

Annual Report 2023

(Reporting period: Nov. 2022 – Oct. 2023)

Compiler: Frank Winde (Chair)
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Sent to: Prof. Bararos Gönençgil, Secretary General of IGU
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A. Membership

IGU-requirements: The structure of your current steering committee, including all names and contact details. The number of Commission/Task Force corresponding members (i.e. your 'membership' - circulation - list, in total and, if at all possible, by country as of 1 December 2022). The counts of members by country are exceedingly helpful in documenting to the International Science Council (ISC) and other international organizations the IGU's extensive reach.

a. Structure of Steering Committee (SC)

The structure of the current SC is indicated in Table 1. There have been no changes to its composition in the reporting period.

However, levels of active participation in commission matters for a range of SC-members declined or continued to be very low. In some instances, not a single activity or attendance of meetings was recorded over the past 4 years, especially of some newly appointed members. Assigned task as listed in Tab. 1 were not fulfilled leaving most of the administrative work to the chair and to his deputies. This is a concerning trend that needs to be addressed. On the other hand, tangible ongoing support was provided by prof. Tony Jones as retired chair and honorary member of the SC.

Table 1: Members of the Steering Committee of the Commission and their respective functions and contact details

SC-Function	Name	Country, sex	SC since	max. to	Affiliation	Portfolio
Chair	Prof. Dr. habil. Frank Winde	South Africa, male	2012	2024	North-West University, Vanderbijlpark Campus, Geography and Environmental Studies, PO Box 1174, Vanderbijlpark, 1900; Extraordinary Professor Wismut GmbH, 09117 Chemnitz, Jagdschänken-straße 29, Monitoring and Radiation Protection, Tel. +49 151 2571 3237, frank.winde@gmail.com	Management and admin, Membership/recruitment, website/public visibility
Vice Chair	Prof. Dr. Daniel Karthe	Germany, male	2016	2024	United Nations University, Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources, Dresden, Germany. Email: karthe@unu.edu	co-organize publications over the next 4 years
Vice Chair	Prof. Dr. Liliana Zaharia	Romania, female	2016	2024	University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography 1 Nicolae Balcescu Blv., 010041, Bucharest, Romania, Tel: + 40-21-305 38 22, Fax: + 40-21-315 30 74, zaharialil@yahoo.com ; zaharialil@hotmail.com	Outreach activities, reporting, archiving, membership recruitment
Member	Prof. Dr. Danijel Orešić	Croatia, male	2020	2028	University of Zagreb, Department of Geography, Marulićev trg 19/II, 10 000 Zagreb, Hrvatska (Croatia), doresic@geog.pmf.hr	Collaboration + outreach
Member	Dr. Lanhui Zhang	China, female	2016	2024	Lanzhou University, College of Earth Environmental Sciences, Guanyun Building 0912, Tianshuinan Road 222, Lanzhou City, zip code: 730000, Gansu Province, China, Tel/Fax:010 931 8912805 lhzhang@lzu.edu.cn	Proposed: Publications + reporting
Member	Prof. Dr. Heejun Chang	USA, male	2020	2028	Portland State University, Geography, 1721 SW Broadway, PO Box 751, Tel. 503-725-3162, Fax: 503-725-3166; changh@pdx.edu	Book publication, collaborative research, outreach, mentoring.
Member	Dr. Marcela Hebe Gonzalez	Argentina, female	2020	2028	University of Buenos Aires, Department of Atmospheric and Ocean Science – CIMA CONICET. Intendente Güiraldes 2160 2nd floor Building II Ciudad Universitaria C1428EGA CABA ARGENTINA Tel 54-11-52858472 int. 58472, marcelahebe@gmail.com , gonzalez@cima.fcen.uba.ar	Collaboration + proposed publications
Advisory member	Prof. Dr. Natalia Frolova	Russia, female	2020	2024	Lomonossov State University, Moscow, Department of Hydrology, Faculty of Geography, GSP-1, 119991, Leninskie Gory, MSU. Phone: +7 (495) 939-15-33 frolova_nl@mail.ru	non-executive advisor
Advisory member	Prof. Dr. Chan-sheng He	USA, male	2012	2024	Western Michigan University, Wood Hall, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, 3234 Wood Hall, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5424. Phone: (269) 387-3425 Fax: (269) 387-3442 chansheng.he@wmich.edu	non-executive advisor
Honorary Member	Prof. emer. Tony Jones	UK, male	2002	open ended	Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. tonyandjenjones@btinternet.com	non-executive advisor

For more details, e.g. regarding maximal allowable terms of office according to IGU statutes etc. please go to our website at [Steering Committee – IGU Commission for Water Sustainability \(igu-water.org\)](http://Steering Committee – IGU Commission for Water Sustainability (igu-water.org)).

b. Member statistics

Based on a decision taken in 2016 that was aimed to curb the uncontrolled grow of mostly inactive members through simply adding email address of one-time attendants to a circulation list, we only accept applicants as new members who submit filled-in member templates outlining their areas of interests/ expertise and research profile in the field of water. This information is displayed on our website to facilitate better collaboration within and outside the Commission ([Members – IGU Commission for Water Sustainability \(igu-water.org\)](#)).

