sponsored Meetings in 2023-2025

- 2nd Workshop of the Inter-Commission Committee on Geodesy for Climate Research (ICCC): March 28-30, 2023, online
- GGOS Days 2023: September 20-22, 2023, Yebes, Spain, hybrid
- ILRS Technical Workshop 2023: October 16-20, 2023, online
- IVS 13th General Meeting and 25th Anniversary, March 4-8, 2024, Tsukuba, Japan
- EUREF Symposium 2024, June 5-7, 2024, Barcelona, Spain
- IGS Symposium and Workshop, July 1-5, 2024, Bern, Switzerland
- Joint Webinar on Advancing Geodesy and Navigation with Quantum Sensors, July 29, 2024, online
- 20th Geodynamics and Earth Tides Symposium (G-ETS 2024), August 25-30, 2024, Strasbourg, France
- WGAAL2023, Geosciences in Active Areas: October 16-20, 2023, Lanzarote, Spain
- 20th WEGENER Assembly 2023: October 24-27, 2023, Sousse, Tunisia
- International School on the Geoid: November 13-17, 2023, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Gravity, Geoid and Height Systems 2024 (GGHS2024), September 4-6, 2024, Thessaloniki, Greece
- GGOS Topical Meeting on the Atmosphere, October 7-9, 2024, Potsdam, Germany
- GGOS Days 2024, October 10-11, 2024, Potsdam, Germany, hybrid
- 23rd International Workshop on Laser Ranging, October 20-26, 2024, Kunming, China
- IAG Workshop on Asia Pacific Gravity, Geoid, and Vertical Datums, November 6-8, 2024, Manila, Philippines
- SIRGAS 2024 Symposium, November 18-21, 2024, Bogotá, Colombia
- 15th International School on “The Determination and Use of the Geoid”, April 7-11, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Seafloor and marine geodesy splinter meeting, April 30, Vienna, Austria
- 3rd IAG Commission 4 Symposium: Positioning and Applications, May 13-15, Wuhan, China
- 2025 Glacial Isostatic Adjustment workshop: Advancing Models and Observational Constraints, June 2-6, Sidney, Canada

- SIRGAS Virtual School of Geodesy – Reference Frames, Geodynamics, Atmosphere, June 3-12, online
- EUREF Symposia 2025 & AC Workshop, June 24-26, Covilhã, Portugal
- 1st GGOS IberAtlantic Summer School, July 13-18, Yebes, Spain
- Summer School on “Satellite-based Hydrological Data Assimilation”, August 26-28, Aalborg, Denmark
- GGOS Days 2025, 3-5 September, Rimini, Italy

3.5 Outreach and web Activities

The main activities of the COB, hosted in Budapest, included the publication of the monthly Newsletter, GIM International and the maintenance of the IAG homepage. A full re-design of the IAG web presence was made in cooperation with the GGOS Coordinating Office in Vienna (and future planned IAG Secretariat at BEV, see 2.3). The transition to the new IAG web site (<https://geodesy.science/iag/>) was successfully made in June 2025.

Refer to the COB report inside this Travaux Volume for more information.

3.6 Publications

The IAG Newsletter was published monthly (or bi-monthly) online and is accessible via the IAG website.

The Geodesist’s Handbook 2024 was edited by the IAG Office. It is the IAG organisation guide with the complete report on the past General Assembly in 2023, and the description of the IAG structure (Terms of Reference and Officers of all IAG components and sub-components) for the period 2023-2027.

The IAG mid-term Reports 2023–2025 (Travaux de l’AIG, Vol. 44) at hand include reports of all IAG components about their activities in this period. Vol. 44 is edited by the IAG Office and will appear in connection with the 2025 IAG Scientific Assembly.

Publishing activities in the Journal of Geodesy and the IAG Symposia Series are reported by the respective Editors-in-Chief in the following chapters of this Travaux Volume.

3.7 IAG Awards

The IAG Young Author’s Award 2023 was awarded to Dr. Safoora Zaminpardaz and the 2024 Award to Dr. Justyna Śliwińska-Bronowicz.

The Best Reviewer Award 2023 was granted to Dr. Bailing Li and the 2024 Award to Dr. Judit Benedek.

IAG granted 88 Travel Awards with a total amount of more than 60000 Euro to students and Early Career Scientists (ECS), mainly from low/mid-economy countries to participate in the IUGG General Assembly in Berlin. IAG Travel Awards to participate in IAG-sponsored Symposia, Schools or other scientific meetings were granted to 21 persons (20 of which were ECS), in total of 30000 Euro. IAG is granting approximately 40 Travel Awards (estimated total of 33000 Euro) to students and ECS, to participate in the IAG Scientific Assembly in Rimini.

3.8 Individual IAG membership

By mid 2025, there were a total of 247 active members, of which 29 were students and 50 were retired members. Students and retired members are free of the annual fee.

4 IAG Task Force on Inclusion

The IAG Task Force on Inclusion was appointed by the IAG EC at its first meeting on July 20, 2023 in Berlin, in order to explore different ways and means of making the IAG more inclusive. Among the aspects of diversity to be addressed by the Task Force are:

- Gender balance
- Geographic balance
- Generational balance

This is not an exhaustive list and the Task Force should explore other areas as appropriate. The Task Force should recommend actions in order to increase Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) within the IAG.

The Task Force is requested to report at IAG EC meetings. It is further asked to complete its deliberations by July 2025, so that the current IAG EC would be able to respond to the recommendations.

