

UIS BUREAU MEETING

– July, 27th (9:30–12:30) & July, 30th 2023 (9:30–12:30), Curitiba, Brazil

Minutes:

Marc MENTENS (Day/Part 1) & Nathalia Vanessa UASAPUD ENRÍQUEZ (Day/Part 2)

Revised by Johannes MATTES

Attendance:	
President	Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA
Vice-President for Operations	Nivaldo COLZATO
Secretary General	Johannes MATTES
Treasurer	Mladen GARAŠIĆ
Adjunct Secretaries	Gerard CAMPION (Day 1 on Zoom) Marc MENTENS Patricia SEISER (Zoom) Nathalia Vanessa UASAPUD ENRÍQUEZ Bärbel VOGEL (Zoom)
Past Presidents	Andy EAVIS José Ayrton LABEGALINI George VENI
Guests	Jean Pierre BARTHOLEYNS

AGENDA

1. Opening Session – President welcoming introduction / Approval of Agenda (N. Zupan-Hajna)

UIS President N. Zupan-Hajna, welcomed all participants to the meeting of the UIS Bureau in Curitiba. She and Secretary General J. Mattes thanked the Brazilian hosts for the invitation to the 37th Congresso Brasileiro de Espeleologia (CBE) in Curitiba. The agenda was approved, with some items modified to allow all Zoom participants to attend the meeting.

DECISION 1: The UIS Bureau approved the agenda.

2. Review Action Items and Decisions of previous UIS Bureau Meeting (02/2023) – Decisions to be made on follow up un-accomplished actions

- a. Minutes and List of Actions/Decisions of the last UIS Bureau Meeting to be done by P. Seiser

The minutes of the previous Bureau meeting and the list of decisions and actions were reviewed by the Bureau.

DECISION 2: The UIS Bureau approved the minutes of the last Bureau meeting.

- b. Closing of the International Year of Karst, including video (G. Veni, N. Zupan Hajna)

N. Zupan-Hajna and G. Veni gave an overview of the closing of the IYCK. The production of a short video on this occasion was cancelled due to late submissions and insufficient response from Bureau members. G. Veni encouraged to work for an UNESCO International Day of Caves and Karst. He provided information on the activities carried out during the IYCK worldwide (1095 events in total). G. Veni is currently working on an IYCK report.

DECISION 3: The UIS Bureau agreed to work on an UNESCO International Day of Karst and Caves.

ACTION 1: G. Veni to finish the report of the IYCK.

- c. Working-Group UIS List on endangered caves and karst features (B. Vogel, J.-M. Calaforra, M. Parise, P. Seiser)

B. Vogel regretted the inactivity of the working group. Its members have been occupied with various other activities and tasks. N. Zupan-Hajna proposed to transform the Working Group into a Commission in order to draw the attention of politicians and decision makers to this important topic. This could best be done before the next UIS General Assembly in 2025. Ideas and contributions are welcome.

DECISION 4: The Bureau would like to be informed about any progress on this matter at the next meeting.

ACTION 2: B. Vogel to activate the working group.

- d. Official Report of the last ICS by the French organizing committee (N. Zupan Hajna, J. Mattes)

Although N. Zupan-Hajna and J. Mattes have written three times to the Board of the French Speleological Federation (FFS) requesting an official report on the ICS (for publication in the UIS Bulletin) and a financial report, these have not been submitted. The share of the ICS registration costs due to the UIS has also not been paid by the FFS.

ACTION 3: To get in contact with members of the FSS and to obtain at least some information about the last ICS (official number of participants, oral presentations, posters etc.) for the UIS Archive.

- e. Cave-inspired music database (J. Mattes)

J. Mattes reported that the Cave Music website of David Brison-De Calmes (www.caveinspiredmusic.com) will soon be uploaded to the UIS domain as agreed with the author and the UIS Arts and Letters Commission.

