

## UIS BUREAU MEETINGS AT THE 18<sup>th</sup> ICS

July 23-31, 2022

*Savoie Technolac – FRANCE*

*Session 1: July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 – 10h30 to 17h00 (before General Assembly)*

<b>Attendance:</b>	
<b>President</b>	George VENI
<b>Vice-President of Administration</b>	Zdenek MOTYCKA
<b>Vice-President of Operations</b>	Efrain MERCADO
<b>Secretary General</b>	Fadi NADER
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
<b>Adjunct Secretaries</b>	Bernard CHIROL Nivaldo COLZATO Mladen GARASIC Gyula HEGEDUS Bärbel VOGEL
<b>Honorary M. &amp; Past-Presidents</b>	José Ayrton LABEGALINI Andy EAVIS
<b>Guests</b>	Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, Didier BORG, David GILIESON
<b>Bureau members not in attendance</b>	Satoshi GOTO Tim MOULDS

### **1) Opening speech of the UIS President / Approval of Agenda**

George VENI thanked all participants for coming to Savoie (Technolac). He informed them about the absence of Tim MOULDS and Satoshi GOTO and their inability to attend this annual UIS Bureau meeting at the 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology (ICS) in Technolac (Savoie), France. George VENI also informed the Bureau that Mladen GARASIC has been appointed an honorary member of NSS and congratulate him. He reviewed the general schedule of the activities of the UIS Bureau planned throughout the congress week.

**DECISION 1: The Agenda of the Meetings during the Congress were then approved by the present Bureau members.**

### **2) Approval of Minutes from Regular Bureau Meeting of 2021 (Andilly, France)**

Efrain MERCADO proposed a motion to accept the minutes of the previous Bureau meeting (2021, Andilly – France), that was seconded by Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA and

Zdenek MOTYCKA and approved by all present Bureau members. The minutes were approved by the Bureau.

Together with the minutes, the list of decisions/actions was reviewed and updated with no remaining pending actions.

**DECISION 2: The revised minutes of the 2021 annual meeting were approved by the UIS Bureau.**

### **3) 18th ICS outstanding issues**

The meetings of the commissions were not included in the congress program and need to be announced. Gyula HEGEDUS together with Bernard CHIROL will take care of this outstanding issue and communicate the meeting times and places in the ICS daily newsletter (Gazette du Lac) and post the information near the ICS registration area.

A printer and WIFI Internet connection are needed for the UIS room ASAP. Bernard will take care of this matter (later, an ICS volunteer was designated to print all needed files by the UIS through the use of a USB Flash disk, and individual internet usernames and passwords were distributed).

The UIS flag is to be lowered after the closure of the end of the second session of the General Assembly on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> of July at around 1pm.

A prize podium and proper seating of the UIS Bureau should be organized for Banquet (with screen) – Bernard will relay this information to the ICS organizers.

Gyula HEGEDUS will inform the organizers and through them the attendees that the General Assembly Session 1, on 24/07, will finish at around 4 pm and not 12 (noon) as listed in the ICS program.

### **4) 19<sup>th</sup> ICS Report (Nivaldo Colzato)**

Nivaldo COLZATO informed the Bureau members about the status of the organization of the upcoming 19<sup>th</sup> ICS that will take place in 2025 in Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil):

- Organizing Committee members defined
- Venue is already rented with signed contract
- Excursion sites are 90% defined
- Official congress website will be launched at the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS congress in France
- Budget will be completed in the coming months
- Many Brazilians came to France and the Brazilian stand/booth will distribute posters, stickers, multi-media and promotional items for the 19<sup>th</sup> ICS
- News about the 19<sup>th</sup> ICS will be published after the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS in the UIS Bulletin

- Next UIS Bureau meeting (2023) will be proposed to be in Brazil to show Bureau members the progress in preparation and take their comments and suggestions.

Zdenek MOTYCKA proposed to provide the Brazilians with the contact lists of the 16<sup>th</sup> ICS Brno (2013) and confirmed that he gives his support.

