



Message from Prof. Hassina Mouri
President,
International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)
December 2025



*D*ear council members, colleagues, and friends,

As 2025 draws to a close, I wish to reflect upon our collective efforts and achievements. This year has been marked by renewed commitment, enhanced collaborations, and increased visibility of the Union. I hereby extend my sincere gratitude for the trust placed in me and the Executive Members, as well as for your continued guidance and support as we strive to fulfil the Union's mission and achieve its objectives.

The year 2025 has been a time of reflection, reconnection, renewal, and growth. It has reminded us that our strength comes not only from our scientific expertise but also from our willingness to collaborate, communicate, care, listen, and reinvent ourselves when needed.

As we enter the new year, we believe that the Union stands on firmer ground with increased membership, modernized communication channels, and strengthened regional and global relationships. Therefore, I am confident that we are well-positioned to continue expanding our global presence and to develop new opportunities and initiatives that will significantly enhance a more inclusive and impactful global geoscience community.

A Year of Global Engagement and Partnership

Over the past few months, IUGS has participated in several major international events across Africa, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and Oceania. These activities allowed us to deliver keynote speeches, host scientific sessions, sponsor initiatives, set up exhibition booths, and meet with government representatives, policymakers, academies, and professional societies. Each event not only increased the union's visibility but also strengthened existing partnerships and created opportunities for new collaborations and greater scientific exchange.

Among the notable achievements were the participation of the Union in the ISC¹ 3rd General Assembly & Geo-unions Meeting in Oman, the Eco Forum Global Guiyang in China, the 30th Colloquium of African Geology in Kenya, GEOMIN in Saudi Arabia,

¹ ISC: International Science Council

and CCOP² in Laos, the International Symposium on the Tethys Evolution and Biotic and Environmental Responses in Beijing, China, and the 5th IPGC³ in Spain. The IUGS Secretariat also hosted booths at events such as AGU⁴, CGU⁵, EGU⁶, GEOMIN, and CCOP, which further increased our visibility and engagement with the global geoscience community.



IUGS @ Geo-Unions meeting, Oman, Jan 2025



IUGS in Oman with Minister of Higher Education.



IUGS @UNESCO, March 2025



IUGS in Africa (Lilongwe, Malawi, Sep 2025)



IUGS in Africa (CAG30, Nairobi, Sept. 2025)



IUGS in Saudi Arabia (Geol. Survey, Oct. 2025)

² CCOP: Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programs in East and Southeast Asia

³ IPGC: International Professional Geology Conference

⁴ AGU: American Geophysical Union

⁵ CGU: Chinese Geoscience Union

⁶ EGU: European Geosciences Union



IUGS in Asia (China, Oct. 2025)



BLOOM General Assembly
4th Nov 2025, Zaragoza, Spain

IUGS in Europe (Spain, Nov 2025)



IUGS in SE-Asia (Laos, Nov. 2025)



IUGS in the USA, (AGU, Dec. 2025)

In addition to these in-person engagements that other Executive Members and I attended, I had the privilege of delivering virtual keynote speeches at several significant events, including the 2025 Annual Academic Conference of the Geological Society of China, the International Conference on Geological Hazards in Pakistan in Islamabad, the GeoMinE International Conference in Brazil, the Geoscience Education event in Ghana, and the 36th Meeting of the Lithuanian Geological Society.



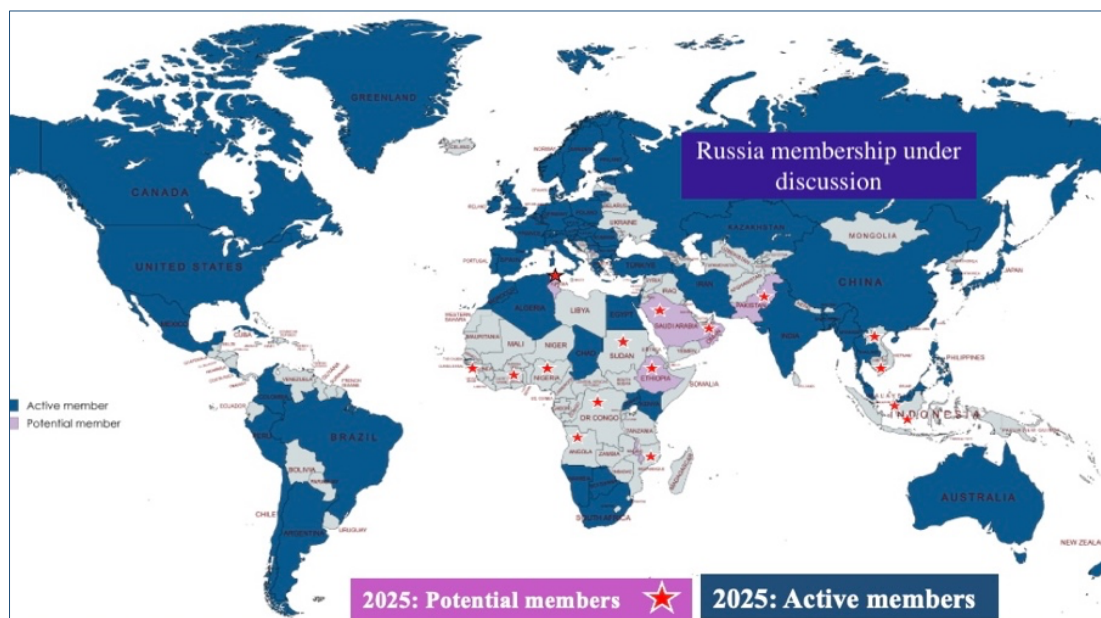
These diverse engagements reaffirm the importance of IUGS's voice in global geoscience discussions. They again show the respect IUGS has internationally and highlight the need to continue sharing our perspectives to help shape the future of Earth science.

