

Minutes, Council Meeting

3, 5 & 6 September 2023

Cairo, Egypt

In Attendance:

President	Lena Halounová (LH)
Vice President	Nicolas Papparoditis (NP)
Secretary General	Jiang Jie (JJ)
Past President	Christian Heipke (CH) - excused
Treasurer	Stewart Walker (SW)
Congress Director	Derek Lichti (DL)

Guests:

Charles Toth (CT) ISAC
Gunter Schreier (GS) IPAC
Hartmut Rosengarten (HR) IIAC - excused
Saeed Hussain Al Mansoori (SAM) GSW 2025
Ghariba Salem (GhS) GSW 2025
Naser-El-Sheimy (NES) GSW 2023
Orhan Altan (OA) ICORSE
Senthil Kumar (SK) TIF and FC
Clément Mallet (CleM) E-in-C IJPRS (remote)
Qihao Weng (QW) EiC IJPRS
George Vosselman (GV) EiC IOJPRS
Kostas Bischiniotis (KB) Elsevier
Wolfgang Kainz (WK) EiC IJGI
Petar Jeremic (PJ) MDPI
Liliane Auwerter (LA) MDPI Scientific Officer – Engineering
Alper Yilmaz (AY) TCP II
Gay Jane Perez (GJP) TCP V
Ludwig Hoegner (LudH), MemberIPC - GSW 2025
Raul Queiroz Feitosa (RQF) Reg. Rep. Latin America

Minutes:

ISPRS Headquarters Annette Radtke (AR)

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Minutes

1 Opening Remarks

LH opened the meeting at 13:30 on Sunday 3 September and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. She informed the participants that Gunter Schreier would not attend the meetings due to an emergency.

2 Approval of the Agenda

LH asked to add two extra issues for item 18. The agenda was otherwise approved.

3 Approval of CM Minutes

The minutes from February 2023 in Denver were approved as corrected

The Telecon minutes from May were approved.

As the minutes from the telecon on 12 July were not sent to Cnl for amendment, they will be approved at the next meeting following revision from Cnl.

4 Review of Council Action List

The action list was revised.

5 Science and Policy Matters

5.1 Statutes & Bylaws

Action 23/1127: NP to incorporate amendments from the discussion in Cairo into the Google Doc on St&BLs and send it to Cnl for comments, by 31 January 2024

5.2 ISAC Report

CT reported on ISAC, requesting Cnl's input on minorities, women, age and global distribution for ISAC members. See Report for details.

Relating to the task given to them to revise P&RS terminology, ISAC advise using Stuart Granshaw's 2020 publication *Photogrammetric terminology: fourth edition* (<https://www.isprs.org/documents/default.aspx>; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/phor.12314>).

CT asked that the list of ISAC members be updated.

Action 23/1128: SG to follow up with CT on ISAC website regarding ISAC rules, and distribute to Cnl for approval, by 30 September 2023

Action 23/1129: Cnl to determine definition of remote sensing recommended by ISAC (see ISAC report from CM Cairo item 5.2 in annex), by 1 May 2024

5.3 IPAC Report

GS could not report due to emergency hospitalisation. The IPAC report can be found in the annex. A discussion will be held in next CM if necessary.

GS will retire in August 2024 but will continue as IPAC chair. LP, with IPAC, introduced a statement prepared to be given by ISPRS to the COP28 meeting. This was approved and it was agreed that SW should provide final edits, after which it should be posted to the ISPRS website. See agendum 12.5 below.

5.4 IIAC Report

SW reported on IIAC activities, using a presentation prepared by HR.

A flyer about IIAC could be printed and distributed and a message should be published on the website. There should be discussion with SK about IIAC involvement in his idea for new initiatives.

Action 23/1130: SG to inform SK to contact IIAC about its involvement in his idea for new initiatives, 31 Dec 2023

5.5 CIPA Report

LH reported on the CIPA Conference in Florence. Four female students attended thanks to TIF grants.

5.6 ICORSE Report

OA reported on relations with ICORSE. Concerns related to the committee and the ISRSE events are to be discussed with IPAC.

Action 23/1131: LH to discuss with IPAC (GS) about a potential meeting with ICORSE, by 31 October 2023

5.7 ICOMOS Report

LH reported on ICOMOS, which is a sister organization of ISPRS, but is more visible in CIPA. There are no direct relations with ICOMOS other than common activity at CIPA conferences. CIPA proceedings are published in the ISPRS Archives and Annals.

6 Financial Affairs

SW is investigating software for an updated database system and will report back to Cnl on his findings at the Spring Meeting 2024.

