



## GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

International Association on Geoparks

### CELEBRATING EARTH HERITAGE – SUSTAINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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## 11<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday 11 June 2025, at 12:00 GMT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87373452927?pwd=dp2bmqrjszblAJkna9xEoFH4JCBLc.1>

Meeting ID: 873 7345 2927 - Passcode: 4h2Jjw

### MINUTES

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#### 1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda

##### 1.1. Welcome from the Chair

*Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)* welcomed the participants. According the voting procedure, he reminded that only AC members can vote.

##### 1.2. Agreement of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

## **2. Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee meeting**

*Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)* asked the GGN AC Members if they have any comments concerning the minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee meeting.

Decision: The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee meeting was unanimously approved by the GGN Advisory Committee members.

## **3. Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027 (Document B) – Analysis of the proposals**

*Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)* as shown in the minutes of the previous meeting, the long-term strategy of GGN was approved and we decided to go next step, writing document B to operate 2025-27 action plan of GGN. So as discussed at the last meeting, the action plan should be based on proposal from all working groups and national geopark networks. However, unfortunately, by today, we have not received the proposal from majority of working groups and national networks. The proposals from national geopark networks are only 7 out of 48 countries/delegates. So that's the representative of working group and national delegates who have not submitted document B. Please submit it as soon as possible. I would like to ask representative delegates who submitted the proposal to explain briefly their proposal.

After the short presentation from six working group and seven national delegates, we would like to discuss about the key priority 9 and 10 which was decided in the last meeting.

*N. Zouros (GGN President)* First of all, there are 10 national networks that have submitted in the web page at this moment, including the United Kingdom. The second thing that I would like to say is that there are some working groups that are still under elaboration and they promised that before Friday they are going to submit the remaining working groups because we have already seven in the website.

I think that it's very useful to have this meeting, to discuss about the priorities and I would like also to hear from Kristof who is joining us the priorities from the UNESCO site, because the GGN as the statutory partner of UNESCO for the operation of the program, needs to know also any priorities from the part of UNESCO in order to modify our priorities for the next biennium. I would like to thank all of you for being present today and to propose, of course the members will decide that for me it's very useful at the beginning of July to have another meeting of the advisory committee with all the proposals of the national and working groups, the proposal of the executive board and finalize in that meeting any additional comments that you may have, because as you know we need to upload the final proposal enough time before the conference to give

to all the geoparks the opportunity to discuss in the General Assembly in Kütralkura and provide their vote according to the study of the proposals, not without studying them.

**Kristof Vandenberghe (UNESCO Global Geoparks Secretariat)** I think for UNESCO from our perspective the next coming years will probably be marked as well by the road that we have chosen over the past years, it's still investing in promotion of the geopark concept, we see it in many parts of the world, it is still pretty unclear, we get questions that are really indicating that people are still struggling with the very basic concept, they're asking us what legal structure they have to create in order to develop geoparks in their country, so we see that a lot of base work still needs to be done and we're very happy that we can rely on GGN and on the experts from the existing UNESCO Global Geoparks to accompany us in that exercise.

A second point that we've marked as well is that when we organize a survey, a survey a couple of months back amongst geoparks to see how we could best support them, one of the things that came up as well was support with the scientific cooperation, conducting sciences data management within UNESCO Global Geoparks, so the road that you have chosen as well with the contribution to the SDG's for example is a very interesting one, you know that this is something that we follow with great interest, but I think any scientific cooperation in terms of water management, climate change, and disastrous production is something that we are following up with a lot of interest with the little means that we have, but you know that we have a lot of scientific institutes, centers, chairs, and other science programs that we could bring in and I think we have not explored sufficiently or fully that potential and I'm very happy to see this as well in your key areas that there remains very high on the agenda of GGN as well. And then the last point that I would like to mention is here is well besides the promotion of the geoparks in Africa and the Arab states in small island developing states, I think we are also very keen on supporting the existing geoparks because even in very developed countries we see that a lot of them are struggling to find the necessary resources, financial resources, but also the staffing, it's well you know it's a little bit inherent to the structure of the program, it remains sometimes a little bit under the radar of member states of our countries. We would like to make sure that they get the recognition that geoparks deserve and I know that you care for this as well. I think the events that we have initiated over the last months have to be seen in that frame, the 10th anniversary here at headquarters is making sure that our delegations, our permanent delegations, the representatives of the countries that they meet with their geopark managers, that they hear from them firsthand what they're facing, what they're confronted with, what their challenges are. The event on the 2nd of June and I apologize if this interfered with this meeting but I think it was one of the few moments that we had everyone's availability, but you have to see it as well as an opportunity to bring the geoparks and what they're doing to bring them closer here to the ambassadors, to the delegations, to the representatives of the country, just to make sure that they see that they exist, that they see the great impact that they have, the work that they're doing, but also the struggles that they're dealing with and sometimes the easy ways that member states could support them just like they're supporting biosphere reserves or their UNESCO World Heritage

sites. So I think from the perspective of UNESCO there's a few priorities and I find these back as well in the document that you have prepared so I'm very sure we will find common ground.

