



A message from
Prof. Hassina Mouri
President,
International Union of
Geological Sciences
(IUGS)



Dear Council Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

As 2024 draws to a close, I am filled with pride and gratitude as I reflect on the remarkable activities of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) over the past year. It has been a year of historic milestones, visionary initiatives, and collective progress, and I am delighted to share some of the year's highlights with you.

A Landmark Event in Africa

In February 2024, IUGS achieved a groundbreaking milestone by holding its 79th Executive Meeting in Nairobi, Africa, marking the first time in our history that an ordinary executive meeting took place on the African continent. This transformative initiative was driven by a profound commitment to engage with geoscience organizations across Africa and to tackle pressing challenges where geoscience and IUGS could make a meaningful difference. Through this effort, Ten Action Plans in Africa (TAP Africa) were identified, laying the groundwork for impactful activities that are already underway.



Inspired by the success of this initiative, we are determined to replicate it in other regions, including South and Latin America and Southeast Asia, in the future.

The Resurgence of the IGC



After the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC), initially planned to be held in India in 2020, was canceled. The 37th International Geological Congress (IGC) held in Busan, South Korea, from August 25-31, 2024, marked a triumphant return to in-person global geoscience collaboration. As the first IGC since 2016, this event brought together over 4,000 delegates from across the globe, creating an extraordinary platform for knowledge exchange aiming at advancing geosciences. A comprehensive report on this historic event will be published in early 2025, capturing the vibrancy and success of this congress. This significant return after the pandemic underscores the resilience and determination of the geoscience community. During the same event, a team of geoscientists from Canada won the bid to host the next IGC 38 in Calgary. We are looking forward to another exciting and successful event. You can follow the preparation of the event at: <https://www.igc2028canada.org/>.

A New Era of IUGS Leadership

At the 5th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council during the 37th IGC in Busan, a new IUGS Executive Committee (2024-2028) was elected, ushering in a dynamic chapter of leadership. On August 28-29, 2024, I had the immense honor of being elected President, becoming the first female and African geoscientist to hold this role in IUGS's 63-year history. This momentous achievement was complemented by a remarkably dynamic and balanced Executive Committee, with equal gender representation and members from every corner of the world including Africa, Europe, Asia, North America, South America, and Oceania reflecting the global nature of IUGS. For more details on the new Executive Committee, visit www.iugs.org.

A historic photograph with the four IUGS Presidents taken after the election of the new president 2024-2028. From left to right: Prof Roland Oberhänsli (Germany) (2012-2016), Prof Qiuming Cheng (China/Canada) (2016-2020), Prof John Ludden (UK) (2020-2024), and Prof Hassina Mouri (South Africa/Algeria) (2024-2028).



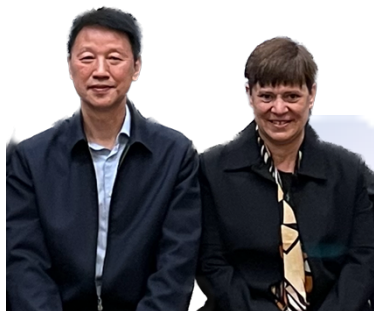
Photograph showing the members of the 2024-2028 IUGS Executive Committee. From left to right: John Ludden, Farnoosh Farjandi, Renee M. Clary, Josephine Uushona, Lola Pereira, Yamirca Rojas-Agramonte, Ludwig Stroink, Hassina Mouri, David Cohen, Maria Rose Petrizzo, Marko Komac and Weijun Zhao.

Driving Progress: 100 Days of Dedication

Since our election, the new Executive Committee has embarked on a vigorous mission to advance IUGS's objectives and strengthen its role within the geoscience community. In just over 100 days, we have held multiple virtual Business meetings, including monthly Bureau discussions and an interim Executive Committee progress meeting, to ensure our agenda remains bold and impactful. These efforts have deepened our collaboration with key partners, including the International Science Council (ISC), UNESCO, and the International Geoscience Program (IGCP), enhanced IUGS's visibility, and revitalized engagement with its members worldwide.