Action 23/1132: SW to investigate database systems and report to Cnl in Changsha, by 1 May 2024

6.1 Financial Report

There are no concerns related to the financial report. The FinC advises ISPRS to keep the 2024 financial balance of the budget.

6.2 Changing Banks

SK reported that the FinC would welcome a change of bank, which has yet to be selected.

6.3 Investment Possibilities

Council agreed that investment possibilities will be further investigated following the changing of banks.

6.4 Receiving Funds from US Government Bodies

Council agreed that SW will investigate a service to deal with issues related to ISPRS registration in Maryland.

6.5 2024 Budget

The budget was discussed.

Action 23/1133: Cnl to inform SW of travel support in 2024, also for expected guests, by 30 September 2023

6.6 Membership

6.6.1 New Members

It was decided that ISPRS should have a Forum and a Technology Track at every important ISPRS meeting to strengthen collaboration with national mapping agencies and industry and also find new StMs.

One AsM and two StMs are new, and one StM has cancelled thus far in 2023.

Action 23/1134: SW to contact Reg Reps regarding potential new members from unrepresented countries, by 30 October 2023

Action 23/1135: LH to send email to TCPs and GSW organizers to encourage them to arrange a Forum and a Technology Track to strengthen collaboration with national mapping agencies and industry, by 15 October 2023

6.6.2 Members in Arrears

Two payments of OdM fees have been made in cash during GSW 2023.

One AsM has paid for 2023 but not for 14 years arrears. SW is in communication with the member.

6.7 TIF

SK informed SAM on the importance of an early time schedule for GSW2025 to allow for travel grant recipients to book travel, and asked that registration waivers be granted. He asked that GSW 2025 reviewers' comments be sent to TIF committee. NP suggested that, for each event for which TIF would make awards, an MoU be signed between TIF and the organizers.

TIF has supported three major events during 2023.

The new Grants Evaluation Commission requires Cnl advice on the following issues:

- TIF proposes offering grants for the 2024 Symposia to the total value of \$50,000. Distribution will be defined according to attendance numbers.
- TIF suggests supporting a recipient only once per ISPRS term. Organisers are only offering early-bird registration but no waivers – can Cnl positively influence this?
- The Fund-Raising Committee is not active.

TIF would like more personal contact with Cnl, and would like ISPRS to cover the costs to attend meetings.

Action 23/1136: Cnl to comment on TIF issues (see TIF report Cairo CM 6.7), by 31 January 2024

7 Technical Commission Progress

7.1 Symposia Preparation

7.1.1 TC V Symposium Dates

The dates will stay as 6-8 August 2024 in Manila. It is expected that the weather conditions will be acceptable.

7.1.2 TC II Symposium Dates

AY asked to receive a loan from ISPRS for 20% of the hotel fees. He will finalise the first contract and then add an amendment for an ISPRS loan. Cnl suggested seeking funds from the OdM and industry for financial support. AY is conducting multiple meetings with the OdM and its management company.

7.2 Contracts

Two contracts with ISPRS have been received (TC I and TC IV). TCPs have been asked to forward contracts to SG for ConfTool and Copernicus as well.

Action 23/1137: SG to follow up with TCPs to have the Symposia contracts signed, asap

7.3 Websites

All Symposia have websites up but some still need a lot of input and/or re-directing. The symposia websites can be part of the ISPRS website.

Action 23/1138: SG to check Symposia websites for content and contact TCPs if needed, permanently before their individual opening date

8 Congress 2026

See JM minutes.

9 GSW Reports

9.1 GSW 2025

LudH informed Cnl of discussions with SAM. Contact has been made with ConfTool and it is planned to have the contract signed in September and the system set up by February so that it is ready for calls in March. A copy of the GSW2023 instance will be used to start the process.

Final checking of camera-ready papers is to be discussed with GSW organisers. The final deadline for these papers should be set two weeks before the required date, determined by the contract with Copernicus prior to the event.

MBRSC will support emerging countries, offering students onsite accommodation (with government support) from \$50 per night in apartments.

Action 23/1139: NP to discuss with DGPF President on sharing conference management systems, by 30 September 2023

9.2 GSW 2023 Report

NES reported:

Final programme: 650 presentations, 50+ countries, 100+ scientific sessions, 15+ plenary presentations, 3 editorial board meetings. 28 workshops.

Educational activities: 4 tutorials, 150 attendees, (+50 free students with waived fees).

He strongly recommends having a session "Females in Remote Sensing" in the GSW 2025 and Congress 2026.

The contract with Copernicus will be signed, the material will be transferred immediately after the event, and the proceedings are expected to be published by early October.

LH thanked NES for the excellent preparation of GSW 2023.

