



# IUGG UNION COMMISSIONS

## Terms of Reference

This document presents the Terms of References of the following IUGG Union Commissions:

- Union Commission on Climatic and Environmental Change (2023-2027)
- Union Commission on Mathematical Geophysics (2023-2027)
- Union Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (2023-2027)
- Union Commission on the Study of the Earth's Deep Interior (2023-2027)
- Union Commission on Planetary Sciences (2023-2027)

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023-2027**

### **IUGG UNION COMMISSION ON CLIMATIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**

#### **Preamble**

Our Climate is changing all the time due to a number of various causes, internal as well as external, natural as well as anthropogenic. Observational and theoretical evidence suggest that the ice ages, which are the largest systematic changes of the Earth's climate, result from the changing latitudinal and seasonal distribution of solar irradiation related to the cycling of the Earth's orbital parameters. A much better understanding of the natural variations of climate is fundamental for a credible assessment of the human contribution to climate change, now and in the future. The Commission on Climatic and Environmental Change (CCEC) is an international forum to advance the science of climate and global change and make available the scientific knowledge and methods that assist in promoting environmental and public welfare in the face of climate variability and change. The climatic and environmental changes considered by the commission include (but are not limited to) the response of the atmosphere, oceans, glaciers, sea level, water resources, ocean acidification, Earth rotation, gravity, and shape, biogeochemistry to climate warming.

Advancing scientific understanding of climatic and environmental change is necessarily interdisciplinary, building on fundamental understanding of the functioning of the atmosphere (IAMAS), the oceans (IAPSO), the hydrologic cycle (IAHS), the cryosphere (IACS), solar interactions (IAGA), solid Earth changes (IAG, e.g., the Global Geodetic Observing System, GGOS), as well as the land surface processes and external manifestations, such as volcanoes, of interior processes of the Earth (IAVCEI, IASPEI). Links with other fields not represented in the IUGG such as forestry, agricultural sciences and health sciences are also necessary to gain a proper understanding of climate change effects.

#### **Purpose**

The CCEC operates as a Union Commission within IUGG. The CCEC was established by the Executive Committee of the IUGG in 2012 in order to promote the advancement of scientific understanding of climatic and environmental change, to boost research in reducing uncertainties in climate and environmental models, to define criteria for collaborative trans-disciplinary research on climate and environmental change, to fulfill the objectives of the IUGG and its associations, to provide an all-Union perspective on climatic and environmental change, and to make available the knowledge and insights developed through scientific research to the benefit of society and planet Earth, including consideration of the science of global change, related vulnerability and impacts, and potential responses.

The CCEC provides a focus for the IUGG scientific expertise in climate and environment related areas across the breadth of all IUGG disciplines and associations. The CCEC enables the breadth of the IUGG expertise to be brought to bear at the global level through collaborating with, and underpinning the work of the ICSU and other international organizations. It also enables the geographic dissemination of the IUGG expertise to be brought to bear at the local level through involvement with national bodies in the organization of meetings and other activities.

#### **Objectives**

- To build a scientific capacity for responsibly addressing the broad, multi-disciplinary issues involved in climatic and environmental change;
- To provide reliable information, interpretation of research results, and support to the public and governmental organizations;
- To interact and cooperate with outside activities that would benefit from the capabilities and resources of the IUGG Associations; and

- To strengthen links across the Scientific Associations within the IUGG, to build new external links to organizations outside the IUGG, to strengthen existing links to external organizations and to promote IUGG's contribution to global change research.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee consists of Commission Officers, a Representatives' Committee and co-opted members and the immediate Past Chair. The officers are a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. The Representatives' Committee consists of two representatives from each participating IUGG Association. The Representatives' Committee may co-opt up to four persons (irrespective of IUGG Association) to become members of the Executive Committee. The Representatives' Committee elects the officers – namely the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer, who do not necessarily need to be one of the designated representatives from an IUGG Association. Representation on the Executive Committee, irrespective of leadership roles, is for a 4 year term, renewable once.

Cognate groupings such as SCOR, SCAR, the Union Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability, or the WMO Commission on Climate, may send observers to meetings of the executive committee.

### **Procedure**

- In advance of an IUGG General Assembly (every 4 years), each IUGG Association will be asked to nominate experts to sit on the CCEC Executive Committee, in cases where a position is vacant.
- Prior to or during an IUGG General Assembly, the Representatives' Committee shall select officers of the Commission: a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary/Treasurer.
- The IUGG President-Elect shall be informed about the results of the election prior to, or during, the IUGG General Assembly. The list of CCEC officers is subject to approval by the IUGG Bureau and their term of office shall start immediately after the IUGG General Assembly.
- Any motions put to the CCEC must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee.