The last point I would like to say is about the clarity about roles and responsibilities, you know that in the internal oversight service study and evaluation of the program, the IGGP a couple of years back, this was one of the points that came up for sometimes it's not clear for people what is now clearly the role of UNESCO, what is the role of GGN. I think for most of us it is clear, it has functioned well, it is a point that could come up during this open-ended working group, an open-ended working group that as you know has been initiated, not necessarily for the purpose, how would I say it, not for the purpose that it currently goes. I think the main issue was to resolve the technical aspects around the political aspects, but I don't know where it will lead us. We will have probably more opportunity to discuss this maybe next week as well and Lesbos for the time being. I think people see that it works well, the people see that it functions well and I think that's why that's one of the reasons why it gets so much interest from member states as well and why it is one of the fastest growing programs at UNESCO. I think this is what I wanted to say at this point, but if you have particular questions or particular, if you wish particular, I would say if you wish to discuss in more details I'm sure we will have the opportunity for that.

***Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)*** asked for the representatives who were attending the meeting to explain briefly their action plan suggestions starting from the National Networks and then to the GGN Working Groups.

***Berthier Marie-Pierre (National Committee for the Geoparks in France)*** I think my main proposal is about the sky to study how we can go against pollution in the sky with light and to have a very large action with public, with school and everybody, because the sky is for everybody and everybody can see the sky. So we propose not to have an action to study the pollution of the light, to study how the star disappeared because there are too many lives and everything. So many Geopark in France have already studied in that way about the sky, but I can not explain more now because I wait for the action of each Geopark in France. Okay, so maybe I propose this way, it's the main way and at the beginning of July, of course, on the next meeting, I can explain more than what we want to do, but this is the main proposal.

***Farid Zaini Mohamad (Indonesian Geoparks Forum)*** As a representative of Indonesia, I'm honored to speak today regarding the proposal from our country for the GGN strategic action plan 2025 and in 2027. Across Indonesia, we have held several productive meetings involving all our UNESCO Global Geoparks last month, and I'm pleased to share that their feedback on the strategic plan has been overwhelmingly positive. We recently appreciate GGN's effort and developing this comprehensive framework, so which many of us have already begun to utilize for our own action plans already. From our 12 Indonesian UNESCO Global Geoparks, at eight of them have submitted their proposal, but I regret that I have not been able to translate and compile all the documents due to my recent travels in Australia over the past 12 days, so please accept my humble apologies for this delay. Nevertheless, I want to express our enthusiasm for these initiatives and our strong support for GGN to adopt the strategic

action plan 2025-2027, and we believe in Indonesia this plan will significantly guide and strengthen our effort in Geoparks development and global cooperation. So looking ahead, we are eagerly anticipating the adoption of this strategic plan of the GGN General Assembly in September 2025 in Kütralkura UGGP in Chile. So we thank you for including Indonesia in this important process and for the opportunity to contribute to such a vital initiative.

***Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)*** the last month, May 20th, Japanese GGN at the online meeting where coordinator and advisory member was elected. So same, the Japanese GGN was established later. So abbreviation of Japanese GGN is JPGN because this is to avoid the abbreviation of Japanese Geoparks Network, JGN, which has been very active for 16 years, so that to the mixing of the both organizations, we want to use JPGN. So I was elected coordinator and task of the action plan draft was divided among 10 UNESCO Global Geoparks, so that every UNESCO Global Geoparks Japan proposed the at least one key. And after exchanging emails, we all attended the annual meeting of Japanese Geoscience Union Big Meeting on May 25 and discussed together the draft. The other result, there were no proposal for key 4 (SDGs) and key 11 (collaboration with other UNESCO designation). The proposal proposed the content outlined in Japanese GGN's goal, not the goal of GGN, but we described the goal we can achieve within the two years shown in our document.