Fadi NADER suggested to the Brazilian organizers present at the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS meet the French organizers and get all info possible (particularly participants list) before the end of the congress.

George VENI suggested they watch, for example, the registration desk, and see how volunteers and organizers do the job and learn from them (especially those who are going to do the same jobs in Brazil).

## **5) Review of Finances (Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA)**

### **a. Request for payment (1225 € to David Gillieson, chief editor of our new publication, *Guidelines for Caves and Karst Protection*)**

George VENI gave an explanation about the reason for the non-expected payment to cover the expenses for editing of the *Guidelines for Caves and Karst Protection*. David GILLIESON sent an additional invoice (of 1225 €) after he decided to pay the expenses without asking the UIS Bureau.

John GUNN further explained the situation. Also, as previously agree, 150 copies were printed (50 for the Bureau) with some extra ones. The remaining copies will be distributed at the Commission/session meeting by John Gunn.

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA suggests that we distribute copies to UIS Delegates and Commission leaders and one to the IUCN representative.

Bureau members agreed to pay 600 € to David GILLIESON since we they were not informed in advance. The Treasurer of the UIS will make the payment.

### **b. Member Countries late on dues**

Algeria has not paid since 2014 (they promised to pay at the 2017 ICS in Sydney, but could not get a visa, and it appears they are not come to this ICS in France.

Mongolia has not paid for 4 years.

Russia's dues were not discussed, since activities with Russia are frozen due to the war.

The Bureau decided unanimously to keep Algeria and Mongolia as members until next UIS Bureau meeting, when a final decision will be made.

**c. Amendment of Internal Regulations (Clause 6) by adding one more category for Member Countries**

The UIS agreed and prepared the following amendment to be proposed to UIS General Assembly for voting:

---

**Proposed Amendment of Internal regulation  
Clause #6**

The annual fees each Member Country must pay to the UIS are determined by the country's membership category, which are:

- a. **Category A:** the Member Country has 2,000 speleologists or more in the national organization or organizations that represent the country to the UIS;
- b. **Category B:** the Member Country has at least 1,000 but fewer than 2,000 speleologists in the national organization or organizations that represent the country to the UIS;
- c. **Category C:** the Member Country has at least 500 but fewer than 1,000 speleologists in the national organization or organizations that represent the country to the UIS;
- d. **Category D:** the Member Country has at least 100 but fewer than 500 speleologists in the national organization or organizations that represent the country to the UIS;
- e. **Category E:** the Member Country has less than 100 speleologists in the national organization or organizations that represent the country to the UIS.

The UIS Bureau will propose the annual fees and list them in the UIS Bulletin and website after approval by the General Assembly.

The annual fees for:

- Category A stay at 480 €
  - Category B stay at 360 €
  - Category C stay at 240 €
  - Category D will be 120 €
  - Category E will be 60 €
- 

**d. Treasurer Report (Nadja Zupan Hajna)**

A complete report covering the period since 2017 until 2022, prepared by Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA is attached. Below is the summary table.

Problems with PayPal account since 2017 (there are 901.98 € left on that account). In 2022, arrangements were initiated with hope to bring back the money. That work is in progress.

Reported problems with payment of dues from member countries – UIS Bureau decisions:

- Algeria has a long debt with promise to pay at 18<sup>th</sup> Congress: see point above.
- Cuba: Bureau decision of non-payment 2018-2021 (to 18<sup>th</sup> Congress); but in 2022 Birmingham Grotto (USA) donated Cuban contributions to UIS for 7.5 years
- Argentina (2022) asked for 50% discount on debt due to financial problems (Efrain MERCADO proposed to make this payment);
- Indonesia (2022), request deferred payment; payment plan will be reported at the end of 2022 – UIS Bureau agreed (17/6/2022);
- Lebanon: Bureau decision on non-payment 2018-2021 (to 18<sup>th</sup> Congress);
- Venezuela: Bureau decision on non-payment 2018-2021 (to 18<sup>th</sup> Congress); Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA proposed non-payment for Ukraine starting in 2022, until the war ends and normality returns. UIS Bureau unanimously agreed on this proposal.
- The UIS Bureau agreed unanimously to contribute 500 € to the AFK (Association Française de Karstologie) who organized fund-raising to cover the expenses of seven Ukrainians to travel to France and attend the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA will make the payment to AFK via Philippe AUDRA.