### **Membership**

- Membership of the CCEC is open to all scientists who commit to the CCEC purpose and objectives.
- Membership of the CCEC does not lapse. However, members may be removed by the Executive Committee if they are inactive for a period of at least 4 years.
- The CCEC Secretary shall keep an up-to-date register of members.

### **Meetings**

- The CCEC shall meet during IUGG General Assemblies and at scientific events the commission organizes.

### **Reporting**

- The CCEC shall submit activity and financial reports to the IUGG Secretary General annually and a quadrennial report 5 months before the IUGG General Assembly.

### **Funding**

- The CCEC shall have access to funds allocated by the IUGG.
- The CCEC Secretary/Treasurer shall collect funds, make payments and keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the CCEC.
- The IUGG contributes up to US \$5000 dollars annually to defray the costs of running the Commission; The small core budget is necessary as seed funding to ensure initial activities of the Commission and thus provide a basis for Commission members to seek additional resources on an activity-specific, or project, basis.

**Continuation**

- The CCEC shall normally be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the IUGG every 4 years.
- The CCEC will terminate its activities through a decision of the IUGG Executive Committee.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023-2027**

### **IUGG UNION COMMISSION ON MATHEMATICAL GEOPHYSICS**

#### **Preamble**

The IUGG Union Commission on Mathematical Geophysics (acronym, CMG) was established by decision of the IUGG Executive Committee in 1971. The earliest incarnation of the present CMG Committee was as the Working Group on Geophysical Theory and Computers (WGGTC), which was founded by Vladimir Keilis-Borok (IUGG President, 1987-1991). The first meeting of the WGGTC was held in Moscow and Leningrad, USSR in 1964 and the last in Moscow in 1971 with intervening meetings held once yearly. After 1971 the group was restructured as the Committee on Mathematical Geophysics (it was renamed as the Commission on Mathematical Geophysics in 2007), which has met on a semi-annual basis since that time, beginning with a meeting in Banff (Canada) in 1972. The schedule since 1986 has included the following sequence of major CMG-sponsored conferences: Oosterbeek (The Netherlands, 1986), Blanes (Spain, 1988), Jerusalem (Israel, 1990), Taxco (Mexico, 1992), Villefranche (France, 1994), Santa Fe (USA, 1996), Cambridge (UK, 1998), Villefranche sur Mer (France, 2000), Torino (Italy, 2002), New York (USA, 2004), Sea of Galilee (Israel, 2006), Svalbard (Norway, 2008), Pisa (Italy, 2010), Edinburgh (UK, 2012), Merida (Mexico, 2014), Paris (France, 2016), Nizhny Novgorod (Russia, 2018), and Seoul (Republic of Korea, 2022).

#### **Purpose**

The purpose and scope of CMG is to encourage exchange of ideas and information in all areas of geophysics, with emphasis on the application of mathematical theory to geophysical and geodetic problems, and to promote the development and application of mathematical methods and appropriate theoretical techniques for the solution of problems across the complete spectrum of geophysical disciplines. The CMG promotes and supports the application of basic geoscience and mathematics in support of sustainable development, as defined by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This requires interdisciplinary approach building on understanding of the complex dynamics of the Earth and its environment through the expertise of the Union Associations and developing quantitative methods to tackle challenging scientific problems. Links with IUGG Affiliated bodies and the International Science Council unions will be explored to merge the efforts of quantitative science toward the implementations of SDGs.

#### **Principal objectives**

- To build scientific capacity and to promote research and science education for addressing multi- and interdisciplinary issues involved in mathematical geophysics through scientific conferences, symposia, and advanced schools;
- To provide reliable quantitative information and interpretation of research and quantitative results supporting Scientific Associations of the IUGG as well as other international organizations; and
- To strengthen existing links to external organizations, to build new links to organizations outside the IUGG, and to promote IUGG's expertise in issues related to basic science and pure and applied mathematics.