***Michał Poros (Representative of Polish Geoparks)*** So with three geopolitics, yes, because actually we have three geopolitics in Poland, one transnational, we had a few meetings. During that, we had a discussion about our proposition to GGN long term strategic plan. And well, among all those propositions, there are a few main different pillars, different key points in the strategic plan. And so, well, one of them, it's a preparation of some like catalog of good practices of the field of protection and conservation of the geological heritage. And in this case, we had a discussion about the increase of cooperation with Polish geological institutes as a geoparks to promotion, better promotion of the protection and conservation of geological heritage, but also promotion of the good practice of this field. Another, our discussion was concerned on the increase of cooperation of the Polish UNESCO global geoparks with the Polish UNESCO national UNESCO committee, Polish UNESCO committee, and also our national regional authorities. So after that, we have also several propositions to organize common events where we can exchange the ideas at good practice, but also where we can promote UNESCO global geopark label and networking at the field of the Poland. It's also important from our point of view, because as a Polish UNESCO global geopark, we want to better support of the new geoparks initiatives in Poland. And after that, we also have several propositions to common events in Poland to promote the label of UNESCO global geoparks, GGN & EGN in the conference, where we have participants not only from geoparks, but also from regional authorities, from government organizations, from tourism organizations. So yes, this is another point, important point that we discussed about during our meetings among the Polish UNESCO global geoparks.

***Salman Karmah (Spanish Geoparks Forum)*** in our network, we had developed three online sessions. And during these sessions, we have been working in We only have

time for two keys, key 6 and key 11. Very sorry, because we didn't have much time during these two months. We hope that maybe in the next month, we can work in another one, but we are not sure really. But for these two keys, we have two different approaches, one with a SWAT for the key 6 and for the key 11, we work with brainstorming and well, with a kind of focus group. As you can see, if you have downloaded the document, we have proposed several actions. Principally, in key 6, we have action related with common projects. The problem is to find the financial support for these common projects. And also something that we have seen, for example, in the key 11, is that the title is strongly in collaboration with UNESCO site designations. And we have seen that it is true that many of our geoparks, especially in Spain, just some of them have UNESCO site designations. So we have proposed it also to take into account other UNESCO designations to work with, for example, UNESCO schools or UNESCO ambassadors or these kinds of things. Because UNESCO has several figures and we can work with many of them. So we hope that for the next month, we can work in another key. We are not sure yet which one, but we will try to do our best.

***Fassoulas Charalampos (Hellenic Geoparks Forum)*** Just to inform you that in the Congress of the Geological Society of Greece that took place last month in Lesbos, the Hellenic Global Geoparks Network was established under the guidelines that the HGGN has proposed. So far, we haven't proceeded into the elections of the coordinator. So I'm here as a coordinator of the Hellenic Forum, the previous one that existed in our case. And we discussed this actual plan. These, let's say, a few weeks together with the rest of colleagues from the rest of the Geopark, we focused in most of the key points. And we tried to develop to propose activities which will be undertaken either by the the abbreviation is HGGN, which means Hellenic Global Geoparks Network. So the activities, most of the activities will take place or guided by the Hellenic Global Geoparks Network. But some of them will be in collaboration with the individual geoparks. So in the first, let's say, action related with climate change, we will try to develop a needs analysis to identify hazards in each of our geoparks and also try to define the needs that exist in order to build them a strategy of rising awareness and information and other type of campaigns which will take place through the social media. So of course, under this key action, we are going to coordinate the collection of the annual reports that the geoparks will prepare and provide to the GGN. And we are also, we will try to work on the monitoring of the carbon footprint in our geoparks and try to identify potential compensation measures and then also try to integrate the climate change adaptation policy into the individual geoparks action plans, which of course will take some time. So we expect at the end of this period, most of these actions will be achieved. As regards the protection of geological heritage, we are going and we did it in the past, organize annual meetings with our geoparks in order to promote not only the geological but all the other values and heritage of our territories and also develop synergies with the national bodies authorities and of course the national commission for UNESCO. We're going to participate in first and other national events to promote our heritage. And we, as regards the key action three, which is related with the water resources, the only proposal that we have here is to develop to organize a campaign through social media and web to raise the awareness about the wasting water. Similarly,