**UIS Financial report 2017-2022 (until June 30)**

Account 2017	USD
From 2016	15.211,71
Income 2017	35.219,34
Expenses 2017	-238,95
<b>Balance</b>	<b>34.980,39</b>
Excel record	50191,26
<b>Bank 31.12.2017</b>	<b>50.191,26</b>

Account 2017	EUR
From 2016	9.253,76
Income 2017	31.549,57
Expenses 2017	-3.202,58
<b>Balance</b>	<b>28.346,99</b>
Excel record	37.600,75
<b>Bank 31.12.2017</b>	<b>37.600,75</b>

Account 2018	USD
From 2017	50191,26
Income 2018	564,11
Expenses 2018	-35.000,00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-34.435,89</b>
Excel record	15755,37
<b>Bank 31.12.2018</b>	<b>15.755,37</b>

Account 2018	EUR
From 2017	37.600,75
Income 2018	4.910,00
Expenses 2018	-24.655,10
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-19.745,10</b>
Excel record	17.855,65
<b>Bank 31.12.2018</b>	<b>17.855,65</b>

Account 2019	USD
From 2018	15.755,37
Income 2019	35.160,11
Expenses 2019	-2303,4
<b>Balance</b>	<b>32.856,71</b>
Excel record	48.612,08
<b>Bank 31.12.2019</b>	<b>48.612,08</b>

Account 2019	EUR
From 2018	17.855,65
Income 2019	27.980,05
Expenses 2019	-8.671,13
<b>Balance</b>	<b>19.308,92</b>
Excel record	37.164,57
<b>Bank 31.12.2019</b>	<b>37.164,57</b>

Account 2020	USD
From 2019	48612,08
Income 2020	4,88
Expenses 2020	-91,95
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-87,07</b>
Excel record	48.525,01
<b>Bank 31.12.2020</b>	<b>48.525,01</b>

Account 2020	EUR
From 2019	37.164,57
Income 2020	7.692,14
Expenses 2020	-6.757,69
<b>Balance</b>	<b>934,45</b>
Excel record	38.099,02
<b>Bank 31.12.2020</b>	<b>38.099,02</b>

Account 2021	USD
From 2020	48525,01
Income 2021	2425,26
Expenses 2021	-68,19
<b>Balance</b>	<b>2357,07</b>
Excel record	50.882,08
<b>Bank 31.12.2021</b>	<b>50.882,08</b>

Account 2021	EUR
From 2020	38.099,02
Income 2021	9.028,49
Expenses 2021	-9.690,54
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-662,05</b>
Excel record	37.436,97
<b>Bank 31.12.2021</b>	<b>37.436,97</b>

Account 2021	USD
From 2021	50.882,08
Income 2021	0,25
Expenses 2021	0
<b>Balance</b>	<b>0,25</b>
Excel record	50.882,33
<b>Bank 30.6.2022</b>	<b>50.882,33</b>

Account 2022	EUR
From 2021	37.436,97
Income 2022 (6)	6.743,00
Expenses 2022 (6)	-6.637,04
<b>Balance</b>	<b>105,96</b>
Excel record	37.542,93
<b>Bank 30.6.2022</b>	<b>37.542,93</b>

Refer to the attached Treasurer's Report for the full details (documents will be published in the UIS Bulletin together).

### **e. Funding Commissions (Zdenek MOTYCKA)**

In 2018, the UIS Bureau decided to budget 2,000 euros annually to support the UIS Commissions from 2018 until the next ICS.