#### **Specific tasks for 2023-2027**

- To organize and hold the 34<sup>th</sup> IUGG conference on mathematical geophysics in Mumbai, India, June 2-7, 2024 (<https://www.cmg2024.org/>);
- To organize and hold the 35<sup>th</sup> IUGG conference on mathematical geophysics in 2026;
- To organize and hold a Union symposium at the 29<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly in Incheon, Republic of Korea, in 2027;
- To organize a call for nomination of candidates for the Keilis-Borok Medal in 2023 and 2025, and to select and award the medalists;

- To develop a cooperation with the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG, an IUGG Affiliate Member); and
- To search for possibilities to establish a link with the International Mathematical Union (IMU) and International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM) (Members of the International Science Council).

### **Executive Committee**

- The CMG Executive Committee consists of officers, nominated representatives of the IUGG and its Scientific Associations, co-opted members, and the immediate Past Chair. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to further the scientific objectives of the Commission through effective co-ordination and through the formulation of general policies to guide the CMG scientific work.
- The officers are a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. The duties of the officers shall be to administer the affairs of the Commission in accordance with this Terms of Reference, the IUGG Statutes and By-Laws, and the decisions of the IUGG Council and IUGG Executive Committee.
- The CMG Chair shall determine the strategy of the Commission for the next four years, suggest new activities, oversee the implementation of the existing and new activities, convene all business meetings of the Commission, and submit annual and quadrennial reports on the CMG scientific work.
- In case of absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall act. If the Chair is incapable of remaining in office, the Vice-Chair shall become Chair and the CMG Executive Committee shall elect a new Vice-Chair from the remaining Members of the Executive Committee.
- The CMG Secretary shall arrange for CMG meetings, prepare and distribute the agenda and the minutes of the meetings; circulate all information related to the Commission; prepare annual and quadrennial scientific and financial reports on the CMG's activities; maintain a register of (i) all scientists attending CMG scientific events, (ii) CMG medalists, (iii) CMG Executive Committees and the Advisory Board members; and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall act as Treasurer of the Commission.
- Term of office of the CMG Executive Committee members is four years (the period between IUGG General Assemblies) but may be extended for one additional consecutive period. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve in their capacities for one period and their term of office may be extended for not more than one additional consecutive period. The Secretary shall serve for one period and her/his term of office may be extended for not more than two additional consecutive periods. Replacement of members shall be in a staggered manner to ensure efficient and continuous functioning of the Commission.

### **Procedure for selection of the Executive Committee Members**

- The CMG Executive Committee will have a staggered membership.
- Prior to an IUGG General Assembly, in consultation with officers of the relevant IUGG Associations and with their consent, retiring members of the CMG Executive Committee propose potential candidates to serve the next Executive Committee. Based on the list of the proposed candidates, CMG Chair prepares a shortlist of the candidates balancing geography, gender, and career stage, and contacts the shortlisted candidates discussing their role, duties, and workload.
- IUGG Associations may nominate an additional expert to sit on the CMG Executive Committee.
- CMG may co-opt up to four persons (irrespective of IUGG Association) to become members of the Executive Committee.
- Prior to or during an IUGG General Assembly, the CMG Executive Committee selects from among its members a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, who are not necessarily required to be designated representatives from one of the Scientific Associations of the IUGG.
- CMG Chair informs the IUGG President-Elect and Secretary General on the results of the selection. The list of CMG officers is subject to approval by the IUGG Bureau, and their term of office shall start immediately after the IUGG General Assembly.

- Any motions put to the CMG must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee.

### **Advisory Board**

- The CMG can appoint an Advisory Board comprising of experts in the field of mathematical geophysics, past members of the Commission who have had dedicated and exemplary service to the Commission, and representatives from relevant international, regional, and national organizations.
- The Board shall advise and provide guidance on (i) strategy in development of research on mathematical geophysics, (ii) strategy in geophysical and mathematical science education; and (iii) cooperation between IUGG and other organizations on problems related to mathematical geophysics and their use in implementation of sustainable development goals.

### **Membership**

- Membership of the CMG is open to all scientists who commit to the CMG purpose and objectives.
- Membership of the CMG does not lapse. However, members may be removed by the Executive Committee if they are inactive for a period of at least 8 years.

### **Awards**

The Vladimir Keilis-Borok Medal of the IUGG Commission on Mathematical Geophysics has been established by the IUGG Bureau in 2021 and recognizes middle career scientists, who have made important contributions to the field of mathematical geophysics. The aim of the Medal is to honor the legacy of Keilis-Borok – a visionary science leader and organizer, prolific mathematical geophysicist, the CMG founder, and former IUGG President – in promoting transformative scientific advancement and selfless leadership.

### **Meetings**

The CMG meets during IUGG General Assemblies and at scientific events it organizes.