about the oceans and the marine environment. Again, the only proposal that we have so far is a campaign through the social media and the web. In water regards, we provide promoting geoparks and especially their contribution with the SDGs. And here we have a proposal to develop educational activities. In our geoparks for the promotion of the sustainable development in collaboration with the educational group that is being operating under our network. And of course, collect and forward the annual reports of our geopark. In case you're related with the local communities, we have only one suggestion here, which is related with the youth forum that we should try to develop in the next few years. Then in water regards the mitigation of natural disasters. Of course, we are going to participate, as we will see in the seminars that are going to be developed by the Geohazards working group. But also we try to adapt, as I said, our action plans in order to mitigate the disaster risk. And in water regards the capacity building in Q8. Of course, we'll try with representatives from all geoparks to participate in the workshops and the activities organized by GGM and UNESCO. And also participate in all other international events of the networks, the regional and the global network. And one point here is also that we're going to develop our website through which we're going to share and demonstrate most of our activities. And then as regards the last keys, indeed, we didn't also have some proposal, the key 10, 11 and 12. And I think that as any plan, it can be also reassessed in the next year. And having more time, probably we can deliver more proposals under the key points that so far don't have any proposal.

***Martina Paskova (National Geoparks Council of Czech Republic)*** First of all, I wanted to react on the French proposal regarding light pollution because I think this is really increasing issue of high importance. So I think that the kind of creation of this dark sky, parks, etc., is a very good trend. And it doesn't touch chance observation of starry sky, but it has really heavy impact of all the organisms, including human.

Another point, we had meeting on Visegrad group, which includes Poland, Hungary, Slovak Republic and Czech Republic. This is already said, it was already set time a few days ago, and it was quite successful. Actually, we've been considering to have kind of visegradisegrad group forum, if possible, we will see and we will discuss with Nicholas, of course. But we were discussing a lot what already Michael Parosh stressed. It is in Pillar 1, P2, Action 3 regarding the protection of geological heritage or protection conservation of geological heritage, which is one of the essence of the network. So I think there is this is of high importance. We need to formulate, of course, some results, some indicators. But regarding Bohemian paradise, because we have just one in Czech Republic, I spoke with the new director and we have regarding this point such a feeling that we need for the network, for new members or new people in network, some really compact material, which explains the problem regarding prohibition of selling of geological material, problematic geological material in rock shops. Because in many regions, it is really, as you know, huge history and tradition. But we are missing really compact material, educative evidence raising material, which could be really useful for various campaigns, workshop seminars on the national level, on the geopark level to explain. And I think in many, many other geoparks, as we discussed in our Visegrad group, it would be really very helpful to have such a material.

**Tran Tan Van (Representative of Geoparks in Vietnam)** Among our UNESCO Global Geoparks, we are discussing several issues.

First of all, we are working on the legal basis for geopark development in Vietnam. We are assisting the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment on circular for geopark development and management in Vietnam. So, we hope that it will soon be ready and will serve as a firm legal basis

Also, we are working on a unified management structure for all UNESCO Global Geoparks in Vietnam. Because maybe you know right now that each UNESCO Global Geopark has its different management structure and we would like to have one unified model.

The third issue is that we are discussing also to continue the SDGs. And what we would like to continue most is again on natural disasters, including geohazards, risk reduction. And we intend to organize a series of training courses to raise the awareness of the local communities on natural disasters.

The fourth issue is that we discuss the improvement of collaboration with geopark partners, especially the travel agencies. We would like to reach an agreement with all travel agencies who organize visits for tourists to our geoparks. So, we would like to have an agreement with all of them.

And the fifth issue is we would like to improve the self-reliance of all geopark management boards by, for example, by introducing the unified fee collection for visitors to our geoparks. So, we are now discussing on these five items and probably we will soon be able to submit to you our proposal.

**Min Huh (Korean Global Geoparks Network)** we already submitted the annual report about the Republic of Korea GGN annual report to the last March. So, I have two jobs, but another one is I'm working as the coordinator of the Republic of Korea GGN and the president of Korea Geopark Network. We had the three times general meeting, about the Republic of Korea GGN. So, in the last November meeting, we discussed about the long-term strategy, the 2025 to 2035. Korean people, we totally agree about these strategies. And then now it's working and we did in details about the Korean-style strategies related to the long-term strategy action. So, now it's working. And then now we are developing about our every strategies for Korean-style. So, and then next time, we'll propose about some details about Korea soon.

**Tuncer Demir (Representative of Kula - Salihli UGGp)** I mentioned you in our earlier meeting, we don't have any national GGN commission yet because we are the only UNESCO designated job park in Turkey. And do we still, should we still submit a, or we have to wait until we have, we establish our national commission when we have more than one job park in Turkey? Are we expecting it from us actually?

