

Minutes, Joint Council and TCP Meeting

4 September 2023

Cairo, Egypt

In Attendance:

President	Lena Halounová (LH)
Vice President	Nicolas Paparoditis (NP)
Secretary General	Jiang Jie (JJ)
Past President	Christian Heipke (CH) - excused
Treasurer	Stewart Walker (SW)
Congress Director	Derek Lichti (DL)
Commission I	Antonio Tommaselli (AT), Vice TCP
Commission I	Tao ZHANG (TZ), Secretary
Commission II	Alper Yilmaz (AY), TCP
Commission III	Laurent Polidori (LP)
TCP Commission IV	Sisi Zlatanova (SZ)
TCP Commission IV	Maria Brovelli (MB), Vice TCP
TCP Commission V	Gay Jane Perez (GJP)
TCP Commission V	Josefino Comiso (JC) Vice TCP

Guests:

Andre Nonguierma (AN) Reg. Rep. Africa
Raul Queiroz Feitosa (RQF) Reg. Rep. Latin America
Jaime Hernández Palma (JHP) Vice Reg. Rep. Latin America
Shailesh Nayak (SN) Rep. Rep. Asia (remote) - excused
Abdalla Alobeid (AA) Reg. Vice Rep. Arab States
Laxmi Thapa (LT) Student Consortium President
Nicolas Pucino (NiPu) Student Consortium Vice President
Saeed Al Mansoori (SAM) GSW 2025 Director
Ghariba Salem (GhSa) GSW 2025 Organisation
Ludwig Hoegner (LudH), Member IPC - GSW 2025
Senthil Kumar (SK) Financial Committee

Minutes:

Annette Radtke (AR) ISPRS Headquarters

Agenda

1. Opening Remarks	3
2. Approval of the Agenda	3
3. Approval of JM Minutes from 16-17 September 2022	3
4. Action List.....	3
5. Technical Commission Progress	3
5.1 Midterm Symposia Preparation	3
5.1.1 TC I Report	3
5.1.2 TC II Report	3
5.1.3 TC III Report	4
5.1.4 TC IV Report.....	4
5.1.5 TC V Report.....	4
6. Congress 2026	4
7. GSW 2025.....	4
7.1 GSW 2025 Report	4
8. Regional Representatives Reports	5
8.1 African Reg. Rep. Report.....	5
8.2 Arab States Reg. Rep Report	5
8.3 Asian Reg. Rep. Report	5
8.4 Latin American Reg. Rep. Report	5
9. Financial Committee Report	6
10. Student Consortium	6
11. ISPRS Keynote Speaker Program	6
12. Publications.....	7
12.1 IOJPRS.....	7
12.2 Publication: Overview of Commission Development (Vision Paper).....	7
12.3 Biennial Report 2022-23	7
13. Next Joint Meeting	7
14. Any Other Business	7
14.1 ISPRS Representative in OGC	7
14.2 ISPRS Dataset Policy and Management (NP).....	7
14.3 Research Data Infrastructure and Digital Twins (NP).....	7
14.4 ISPRS-PNEO-Assessment-Group	7
15. Closing.....	7

Minutes

1. Opening Remarks

The meeting opened at 8:35 am. LH welcomed the attendees and introduced each of them to the group.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of JM Minutes from 16-17 September 2022

The minutes from the meeting in Prague, 16-17 September 2022 were approved.

4. Action List

The action list was revised.

5. Technical Commission Progress

SW noted that the call for ECBI2024s would go out soon.

5.1 Midterm Symposia Preparation

The allocation of funds for travel grants was discussed. TIF intends distributing \$10,000 per commission. Cnl and TIF discussed to allocate the monies to the commissions depending on the expected number of attendees. The difference between foreign and local attendees should be considered. Organisers were also asked to grant waivers to TIF awardees.

The Symposium organisers were asked to inform Cnl of the amount of accepted papers at the deadline. They were also reminded to sign a contract with Copernicus for publication of the proceedings asap. All camera-ready papers must be provided to Copernicus latest 4 weeks prior to the event regardless of the size of the event.

Action 23/2016: SW to ensure TIF inform TCPs, the GSW 2025 Director and the Congress Director about deadlines for announcement of travel grants, by 30 September 2023

Action 23/2017: TCPs to sign symposia contracts with ConfTool and forward copy to SG, asap

Action 23/2018: TCPs to sign symposia contract with Copernicus and forward copy to SG, at least 3 months prior to the event

5.1.1 TC I Report

AT presented the TC I report. The Symposium contract with ISPRS has been signed. TC I is asked to maintain the website updated. Plans for supporting a CM during TC I symposium are to be made.

