

Guidelines for Ethical Conduct at IUGS/IGC Meetings and Events

Preamble. The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is an international community of geoscientists that fosters dialog and communication by organising meetings, symposia, and field trips and publishing peer-reviewed scientific work. IUGS and International Geological Congress (IGC) events are intended to provide a safe, productive, and welcoming environment for all participants in which they can effectively share reliable geoscience knowledge. Participants in IUGS and IGC events include event organizers, speakers, attendees, volunteers, exhibitors, representatives of outside bodies, and public visitors. Contributing to making the event a positive and productive experience for everyone is the ethical responsibility of all participants. These guidelines apply to all participants in all IUGS and IGC activities, including ancillary meetings, events, and social gatherings.

PRINCIPLES

Show respect as a member of the IUGS community
Be honest and act with integrity in all situations
Be civil, courteous, and fair in interacting with others
Promote and protect safety in all plans, decisions, and actions

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

(EDIA). Organisers of IUGS meetings, including IGCs, must ensure that they are organised and conducted without any discriminatory bias.

2. Scientific Standards. Geoscientists must abide by accepted research standards (such as the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity) as they communicate their reproducible data, testable hypotheses, and interpretations at IUGS/IGC events.

3. Prior Ethical Commitments. Many participants in IUGS/IGC events are members of other geoscience organizations governed by codes of ethical conduct to which they have personally committed. The geoscience community expects participants to abide by these pre-existing ethical commitments during IUGS/IGC events and at all other times.

4. Behaviour – All Participants. While the debate of scientific ideas is encouraged, participants are expected to behave in a respectful and professional manner. Bullying or harassment (including sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, sexual attention or innuendo, deliberate intimidation, stalking, intrusive photography or recording of an individual without consent, or inappropriate comments or jokes that are sexist, racist, or exclusionary) will not be tolerated. Participants must disclose potentially relevant conflicts of interest in a explicit and timely manner.

5. Behaviour – Organisers, Convenors, and Session Chairs. All those responsible for organising, convening, chairing, or hosting all or any part of an IUGS meeting are expected to ensure that contributions and participants are invited fairly and without conflict, that selection and programming decisions are made transparently and without bias, and that participants are treated respectfully and professionally.

6. Authorship and Acknowledgement. Participants should take responsibility for their contributions to all material presented by them as their own work. They should also acknowledge the names and roles of those who made significant contributions to the research, including writers, funders, sponsors, and others who might not meet authorship criteria.

7. Peer Review. Organisers, convenors, session chairs and any other person responsible for reviewing abstracts or proposed submissions shall provide fair, prompt, unbiased, and rigorous evaluations. They shall respect confidentiality and disclose any conflicts of interest when reviewing others' work.

8. Adherence to Rules. All participants must obey all applicable laws and adhere to all rules, policies, and procedures covering ethical behaviour, EDIA, complaints, and disciplinary procedures adopted and published by IUGS or IGC. They must also obey the rules and policies of the meeting venue, hotels, IUGS/IGC-contracted facility, or any other venue where a participant's meeting badge and IUGS affiliation will likely be displayed.

9. Public Communications. In discussions with the public during IUGS/IGC events, participants should limit their comments to their recognized areas of expertise and clearly distinguish professional comments from opinions based on personal views.

10. Complaints and Disputes. Complaints about matters that occur during IUGS/IGC events should be communicated to the event organizers or the event staff for investigation and resolution.

11. Penalties. Participants who violate these ethical guidelines in a significant way might be subject to penalties from IUGS/IGC, including (but not limited to) expulsion from the meeting or event.

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