


**Minutes**  
**M-003-2026-IUGS-COGE**  
**COGE – [General Assembly] – Feb/2026**

<b>Date &amp; Time (Start)</b>	9.00pm, 27 Feb 2026
<b>End of the meeting (time)</b>	10.00pm (AWST)
<b>Location / Platform / Chair (lead)</b>	Microsoft teams, Elvaene James
<b>Attendees</b>	Elvaene James (EJ), Sandra Villacorta (SV), Enas Ahmed (EA), Marian Serlom Sapah (MS), Susanna Occhipinti (SO), Pham Thanh Thuy (PT), Rok Brajkovic (RBr), Scott Miller (SM), Monica Guzman (MG), Xavier Juan (XJ), Rodrigo Gutierrez (RG), Maria Julia (MJ), Kimie Eliana Suzuki (KE), Clemencia Gomez (CG)
<b>Apologies / Absentees</b>	Miguel Cano (MC), Roberto Greco (RG), Ramanathan Baskar (RBa)

Iter	Description			
1	<b>Quorum:.</b>			
2	<b>Review of Previous Action Items / Follow-up</b>			
	<b>Action Item / Decision</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status</b> C: Completed O: Ongoing, P: Pending	<b>Deadline</b>
	In coordination with the Board to assign a coordinator for the GEM campaigns	MG	P	N/A
	Formalise a collaboration model for GEFO to avoid fragmented regional operations	MG	P	May, 2026
	Inform the COGE Board of the progress of pending tasks for the Education, Outreach and Policy (EOP) subcommission	MG	O	N/A
	Preparing a survey on the EOP strategy to work on advocating for geoscience education policies	MG	P	July, 2026
	Inform on coordination of the implementation of COGE's global outreach strategy and support the board in internationalising geoscience education efforts.	MG	O	N/A
	Define a responsible for the Wikipedia Projects on Geoscience Education	MG	P	N/A
	Define the Public Awareness Campaigns	MG	C	N/A
3	<b>Review of agenda subjects</b>			
	<b>Agenda Topics Discussion</b>	<b>Action / Key Decisions</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
	<i>Opening Meeting</i>	GeoArt Contest 2026 Implementation.	CG	March, 2026

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EJ extends a warm welcome to all attendees and expresses gratitude for their hard work, participation, and collaboration. Last year, despite the financial circumstances in 2025, a variety of programs were implemented to benefit the communities, resulting in substantial success.</li> </ul> <p><i>Institutional Report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EJ stated that the governance framework had been operationalised, and the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) had been formally reviewed in December 2025. She elaborated on the reporting and authorisation pathways that have been established, which now result in a more effective coordination within the Sub-commissions, committees and groups. The processes are consistent with the strategic alignment with IUGS expectatives and contribute to the improvement of COGE's international visibility and positioning.</li> <li>SV mentioned the following achievements of COGE in the year 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o EDI flagship initiatives (CGEO-UNAM exhibition; webinar and IAEG Peru webinars)</li> <li>o 2 peer-reviewed publications - CGEO journal</li> <li>o Chris King Medal 2025 awardee elected</li> <li>o 2 MoUs and 1 Letter of Collaboration</li> <li>o Membership growth from under-represented regions</li> <li>o Strengthened GEFO regional engagement (Africa &amp; LAC)</li> <li>o EOP Webinars Series in Latin America &amp; AI applied to Geoscience Education</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Strategic Priorities 2026</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SV stated that the commission's objective for the 2026 Strategic Framework is to achieve institutional maturity by enhancing the operational coordination of the EOP and implementing transparent financial allocation mechanisms. Additionally, the commission intends to formalise strategic partnerships and structure Early Career engagement and mobility support.</li> </ul>	Launch the GeoArt contest in social media	RG	March, 2026
	Coordinate the GeoArt evaluation panel	CG	June, 2026
	Coordinate drafting, consultation process, and engagement with international partners for the White Paper	SV	August, 2026 [done]
	Confirm publication of the White Paper with Episodes Editor and prepare GeoSciEd X consultation stage	SV	April, 2026 [done]
	Finalise speakers for the GEFO Webinar, confirm agenda, and coordinate delivery and promotion	XJ	April, 2026 [done]
	Social Media promotion for the GEFO webinar	RG	March, 2026 [done]
	Inform about the coordination of the Chris King medallist webinar in May	RG	April, 2026
	Coordinate next regional EOP workshops and outreach campaigns.	MG	April, 2026
	Inform on progress about the coordination of the presentation of the medal in Spain	RG	April, 2026
	Support MG in her role as Interim Chair of EOP Subcommittee to ensure continuity of programme activities.	EOP Team	N/a
	Continue targeted governance reviews of programme coordination and leadership arrangements.	RBa	N/A
	Finalise framework and send the COGE Early Career Travel Grants 2026 call proposal to the IUGS Executive Committee for feedback	SV	March, 2026 [done]
	Inform about the Early Career Travel Grants 2026 framework approval from IUGS Executive	SV	April, 2026
Inform on result of the GMC assessment of leadership compliance	EJ	April, 2026	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the global positioning, SV informed that the commission is presently engaged in the elaboration of the IUGS White Paper on Geoeducation. The commission is also actively engaged in the IUGS Executive meetings.</li> <li>EJ expanded on the 82nd IUGS Executive meeting in Colombia, stating that the commission had engaged in an active dialogue with IGEO and contributed to the IUGS strategic discussion with delegates and added that more deliberation is required in the future, and that collaboration with the IGEO in the future is feasible. She also mentioned that the formal cooperation framework is presently in progress with EGU Education.</li> <li>SV elaborated about the flagship activities in 2026 which include the 2025 Chris King Medal Ceremony, which will be held at the 23rd Symposium on Geology Teaching in Almeria, Spain, the EOP for regional workshops and campaigns awareness programs, and the GeoArt 2026 outreach program, which is aligned with IUGS priorities. Furthermore, She referenced the White Paper, which is scheduled to be presented at GeoSciEd X 2026 in Australia. Once the date of the GEFO April webinar is confirmed, it will be a joint webinar between IUGS COGE and EGU Education. The GEM program will be maintained by the commission in order to highlight the contributions of geoscientists worldwide.</li> </ul> <p><i>Governance Updates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SV reported that the revised ToR (December 2025) is now actively implemented, with a focus on strengthening clarity in roles, responsibilities, and reporting lines across the Commission.</li> <li>EJ explained that the GMC has conducted targeted reviews of programme coordination and leadership arrangements to ensure alignment with COGE procedures, strengthen accountability, and support effective programme delivery while formal governance processes continue under the IUGS By-Laws and COGE ToR. As part of this alignment process, some leadership transitions have taken</li> </ul>	Strengthen oversight mechanisms, including periodic coordination meetings and progress reviews across subcommissions.	Board	N/A
	Administrative financial allocation for COGE	EJ	N/A
	Inform on the preparation of the IUGS White Paper on Geoeducation a	SV	April, 2026
	Coordinate the next GEFO webinars	To be confirmed	April, 2026
	Inform on strategic partnerships with external organisations	Sharon Locke	April, 2026
	Inform on the strengthened international positioning of COGE through partnerships and visibility initiatives.	Sharon Locke	April, 2026