AT reported on successful WGs and significant involvement in GSW 2023. There was some discussion whether MMT could be incorporated into GSW 2025. Some TCPs felt that there were too many workshops at GSW 2023 and too much overlap between TCs, all of which could be managed better for GSW 2025.

5.1.2 TC II Report

AY reported that the 9+2 WGs are moving forward and that 9 of them contributed to GSW 2023. AY reported that TC II will continue webinars. The contract for the Symposium has been finalised and is ready to sign, and the publication contract has yet to be signed by Copernicus. The contract with ConfTool has been signed. The website will be available at the end of September. He is working on

the budget. The cost of student registration was considered to be on the high side. ASPRS has engaged a PCO. An attendance of 400-500 is a reasonable expectation based on historical data, but the current political situation and US visa requirements could endanger it.

Action 23/2019: AY to send the TC II Symposium website address to ME and SG, by 30 September 2023

5.1.3 TC III Report

LP reported on the preparation of the Symposium in Belém. The website will be ready in October. The venue of the university facilities will enable reasonable prices (below \$400 including lunches). IPAC has been offered the facilities to hold their meeting there. The signed contracts are to be forwarded to the SG. The Symposium will be co-located with SELPER's annual meeting (though SELPER's low prices are a problem) and is considered a pre-event for COP30. TC III has been deeply involved in GSW 2023 and in two SI2023s. WG5 is not active and may need a new chair.

5.1.4 TC IV Report

SZ reported on TC IV. ISPRS contract and ConfTool contracts are signed. SZ is aware that the Copernicus contract is to be made asap. There was a suggestion that a WG on data quality in remote sensing would be topical.

5.1.5 TC V Report

GJP reported on TC V symposium. The contract is not yet signed with ISPRS. The contract with Copernicus and ConfTool have also not been signed, but contact has been established. An attendance of 300 is forecast. It is planned to host a summer school and tutorials.

Details of all reports can be found in the appendix. It was noted that many deadlines are close together.

6. Congress 2026

DL informed the participants on the status of the Congress preparations. A destination booking agreement has been signed and a POC contracted. SZ asked about posters, and the venue has copious space.

Cnl agreed that it would be good to approach IGARSS about joint promotion of the Congress and the 2026 IGARSS conference, which will take place in Washington DC one week after the end of the Congress. A possible promotion opportunity is a joint booth and podium time at the 2025 IGARSS 3-8 August in Brisbane.

7. GSW 2025

7.1 GSW 2025 Report

SAM reported in detail on the preparation of the GSW 2025 and GhSa reported on the practical organisation. The venue and PCO are being finalized.

Early-bird registration will be open till 2 months prior to the event. Accepted papers will also be eligible for early-bird registration. SAM is open to discuss waivers for TIF recipients.

TIF advised SAM that the deadline for paper submission should not be prior to the Symposia deadlines for paper submission.

Cnl suggested including a session focused on national mapping agencies, especially in the Middle East. SW noted the current importance of national elevation programs. SK suggested one on global space programs.

There was some discussion about moving the dates to April 2025, though this could lead to issues with Ramadan (1-30 March 2025). It was agreed that, if April does not work, then the existing dates would be satisfactory.

8. Regional Representatives Reports

8.1 African Reg. Rep. Report

AN reported that many African members are not even aware that they are members of ISPRS, and are not contributing in any way to the Society. Together with Cnl, this issue needs addressing.

AN requested that Council hold a meeting at an important event taking place on the African continent asap to show presence and inform the attendees on the Society and its benefits.

SW informed AN that three African students received funding from the African Geospatial Sciences Institute via TIF to attend GSW 2023, and that the next call for Education and Capacity Building Initiatives will be announced mid-September.

Action 23/2020: SG to forward any background documents on African membership to AN for follow-up, by 30 September 2023

Action 23/2021: Cnl to discuss holding a meeting on the African continent, by 31 December 2023

8.2 Arab States Reg. Rep Report

The report was given by Reg. Vice Rep. It was noted that the Africa and Arab States regions overlap. The Reg. Rep. has undertaken various activities to promote ISPRS and to re-activate members. A brochure in the Arab language with information derived from the ISPRS website has been put together by AA to distribute to the Arab States countries. The main problem appeared to be communications.

AA asked to be in cc when ISPRS contacts members in Arab States where ISPRS has problems with their e-mail contacts. He requested students from Arab States (not Gulf States) be considered for grants in the future, and the evaluation criterion for those students should be different (lower). He also requested that Cnl organise registration waivers for Reg Reps representing ISPRS at meetings. Non-merit-based scholarships were also discussed.

Cnl did not promise anything regarding the requests proposed by AA.