### **Reporting**

The CMG submits annual activity and financial reports to the IUGG Secretary General and Treasurer, respectively.

### **Funding**

Based on the IUGG budget approved by the Council, the IUGG contributes annually a certain amount of funds to defray the costs of running the Commission; the small core budget is necessary as seed funding to ensure initial activities of the Commission and thus provide a basis for Commission members to seek additional resources on an activity-specific, or project, basis. The CMG shall have access to funds allocated by the IUGG. The CMG Secretary shall take care of the funds, arrange payments via the IUGG Treasurer, and keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the CMG.

### **Continuation**

- CMG is reviewed by the IUGG Executive Committee every 4 years.
- CMG terminates its activities by the decision of the IUGG Executive Committee.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023-2027**  
**IUGG UNION COMMISSION ON GEOPHYSICAL RISK AND SUSTAINABILITY**

- The IUGG Union Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (Georisk Commission; GRC) was established by decision of the IUGG Executive Committee in August 2000.

**Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the GRC is to promote scientific studies aimed at reducing risks from natural hazards in an increasingly urbanized world. The GRC shall facilitate communication between scientists through meetings, workshops, publications, websites etc., between scientists and decision makers, and between scientists and the general public.

- The scope of the GRC shall include research and knowledge dissemination on all types of geophysical hazards and their mitigation measures. The hazards shall include but are not limited to floods and droughts, landslides and debris flow, earthquakes and tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, fires, windstorms, magnetic storms and other natural or human induced environmental hazards. The GRC shall also promote and foster research activities on scientific aspects of geophysical hazards and risk minimization as well their societal impacts.

**Executive Committee**

Nine months prior to the General Assembly (every 4 years), each IUGG Association will be asked to nominate one expert to sit on the GRC Executive Committee, in cases where a position is vacant.

- Prior to an IUGG General Assembly, the GRC shall elect a Chair, two Vice-Chairs (on the basis of geographical location and research expertise), a Secretary and a Treasurer.
- The Chair, two Vice-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, the 8 representatives of associations and the immediate Past-Chair form the 14-member GRC Executive Committee.
- The IUGG President-Elect shall be informed about the results of the election prior to the IUGG General Assembly. The list of GRC Executive Officers is subject to approval by the IUGG Bureau and their term of office shall start immediately after the IUGG General Assembly.
- The Term of Office of a GRC Executive Officer shall be 4 years, but may be extended for a further period of not more than 4 years.

**Membership**

- Membership of the GRC is open to all scientists who share the mission of the GRC to promote research on natural hazards, disaster risk and sustainability to the benefit of society.
- Membership of the GRC does not lapse. However, members may be removed by the Executive Committee if they are inactive for a period of at least 4 years.
- The GRC Secretary shall keep an up-to-date register of members.

**Advisory Board**

- The GRC may appoint an Advisory Board of no more than five members comprising of experts in the field of natural hazards and risks, and representatives from relevant international, regional and national organizations.
- The Board shall advise on (i) strategy in development of research on natural hazards and risk, and (ii) cooperation between IUGG and other organizations on problems related to natural hazards, risks and sustainability. The Board shall provide guidance and constructive criticism to help charter the future direction of the GRC's activities.
- The term of office of an Advisory Board Member shall be 4 years initially but may be extended for a further period of not more than 4 years.



**Honorary Members**

- The GRC may from time to time appoint Honorary Members, comprising past or existing members of the Commission who have had dedicated and exemplary service to the Commission.
- The term of office of an Honorary Member is permanent.

**Meetings**

- The GRC shall meet during IUGG General Assemblies and at scientific events it organizes.

**Voting**

- Any motions put to the GRC, including nominations for Advisory Board and Honorary Members, must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee.

**Reporting**

- The GRC shall submit activity and financial reports to the IUGG Secretary General as required.

**Funding**

- The GRC shall have access to funds allocated by the IUGG.
- The GRC Treasurer shall collect funds, make payments and keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the GRC.

**Continuation**

- The GRC shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee of IUGG every 4 years.
- The GRC will terminate its activities through a decision of the IUGG Executive Committee.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023-2027**  
**IUGG UNION COMMISSION ON THE STUDY OF EARTH'S DEEP INTERIOR**

**Preamble**

SEDI is an international scientific organization dedicated to the **Study of the Earth's Deep Interior**. The ultimate goal of SEDI is an enhanced understanding of the past evolution and current thermal, dynamical and chemical state of the Earth's deep interior and of the effect that the interior has on the structures and processes observed at the surface of the Earth. The 'deep interior' is generally considered to be the core and lower mantle, but interest may extend to the surface, for example, in the study of mantle plumes or dynamics of descending lithospheric slabs.