3. Finance Update (M. Garasic)

UIS Treasurer M. Garasic gave an overview of the current financial situation. The Euro account contains 35.386,56 €. The dollar account contains 51.127,86 US \$. Together this results in a total amount of € 81.352,55 on July 20, 2023.

M. Garasic pointed out that several members are in arrears with their contributions to the UIS. Most countries will pay their contributions for the last four years at the next ICS.

N. Colzato proposed to publish a list of countries in arrears in the next UIS Bulletin.

DECISION 5: The UIS Bureau approved the financial status and agreed to publish a list of indebted countries in the next UIS Bulletin.

ACTION 4: M. Garasic to complete a list of the financial status of the member countries.

4. UIS Bureau business

- a. Short reports and updates (President, Vice-Presidents, General Secretary, Adjunct Secretaries)

(for the Activity reports by B. Vogel and G. Champion see Annex 2 and 4)

UIS President N. Zupan-Hajna and Secretary General J. Mattes reported on their activities since the last Bureau meeting. All issues are dealt with individually in the following agenda.

Vice-President N. Colzato reported that he is working on the UIS Bulletin to collect enough articles for publication. He has also been deeply involved in the organization and preparation of the next ICS.

N. Uasapud has worked with the new bureau of the Colombian National Federation ESPELEOCOL and with the government on the regulation of the new national cave law.

M. Mentens was engaged in the donation of equipment to young cavers in developing countries. Donations have been made to Brazilian cavers and to a cave rescue team in Sagada, Philippines. Preparations are underway for donations to Malaysia and

Indonesia. He is also working on contacts with Asian cavers and agencies. He hopes to soon create a charter between international expeditions and local cavers to equalize their skills and equipment.

P. Seiser has worked on Cave Education and Cave protection in the US.

G. Campion continued to represent the UK in the European Speleological Federation, raising issues that may affect work with the UIS. He is working with Speleomedit to try to get more countries on board to highlight cave conservation issues. He is preparing a presentation on cave conservation for the Moroccan Speleological Congress in November. He is also looking at regional representation for the UIS, for example a collaboration of North African countries.

B. Vogel has participated in the Geneva Water Convention.

J.M. Calaforra and M. Parise did not submit an activity report.

- b. Ideas/proposals for Bureau activities
 - Working Group on Politics (proposed by B. Vogel)
- It is agreed to deal with this issue later under item # 7c.

5. UIS Media

- a. UIS Bulletin (N. Colzato)

N. Colzato reported that the next issue of the UIS Bulletin faces problems due to lack of content. There are little reports from the commissions and projects/events supported by the UIS. It is necessary to ask the commissions and granted projects to send reports in order to have material for the next issues of the Bulletin. The next ICS will be discussed in detail in the upcoming UIS Bulletin.

DECISION 6: The UIS Bureau thanks N. Colzato for his efforts.

ACTION 5: N. Colzato to send letters to UIS commissions and granted projects/events asking for reports.

- b. Recent updates of the UIS website: bureau website, rearrangement of pages, ISC logo, etc. (J. Mattes, N. Colzato)

N. Colzato and J. Mattes reported on recent updates to the UIS website, such as the implementation of a UIS Bureau webpage and the addition of the ISC logo.

Some of the UIS social media accounts are rather inactive.

DECISION 7: The UIS Board decided that N. Uasapud should be involved in UIS social media and take over Instagram publishing.

ACTION 6: N. Uasapud to get in touch with J. Rijavec and Ayumi regarding the UIS social media.

6. UIS Relationships with Regional Organizations and Countries

- a. Member country: Mongolia (N. Zupan Hajna)

Due to the death of the UIS delegate of Mongolia, UIS no longer has any contact with the national organization.

ACTION 7: M. Mentens to contact the Mongolian Academy of Sciences to reestablish the relationship to the Mongolian cavers.

- b. Support for World Heritage nomination of Naj Tunich Cave in Guatemala (G. Veni)

George Veni explained the need to protect the Naj Tunich Cave due to its unique cultural and natural value. The UIS Bureau expressed its full support of this project.