Strengthening the Union through Expanding Membership and Institutional Growth

A strong and inclusive membership is the foundation of a thriving global scientific union. This year, we continued to broaden our reach and reinforce our commitment to global representation. We welcomed Ethiopia and Ghana as new IUGS adhering members, and we were pleased to reactivate Nigeria and Kosovo. We also celebrated the addition of ASGMI⁷ as a new affiliated organisation.

Looking ahead, we will continue our active dialogue with several countries, including Saudi Arabia, Oman, Malawi, Togo, Tunisia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Brunei, and Laos, among others, which have expressed interest in joining or re-engaging with the Union.

These developments demonstrate our belief that a vibrant, diverse, and globally connected membership is crucial to achieving IUGS's mission. We are encouraged by the renewed enthusiasm across regions and eager to build on this momentum in the year ahead.



Modern Platforms for a Modern Union

This year has also been a period of institutional modernization. Beyond international representation, IUGS has worked diligently to strengthen its organisational and scientific initiatives. We updated the IUGS website, finalised the 2024 Annual Report, and redesigned the E-Bulletin. Additionally, we refreshed our communication materials, including the global membership map, brochure, and promotional items, all of which now reflect a more modern, unified image. These improvements create a clearer, more unified image of the Union. They support our long-term goal of increasing the Union's visibility, enhancing transparency, and enabling geoscientists worldwide to better access and participate in IUGS activities and resources.

⁷ ASGMI: Association of Iberoamerican Geological and Mining Surveys

Scientific Collaboration and Program Development

Our scientific programs are essential to the Union’s mission. This year, we actively supported geoscientific conferences across different regions and continued investing in long-term scientific commissions, task group initiatives, and joint program research activities. These efforts ensure that IUGS remains a global leader in scientific innovation and collaboration.

Our partnership with UNESCO through the designation of new UNESCO Global Geoparks and the IGCP⁸ continues to strengthen. Together, we launched a new initiative focusing on specific regions, especially in the Global South, starting with Africa in 2025 through IGCP-2025-Africa. This highly competitive program funded three top-tier projects with significant societal impact and postgraduate student training, marking the first time in the history of the IUGS-UNESCO collaboration through IGCP. We plan to expand this initiative to other regions of the Global South in 2026.

Through these collaborative efforts, IUGS continues to play a key role in enhancing research capacity, promoting geoscience education, and advancing the use of geoscience knowledge to support sustainable development worldwide.

⁸ IGCP: International Geoscience Program

Looking Ahead: From the 81st EC Meeting in Paris to the 82nd EC Meeting in Bogotá

The 81st Executive Committee Meeting in Paris was a great success, bringing together over 70 delegates from our constituent groups, as well as adhering and affiliated organisations. We would like to once again sincerely express our gratitude to the Geological Society of France for hosting this event and for their support, which contributed to its success.

Building on this, our next gathering is showing even greater enthusiasm, with strong interest from around 100 delegates who have confirmed their intention to participate.

As we prepare for 2026, we are pleased to announce that the 82nd IUGS Executive Committee Meeting will be held from January 24-27, 2026, in Bogotá, Colombia. This will be the first time in the Union's history that the event is hosted in the region. The event will be preceded by a two-day session on LAC-Geoscience, where experts will discuss how geoscience can help address regional geological issues. This gathering marks a milestone in our efforts to enhance scientific collaboration, promote regional cooperation, and better understand emerging geoscience priorities and challenges. We sincerely thank the Geological Survey of Colombia for their generous offer to host this historic event, and Prof. Jorge Gómez Tapias and his team for their tireless efforts in preparing for it.



Participants of the 81st EC Meeting, Paris, March 2025

Ending 2025 with Gratitude, Appreciation, and Best Wishes

As we conclude this productive year, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all members of the IUGS community—our supporting members and organisations, commissions, task groups, initiatives, affiliated organisations, partners, and the many geoscientists who contribute to our mission. I truly value your ongoing support, dedication, and commitment. I look forward to continuing this journey with you as we guide the Union toward a more connected and impactful future.

I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to the IUGS Secretariat team for their dedication, professionalism, and diligent efforts, which have facilitated notable advancements. Additionally, we are profoundly appreciative of the Chinese Government's steadfast support of the Secretariat office in Beijing, which has substantially contributed to the seamless functioning of the Union.

In conclusion, we extend our heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a peaceful and joyful end to 2025, as well as a healthy, fulfilling, and prosperous New Year 2026.

With warm regards,

Hassina Mouri

حسينة موري

President, International Union of Geological Sciences

Johannesburg, 12/12/2025