10 Social Media

10.1 Hootsuite

ISPRS has a Hootsuite license available for ISPRS social media improvement.

10.2 Social Media Manager

The call for a funded Social Media Manager will be forwarded to SC and ME for distribution.

Action 23/1140: LH to convey reply to text and time needed to SW for Media Manager position, by 30 September 2023

Action 23/1141: SG to forward the final text on Media Manager position from SW to SC and ME, by 10 October 2023

10.3 Payment for Social Media Manager

The final sum of payment will be decided after the agreement has been made with the selected social media manager. It will depend on the hours worked.

10.4 Council Members Responsible for the Social Media

LH agreed to be the link to Council for the prospective Social Media Manager.

11 Initiatives

ECBI 2022 reports have not all been received. One recipient has been asked to return a part of the grant as it was not used for the project.

Action 23/1142: SG to initiate telecon prior to Changsha for Industrial Initiative discussion, by 28 February 2024

11.1 Scientific Initiatives

Seven SI2023 awards were given in January 2023 from 15 applications, totalling CHF58,863. All recipients from 2021 SIs have reported bar one.

11.2 Call for Education and Capacity Building Initiatives 2024

Timeline:

Announcement of Scientific Initiatives: 15 September 2023.

Deadline for submission of proposals from WG Officers to TCPs: 1 November 2023.

Deadline for submission of recommendations from TCPs to ISPRS Treasurer: 22 November 2023.

Announcement of successful awards by Council: 15 December 2023.

Funding available from: 1 January 2024.

There was further discussion on SK's ideas for initiatives. These need to be matured and should be discussed in a meeting prior to submission to ISAC.

12 Liaison with Other International Organizations

12.1 OGC, ISO Representative

Action 23/1143: LH to find an ISPRS contact person for OGC with help of TCP IV, asap

Action 23/1144: LH to find an ISPRS contact person for ISO, by 30 October 2023

12.2 International Science Council (ISC)

LH participated in the Mid Term ISC Symposium in Paris. The report is in the Annex.

12.3 GeoUnions of the International Science Council

ISPRS is a member of GeoUnions, an important part of ISC. LH took part in an extra meeting of all ISC unions in Paris during the their Mid-Term Symposium. One important topic for discussion was changes to the present Statutes. LH reported that the unions insist on more important involvement in ISC decisions determined in the Statutes since their impact in science is far wider than that of academies and institutions of individual countries.

12.4 Geospatial Societies UN-GGIM

JJ reported on the 13th Session of UN-GGIM meeting. It was decided to share members' calendars with UN-GGIM members. The ISPRS Symposia are already listed on the UN-GGIM calendar and ISPRS may be asked to post events from UN-GGIM members in return.

ISPRS contribution to the UN-GGIM workplan is to be coordinated with TCs (see Workplan in pptx slide 10).

Action 23/1145: JJ to contact TCPs and request suggestions on workshops and educational tutorials to supply input for and cooperate with the UN-GGIM workplan, by 30 November 2023

Action 23/1146: JJ to draft a list of actions to enhance collaboration with UN-GGIM, by 31 December 2023

12.5 COP in Dubai

LP presented the Statement of ISPRS to COP28/ UNFCCC which was prepared by IPAC (GS and LP). The following actions are suggested:

- Action 23/1147: SW to revise the document “Declaration of ISPRS barbs edits_plain” (Agenda item 12.5 - Cairo CM) and send to LH, by 15 October 2023
- Action 23/1148: LH to finalise document on “Declaration of ISPRS barbs edits_plain” (Agenda item 12.5 - Cairo CM), and return to LP, by 30 October 2023
- Action 23/1149: NP with LP to check with Space Climate Observatory (SCO) to join forces, by September 2023
- Action 23/1150: LH with GS to check on opportunities be present on Earth Information Day, by December 2023

13 Publications

13.1 IJGI Journal and MDPI Publisher

WK reported that the positive performance of the journal can be observed by the continuously increasing impact factor. The number of special issues has been reduced. There are 10 AEs, i.e. space for one more, probably for geodatabases.

PJ reported that allegations related to MDPI and Clarivate actions are clarified by MDPI when they have written proof. MDPI cannot act on rumours. Clarivate de-lists journals publishing (many) papers outside of the scope of a journal. IJGI content is closely controlled by WK and MDPI.

WK suggests a session at GSW 2025 and Congress to clarify the stance of ISPRS related to publishing. PJ reiterated that the journal is doing well, making money with permanently increasing IF.