For 2018 Bureau received requests from 4 Commissions and approved 1,550,- EUR  
For 2019 Bureau received requests from 3 Commissions and approved 1,000,- EUR  
For 2020 Bureau received requests from 3 Commissions and approved 1,000,- EUR  
For 2021 Bureau received requests from 3 Commissions and approved 1,000,- EUR  
For 2022 (until June 30) Bureau received requests from 1 Commission and approved 2,000,- EUR

In total, between 2018–2022 the UIS Bureau supported UIS Commissions with total amount of 6,550,- EUR.

### **f. Funding Expeditions and Projects (Zdenek MOTYCKA)**

In 2018, UIS Bureau agreed to budget 3,000 euros annual to support speleological expeditions and events from 2018 until the next ICS.

For 2018 Bureau received 3 requests and supported 2 projects in total with 3,000,- EUR  
For 2019 Bureau received 3 requests and supported 3 projects in total with 2,000,- EUR  
For 2020 Bureau received no requests because of COVID 19 pandemic  
For 2021 Bureau received 2 requests and supported 2 projects in total with 2,250,- EUR  
For 2022 (till June 30) Bureau received 2 requests and supported 2 projects in total with 1,900,- EUR

In total, between 2018=2022 the UIS Bureau supported 9 projects and paid 9,150,- EUR.

### **6) UIS Commissions (Zdenek MOTYCKA)**

Zdenek MOTYCKA summarized the status of each commission, as well as the UIS Bulletin and the Archives. The list of commissions are presented below (commissions in green reported activities between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> ICSs.

Commission on Archaeology and Palaeontology in Caves  
[Commission on Artificial Cavities](#)  
Commission on Arts and Letters  
Commission on Biology  
[Commission on Bibliography](#)  
[Commission on Cave Diving](#)  
Commission on Cave Mineralogy  
Commission on Cave Rescue  
Commission on Glacier, Firn, and Ice Caves  
[Commission on Education](#)

Commission on History of Speleology  
Commission on Informatics  
Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis  
Commission on Long, Deep and Large Caves  
Commission on Materials and Techniques  
Commission on Physical Chemistry and Hydrogeology of Karst  
Commission on Protection of Caves and Karst  
Commission on Pseudokarst  
Commission on Speleotherapy  
Commission on Volcanic Caves

A discussion followed on the importance of organizing meetings for commissions during the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS and re-activate some of the commissions from whom we did not receive any report (see above Item #3).

Nivaldo COLZATO also presented his report on the UIS Bulletin progress and the Bulletin numbers of 2022. Refer to the complete report in the UIS Bulletin and activities of Adjunct Secretary Nivaldo COLZATO (attached as a separate document and will be published together with these minutes in the next UIS Bulletin).

Zdenek MOTYCKA also presented his joint report with Pavel BOSAK on the progress of work on the UIS Archives in Postojna, Slovenia. All is going well and according to plan so far.

Efrain MERCADO reported on the UIS website and social media accounts with the support document of Jasmina RIJAVEC report (submitted to George Veni).

- The UIS Bureau agreed unanimously to recognize Jasmina RIJAVEC for her dedication and hard work (a Certificate of Appreciation will be given to her at this ICS). Nadja also proposed to take to her gifts that will be brought by UIS Bureau members.
- Fadi NADER reminded everyone that the new Treasurer should replace him on the Melbourne IT account as soon as possible after election.

## **7) IYCK updates**

George VENI presented the updates regarding the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK 2021) stressing that this initiative will remain until the end of 2022 and won't be closed by the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS. The following themes were discussed by present members of the Bureau:

- UIS activities
- International activities (over 680 events for IYCK)
- ICS related events (e.g., Speleo-truck event for IYCK, John GUNN session on the Guidelines, Speleomedia – a video from all our partners produced by Anja HAJNA and 2 min video of Uwe on the meeting at UNESCO).
- UNESCO Groundwater Summit is schedule for 7 December 2022 and 90-minute side events are planned for the day before. George submitted a UIS/IYCK side event proposal. The selected side events were supposed to be announced on 20 July 2022 but a message was sent that because of many proposals the selection is delayed.



