



IAEG President: Role Description

June 2026

1.1.1 Introduction

This Role Description describes in detail the role of the IAEG President. The President is the Chairperson of the Executive Committee and the Council and as such has all the responsibilities of other Executive Committee members, plus additional roles and responsibilities. The President holds overall responsibility for the governance, strategic direction and international representation of the Association, and for its effective and consistent operation as a global scientific Association.

The role requires a high level of international engagement and coordination, including regular interaction with Vice-Presidents representing National and Regional Groups and with Technical Commissions. The President is responsible for ensuring continuity of operations. The President oversees initiatives aimed at strengthening the global presence and impact of the Association, including membership growth, international outreach and strategic initiatives.

The President acts as the primary official point of contact of the Association with other international organisations and governing bodies, including IUGS and FedIGS. The President also plays a key role in positioning the Association as a leading international authority in Engineering Geology, influencing policy, practice and global scientific dialogue.

This document must be read in conjunction with the role description for Vice-Presidents.

1.1.2 Election and Term of Office

The President is elected by the Council for a term of four years (Statutes Article VI.4.a) and takes office on 1 January of the year following election. The President is not immediately eligible for re-election but continues to serve on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past-President for another four-year term.

1.1.3 General code of conduct principles for the President and all members of the Executive Committee:

- To act with reasonable care and diligence
- To act honestly and fairly in the best interests of the Association and for its purpose
- Not to misuse their position or information they gain as a responsible person
- To disclose conflicts of interest
- To ensure that the financial affairs of the association are managed responsibly

- Not to allow the Association to operate if it is insolvent
- To act with integrity and transparency in decision-making and governance processes
- To maintain confidentiality of sensitive information obtained in the course of their duties
- To promote a respectful, inclusive and professional environment within the Association
- To comply with applicable laws, regulations and internal policies of the Association
- To uphold and promote the principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within all activities and governance structures of the Association
- To adhere to and promote the IAEG Code of Conduct, upholding ethical behaviour, professionalism and integrity across the Association.

1.1.4 Specific responsibilities of The President under the Bylaws and Statutes

- Chair Council Meetings or delegate, if necessary (Bylaws 2.3)
- Invite delegates of other IUGS and FedIGS affiliated Societies and Congress organising committee representatives to attend Council if appropriate (Bylaws 2.2.2)
- Chair Executive Committee and Council meetings (Bylaws 3.1)
- Make recommendations to ExCom for Ex-Officio Members (Bylaws 3.3)
- Act as Officer of the Association (Bylaws 4.1.1)
- The Officer primarily responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Association, Chair of meetings, representing the Association externally (Bylaws 4.2.1)
- Shall not represent any National/Regional Group in this capacity (Bylaws 4.2.1)
- Provide approval for and authorise payments made by Treasurer (Bylaws 4.5.2; 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.3.3)
- Take part in steering group meetings of Congress organisers (Bylaws 7.2.1, 7.2.2)
- Co-ordinate opening and closing ceremonies of the Congress (Bylaws 7.2.5)
- Agree financial terms for all IAEG sponsored events (Bylaws 8.5)
- Preside over the dissolution of existing commissions (Bylaws 10.7.3)
- Nominates the Chairpersons of Commissions, following appropriate consultation (Bylaws 9.2.2)
- Inform winners of IAEG awards and prizes (Bylaws 12.5, 13.7, 14.5, 15.5)
- Set agenda for Executive Office and Council meeting (Statutes 2.a)
- Report to Council on their actions (Statutes 2.a)
- Sign all contracts entered by the Association (Statutes VIII)
- May initiate the appointment of an Acting President in case of inability to complete the term, through the Executive Committee (Bylaws 4.2.3)
- Holds a casting vote in the event of a tie during Council or Executive Committee decisions (Statutes Article VI.3)
- May appoint or delegate a representative to act on behalf of the President at specific meetings or events (Statutes Article VIII)
- May call extraordinary meetings of the Council at his/her discretion or if requested by a minimum of a quarter of the voting membership of Council Statutes Article VI.2.a)
- May authorize minor additional expenditure beyond the approved budget in exceptional circumstances, subject to reporting to Council (Bylaws 5.4.1)
- Must ensure alternative arrangements are made if the host country is unable to organise the International Congress (Bylaws 6.1.6)
- May determine the venue of the International Congress, in consultation with the Executive Committee, in case no invitation is received (Bylaws 6.1.5)