The scientific questions and problems of interest to SEDI include the evolution of the Earth's deep interior, composition, structure and dynamics. Topics include: the Earth's mantle, its structure, evolution as well as its mineralogy and the properties of its deep reservoirs; the core-mantle boundary region and coupling between core and mantle; the fluid outer core, where the Earth's magnetic field is generated by dynamo action, and understanding the core dynamics, chemistry and evolution, tied to changes in the magnetic field through time; and finally the inner core, its structure, mineralogy and evolution.

**Purpose**

Since 1987, SEDI has been a Union Committee of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). As such, it cuts across the traditional discipline-oriented bounds of the Associations of the IUGG [such as the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI), and the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI)] which normally study the Earth from a particular point of view. The intent of SEDI is to amalgamate together the knowledge from different scientific disciplines to generate the most coherent and up-to-date picture of the structures, dynamics and evolution of the Earth's deep interior.

**Objectives**

SEDI serves the interests of the scientific community in three ways:

- by serving as an information conduit for scientific activities related to the deep interior of the Earth,
- by organizing scientific symposia and sessions at IUGG and other meetings,
- by providing an organizational framework for scientific projects.

**Specific goals for 2023-2027**

The purpose of SEDI is to provide an organizational framework to bring together researchers that have the common goal of furthering our understanding of the deep interior of Earth and other planets. This can only be achieved through a multi-disciplinary effort, and as such SEDI involves a combination of the different traditional scientific disciplines of IUGG.

The main activity of SEDI is to organize a scientific meeting every two years. This provides the SEDI community with an updated state-of-the-art picture of the Earth's Interior. Each of the eight sessions of the meeting begins with a keynote lecture that gives a broad view and is accessible to all, followed by two research talks that focus on particularly exciting new work. There is then ample time for poster presentations and discussion with all meeting participants, facilitated by session leaders. The meetings are organized to ensure that as many students and postdocs can attend, present their results, and get a chance to interact with the rest of the SEDI community. The meetings have traditionally involved an ideal mix of rigorous science in a relaxed and welcoming environment. At the meetings we award prizes (the Doornbos awards) to early career researchers that have made an outstanding contribution to our knowledge of the deep Earth.

Two SEDI meetings will take place in the next 4 years. The next SEDI meeting is planned for June 2024 at Bard College in Simon's Rock, Great Barrington, MA, USA. The lead organizer of the meeting is Michael Bergman. The location of the meeting to be held in the summer of 2026 is not yet decided.

Another important SEDI activity is to maintain a mailing list to communicate important information to the general SEDI community about upcoming meetings, job opportunities, etc. We will continue to fill this important role. We maintain a website where information about past and future meetings can be found.

### **Executive Committee**

SEDI is headed by a Chair, a Vice-Chair and a Secretary General and guided by an Executive Committee.

The officers are chosen at open business meetings held at the quadrennial IUGG General Assemblies. The terms of these three offices is for four years.

In the months following an IUGG General Assembly (every 4 years), SEDI officers are to contact the current members to determine whether they wish to remain on the SEDI executive committee. Vacant positions are filled by the following procedure: SEDI officers are to contact and nominate new members based on expertise, regular attendance to SEDI meetings, and on considerations of diversity of representation based on gender, geographic location, and fields of research.

### **Membership**

Membership is informal; it is sufficient to send an email message to the secretary, containing a name and an address, with an expression of interest to become a member of SEDI. The secretary of SEDI maintains an email list for the purpose of scientific exchange only.

### **Meetings**

SEDI organises a scientific meeting every two years. The meeting places are decided online through non-binding voting and announced through the mailing list and on the SEDI website. It is the responsibility of the SEDI officers to ensure that a meeting is organized, and through interaction with the local organizing committee, that the meeting follows the same format and is organized at the same standard as previous SEDI meetings.

Members of SEDI can also organise sessions during IUGG General Assembly, IASPEI and IAGA, and other SEDI-related meetings.

### **Reporting**

SEDI submits activity and financial reports to the IUGG Secretary General and Treasurer annually.

### **Funding**

SEDI receives funding from IUGG to support beginning scientists to attend the biennial SEDI meetings. The SEDI Secretary/Treasurer also writes biennial proposals to US NSF to support US-based beginning researchers to attend the SEDI meetings.