SAM has promised that 5 scholarships per year be given to these countries.

Action 23/2022: Cnl to discuss the requests proposed by AA on consideration of Arab State student TIF grants, by 17 May 2024

Action 23/2023: Cnl to discuss organising waivers for Reg Reps attending ISPRS meetings, by 17 May 2024

8.3 Asian Reg. Rep. Report

SN submitted a written report but was not able to present it. See annex.

8.4 Latin American Reg. Rep. Report

JH and RQF reported on Latin America. Members from the region have been contacted. Some are not responsive and it may be necessary to look at finding alternative country representative organisations.

As students and young professions from this region do not have the financial support to attend international meetings, the LAGRIS meeting was born to bring the expertise to the universities in Latin America. The second LAGRIS will take place in 2025 on 10-13 November, in Foz do Iguaçu. Once approved, the use of Itapu Technology Park will be free of charge. The contract is in the process of being signed, pending approval from ISPRS & GRSS.

Cnl gave its approval to organise the meeting.

9. Financial Committee Report

The FC is alarmed at the situation with arrears in payment of membership fees. Council is aware of this issue. However, the situation has remained almost the same for many years due to various reasons despite permanent efforts. Regional Representatives help in their regions where many contacts are lost due to frequent changes of contact persons of the ISPRS Members.

The following recommendations were given:

1. Allocating additional funds for increasing the number of Scientific Initiatives, Educational and Capacity Building Initiatives
2. Partnering with Industries/Institutions on funding new initiatives
 - Academic-track Scientific Initiatives (existing)
 - Industry-track Scientific Initiatives (new)
 - Climate Change-track Scientific Initiatives (new)
3. Allocating funds for Increasing participation of WG / TC officials – *actively involved in organizing events* but not able to financially manage their visit to major events such as GSWs, mid-term Symposia, Congress
4. Organising periodic special sessions for IPAC, ISAC, I²AC jointly with international organisations (CEOS, WMO, UNOOSA, GEO, etc.) to maximize ISPRS benevolent contributions in global scenario
5. Increasing TIF travel grants to more awardees
6. Promoting global capacity development in GIS&T
 - Following the ITC model, support in globalizing the GIS&T capacity development through empowering national/regional institutions in developing countries
 - Joining hands with UNOOSA through donations to fund-starving UN-affiliated Regional Centres of Space Science & Technology Education.

Action 23/2024: LH to analyse options for periodic special sessions for IPAC, ISAC, I²AC jointly with international organisations at proposed organisations and report to Cnl, by 31 Dec 2023

10. Student Consortium

LT informed on the volunteers working for the SC, who come from across the globe. Three Summer Schools have been approved in 2023. The publication *Spectrum* is published 4 times annually, and webinars are ongoing, with experts addressing the students. SC also has a YouTube channel.

Travel grants for SC officers would be gratefully welcomed, also as a form of appreciation for the voluntary work they are doing.

Discord is a recently established channel initiated for the students for communication amongst young professionals.

LT thanked ISPRS Webmaster, Markus Englich, for assisting in securing the SC website.

TCPs were asked to consider including Summer Schools in the Symposia in 2024, particularly TC V Symposium in the Philippines, on Education and Outreach.

SW reminded SC about his need for budget data and thought that an announcement about an ISPRS social media manager would be disseminated very soon.

11. ISPRS Keynote Speaker Program

Attendees were reminded of the Keynote Speaker Programme: details can be found at <https://www.isprs.org/society/ksp/default.aspx>. SW said this would be budgeted at €10K *per annum*.

12. Publications

12.1 IOJPRS

AY plans to publish a “Vision Paper” in OPHOTO. Discussion proposed that this paper could be integrated into the broader vision paper for the Society.

12.2 Publication: Overview of Commission Development (Vision Paper)

Information will be distributed by email.

Action 23/2025: NP to collect information about Commission developments of a Vision Paper, by 15 Nov 2023

12.3 Biennial Report 2022-23

Templates, length, and deadlines will be distributed to TCPs in November.

Action 23/2026: SG to distribute Biennial Report templates to TCPs, in November 2023

13. Next Joint Meeting

4-8 November 2024 at TC III Symposium in Belém, Brazil.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 ISPRS Representative in OGC

Action 23/2027: LH to contact WGIV/1 regarding ISPRS rep. in OGC, (in cc to TCP IV, Sisi Zlatanova), by December 2023

14.2 ISPRS Dataset Policy and Management

Postponed

14.3 Research Data Infrastructure and Digital Twins

Postponed

14.4 ISPRS-PNEO-Assessment-Group

Postponed

15. Closing

LH thanked the participants for attending and closed the meeting at 6:08 pm.