Currently, the Commission has a total of 64 registered members of which about a third (33%) is female. Some 85% of members are academics, 44% are professors while 15% are practitioners. Members originate from 26 countries on six continents of which 10 are in Europe, 7 in Austral-Asia, 5 in Africa and 4 in the Americas. Of these countries, 11 are falling in the high-income category representing 37% of members, 9 are middle-income countries representing the majority of members (48%) and 6 are low income nations accounting for 15% of members.

The membership per country is as follows:

1 Argentina	2
2 Armenia	1
3 Australia	1
4 Canada	1
5 China	6
6 Croatia	4
7 France	1
8 Germany	6
9 Ghana	1
10 Hungary	1
11 India	4
12 Italy	2
13 Japan	1
14 Nigeria	1
15 Norway	1
16 Portugal	2
17 Romania	6
18 Russia	6
19 South Africa	5
20 Spain	1
21 Swaziland/ Eswatini	1
22 Turkey	2
23 UK	3
24 USA	4
25 Zimbabwe	2

B. Meetings

a. Meetings held

While no dedicated Commission meeting was held during the reporting period, the following two meetings were organised by members of our Commission of which associated calls for papers were distributed among our membership.

- Prof. Winde represented the Commission on behalf of the International Science Council (ISC) at the *UN Water Conference* held on 21-24 March 2023 at the UN headquarters in New York (USA) presenting at the General Assembly the ISC Water Policy Brief he compiled together with an international ISC expert group on water (<https://council.science/publications/water->

[policy-brief/](#)).



Prof. Winde presenting a 3-minute statement on key points of the ISC Water Policy Brief on 22nd March 2023
(Screen shot from: UN-TV recording; <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1r/k1r1nlndp>; at around 01:05:00)

- Prof. Zaharia organised the **36th Conference of the International Association of Climatology (AIC)** taking place from 3 to 7 July 2023 in *Bucharest, Romania*. The overarching theme was “Climate, water and society: changes and challenges”.
- Prof. Suresh organised the **7th International Conference of National Association of Geographers in India** on “Clean Water, Good Health, Sustainable Cities and Communities” held at Department of Geography, School of Liberal and Creative Arts, Lovely Professional University, Phagwara, Punjab, India from 18th to 19th October 2023. More than 200 participants from different parts of India and worldwide attended the conference on both days.



Keynote address by Prof. H. S. Sharma, Emeritus Professor and most senior Geographer of India
(Photo: supplied by prof. Suresh)

c. Meetings planned

The Commission envisages to actively participate in the upcoming **35th IGC from 25-30 August 2024 in Dublin**, Ireland. In August 2023 the following proposals have been submitted to the LOC via the provided online platform and distributed to all members:

- **‘Clean water and sanitation for all’ – opportunities and challenges to still achieve SDG**

6 by 2030

Status: approved under the conditions that a minimum of four corresponding papers are submitted and accepted.

- **Urban water crises – the new normal?**

Status: approved under the conditions that a minimum of four corresponding papers are submitted and accepted.

- **Emerging water issues – anticipating research and new solutions**

Status: approved under the conditions that a minimum of four corresponding papers are submitted and accepted.

- **Advances in hydrological methodology and water management**

Status: approved under the conditions that a minimum of four corresponding papers are submitted and accepted.

- **Problems in the face of plenty: water issues on the Emerald Isle; Open session**

Status: not approved: The two generic reasons provided by the LOC for rejecting session proposals were both not applicable to session 5 leaving it unclear why the proposal has been rejected.

In addition to the sessions above, Prof. H. Beckedahl, in consultations with the chair, submitted a special proposal on wetlands:

- **Wetlands: Changing landforms under changing environmental and climatic conditions**

Status: approved under the conditions that a minimum of four corresponding papers are submitted and accepted.

Furthermore, the LOC decided to allocate the following three sessions to our Commission unilaterally submitted by non-Commission members, explaining a certain degree of overlap with the sessions listed above:

- **Geographies of rivers and floodplains**

Chairs: Emily Rick^{1,2}, Dr. Jonathan Turner¹, Kate De Smeth¹; ¹University College Dublin, School of Geography, Dublin, Ireland. ²Teagasc Research Centre, Wexford, Ireland

Status: approved under the conditions that a minimum of four corresponding papers are submitted and accepted.