1.1.5 Day-to-Day Activities of the President

1.1.5.1 1. Strategic Leadership and Development

- Define the common purpose of the Executive Committee (ExCom) and establish strategic priorities of the Association.
- Translate these priorities into measurable objectives, with milestones and deliverables.
- Drive membership growth, (including new countries), and support the expansion of National and Regional Groups worldwide.
- Monitor overall performance, identify emerging risks, challenges and opportunities, and coordinate the Association's response to major scientific or societal issues relevant to Engineering Geology.

1.1.5.2 2. Governance, Direction and Executive Committee Management

- Provide leadership and direction to the ExCom, ensuring alignment, accountability and effective collaboration.
- Set the agenda for ExCom and Council meetings (with the Secretary General) and ensure orderly, inclusive and productive meetings.
- Ensure timely preparation and distribution of ExCom papers; follow through on decisions .
- Oversee the performance and effectiveness of the ExCom and ensure leadership continuity through succession planning.

1.1.5.3 3. Relationship with the Secretary General and Secretariat

- Maintain a strong and effective working relationship with the Secretary General.
- Review the performance of the Secretary General and the Secretariat.
- Oversee and guide the work of the Secretariat to achieve efficient operations, information flow, administrative support and preservation of institutional memory.

1.1.5.4 4. Communication, Outreach and Representation

- Act as spokesperson for the ExCom and the Association.
- Define and guide the communication strategy, including digital presence, website, social media and global outreach.
- Work to achieve consistency, quality and strategic alignment of all official communication channels (Newsletter, Weekly Connector, digital platforms).
- Promote the Association and the Engineering Geology profession through targeted campaigns, international actions, invited lectures and participation in global events.
- Represent the Association in high-level institutional discussions, international organisations, FedIGS, IUGS and other affiliated societies.

1.1.5.5 5. Coordination with Council, National and Regional Groups

- Facilitate effective communication and coordination between ExCom, Council, National and Regional Groups and Technical Commissions.
- Encourage active participation and engagement of members, National Groups and Regional Areas in governance and activities.
- Serve as the primary link between the ExCom and the broader Association.

1.1.5.6 6. Financial Governance and Resource Management

- Chair the Finance, Governance and Risk Management Sub-Committee.
- Align financial planning and resource allocation with strategic priorities.
- Support the development of funding and sponsorship programmes, strengthening financial sustainability and partnerships with industry and stakeholders.

1.1.5.7 7. Education, Training and Scientific Output

- Support and promote education and training initiatives (Summer Schools, workshops, webinars, field activities).
- Promote the development of quality educational programmes with international impact.
- Promote knowledge exchange, best practices and advancement of Engineering Geology globally.
- Support the scientific output of the Association, including publications, guidelines and contributions through BOEG and other platforms.
- Oversee coordination of FedIGS JTC3 (Education & Training).

1.1.5.8 8. Inclusion, Diversity and Community Development

- Promote engagement of young professionals (YEG) and women (WEG), ensuring inclusive participation across the Association.
- Strengthen international collaborations and partnerships with scientific organisations, institutions and industry stakeholders.

1.1.5.9 9. Reporting and Accountability

- Present an annual report to the Executive and Council Meetings.
- Provide structured updates on strategic progress, key initiatives and operational performance.
- Ensure accountability of actions and decisions across the governance structure.