	<p>place to facilitate broader participation and strengthen programme coordination. In this context, MG has been invited to serve as Interim Chair of the EOP Subcommission, while RG has been confirmed as Social Media Team Lead. Additional actions currently under review include the clarification of leadership responsibilities, assessment of projects activities in relation to the COGE ToR, and the establishment of coordination arrangements to ensure continuity of activities where needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SV noted that follow-up and oversight mechanisms, including 1:1 coordination meetings and progress reviews, have been strengthened to improve reporting, communication, and implementation across subcommissions. With support from the GMC, COGE is moving toward more structured and transparent governance practices. These measures support institutional continuity, balanced workload distribution, and sustainable leadership across programmes, particularly within EOP, through clearer authorisation pathways, improved documentation of decisions, and stronger internal coordination. SV thanked the GMC for its continued support in governance alignment, membership engagement, and leadership processes across the Commission.</li> </ul> <p><i>Financial Governance and Resource Allocation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SV reported that IUGS has confirmed an allocation of USD 15,000 for 2026, with expenditure to be managed in accordance with IUGS guidelines and priorities. It was noted that these funds are subject to specific IUGS conditions, particularly prioritising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o support for early-career geoscientists and students</li> <li>o participation in approved events</li> <li>o essential operational and reporting obligations</li> </ul> </li> <li>SV emphasised that financial management and governance processes are being implemented in alignment with IUGS requirements, ensuring transparency in allocation, appropriate documentation of expenditures, clear separation</li> </ul>			
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	<p>between programme coordination and financial decision-making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Commission will implement the COGE Early Career Travel Grants 2026 framework, including defined eligibility criteria, evaluation procedures, and reporting mechanisms, coordinated through the EOP Subcommittee.</li> </ul> <p>Institutional Alignment and Strategic Positioning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SV highlighted that COGE continues to strengthen its institutional alignment with IUGS priorities, particularly in education, capacity building, and global outreach.</li> <li>The Commission is actively leading the elaboration of the White Paper and participating in IUGS Executive Committee discussions.</li> </ul>			
4	<b>Any Other Business</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SV explained that COGE entered 2026 as a strengthened and strategically aligned IUGS Commission, focused on clear governance, transparent financial management, active international collaboration, and sustainable leadership.</li> </ul>	All actions must be conducted in accordance with the COGE ToR.	All members	N/A
5	<b>Adjournment / Meeting Closure</b>			
	SV thanked all those who attended the meeting and encouraged them to remain engaged and enthusiastic about the commission. She also wished them a pleasant weekend.			
6	<b>Next Meeting Information</b>			
	Date/Time	April 2026		
	Place/Type	Online Meeting		
	Organizer	EJ		
<b>Minute taker</b>		EJ		
<b>Date of Submission to attendees</b>		30-03-2026		
<b>Date of Approval by the COGE Board</b>		25-04-2026		