- **PFAS in the freshwater environment: occurrence, pathways and monitoring**

Chairs: Dr Susan Hegarty¹, Prof Fiona Regan¹, Prof Jennifer Tank²; ¹DCU, Dublin, Ireland. ²University of Notre Dame, South Bend, USA)

Status: approved under the conditions that a minimum of four corresponding papers are submitted and accepted.

- **Water resources management and planning**

Chairs: Dr. Seema Rani; Dept of Geography, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India)

Status: approved under the conditions that a minimum of four corresponding papers are submitted and accepted.

In total, **eight sessions were tentatively approved/ allocated for/to our Commission.**

The corresponding call for abstracts opened on 3rd October 2023 and closes on 12 January 2024. A reminder to submit abstracts to the approved sessions has been sent out by the chair to all members on 25 October 2023.

C. Networking

IGU-requirements: a. Means, if any, by which your commission has collaborated with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces during 2022. b. Collaboration, if any, with other international, intergovernmental, or inter- and multi-disciplinary bodies in 2022. c. Cooperative efforts, if any, with the International Science Council (ISC) and the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) programs, etc.

a. Collaboration with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces

IGU book project (Bansky & Meadows [eds.]

Based on input of various Commission members a draft manuscript was compiled in accordance with the templates sent out by prof. Bansky. Unfortunately, there was little follow-up from the side

of the editor resulting in our Commission eventually being left out of the volume, despite repeated efforts from the chair ensure inclusion. An alternative way of publishing the compiled material could perhaps be explored.

b. Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental or multidisciplinary bodies

Cooperation with UN-agencies continued by some members of the Commission including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (Coordinating Group for Uranium Legacy Sites on Africa – meeting in South Africa; CGULS Central Asia – meeting in Tadshikistan, whose Government was the co-host of the UN-Water Conference in New York in March 2023 together with The Netherlands. Projects with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the WHO (Health effects of environmental uranium exposure) and work within a 6-country-consortium implementing an approved proposal for establishing a joint MSC-course within the EU Erasmus Mundo Programme (Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Norway, Portugal, USA) continued.

c. Cooperative efforts with the International Science Council (ISC)

UN-Water Conference 2023: ISC representation

After attending the preparatory meeting in New York in late 2022, prof. Winde proposed to ISC to appoint a group of water expert from member institutions of the ISC for jointly preparing a consolidated ISC input at the upcoming conference. In early 2023, a 35-member strong group of international water experts was assembled and discussed major aspect to be presented at the UN Water conference. Subsequently, the Water Policy Brief of the ISC was developed with prof. Winde acting as coordinating lead author. For more information on the ISC Water Expert Group refer to https://council.science/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ISC-Talent-book_UN-Water-Conference.pdf. Selected key points of the ISC Water Policy Brief were presented by F. Winde on 22 March 2023 at the Interactive Dialogue 2: Water for sustainable development, valuing water, water-energy-food nexus, and sustainable economic and urban development at the UN Water Conference in New York.

D. Publications

IGU-requirements: a. Newsletters, special journal issues, and books published in 2021-22 (please provide complete citations). Note these publications should only be included if they are directly related to your IGU Commission activities (i.e. not a list simply pasted in from the cvs of steering committee members!) b. The current (accurate) URL of the commission's website.

a. Newsletter and reports

The annual report for 2022 was submitted in time. A newsletter for 2023 is still planned.

b. Special issues, books

Winde F (2023): International Science Council policy brief: UN 2023 Water Conference. ISC, Paris, France, pp. 10, <https://council.science/publications/water-policy-brief>

c. Website

The address of the Commission's website still is: www.igu-water.org.

E. Archival contributions

IGU-requirements: Materials and publications transmitted to the IGU archives by your commission. Copies (soft copies if appropriate) of all newsletters, monographs, special journal issues, etc. should be sent to the IGU Secretary-General upon publication for transmission to the archivist. Photographs from your meetings, field excursions, or other events that you are willing to share are especially gratefully received and will be included in the IGU e-Newsletter. The Commission's reports will be published on the website and in the IGU. These reports will also provide the Executive Committee with information for the evaluation of Commissions in regard to their continuation.

A section on the Commission's revamped website is dedicated to archiving news, reports and other documents at [Newsletters & Reports – IGU Commission for Water Sustainability \(igu-water.org\)](https://www.igu-water.org/newsletters-reports).