1.1.5.10 10. International Presence and Events

- Ensure the effective organisation, coordination and visibility of major international events, congresses and regional conferences.
- Maintain a strong and consistent international presence through participation, representation and contribution to global scientific and professional events.

1.1.6 Time Commitment and International Engagement

This section outlines the expected level of time commitment and international engagement associated with the role of President.

The position of President of IAEG entails a **significant and continuously evolving time commitment**, extending well beyond participation in formal meetings, conferences and events and encompassing day-to-day administrative, strategic and institutional responsibilities, as well as ongoing international representation and coordination of the Association at a global level. The role involves **addressing urgent or unforeseen matters** that may arise and that require timely response at an international level. Given the global structure of the Association, **the President operates across multiple time zones**. This often involves meetings outside standard working hours and requires ongoing adaptation to the international nature of the Association.

On a **day-to-day** basis, the President engages in communication and coordination with the members of the Executive Committee, the Secretary General, the Treasurer, the Vice Presidents, the RGs and NGs, the Secretariat and the Technical Committees. These activities include decision-making, guiding ongoing initiatives and monitoring the implementation of agreed actions. This level of engagement typically corresponds to approximately 2–3 hours per day on average (1-2 days a week), while maintaining ongoing availability and responsiveness to international communication.



Executive Committee meetings are typically held twice per year, while **Council meetings** take place annually, usually in conjunction with an Executive Committee meeting. These meetings normally have a duration of 2 days and require in-person attendance. They are hosted in different countries worldwide, depending on the Association's planning and the decisions of the Executive Committee. Preparation for these meetings, including agenda development, coordination of topics, preparation of contributions and communication with members, as well as follow-up actions and monitoring of implementation, requires approximately 2–4 days per meeting, corresponding to a total of around 8–12 days per year (excluding travel), depending on the number and complexity of the issues involved.

Beyond formal meetings, the President is actively involved in **international collaborations** (FedIGS, IUGS etc), committees, working groups and strategic initiatives of the Association. This includes contributions to scientific development, education, communication activities and the overall strengthening of the Association's international presence. This engagement is estimated at approximately 2–4 hours per week on average, although it may vary significantly depending on ongoing activities, as well as travel to attend meetings (e.g. FedIGS meeting) in person.

A central aspect of the role is the **international representation of the Association**, including participation in international and regional conferences, workshops and institutional meetings, as well as visits to NGs worldwide. These activities extend across multiple countries and continents throughout the year and require frequent international travel and physical presence. The total time devoted to travel, participation in events, institutional meetings, lectures and related preparation is estimated at no less than 6–10 weeks per year and may increase during periods of particularly intensive international activity.

In parallel, the President is involved in the planning, organization and oversight of international congresses, workshops, summer school and other Association activities, as well as in meetings with organizers and evaluation processes. This involvement typically requires an additional 7–14 days per year, depending on the number and stage of the events.

Overall, **the time commitment associated with the role corresponds to a significant proportion of a full-time professional workload** (estimated in the range of 30–50%), with variation depending on the level of activity. **During periods of increased demand**, such as major international events or critical institutional processes, **the workload may approach full-time engagement**. The role requires a high level of availability, flexibility and the ability to operate effectively in an international, multicultural and decentralized environment, while managing multiple responsibilities across governance, the scientific community and institutional representation.



1.1.7 Financial Support and Resources

This is a volunteer role and as such there is no remuneration for the role of President. To enable the effective fulfilment of the President's duties and ensure consistent global representation of the Association, appropriate financial support for travel is provided. This includes coverage or reimbursement of travel, accommodation and related expenses for participation in IAEG Congresses, Regional Conferences, Executive Committee and Council meetings and other official IAEG activities. Financial support shall also be made available for the President's participation in meetings of FedIGS, IUGS and other relevant international organisations, as well as key scientific, institutional or strategic events where the President's presence contributes to promoting and strengthening the visibility, impact and international standing of the Association.