- c. Affiliating with the Austrian Academy of Sciences (J. Mattes)

In April 2023, J. Mattes submitted an application to the Austrian Academy of Sciences to support the UIS as an associated organization. The Academy is about to join.

7. UIS Relationships with International Organizations

- a. - Status of a non-governmental organization associated with UNESCO: (N. Zupan-Hajna)

UNESCO has invited the UIS Bureau to apply for the status of a non-governmental organization associated with UNESCO. N. Zupan-Hajna will ask for the cooperation of the Agency to study the procedure in more detail. The General Assembly of UNESCO will be held in October 2023.

DECISION 8: The UIS Bureau supported the idea of becoming an UNESCO affiliated organization.

ACTION 8: N. Zupan-Hajna to check the procedure.

- UNESCO Day of Caves and Karst, September 13

The proposal to make September 13 the International Day of Caves and Karst received full support from UNESCO. The creation of a promotional campaign and the development of ideas were mentioned as action points to be completed. There might several ways to accomplish this, N. Zupan-Hajna gave a technical explanation of the procedures.

Such an event cannot be organized before 2026 because of the procedure and the preparations needed. The Bureau agreed that the first International Day of Caves and Karst will be organized in Slovenia.

DECISION 9: The UIS Bureau will consider all potential contributions to this topic.

ACTION 9: The UIS Bureau to look for national organizations to organize the 2027 International Day of Caves and Karst.

b. International Science Council:

- ISC Membership Category (N. Zupan-Hajna, J. Mattes)

N. Zupan-Hajna and J. Mattes explained the benefits and obligations of being a member of the International Science Council. The ISC provides the UIS with international recognition and contacts to other scientific unions, academic institutions and their global initiatives. The UIS is now only an affiliated member (category 3) and pays 540 € per year. Full membership (category 1) is more expensive, so the Bureau will propose to the ISC to pay about 800 €, because the UIS is an organization with a smaller budget.

N. Uasapud will represent us in Latin and Central America, M. Mentens will do this for Asia and the Pacific. The next ISC regional meeting for Asia and Pacific is scheduled for early September in Kuala Lumpur.

DECISION 10: The Bureau agreed to apply for Category 1 membership.

ACTION 10: J. Mattes and N. Zupan-Hajna to prepare a Category 1 membership proposal to the ISC.

- ISC Geo-Unions (N. Zupan-Hajna, J. Mattes)

N. Zupan-Hajna and J. Mattes report that, thanks to their attendance at the last ISC meeting in Paris in mid-May 2023, the UIS has been invited to join the ISC Geo-Unions (<https://www.icsu-geounions.org>), an initiative of 10 geoscientific unions of the ISC. The first meeting with the participation of UIS will take place in mid-September 2023.

End of the first day of the UIS meeting

Second day of the UIS meeting

The day started with a little change in the agenda because the whole Brazilian delegation were present to talk about the 19th ICS. We started with item # 9 of the agenda and then continued with the original agenda.

- Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (J. Mattes)

UIS has been invited to join the Standing Committee on Gender Equality in Science (<https://gender-equality-in-science.org>), an initiative of 20 scientific associations worldwide. The annual membership fee is about 200 Euros. Membership could be an impetus to develop a code of conduct for social and gender equality. All Presidium members agreed to participate in such an initiative and proposed two Associate Secretaries (B. Vogel and N. Uasapud) to set up a working group and prepare a draft to be discussed at the next UIS General Assembly.

DECISION 11: The UIS Bureau agreed to participate in the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science.

ACTION 11: J. Mattes, N. Uasapud and B. Vogel to set up a group and start working on a code of conduct for social and gender equality.

ACTION 12: The UIS treasurer will approve the fee for the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science.

