



Commission on Geoethics (CG)

Statutes

1. NAME AND DATE OF FOUNDATION

The Commission on Geoethics (acronym: CG) was founded on 1st January 2023 as a joint body of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG).

2. ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The official activities of the IUGS in the field of geoethics will be carried out by the CG, with the support and the direct contribution of the IAPG and its membership. The IAPG will continue to be an international, independent association affiliated to the IUGS, by maintaining its legal status and will continue to operate also independently outside the purview of the IUGS. The CG is the supporting branch of the IAPG to the IUGS and is the IUGS body that officially deals with geoethics and social geosciences for the Union.

This status represents the common opportunity to strengthen the impact of geoethics within and outside the international geoscience community, giving the possibility to the IUGS to promote its image of a leading organization that have included geoethics within its aims and activities.

The IUGS guarantees organizational and operational autonomy to the CG.

The IAPG undertakes to make its wide network of international relations available to the CG to promote the image of the IUGS and the activities of the CG.

The CG is comprised of experts of the IAPG appointed to coordinate long-term international cooperative activities on geoethics and social geosciences, and promote public awareness of the ethical and social implications of geoscience knowledge, research, practice, education, and communication.

The CG adopts the Cape Town Statement on Geoethics (<https://www.geoethics.org/ctsg>) as its fundamental document on geoethics that includes the Geoethical Promise, a Hippocratic-like oath for geoscientists (<https://www.geoethics.org/geopromise>).



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3. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the CG is English.

4. ORGANIZATION

The CG has a governing board of five members comprising:

- a) chair
- b) vice-chair
- c) treasurer
- d) two councilors.

These members are nominated by the IAPG Executive Council and ratified by the IUGS Executive Committee.

Each member of the CG governing board is appointed for four years (first term), renewable for another four years (second term). Additional members can be co-opted to the governing board for particular merits or expertise in the field of geoethics beyond the maximum number of two terms. These additional members do not have the right to vote inside the GC governing board.

The CG governing board may appoint a contact person in each country that is an IUGS affiliate or IAPG partner organization and may revoke the appointment at any time, without seeking the ratification of the IUGS.

The meetings of the CG governing board are held preferentially online.

The CG governing board may create and dissolve (at any time) Task Groups on specific issues and themes, without requiring the ratification of the IUGS. Each Task Group has a coordinator and may consist of an unlimited number of members, appointed by the CG governing board.

The CG governing board is supported by a Secretariat.

All GC members act voluntarily, without remuneration.

5. SECRETARIAT

The CG Secretariat is hosted in the headquarters of the IAPG, in Italy, c/o the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Via di Vigna Murata, 605 - 00143 Rome. The CG may establish representative offices in other countries. The Secretariat manages the CG website and social media.



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6. DURATION

The CG has a minimum duration of 8 years (two IUGS cycles assuming satisfactory performance following the first term) starting from its foundation. This allows the CG to operate independently within the IUGS for a sufficient time span.

7. STYLE

There are two founding principles that govern the style in conducting the affairs of the CG:

- a) The CG is an IUGS body, at all times free from racial, gender, religious, political, or national prejudices;
- b) The CG is constituted within an informal a style, keeping the spirit of friendship and loyal cooperation established by its members.

Each member of the GC governing board and Task Groups undertakes to accept this statute, the values of geoethics in the Cape Town Statement on Geoethics and the Geoethical Promise.

8. MISSION

The CG focuses on ethical issues, values, approaches, initiatives within the IUGS community in order to:

- 1) develop a more just, equitable, and inclusive working environment in the IUGS, by promoting fair, honest, and professional cooperation between the IUGS bodies and fostering a responsible interaction between individual scientists and groups operating within the reference community;
- 2) carry out activities for increasing the awareness of the ethical and social implications of geoscience knowledge and practice;
- 3) promote the adoption of geoethical principles and values as part of the professional skill of geoscientists;
- 4) foster geoethical perspectives in the geoscience practices and applications;
- 5) make geoethics an essential point of reference for any action on land, subsoil, waters, and atmosphere usage that stakeholders and decision-makers have to take into proper account while interacting with the Earth system;



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- 6) enhance multidisciplinary approaches in dealing with local and global anthropogenic changes by creating opportunities for cooperation between geosciences and the humanities.

9. CORE BUSINESS

The core business of the CG consists of the following activities, to be developed in cooperation with the IAPG and its School on Geoethics and Natural Issues:

- Drafting and updating ethical guidelines for the IUGS.
- Supporting the IUGS (officers and bodies) regarding questions such as unprofessional conduct, misconduct, harassment, retaliation, racism, sexism, conflicts of interest and others.
- Fostering the participation of women in activities, events, and other initiatives organized or supported by the IUGS with the aim of reducing the gender gap and increasing diversity.
- Cooperating with IUGS bodies to focus on geoethical issues or other themes of mutual interests.
- Contributing to IUGS events (congresses, including the International Geological Congress - ICG, conferences, videos, webinar, etc.) or any other scientific or public events.
- Supporting the IUGS in developing activities at the geoscience-policy interface and delicate issues related to geoscience-society interaction.
- Promoting the adoption of the Geoethical Promise within Universities and geoscience organizations.
- Organizing events that address ethical and social implications of geoscience knowledge, research, practice, education, and communication.
- Training on geoethics, professional ethics, data ethics, and publication ethics.
- Networking with geoscience (affiliated or not to the IUGS) and humanities organizations to create opportunities for bridging geosciences and human and social sciences.
- Fostering opportunities to increase the impact of IUGS in Latin American and African countries by promoting activities to foster the culture of geosciences among local geoscience communities.
- Supporting the IUGS in enlarging its network in countries in which the presence of the IUGS is missing or to be developed/increased.
- Preparing an annual report containing the outcomes of the reference year, a plan of activities for the new year, and a financial request to the IUGS. The annual report will contain results,



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activities, events, publications, or any kind of outcomes of the IAPG to be considered as outcomes of the CG.

10. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The GC will manage its funds through the bank account of the IAPG. IAPG will support the GC in managing its financial income and expenses.

The CG is funded annually by the IUGS upon presentation of a financial report of the expenses incurred for the current year and a financial plan of the expenses estimated for the new year by the GC treasurer according to the GC governing board. In case of specific tasks requested by the IUGS during the year, GC may submit an additional request for funds if necessary.

The GC governing board may deliberate on the reimbursement of expenses incurred to attend meetings, to carry out tasks or to buy goods and services necessary for the management of the GC.

11. LOGO

The CG governing body adopts a CG logo.

12. WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The IAPG will make available to the GC dedicated pages on its website (<https://www.geoethics.org>), by including all information on the GC and the CG logo, and undertake to update them regularly. In addition, CG has its official social media pages. The CG website and social media are managed by the CG Secretariat.

13. CHANGES TO THE STATUTES

Changes to the CG Statutes can be requested by the majority of the voting member of the GC governing board. Modifications to the GC Statutes will be subjected to the approval of the IUGS Executive Council.

Rome (Italy), 31th December 2022