If the UIS event is selected, participants will be Z. MOTYCKA, Ros Fatimah MUHAMMAD (from Malaysia), F. NADER, G. VENI, and N. ZUPAN HAJNA.

Refer to the complete report on IYCK project by Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (a separate document attached to these minutes and which will be published with the minutes in the next UIS Bulletin).

### **8) UIS Prizes (Nivaldo Colzato)**

Nivaldo COLZATO presented the status of the UIS Prizes for the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS. He described the 16 nominations. He confirmed that the same procedures will be followed as the ones that were followed in Australia in 2017 (17<sup>th</sup> ICS).

### **9) Requests for UIS Membership**

Representatives of five (5) countries approached UIS with requests to become Member Countries. These are:

- **Armenia:** still no official letter to date. If the delegation shows up and presents an official request, the country will be proposed to General Assembly.
- **India:** Letter received – will be presented for vote at General Assembly Session 1
- **Libya:** Letter received – will be presented for vote at General Assembly Session 1
- **Malaysia:** Letter received – will be presented for vote at General Assembly Session 1
- **Morocco:** Letter received – will be presented for vote at General Assembly Session 1

By paying at least the first year's dues, any approved Member Country may have the right to vote at the General Assembly.

### **10) Proposals by Delegates, Member Countries, and others**

Efrain MERCADO discussed the status of the proposed law to protect caves that is supported by UIS. It has not been yet signed by the President of Colombia. Efrain MERCADO will organize further steps for international pressure for the president's signature.

Bureau discussion on the submitted applications (to date) for positions at the UIS Bureau (2022–2023):

Nadja Zupan Hajna (Pr), Zdenek Motycka (VP), Nivaldo Colzato (VP), Johannes Mattes (G. Secretary), Mladen Garasic (Treasurer), Bärbel Vogel (Adj. Sec.), Gyula Hegedus (Adj. Sec.), Bernard Chirol (Adj. Sec.), Yavor Shopov (Adj. Sec.), Mario Parise (Adj. Sec.), Issam Bou Jaoude (Adj. Sec.), Pat Seiser (Adj. Sec.), Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (Adj. Sec.).

### **11) Finalizing the UIS General Assembly Agenda**

Group work to prepare presentations, paperwork, copies, etc. for the General Assembly (Session 1).

### **12) Review and update agenda for second Bureau meeting**

The proposed agenda will be amended if needed by the new elected Bureau – the existing agenda is a basis.

### **13) Any other business**

A presentation by UIS-WikiCaves sub-commission (Didier Borg) was given in preparation for a proposed project to be submitted to UNESCO.

After the presentation of Didier Borg, the present members decided to schedule another meeting with him and a few UIS Bureau Members to discuss further the proposal and to add it to the agenda of the next UIS Bureau meeting.

### **14) Closing**

The first session of the annual UIS Bureau Meeting for the year 2022 ended at 17h00 (local time).



*First UIS Bureau Meeting at the 18<sup>th</sup> ICS (Savoie Technolac, France),  
Photo: Nivaldo Colzato*

*Session 2: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – 14h30 to 16h15 (after General Assembly)*

<b>Attendance:</b>	
<b>President</b>	Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
<b>Vice-President of Administration</b>	Zdeněk MOTYČKA
<b>Vice-President of Operations</b>	Nivaldo COLZATO
<b>Secretary General</b>	Johannes MATTES
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mladen GARAŠIĆ
<b>Adjunct Secretaries</b>	Gerard CHAMPION Jose-Maria CALAFORRA Marc MENTENS Mario PARISE Patricia SEISER Nathalia Vanessa UASAPUD ENRÍQUEZ Bärbel VOGEL
<b>Honorary M. &amp; Past-Presidents</b>	Andy EAVIS José Ayrton LABEGALINI George VENI
<b>Guests</b>	Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, Fadi NADER, Satoshi GOTO

**(1) Welcoming New Bureau members**

The new UIS President Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA opened the meeting and welcomed the new Bureau members. She drew attention to the short mandate of the Bureau, lasting only until 2025, and recommended the new Bureau members to study the UIS Statutes and Internal Regulations. The Bureau members should not work as national representatives but as officers of the global society. She thanked the Past General Secretary Fadi NADER, who had to leave, then asked the new Bureau members to introduce themselves briefly.