**N. Zouros (GGN President)** You are represented Turkey in this body. As every country has one representative. So, Turkey has you. So, you can contribute if you want. It's not something different than the others. All national representatives have equal rights. All right. Okay. So, it's for everybody to contribute. No problem. Please send your proposals.

**Zheng Yuanyuan (Chinese Geoparks Network)** We haven't submitted the proposal with national network, but we actually, we have some discussion with some, most of the, some UGGp in China. Also, we received some response from the, some geoparks with some, proposals. But now, including K-1 climate change adapting, adoption, and

K-2 protection and conservation of tropical heritage. And there is no K-3 and K-4, but we have a sum from the, about K-6, empowering local community and strengthening the tropical management. And also some mitigation natural disaster. So, and now, but the material is not so good. We, we need time to extract or reform the indicator, indicators. So, later we will discuss with some my colleagues to, to deal with this.

**N. Zouros (GGN President)** I think that there are not the representatives of the working group of this body. I just want to say very briefly, not to lose time because the proposals are already in the website. So, they can read it. For example, and I just want to underline that the thematic groups work only on their field. For example, the education group works for the education. The working group on geohazards works only in this sense. So, we have several proposals. And to be honest, there are several proposals that have not been uploaded yet. For example, the, the, the working group on biodiversity and geodiversity has a very, very interesting proposal which has not been uploaded. So, we, we will upload the next days till the end of this week all the proposals. So, it will be more efficient for all the people to have all information regarding these proposals. The working group on tourism is also promoting, proposing the participation in, in tourist fairs and especially in ITB after several years. That this year should be a big event on geoparks in ITB is the biggest tourism fair in the world. And we hope that with the help of the German national network, we will manage to, to have a big event on geoparks this year. So, everybody is encouraged to participate in, in such events. There are several, several interesting proposals as president of GGN, I would like to thank all the colleagues for presenting, for working on the presentation. I think that some, maybe are national representatives, but in this, in this body, do not participate in all the working groups. So, if somebody wants to present its own working group, for sure it's, it's, it's very welcome.

**Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)** how about the transnational geoparks working group? This was the, recognized by the executive board?

**N. Zouros (GGN President)** No, this is an EGN working group. EGN, okay. Because only in Europe we have transnational geoparks, till now. We don't have other transnational geoparks. There are only in Europe. So, they have a special group. There is no reason to duplicate at the global network. But of course, they are invited as all the regional network to submit the proposals. So, the transnational geoparks working group have sent us proposals specifically for the transnational geoparks. And I think it's very interesting to see their proposals and take into consideration.

**Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)** In Key 9, action 3 is enhancing regional and national connection between UGGPs with thematic targets to improve its quality and outcome of GGN, emphasizing the use of GGN logo.

**N. Zouros (GGN President)** the logo of the GGN is now registered in almost all the countries of the world that have Geoparks. So, we have already proceed in this very important action after the decision of the executive board. And also in the previous period, we have already make affiliation relationship with IUGS and several other organizations are ongoing. And I hope that in the next months we're going to have this affiliation status with the majority of international organizations.

***Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)*** In Key 9, action 5 is empowering national GGN networks and strengthening their connection and collaboration with national commission for UNESCO and national delegation at UNESCO. During discussion in JGGN, we are proposing the invitation of those representative to the annual meeting of Geoparks in Japan and also the inviting the many seminars and so on. So, this was proposed from Japanese side, but not listed in this box.

***Martina Paskova (National Geoparks Council of Czech Republic)*** I think of course this is important in Czech Republic because we are really small and limited in Geoparks. So, it's solved on the personal level that we are somehow interconnected and it's quite natural. But in many other countries with many Geoparks, it's not so easy task. And I just want to comment and to appreciate the position of UNESCO now because I think and the activity of network, of course, I mean the events like it was the anniversary of the EGN meeting in Paris and the welcoming event in Paris. I think that these activities at UNESCO in Paris and headquarters are somehow very, very helpful in this kind of connection between individual Geoparks, the national fora and national commission and delegates of the individual country. Because for many Geoparks, as I know, it wasn't so easy and natural to be in touch with the national commission and delegates. So, just to appreciate and thank to these activities to UNESCO and of course GGN.