- c. Request from the IUCN: Consultation on Key Geo-heritage Areas (J. Mattes)
(see next numeral)

- d. Application for UN accredited ECOSOC status (J. Mattes and G. Veni)

J. Mattes reported that an application for ECOSOC status has not yet been submitted. The application is much more complex than expected. He recommended that a group interested in policy issues should work together on this application, as it needs to explicitly state what the UIS objectives are in this regard. N. Zupan-Hajna proposed to establish a UIS Commission for IUCN, UN and other political issues. Members of the Bureau and/or persons from the UIS Commissions should participate. Individual members of the Bureau need to organize a working group or committee and prepare a proposal to establish a commission on this topic at the next UIS General Assembly in 2025.

DECISION 12: The UIS Bureau agreed to set up a group and prepare a proposal for the General Assembly in 2025.

ACTION 13: B. Vogel and G. Veni to organize a committee in charge of the proposal.

- e. Relation to regional associations – FSE, FEALC, NSS, ASU

The UIS Bureau discussed the relations with regional federations. Unfortunately, there is no news or direct contact with some of the regional federations.

FSE: Several members of the UIS Bureau met with the President and Secretary General of the FSE at the International Karst School in Postojna in June 2023 and agreed to increase their efforts and cooperation for the protection of caves and karst. The FSE will also support the proposal and preparation of an International Day for Caves and Karst.

FEALC: There is no news or report from FEALC. N. Zupan-Hajna suggested to J. Mattes to send a letter to reactivate the relationship. J.A. Labegalini also proposed to invite FEALC to the Speleo Events in Latin America in 2024 and to the UIS Congress in 2025.

NSS: P. Seiser gave a report on NSS to the Bureau. UIS needs to do something to clarify and amends some differences between some NSS members and UIS (related to past events). G. Veni suggested a paper for NSS News or something to clarify and support NSS.

ASU: There is no news from ASU. M. Mentens will try to contact the organization.

ACTION 14: J. Mattes, M. Mentens and other Bureau members to send letters to the respective regional organizations and to get in contact with their delegates.

8. UIS Commissions and Expeditions

- a. Recent call for speleological event support (J. Mattes for Z. Motyčka)

Due to recent complaints about the call for speleological event support, J. P. Bartholeyns discussed its rules and deadlines.

N. Zupan-Hajna argued that applicants have to follow the rules, but we need to clarify the deadline: “If you miss the deadline, the proposal will be evaluated in the next call if the expedition has not happened by then.” This has to be discussed with the Vice-President Z. Motyčka, who is responsible for the support of events.

J. Mattes spoke about how to deal with countries that do not pay the UIS fee and apply for event support. He is concerned about excluding applicants from member countries due to non-payment, as there is a difference between the caver applying and the national organization responsible for paying the membership fee. N. Uasapud suggested that the national organizations should be remembered to pay their fees. M. Garasic told us that in the next UIS bulletin there will be a list of the countries in debt with the UIS, and he will also send a letter to the countries who have defaulted.

DECISION 13: The UIS Bureau agreed on the need to clarify the event support application rules.

ACTION 15: Z. Motyčka to propose adjustments to the guidelines for speleological event support.

DECISION 14: The UIS Bureau agreed not to exclude applications from countries in debt to the UIS.

ACTION 16: M. Garasic to send letters to the countries who are in debt.

- b. New/adapted conditions for the Speleological Event Support Guidelines (proposed by Z. Motyčka, see Annex 1)

This topic was not discussed due the considerations given in item # 8a.

- c. Commissions activities and support – problems and future (N. Zupan Hajna)

N. Zupan-Hajna shared her concerns about the commissions and the lack of results and activity. Some of the commissions have no results, no new members, etc. It is necessary to reactivate the commissions, probably by having a meeting with the commission presidents and then making a call to encourage young people to join the commission or create new ones.

B. Vogel informed about the news of the Biological Commission and suggested that the young speleologists should give lectures for the UIS YouTube channel.