France's CNRS/INSU also regularly provides financial assistance to French researchers to attend SEDI meetings.

The Doornbos fund exists to award 2-3 small prizes at the biennial SEDI meetings to early career investigators who have made an outstanding contribution to our understanding of the deep Earth.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023-2027**

### **IUGG UNION COMMISSION ON PLANETARY SCIENCES**

#### **Preamble**

In the last half-century, planetary science has become a significant interdisciplinary field of research with the advances in space exploration and ground-based studies. The field now ventures far beyond the solar system to include planets around other stars and is attracting interdisciplinary scientists from around the world. Detailed characterization of planetary environments beyond our planet requires collaborative studies across many research fields of Earth and space sciences.

Several Associations of IUGG deal with planetary issues, but mostly independently. Namely, IAMAS has a commission devoted to planetary atmospheres – the International Commission on Planetary Atmospheres and Evolution (ICPAE). IAG had an Inter-Commission Committee on Planetary Geodesy and a Joint Project on Geodetic Planetology. IACS has a division on Planetary and other Ices of the Solar System. IASPEI and IAVCEI have been working on planetary interior structure and evolution, planetary seismology and volcanology. IAGA welcomes scientists to join in research of magnetism and aeronomy of other bodies of the solar system. With lakes and oceans being explored on outer planet moons such as Titan, Europa, Enceladus, and missions such as MESSENGER and BepiColombo, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter investigating the interior structure of rocky bodies like Mercury and the Moon, there is a need for a comprehensive home for planetary sciences within IUGG.

#### **Purpose**

The IUGG Union Commission on Planetary Sciences (UCPS) was established by decision of the IUGG Executive Committee in June 2015, which promotes the advancement of scientific understanding of planetary science and exploration of the solar system origin, formation and evolution including a search for life beyond Earth. The UCPS is jointly sponsored by IACS, IAG, IAGA, IAHS, IAMAS, IAPSO, IASPEI, and IAVCEI. The UCPS together with the IUGG associations will share the knowledge and insights on planetary formation and origin through scientific research and comparative studies between planetary objects and the Earth in the fields of atmosphere, surface and interiors research.

#### **Objectives**

- to promote the study of all scientific problems on planetary science and to encourage planetary research;
- to promote and coordinate international cooperation in planetary science, and promote planetary science activities in developing countries;
- to provide, on an international basis, for discussion and publication of the results of the studies, research and work indicated above;
- to contribute to coordinating activity for possible future space missions.

#### **Executive Committee**

- In advance of an IUGG General Assembly (every 4 years), each IUGG Association will be asked to nominate experts to sit on the UCPS Executive Committee, in cases where a position is vacant.
- Prior to an IUGG General Assembly, the UCPS shall select officers of the Commission: a Chair, two Vice-Chairs (on the basis of geographical location and/or research expertise), and a Secretary/Treasurer from the Executive Committee membership.
- The Chair, two Vice-Chairs, Secretary/Treasurer, members-at-large representing Union Associations, and the immediate Past-Chair form the UCPS Executive Committee. The number of members-at-large is determined so, that to get all Union Associations involved in the work of the Commission's Executive Committee. Normally the UCPS Executive Committee should have one representative from one Association.

- The IUGG President-Elect shall be informed about the results of the election prior to the IUGG General Assembly. The list of UCPS officers is subject to approval by the IUGG Bureau and their term of office shall start immediately after the IUGG General Assembly.
- The Term of Office of a UCPS officer shall be 4 years, but may be extended for a further period of not more than 4 years.
- Any motions put to the UCPS must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee.

#### **Membership**

- Membership of the UCPS is option to all scientists who share the UCPS purpose and objectives.
- Membership of the UCPS does not lapse. However, members may be removed by the Executive Committee if they are inactive for a period of at least 4 years.
- The UCPS Secretary shall keep an up-to-date register of members.

#### **Meetings**

- The UCPS shall meet during IUGG General Assemblies and at scientific events the commission organizes.

#### **Reporting**

- The UCPS shall submit activity and financial reports to the IUGG Secretary General annually and a quadrennial report 5 months before IUGG General Assembly.

#### **Funding**

- The UCPS shall have access to funds allocated by the IUGG.
- The UCPS Secretary/Treasurer shall collect funds, make payments and keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the UCPS.

#### **Continuation**

- The UCPS shall normally be reviewed by the Executive Committee of IUGG every 4 years.
- The UCPS will terminate its activities through a decision of the IUGG Executive Committee.