



2018 CALL FOR CANDIDATES TO RENEW SIX MEMBERS OF THE UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS COUNCIL

In accordance with the Statutes of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) and the Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks (see Article 2), the 12 ordinary members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council shall be appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO on recommendation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and of Member States. Every two years, half of the Council shall be renewed.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Council composition

In addition to the 12 ordinary members who have the right to vote, the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of the GGN, the Secretary-General of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) or their representatives, are four *ex officio* members without the right to vote.

Profile of the Members of the Council

Ordinary members shall be high-profile experts chosen for their proven experience, scientific or professional qualifications in relevant fields, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution and gender equality. They shall serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective States or any other affiliated entities. They will be required to ensure that they have no conflict of interest and that they will not seek or accept instructions from governments or other authorities.

Council Members must fulfil at least **two** of the criteria below:

- Combined and proven professional experience relevant to UNESCO Global Geopark development in a “green-card” holding UNESCO Global Geopark (in at least **three** of the following areas: geological heritage, conservation, sustainable development, tourism development and promotion, environmental issues, community engagement, and public communication of geoscience) for at least eight years; and/or proven scientific or professional qualification in relevant fields and backed by a corresponding recognized higher education degree;

- Be/have been a member of the former Global Geoparks Bureau, Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) – Advisory Committee, and/or European Geoparks Network (EGN) – Advisory Committee for at least two years;
- Have been a member of the scientific committee of a UNESCO Global Geopark for at least six years;
- Have undertaken Geopark advisory missions over the last four years on behalf of UNESCO and/or the Global Geoparks Network.

Term of office

Ordinary members of the Council have a four years term of office, which is renewable once. Half of the membership of the Council shall be renewed every two years. Those members whose initial term shall expire after two years shall be designated by the Director-General of UNESCO when the initial members of the Council are appointed.

Responsibilities

The Council members must possess an excellent knowledge of the strategy, planning and implementation of UNESCO Global Geoparks since they shall be responsible to advise the Director-General of UNESCO on these topics and specifically on raising and allocating funds and on the cooperation among the UNESCO Global Geoparks and with other relevant programs. The Council shall assess revalidated and new nominations and shall accredit extensions for revalidated UNESCO Global Geoparks. The Council shall also decide whether it forwards new applications to the Executive Board of UNESCO for endorsement.

The Council members must be ready to dedicate time to travel to the Council meetings and study the many documents related to UNESCO Global Geopark applications and revalidations including the experts' reports. Council meetings are held in English therefore a good knowledge of the English language is also required.

Duties

The decisions of the Council are not open for appeal. After each session the Council presents a report on its work and its decisions to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Bureau, which will be circulated to Member States and Associate Member States. The Council shall submit a report, on the progress of the UNESCO Global Geoparks for each session of the General Conference of UNESCO, as part of a joint report of the IGGP.

Council ordinary sessions

The ordinary session of the Council will be annual, when possible during a regional or international conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks. After the appointment of new members, the Council will begin the subsequent ordinary sessions electing a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur who shall remain in office for two years.

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

- Completed application form and declaration with respect to the IGGP Statutes and UNESCO Global Geoparks Operational Guidelines as well as on the fact that there is no conflict of interest.
- Detailed CV
- Cover letter explaining motivation and added value of the candidate to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council
- Document of support from the Member State or the GGN presenting the candidate.