J. Mattes proposed an online event with the commission presidents and to collect their ideas on how to attract new people to the commissions. N. Zupan-Hajna proposed that Z. Motyčka should write a short paper on this topic for the next Bulletin.

DECISION 15: The UIS Bureau agreed to discuss these issues at the next UIS Bureau meeting.

ACTION 17: Z. Motyčka to present his suggestions at the next UIS Bureau meeting.

9. Organization of the 19th ICS in Belo Horizonte (N. Colzato, J.A. Labegalini)

N. Colzato presented to the Bureau the organizational structure of the 19th ICS. The Brazilian Congress Committee consists of Jose Ayrton Labegalini (President of the 19th ICS), Allan Calux (Chairman), Roberto Cassemiro (President SBE), Elizandra Goldoni (President-Elect SBE), Rodrigo Lopes (Scientific Program Coordinator), Claudia Pesoa (Communication Coordinator), Rodrigo Severo (Speleolympics Coordinator), Paulo Arenas (Treasurer), Joicy Brandao (Vice-President).

After the introduction of the Committee, A. Calux started to talk about the state of the congress and J.A. Labegalini continued with the history of the ICS and the 19th ICS. R. Lopes gave an insight into the committees (15) and subcommittees (8) for the scientific program. G. Veni talked about the problems during the last congress between the organization and the committees. N. Zupan-Hajna encouraged her to keep in contact with the UIS commissions for support and the Committee agreed to contact the commissions to organize the symposium in the congress and proposed a second meeting with the scientific program committees to discuss this topic in detail.

J.A. Labegalini continued the presentation and talked about the dates of the congress, the country, the city and the venue. He also explained the excursions and field trips.

Then, Allan talked about the accommodation available in Belo Horizonte. The Committee explained the financial situation of the convention, showing that they have enough funds to cover the whole convention. Registration fees and dates have already been set.

The Congress Committee will also organize the Speleolympics with the help of the Speleo Rescue Section of the SBE. They are currently seeking permission from the authorities. M. Garasic suggested that the Committee send a letter to EU Speleoescue inviting them to participate in the event.

Then C. Pessoa presented the communication plan for the congress, which includes an app for immediate communication with the organization.

N. Colzato gave to all present the first circular of the ICS. This circular contains all the general information about the ICS. The second circular will contain the fees and the Call for Papers. The UIS Bureau recommended to make it clear to the participants that either the presentations or at least the slides should be in English.

In order to avoid problems with the registration process at the Congress, the Committee was clear that it would hire a company specialized in credentialing and automation.

Finally, the Bureau congratulated the Organizing Committee for its excellent work in preparing the Congress.

10. UIS Prizes

a. UIS Prizes for 2025 (N. Colzato)

N. Colzato proposed to delegate the task of prizes due to his other commitments at the 19th ICS committee. All agreed that a new committee to handle the selection process and new guidelines should be established to improve this process. The Bureau appointed M. Mentens, M. Parise and J. Calaforra to this new committee to organize the selection process at the next ICS.

DECISION 16: The UIS Bureau agreed to form a new committee for prizes.

ACTION 18: M. Mentens, M. Parise and J. Calaforra to collaborate in this committee.

b. Proposal of two new categories for UIS awards for long-term distinguished service and intermediate/young speleologists (proposed by J. Mattes, see Annex 3)

J. Mattes proposed two new categories for the UIS awards, one for intermediate/young cavers and one for longstanding excellence. The latter could be a medal (no money). The bureau suggests is a good idea to the awards but not to name the prize from a person because it could be polemical.

N. Colzato pointed out that the 60th anniversary of the UIS will be the responsibility of the Brazilian Federation.

DECISION 17: This proposal will be discussed at the next bureau meeting.

DECISION 18: The UIS anniversary will be in charge of the Brazilian Federation.