**(2) Operations and responsibilities of the members of the UIS Bureau**

**a. Review job responsibilities following the Internal Regulations**

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA drew attention to the UIS Internal Regulations, where the responsibilities and powers of all UIS officers are clearly defined.

**b. UIS Website, Social Media + Informatics Commission**

The person in charge of the UIS website and Facebook site is Jasmina RIJAVEC (jasmina\_rijavec@yahoo.com). Announcements for events during the International Year of Karst and Caves should be sent directly to Jasmina Rijavec by the UIS national delegates and presidents of the commissions.

### c. UIS Bulletin: News

Vice-President of Operations Nivaldo COLZATO announced that all reports received for the General Assembly will be published in the UIS Bulletin. He reminded everyone that commission reports are not personal activity reports. Questions about the UIS website should go through Nivaldo COLZATO, while Secretary General Johannes MATTES is responsible for updating the list of member countries and national delegates.

### d. Follow-up of Commissions

The Vice-President of Administration Zdeněk MOTYČKA briefly reported on the management and functioning of the commissions.

**DECISION 3: UIS Bureau decided to keep the annual global budget cap for commissions financial support at 2,000 Euros, as it was before.**

**DECISION 4: UIS Bureau decided to increase the amount of money awarded for the France Habe Prize from 250 to 300 euros. At the same time, the award should be enriched by in-kind donations (i.e. equipment) from possible sponsors.**

**ACTION 1: Jean-Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, President of the Karst and Cave Protection Commission, will be looking for sponsors before next UIS Bureau Meeting.**

As the Treasurer Mladen GARAŠIĆ had to leave, the meeting was briefly interrupted by a group photo of the new UIS Bureau.

### e. National Delegates, Organizations and Regional Bodies

The list of national delegates and contact information of national organizations must be updated on the website. This applies in particular to the six member countries Armenia, Cyprus, India, Libya, Malaysia and Morocco, which joined the UIS in earlier in the day during the General Assembly.

**ACTION 2: Johannes MATTES will contact all national delegates (including the new members) and will update the information on UIS delegates, member countries and their organizations on the UIS website before the next UIS Bureau meeting.**

### f. Identifying projects/responsibilities for Adjunct Secretaries (e.g. Fund raising, recruiting new member countries, involvement with commissions, advisory, publicity)

According to the UIS Internal Regulations, each Adjunct Secretary should accept responsibility for at least one project, activity, or goal for their term of office that is important or significantly beneficial to the UIS. Ideas will be discussed at the UIS Bureau's next Zoom meeting in October.

**ACTION 3: The Adjunct Secretaries will develop ideas for one project/goal for their term of office before the next UIS Bureau meeting.**

**(3) Advisory Committee:**

According to the UIS Bulletin 59(2), the UIS Advisory Committee (2017) includes Andy EAVIS (UK), Pavel BOSAK (CZ), José-Ayrton LABEGALINI (BR), Kyung Sik WOO (KO), Friedrich OEDL (AU), Paul WILLIAMS (NZ).

**ACTION 4: Andy EAVIS will contact Paul Williams to ask if he agrees to continue his service as an Advisory Committee member before the next Bureau Meeting.**

**ACTION 5: Johannes MATTES will update the list of the Advisory Committee members on the UIS website before the next Bureau Meeting.**

**(4) Running Projects:**

**DECISION 3: UIS Bureau decided to keep the annual global budget cap for financial support of symposia and expeditions at 3,000 Euros, as it was before.**

**ACTION 6: Zdeněk MOTYČKA will write a call for the next deadline (30th of November).**

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA proposed that UIS waive the membership fees of some countries that are in a difficult situation due to war or the global economic conditions.