- Action 23/1151: NP to work on ISPRS statement on MDPI related to IJGI success, incl the review statistics and IF and forward final to SG for publication, by 30 November 2023
- Action 23/1152: SG to publish an MDPI statement on de-listing of journals in eBulletin and on web, asap
- Action 23/1153: LH to inform MDPI of its position at universities in the Czech Republic, by 30 September 2023

13.2 IJPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

Submissions to the journal and their quality are increasing with the increasing IF. Although KB suggested considering installing a 3rd EiC in the near future, CM and QW do not consider this step necessary at the moment. The decision will be made once QW confirms his continuation as EiC for another term. The workload of the AEs is satisfactory.

Females are under-represented on the Board. Gender will be considered for any changes to the AEs in 2023. QW expected two new AEs to be required by the end of the year. KB suggested a 3rd EiC from USA, for global distribution, and QW asked that a female be selected.

Discussions with Elsevier regarding a 3rd EiC are to commence in May 2024.

Changing the name of the Journal to include AI and computer vision would affect the IF. Council agreed with KB's suggestion to add a subtitle.

- Action 23/1154: Cnl to consider that QW's EiC position ends in Dec 2025, and whether a new EiC is to replace him and/or a 3rd be selected, by Changsha Meeting, May 2024

13.3 ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (IJPRS) and ISPRS Open Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (IOJPRS)

The number of papers being submitted to OPHOTO remains far too low, although there are now 36. It is still not possible to apply for an IF, although citation numbers are good and the initial IF will reflect that.

Papers not acceptable for PHOTO are suggested to be transferred to OPHOTO with prior agreement of the authors. When soliciting their opinions on transferring, PHOTO should inform authors that the APC will be waived if the paper is accepted by OPHOTO. So far only 16 papers have been transferred.

It was discussed to add a clause to the SI and ECBI guidelines to encourage the project teams to publish their results with OPHOTO.

It was discussed to add a clause in the Orange Book to encourage organizers of ISPRS events to select papers for special issues in OPHOTO.

GV will be asked to invite some review papers/vision papers for OPHOTO to increase the IF. The global vision papers issue warrants further discussion. Some TCPS are preparing their own vision papers.

It is hoped that an IF for OPHOTO will be achieved in 2025.

Action 23/1155: CH to revise the Orange Book on publication of Initiatives to OPHOTO, by 31 December 2023

13.4 Long-term Storage of pre-recorded Videos at TIB

Cnl decided that each event organiser can decide whether or not to produce videos.

Action 23/1156: NP to inform TCPs that they may make the decision on publishing pre-recorded videos for their Symposium, by 30 September 2023

13.5 GIM

The responsibility list was updated.

13.6 eBulletin

The responsibility list was updated.

14 Student Consortium

See JM minutes.

15 Digital Tools for the Management of our Society

15.1 Feasibility to develop a Member Management System

It was discussed that a database and a management system should be developed to maintain all information on members, not only for the information itself, but also include the database log files so to track the history of updates. The database can be transferred and upgraded from the current Access file and the management system can be integrated into the website, offering access for those persons with operational approval.

Action 23/1157: NP, SW to investigate options for a Member Management System, by 1 May 2024

Action 23/1158: AR to list functions necessary for a new DB, by 1 May 2024

15.2 Digital signature software

DocuSign and YouSign were suggested as possible options for digital signature software.

Action 23/1159: AR to investigate a common subscription for digital signature for SW, JJ, LH, and NP, by 30 November 2023

16 Next Council Meeting

CM: Changsha, China, 13-17 May 2024

CM and JM: Belém, Brazil, 4-8 November 2024

17 Any Other Business

17.1 Change of Voting Rules for Membership

Cnl discussed changing the procedure on voting for changes to membership. The ballots will be sent to all members per email, but they will be informed to reply if they have a negative decision since non-replies are considered positive according to the BYLAW XVI – *Voting*, par. 3.

Action 23/1160: AR to correct Bylaw XVI (2) to Bylaw XVI (3) and highlight the last sentence: *All ballots not returned by the time limit set will be recorded as considered to be in support of the Council position, in ballot letter, by 30 November 2023*

17.2 LAGRIS

RQF reported the plan for organizing LAGRIS in Foz do Iguacu. Cnl approved the plan.

17.3 Change of ISPRS Logo (remove 'Information from imagery')

TC IV asked to use the ISPRS logo without text. The logo was forwarded to SZ.

17.4 Proposed cooperation with China Silk Road Group

The communication with CSRG before the CM was reported.

Action 23/1161: SG to forward minutes of the communication with CSRG to Cnl for circulation, by 30 September 2023

18 Closing

LH thanked the participants for their patience with the length of the meeting. The meeting closed at 17:10 on 6 September.