11. Attendance to future speleology events

- a. Karst, Caves, and People 2023, September, 20–24 (Sloup, Czech Republic)

<https://www.speleo.cz/karst-caves-and-people-2023>

This event will be attended by N. Zupan-Hajna, J. Mattes, Z. Motyčka, and M. Garasic.

- b. ISC Global Knowledge Dialogue Asia-Pacific?, October, 5–6, 2023 (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

<https://council.science/events/gkd-asia-pacific/>

This event will be attended by M. Mentens.

- c. 3rd International Congress of Karst, Speleology and Valorization of Natural Heritage, November, 2–5, 2023 (Rabat, Morocco)

<https://speleorabat23.sciencesconf.org/>

This event will be attended by N. Zupan-Hajna, Z. Motyčka, and G. Campion.

12. Venue and date of the next UIS Bureau Meeting in 2024 (N. Zupan Hajna, J. Mattes) Invitation by the Asian Trans-Disciplinary Karst Conference: Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta (Java), Indonesia, August 12–15, 2024.

N. Zupan Hajna and J. Mattes gave a short outline of the next Asian Trans-Disciplinary Karst Conference in Yogyakarta in 2024.

DECISION 19: The UIS Bureau accepted the invitation.

ACTION 19: J. Mattes to send a letter to the organizers of the Asian Trans-Disciplinary Karst Conference to ask for dates, accommodation and logistics.

13. Any other business

G. Veni gave us a report on the progress of the translation of the UIS Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection.

14. Closing Statements (N. Zupan-Hajna)

N. Zupan-Hajna thanked everyone for their attending.

Annex 1) Proposal by Z. Motycha to change the UIS Speleological Event Guidelines (changes in red):



Speleological Events Support Guidelines

Article 1: Introduction

All speleological events which are related to the aims and objectives of the UIS, whether of a general, international, national or even regional nature, are of interest to the UIS. This document defines details for possible UIS support of such events.

Article 2: Classification of events

1. Congresses, symposia, meetings, workshops and similar events

These events involve technical, scientific and/or cultural presentations, and associated excursions, or practical or educational activities that relate to speleology.

2. International Speleological Expeditions

International expeditions (projects) focused on exploration or study or protection of caves and karst, with emphasis on the educational, technical or scientific cooperation with the local speleological community.

Article 3: Levels of Support

1. Formal support

Basic level of support authorizing use of the official UIS logo for promotion and advertising of the event. The logo of the UIS should be used on all materials like posters, folders, banners, website and any other printed or electronic matters. The logo should be accompanied by a phrase that the event is supported by UIS.

2. Patronage of UIS

Advanced level of support, authorizing use of the official UIS logo for promotion and advertising of the event and a requirement to provide space for a UIS stand and speech during the opening ceremony or other similarly major activity. The logo of the UIS should be used on all materials such as posters, folders, banners, website, and any other printed or electronic

materials. The logo should be accompanied by a phrase that the event is organized under patronage of UIS. The event organizers should provide relevant exhibit space for use by the UIS. The official speech should be reserved for the UIS President or UIS official representative.

3. Financial support

This type of support requires the same obligations as for Patronage from the organizers, but the logo should be accompanied by a phrase that the event is organized with financial support of UIS and official UIS representation (usually participating UIS Bureau members) will also be exempt from paying the registration fee. The amount of financial support from the UIS depends on the importance of the funds to the project and the financial capabilities of the UIS.

Article 4: Conditions and obligations

1. General conditions

Requests for support must be submitted digitally or physically by the person who is leading, organizing, or coordinating the event. It should contain a short description of the event including its purpose, scope, location, date, organizers, expected outcome, and the level of support requested. Official documents of the event should be attached. Requests for support have to be addressed to the UIS Bureau via the Secretary General. Requests should be sent as early as possible to allow enough time for review, consultation and responsible decision.

2. Agreement with Regulations of the UIS

The request for support should explicitly show that the proposed event is in agreement with the *Statutes, Internal Regulations, and Code of Ethics* of the UIS.