**DECISION 4: UIS Bureau decided to waive the membership fee of Lebanon, Ukraine and Venezuela until the 19<sup>th</sup> ICS (2025) in Brazil (60 euros per year for each of them).**

**DECISION 5: UIS Bureau decided to waive the membership fees of Indonesia and Mongolia for two years and Malaysia for one year (60 euros per year for each of them).**

Kyrgyzstan dues need to be paid by the end of 2023 or it will lose its membership in the UIS. Algeria has lost its membership.

**a. 19<sup>th</sup> ICS**

Nivaldo COLZATO briefly reported on preparations for the 19th International Congress of Speleology, to be held from 20-27 July 2025 in Belo Horizonte (Brazil).

**b. International ban on the trade of cave materials, speleothems, bones etc.**

The UIS will submit a proposal for an international ban on the trade of cave materials, speleothems, bones etc. to UNESCO next September. Bärbel VOGEL, George VENI and Patricia SEISER are working on that task.

**c. Sixty Years of the UIS 1965-2025 (book project by J.-A. Labegallini)**

Past President J.-A. LABEGALLINI requested financial support for his book project *Sixty Years of the UIS*.

**DECISION 6: UIS Bureau decided to discuss this issue when more detailed plans about the publication are available (publication as a digital version or in print; revised book edition or supplementary booklet).**

The UIS still has numerous copies of the book *Fifty Years of the UIS* (2015) in storage.

**(5) Future meetings and events of interest**

Zdeněk MOTYČKA invited everyone to a conference planned in mid-September 2023 in Sloup in the Moravian Karst. It will be held on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the first descent into the famous Macocha Abyss by the monk Lazarus from Brno and will include lectures on both its natural scientific and historical aspects.

Adjunct Secretary Bärbel VOGEL reported about the possibility to nominate experts for the Global Environment Outlook of the UN Environment Programme. The deadline for nominations is already August 1.

On behalf of UIS, Past President George VENI applied for ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) accreditation at the United Nations in 2020.

**(6) UIS Bureau 2023 meeting (Location – Belo Horizonte – checking 19th ICS organization)**

**DECISION 7: The UIS Bureau agreed to have the next Bureau meeting at the Brazilian Congress of Speleology in Curitiba from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 and then travel to Belo Horizonte to inspect the facilities for the 19<sup>th</sup> ICS.**

An invitation has been received from Borneo for the 2024 Bureau Meeting.

**(7) Any other business**

George VENI proposed that UIS create a mailing list to better reach cavers. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA pointed out that forwarding information sent out by the UIS should be the responsibility of the UIS delegates.

**(8) Closing Session (President)**



The next meeting of the UIS Bureau will be held before October 28 via Zoom. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA closed the meeting and thanked all participants for their attention and their contributions.



**UIS BUREAU 2022/2025 in Le Bourget-du-Lac, France, on July 31, 2022.**

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** José María CALAFORRA (*Adjunct Secretary/Spain*); Patricia SEISER (*Adjunct Secretary/USA*); Mario PARISE (*Adjunct Secretary/Italy*); Johannes MATTES (*Secretary General/Austria*); Mladen GARAŠIĆ (*Treasurer/Croatia*); Gerard CHAMPION (*Adjunct Secretary/UK*); Zdeněk MOTYČKA (*Vice-President of Administration/Czech Republic*); Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (*President/Slovenia*); Bärbel VOGEL (*Adjunct Secretary/Germany*); Nivaldo COLZATO (*Vice-President of Operations/Brazil*); Nathalia Vanessa UASAPUD ENRÍQUEZ (*Adjunct Secretary/Colombia*), and Marc MENTENS (*Adjunct Secretary/Belgium*).

Photo by José Ayrton Labegalini, UIS Past-President