

Agenda for the Business Meeting
XXV International Grassland Congress, Kentucky, USA
Friday 19 May, 2023 10.15am

1) Opening and Welcome

Dr Derek Woodfield opened the meeting and welcomed attendees to the business meeting. The main tasks are to announce the nominations and confirm appointment of new IGC Continuing committee members and to present the resolutions received from attendees during the XXV IGC. In addition, there will be a presentation from members of the XXVI IGC Organising committee.

2) IGC Continuing Committee Members nominations:

Derek Woodfield indicated that the extension of IGC CC term from IGC XXIV in Kenya through to XXV IGC in USA had resulted in a higher-than-normal turnover in the Continuing Committee. This came from retirement, location changes and a resignation and therefore three nominations (Regions VII, VIII and X) are only through until 2027. The following categories of CC members were discussed and confirmed by attendees.

Appointed in 2015 and term finishing in 2027

Region III [South America]	Dr Fernando Ortega, Chile (<i>new Continuing Committee Chair</i>)
Region VI [East Asia]	Dr Joung-Kyong Lee, South Korea
Region XI [Africa]	Dr. Babo Fadlala, Sudan

Appointed in 2023 and term finishing in 2027 (replacements)

Region VII [Middle East]	Nahid Naghizadeh, Iran replacing Dr H Esmati, Afghanistan (retired)
Region VIII [Mediterranean]	Dr Mounir Louhaichi replacing Dr S Ates, USA (no longer in Region VIII)
Region X [Northern Eurasia]	Dr Lina Šarūnaitė, Lithuania replacing Dr I Gutmane, Latvia (resigned)

Appointed in 2023 and terms finishing at IGC XXVII (in 2031)

Region I [Canada, USA]	Dr Gleise Silva, Canada
Region II [Central America]	Dr Luis Villalobos, Costa Rica
Region IV [South-East Asia]	Dr Mahendra Singh, India
Region V [Oceania]	Dr Lindsay Bell, Australia
Region IX [Europe]	Dr Bridget Lynch, Ireland

Appointed in 2023 and finishing in 2027

USA Organising Committee	Dr Ray Smith, USA
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Derek Woodfield acknowledged the assistance provided by Dr Gavin Sheath in identifying high calibre nominees for the IGC Continuing Committee.

3) Update on IGC Past Proceedings Project and IGC Archives – Dr Ray Smith

Dr Ray Smith updated attendees on the archiving of IGC papers from past proceedings. There have been >170,000 downloads of the papers uploaded to date by the Univ of Kentucky library. The congresses with electronic papers have all been uploaded (2001 Brazil through 2021 Kenya) and work is progressing

on the older IGC proceedings that will need to be scanned before they can be uploaded. The Forage and Grassland Foundation (USA based) has contributed to this effort, but the majority of funding has come directly from the University of Kentucky library budget. The entire proceedings collection can be viewed at <https://uknowledge.uky.edu/igc/> or by using any search engine and keywords and/or author names. Ideally, include “International Grassland Congress” in your search.

IGC is also establishing an official archive of all available material from past Congresses and past Continuing Committee minutes and records. The archive will be available for future organizing committees to review and for researchers to use in the future. We should have a link to access archive material in the next year. Currently, some archive material is available on the IGC website at the following link: <https://www.internationalgrasslands.org/remembering-igc/>

Dr Smith also noted that the history of IGC written by Drs Vivien Alen, Garry Lacefield and Roger Wilkins and Ray Smith is being updated after each IGC with a separate Annex being made available to IGC attendees. The Annex covering the XXIV IGC in Kenya was available at the 2023 Congress. Go to the IGC Publications page to download a pdf of the History or to purchase a hard copy. <https://www.internationalgrasslands.org/publications/>

4) Permanent IGC Secretariat

Dr Woodfield informed attendees that the IGC CC had accepted a proposal to establish a permanent IGC Secretariat to improve continuity between IGCs. IGC will seek sponsorship support to cover this additional cost.

5) IGC XXVI in Leipzig, Germany in 2027 and Call for bids to hold the XXVII IGC in 2031

We confirmed that the 100th anniversary IGC will be held in Leipzig, Germany June 13-18, 2027. This was the site of the first IGC in 1927 and also the site of the 1977 IGC. The Theme is “100 Years of Grassland Research – Way to the Future”. The themes of the Congress are 1) Efficient grassland based livestock production systems, 2) Grassland policies, initiatives and social issues, 3) Grassland production and utilization, and 4) Grassland ecosystem services. Tours will include pre-/post-congress tours into four regions in Germany, Switzerland and Austria and mid-congress tours will travel to grassland and ruminant husbandry sites across central Germany.

Dr Woodfield also invited bids for the IGC Congress in 2031 and encouraged groups from South America and Australasia in particular to consider this opportunity.

6) XXV IGC Resolutions – Dr. Fernando Ortega

The Resolutions committee (Dr Fernando Ortega, Dr Joung-Kyong Lee and Dr Serkan Ates) was charged with bringing IGC resolutions to the business meeting for discussion and approval. Dr Fernando Ortega and Derek Woodfield presented these resolutions to XXV IGC attendees.

Resolution 1 – That the members of the XXV IGC congratulate the USA Organizing Committee for their efforts in putting together an excellent Congress. The congress plenary sessions were informative and the volunteer oral and poster presentations provided an excellent overview of grasslands around the world. Also, the thematic sessions were a perfect complement.

Resolution 2 - We thank the sponsoring organizations for their financial and in-kind support of the XXV IGC, particularly given the global financial situation post COVID. Sponsorship is a critical component in minimising registration costs for delegates.

Resolution 3 – That the XXVI IGC Organizing committee make every reasonable effort to enable participants from as many countries as possible to attend by keeping costs low (including a range of accommodations), providing delegate sponsorship, supporting early career researchers attending the congress and make every effort to promote the Congress Internationally.

Resolution 4 – That €20 per attendee earned during the XXVI IGC Congress should be provided to the IGC Continuing Committee as start-up funds for the next congress and to support continuing committee activities between Congresses.

Resolution 5 – The Continuing committee should commission a study on the Global future of Grasslands and present this at the 100th anniversary of the IGC in 2027. The study would involve all relevant stakeholders.

Resolution 6 – That the IGC fully support the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists initiative for 2026 including encouraging participation in the Regional Support Groups.

Resolution 7 – That the IGC continuing committee consider bringing IGC and IRC closer together, given the many topics that are common to both groups. *Pat Garden spoke in support of this resolution.*

Resolution 8 - That the incoming IGC Continuing Committee reviews the existing Constitution relating to the nomination and appointment of Continuing Committee members in order to strengthen regional representation and contributions to IGC affairs. *Dr Gavin Sheath spoke in support of this resolution.*

Resolution 9 - That the XXVI IGC Organizing Committee consider including human nutrition and metabolic health topics in their program and, in preparation, make connections with appropriate scientific and professional groups. *Dr Peter Ballerstedt spoke in support of this resolution.*

All of these resolutions were endorsed by attendees and will be actioned by the IGC Continuing Committee.

7) Other Business

No other topics were raised

8) Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 10.50 am