3. Special conditions for financial support

Request for financial support has to define the requested amount, and specify the expenses that would be paid with UIS money. Financial support may not be used for indirect costs and other expenses not directly related to the event. Fringe benefits (salaries, legal actions, land acquisition, endowments, construction of permanent field stations, etc.) are also excluded.

Financial support will not be provided if the applicant or a significant part of participants is from a member country, which is in debt with payment of membership fee to UIS. Requests for financial support should be sent before the deadlines established by UIS Bureau.

4. Obligation of event outcomes

Within 3 months of the conclusion of the event (conference, expedition, or other supported activity), a summary report of the outcomes will be sent to the *UIS Bulletin* for publication.

Any kind of official electronic or printed outcomes of the supported event, including but not limited to proceedings, reports, posters, videos, etc., has to be provided to the UIS Archive via the UIS Vice President of Administration no later than 6 months after the conclusion of the event.

The UIS reserves the right to publish any reports, photographs, or other obligated materials received on the UIS website, in the *UIS Bulletin*, or for any UIS promotional activity. If the

event includes any media outcomes, one copy has to be also provided for UIS Archive. All other kinds of electronic or printed material related to the event are welcome.

5. Special conditions for speleological expeditions

Expedition participants have to be from at least from 3 different countries, one of which is recommended to be the host country where the project will be conducted. Where UIS funds are limited, preference will be given to projects that include local cavers and include participants from greater numbers of countries. The *UIS Code of Ethics* state:

In many cases it will be necessary to obtain prior official permission in the country to be visited. In addition, as a matter of courtesy it is necessary to inform one or more of the following: the national speleological organisation; the UIS national delegate; local caving club(s); and relevant individuals from whom cooperation is sought.

UIS support will not be provided if this important condition is not met.

The official expedition report, including photographs and maps, has to be provided in electronic, fully edited form, to the UIS Archive via the Vice President of Administration no later than 1 year after the expedition.

Article 5: Grant of support

The UIS has no legal or moral obligation to provide support for an event.

If an event is supported, an official letter of support will be issued by the Secretary General and the event will be included on the UIS website calendar of international speleological events and other UIS social media. Other details can be communicated between the event Organizers and the UIS Bureau. Proper use of UIS logo is defined in *UIS Visual Identity Guide*.

If the organizers of an event that receives UIS support do not meet the requested obligations, or provide any untrue information, they automatically lose UIS support and must return all money provided by the UIS back to UIS account immediately. In case any of any fraudulent behavior, the UIS Bureau is justified to use all necessary legal means to protect UIS rights.

Annex 2) Bärbel Vogel: Report on Activities since the UIS Bureau Meeting in Feb. 2023:

1. Politics

- UN Water conference

participated on behalf of VdHK (UN accreditation) at the UN Water Conference in New York online. Tried to engage a karst water specialist from India on behalf of VdHKs 4 free places, but due to a mistake in registration it failed.

Took the chance to upload an official input on water in karst. The paper was drafted by Hans Jürgen Hahn, George Veni, John Gunn and me. It is the first paper speleology submitted on UN level!

VdHK Water Paper to the UN Water Conference link at the UN Homepage 😊

<https://sdgs.un.org/documents/verband-der-deutschen-hohlen-und-karstforscher-ev-51807>

150 NGO letters are officially published see:

<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/stakeholders>

- UN Regional Conference Europe in Geneva

participated on behalf of VdHK online and had the chance to speak in the Water Side Event. Had 2 minutes to give a summary on the paper mentioned above.

- UN SDG Summit 2023 in September

SDGs monthly webinars: participated online at 'Countdown to the UN SDG Summit 2023,' with focus on SDG 15, Life on Land, and SDG 16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Civil Society Weekend Workshops: participated online at the informal exchange of views, networking and dialogue on key issues for civil society engagement on the 2030 Agenda.