The following members of the IAG EC belong to the Task Force on Inclusion:

- Rebekka Steffen (Sweden); Chair; IAG representative in the IUGG EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Committee
- Mattia Crespi (Italy)
- Annette Eicker (Germany)
- Masato Furuya (Japan)
- Maria Virginia Mackern (Argentina)
- Szabolcs Rozsa (Hungary)
- Peter Teunissen (Netherlands)
- Daniela Thaller (Germany)
- Paweł Wielgosz (Poland)

The Task Force carried out the following activities:

- Collected statistics on the previous structure of IAG components in terms of gender and geographical background (see Geodesists' Handbook 2024); the statistics showed that the participation of researchers in IAG and their attendance at IAG-related meetings is significantly lower among those located in the Southern Hemisphere and/or those who are not male);
- Encouraged Chairs and presidents of IAG components to nominate an Early Career Scientist (ECS) representative as a separate position to the steering committees of their components (as a non-voting member for the term 2023-2027);
- These nominated ECS form the newly established IAG ECS group, coordinated by Rebekka Steffen (see 4.1 for specific activities of this group);

- Cooperated with the ECS groups of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) and the American Geophysical Union (AGU);
- Connected with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), in particular with the Young Surveyors Network and the FIG Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion;
- Collaborated with other IUGG-association representatives within the newly established IUGG EDI committee (Rebekka Steffen was appointed as IAG representative);
- Encouraged organizers of IAG-related meetings to collect the gender and career status of participants;
- Collaborated with the IDEA working group within IGS (International GNSS Service);
- Organized an EDI meet-up during the EGU General Assembly in Vienna in 2025 (in collaboration with the IGS IDEA Working Group);
- Got in contact with the International Geodetic Student Organization (IGSO) and presented IAG at the International Geodetic Student Meeting (IGSM) in Morocco;
- Presented progress reports at the IAG EC meetings.

In August 2025; the Task Force elaborated and presented to the IAG EC a number of IDEA recommendations. These are short-term and long-term measures covering a large spectrum of activities like e.g. an IDEA representative as a regular member of the future EC, IAG-wide networking and support for ECS, proactive outreach to under-represented genders and geographic regions, guidelines for organising inclusive meetings/conferences/workshops a.o.

The EC and the IAG as a whole will consider these recommendations in the near future, adjust and/or implement them as appropriate.

4.1 IAG ECS Group

The IAG ECS group members for the term 2023-2027 are:

- Rebekka Steffen (Sweden); spokesperson
- Anna Kłos (Poland); Commission 1
- Athina Peidou (USA); Commission 2; IAG representative in the IUGG ECS committee
- Anna Riddell (Australia); Commission 3
- Artur Fischer (Poland); Commission 4
- Julia Koch (Switzerland); GGOS; IAG representative in the IUGG-funded ECSNet
- Michela Ravanelli (Italy); ICCT
- Pierre Sakic (France); ICCM
- Franck Ghoms (Cameroon, Canada); ICC
- Öykü Koç (Italy); QuGe

The IAG representatives in the newly established IUGG ECS committee as well as the IUGG-funded ECSNet (IUGG Early-Career Scientists Network) were chosen from the members of the IAG ECS group.

The IAG ECS group meets frequently. The plans and activities were and will be presented by Julia Koch at the GGOS Days in Potsdam (Germany) 2024 and at the IAG Scientific Assembly in Rimini (Italy) in 2025, respectively.

In addition, the group organised four gatherings during IAG related events:

1. an ECS city tour and dinner during the GGHS meeting in Thessaloniki (Greece) in 2024,
2. an ECS reception during the GGOS Days in collaboration with the GRACE Science Team Meeting, in Potsdam (Germany) in 2024,
3. an ECS meet-up during the Glacial Isostatic Adjustment workshop 2025 in Sidney (Canada),
4. an ECS Dinner and “Women in Geodesy” Breakfast during the IAG Scientific Assembly in Rimini (Italy).

The 2nd and 4th were sponsored by the IAG and the 3rd event was sponsored by IACS (International Association of Cryospheric Sciences) as part of the joint IAG sub-commission 3.4.

In the coming years, the IAG ECS group will continue various activities to increase the engagement and visibility of ECS within IAG.

5 Cooperation with the United Nations

The IAG is actively working with the Subcommittee on Geodesy of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) and the newly established United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE, established in 2023).

Several IAG officers and individuals strongly linked to IAG took part in the “Expert Consultation on Strengthening the Global Geodesy Supply Chain” that was held at the UN campus in Bonn, Germany, on April 22-23, 2024.

Apart from providing valuable input and feedback to the UN-GGCE during the so-called “listening tours”, IAG officers have substantially contributed to the UN-GGCE “1st Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy”. Furthermore, IAG is supporting the activities of the UN-GGCE to move towards Multi-/bilateral Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements for making the geodesy supply chain more robust and sustainable.

On September 27, 2024 a Geodesy Day took place in the frame of the Science Summit at the UN General Assembly 79. The Geodesy Day was a hybrid meeting in New York, with 209 participants, focussed on Africa: Africa Rising: Shaping our Common Future through Geodesy. Implementing UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/266 "A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development". IAG Officers were conveners, panellists and gave keynote speeches at this high-impact meeting, which brought together geodetic scientists with policymakers.

In 2025, IAG is contributing to the UN-GGCE initiative for the Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening the Global Geodesy Supply Chain. IAG is involved in the UN-GGCE Capacity Development Workshops being held in different regions of the world. Furthermore, IAG will take actions to fulfil the goals defined in the 1st Joint Development Plan.