Strengthening Global Partnerships: A Visit to China

In October 2024, I was honored to visit China to attend a series of events and meetings at the invitation of the Ministry of Natural Resources. This visit was a testament to IUGS's commitment to fostering international collaboration. Highlights included engaging discussions with Dr. Li Jinfa, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and President of the China Geological Survey, and Mr. Chen Jiachang, Vice Minister of Science and Technology.



Photograph to the left shows Prof Mouri with Dr. Li Jinfa and the one to the right is with Mr. Chen Jiachang.



I also delivered keynote addresses at the opening ceremonies of the International Symposium on Deep Earth Exploration and Practice (DEEP-2024) in Beijing and the event organized by the International Lithosphere Program (ILP), one of the successful long-term joint initiatives between IUGS and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG).



Prof. Mouri giving an opening address at DEEP 2024.

In addition, I had the privilege to visit several institutions and research centers, including the Ministry of Natural Resources Labs, the Beijing SHRIMP Center, the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS), and the IUGS Secretariat office. I also met with members of the Association of Women Scientists in Earth Sciences at Nanjing University and researchers involved in the Deep-Time Digital Earth (DDE) program, the first IUGS-recognized big science program, with whom I had enriching and promising discussions on potential collaborations in various fields of geosciences. The visit concluded with meaningful dialogues on geo-heritage preservation at the Tianzhusan UNESCO Global Geopark.

Strengthening IUGS Representation Across the Globe Through Various Events

In 2024, the IUGS continued demonstrating its global presence and commitment to advancing geoscience by participating in various geoscience events. Beyond the President's impactful engagements in China, IUGS representatives delivered keynote addresses (virtually) at several significant international conferences. Vice President M.R. Petrizzo represented IUGS at the Symposium on Submarine Geohazards and Offshore Wind Development hosted by the Science Council of Japan in

Tokyo. Vice President M. Komac brought IUGS's vision to the 12th International Conference on the Geology of Africa (ICGA-12) at Assiut University, Egypt. I was honored to represent IUGS at the Virtual Workshop on Sample Preparation: A Key Stage for Generating Geochemical Information organized by the Geochemistry Expert Group of the Association of Ibero-American Geological and Mining Surveys (ASGMI). These engagements demonstrate our dedication to fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing across diverse geoscientific disciplines and regions.

Anticipating the 81st IUGS Executive Committee Meeting in Paris

As we look ahead to 2025, preparations are underway for the 81st IUGS Executive Committee meeting, scheduled for March 17–20 in Paris, France. We deeply appreciate the Geological Society of France for graciously offering to host our meeting. This meeting is an essential platform for Executive Committee members, leaders, and representatives of IUGS constituent groups to engage in meaningful dialogue during the open session. Together, we will reflect on achievements, address challenges, align objectives, and set the course for a future of stronger collaboration. By fostering these exchanges, we aim to deepen connections and enhance the collective impact of IUGS and its constituent groups on the global geoscience community. Further details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Gratitude and Best Wishes for the Festive Season

As we conclude a transformative year, I extend, on behalf of the entire IUGS Executive Committee, our heartfelt gratitude to all our members, partners, and constituent groups. Your unwavering support, scientific contributions, and tireless efforts have been instrumental in advancing geoscience for the benefit of society. I also want to sincerely thank the IUGS Secretariat team, whose daily dedication ensures the seamless execution of our activities, and the Chinese government for their steadfast support of our Secretariat office in Beijing, which has strengthened our relationship with the host country.

In closing, we wish you all a joyful conclusion to 2024 and a New Year 2025 filled with health, success, prosperity, and progress in geoscience. Together, and in the spirit of *Ubuntu*, let us make 2025 another remarkable chapter in the IUGS journey.

With Best Regards,



Hassina Mouri

President, [IUGS](#)

Member- [South African Academy of Science](#)

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