- UN High Level Political Forum (Sustainable Development Goals)

participated this year just in one meeting in July, but it was already too late to register for the HLPF

George Veni participated at the May and June meetings

Unfortunately this is the first year of our engagement, when speleology is not engaged and present at the HLPF, I am very sorry for this! In 2023 a speleo topic is highlighted with "life on land".

As we are very limited people in the UIS bureau engaging in politics, I would highly recommend opening the politics working group beyond the bureau.

2. Gypsum Karst and Alexander Klimchouk, Symposium Walkenried June 2023

organized an online seminar on gypsum karst moderated by John Gunn on behalf of IUCN/WCPA GSG Caves and Karst Working Group. We dedicated this symposium to Alexander Klimchouk.

The session is available on the VdHK YouTube channel, currently VdHK is busy to provide each presentation separately.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5il3fcBWsVg&t=17825s>

3. UIS List of endangered caves and karst

Did not work on it because of the workload – current status of the paper on ideas see next page

UIS List of endangered caves and karst

At the first UIS bureau meeting of the new bureau, Nadja Zupan proposed to establish a list of endangered caves and karst at the UIS website as a follow up to the activities at the international year. A Working Group shall work on this topic:

Bärbel Vogel, Pat Seiser, José Maria Callaforra, Mario Parise, ...

Anybody can send information on an endangered cave and karst site to the working group.

For the report the listed requirements are mandatory:

- reporter, email
- information about the site
- information about the threat
- information about the measures taken to protect the site

other information is welcome, like:

- information on the stakeholders
- relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals like Water, Life on Land, Education, etc.

and relevance on the UN Major Groups like Indigenous People, Industry, Science, etc.

(UIS Working Group can assist)

Requested Website Information:

- professional pictures, if possible
- short introduction text for open public
- detailed information as pdf or links

Verification

Before the information is posted at the UIS website, the working group will get in touch with national speleological federation and other related organisations to verify the information above.

UIS Website:

world wide map

red dots for every endangered site, can change to green where protection was possible

at least one picture for each site, or slider with more

and a short information with a link to know more about the case

Annex 3) Proposal by J. Mattes for two new UIS awards:

Award for senior speleologists/cavers:

- Awarded to an individual for long-term outstanding service to UIS
- Prize named after a deceased long-standing member of the Bureau, e.g. *Bernard Gèze-Medal* or *Hubert Trimmel-Medal*
- Amount of the prize: Medal with a portrait of the person after whom the medal is named (no money)
- Awarded to one or more individuals on the occasion of UIS Congresses
- Selection by the UIS Bureau and Past Presidents/Honorary Members, no public call
- Publication of awardees in a dedicated section/list on the UIS website to increase visibility

Award for younger/intermediate speleologists/cavers:

- Awarded to an individual or group for multi-year scientific and/or documentary activities that have sustainably promoted transnational or transdisciplinary cooperation in speleology (not an award for individual discoveries or research outcomes such as maps or books etc.)
- Prize named after a deceased renowned woman speleologist/caver, e.g. *Luella A. Owen-Price*
- Total amount of the prize: 1.000 Euro
- To be awarded at UIS Congresses to one or more individuals/groups (prize money may be shared)
- Selection by the UIS Bureau, following a public call for applications before each ICS
- Publication of the awardees in a special section/list on the UIS website to increase visibility

Annex 4) Ged Campion: UIS Activity Report

- Supporting General Secretary by taking minutes of Bureau meeting in Oct 22.
- Work with Nivaldo on the last edition of the UIS Bulletin acting as proof reader.
- Reviewing Wiki Caves contribution to UIS work following funding.
- Looking a present regional structures to consider how they can best relate to UIS.
- Approaching countries who might be persuaded to join UIS, eg. Malta.
- Attending the German National Congress in May this year on behalf of the FSE but promoting the activities of the UIS.
- Attending the Gypsum Caves & Karst Seminar.
- Will attend the International Congress of Karst & Speleology in Rabat, November 23.