***Fassoulas Charalampos (Hellenic Geoparks Forum)*** I think the reason that we have problem in most of the national networks to have some proposals here is because it refers to the organization and the structural activity of the GGN, which is something very crucial. And maybe this needs a much more thorough discussion if somebody could propose some actions, some improvements, some activities that would strengthen it's operation, I would say. So, that's why I think it's a little bit hard to propose now some activities here. So, either we have to organize just a special discussion on this, to work in advance on some proposals, or I don't know how easy we can find actions apart from some just highlighting the title of the specific key.

***Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)*** regarding the key action 10, key priority 10. So, there are action related to IGGP and the action within IGGP and also in connection with UNESCO IGGP Secretariat and organizing advisory mission to yellow card and aspiring geoparks.

***Martina Paskova (National Geoparks Council of Czech Republic)*** of course, that the cooperation of IGGP and network is totally essential. And this kind of activities like mentorship or this advisory missions are very, very useful as we know from many cases from the past. It was the only way how to progress in some candidates and some aspiring geoparks. So, yes, this is important. The question is always how to create this kind of results expected or how to formulate and how to construct indicators to somehow evaluate how the results expected were achieved. This is still, now I'm speaking generally, not very well formulated, but we can do it now. I mean, this platform is not icing for such a technical discussion. Generally, the, of course, the connection of IGGP or UNESCO global geoparks and the global geoparks network is totally essential. And this is also something connected with the open ended working

group mentioned by Kristof. I think there are some a little bit strange and a little bit dangerous proposers regarding operational guidelines, exactly regarding this connection between UNESCO global geoparks or IGGP and position of GGN in this program. But I'm not really sure if this is a real platform for this kind of discussion. Just we need to formulate what we actually expect for the future. If we need the change, that's the question, if we are satisfied how it is now or we really need to improve. So, we need to formulate how the improvement should be what we really expect from this cooperation if we need some change.

**Fassoulas Charalampos (Hellenic Geoparks Forum)** Martina already said the collaboration between GGN and IGGP secretariat and in general under the program are very well defined at the operational guidelines of the program itself.

But I think that maybe we could propose some let's say informal activities and actions that could facilitate this operation and collaboration. So, for example, I was thinking if this is possible and necessary at the action one, for example, to develop within the GGN executive board a task force which will deal with all the matters that have to do with the operation of the program. Monitoring the activities and enforcing and actually facilitating all the possibilities of GGN under the IGGP program, for example.

Then another proposal under the action five which is to strengthen the position of the IGGP and of course the GGN within the member states would be probably that GGN may organize regular activities at UNESCO headquarters, meeting with the member states representatives, some kind of one event per year that will make the presence of the GGN and our network actually the most more obvious and visible within the UNESCO and the member states.

And finally at the action six which is strengthening collaboration with IGGP, I think it's IGGP or not IGGP there which is written in the table. I think we're talking about IGGP here so maybe the GGN can undertake some initiatives to collaborate with or to propose to the other programs like the MABS or the World Heritage Sites some common activities which can be developed either digitally or in presence in some places through which we can enforce this collaboration. No, no, I think it was another five, yes. We are talking about another five not in the number six which is the collaboration with the other UNESCO program so that's some ideas.

**Setuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)** So in the discussion of JPGN, we are proposing some advisory mission in the regional level or country level. So this is very important to keep the quality of a young geopark or aspiring geopark. So the, for example, under the APGN or even in the national countries. So some action is very possible to give advisory mission in the local level. So this is one of our idea.

Please give us your comments or proposals regarding to key 9 and 10 by the middle of next week. So that we can discuss including your proposal in the executive board and task force of the strategic plan.

**Martina Paskova (National Geoparks Council of Czech Republic)** I think that also Kristof mentioned that we should somehow stress maybe more in some educative materials or capacity building seminars, workshops, intensive courses, the role of GGN, the essence of cooperation, GGN and UNESCO secretariat or IGGP secretariat. This is

quite essential to explain to anybody, not only to new members or also to politicians at various activities or events of individual parks. So this is something we need to really think deeply about because I think this is real essence to let anybody understand what's the role of GGN in all the program, IGGP. And speaking about this, I just realized we spoke to Nicholas and probably others about the coming UNESCO Global Geopark Conference. And this is exactly this because it will be quite important activity in autumn, not in Paris, this time in Uzbekistan, this UNESCO General Conference. And of course, it's possible to have kind of site event on UNESCO Global Geoparks and also to somehow highlight the 10 years of IGGP, but also 10 years of GGN. So these activities we should somehow use for this kind of highlighting the role of GGN in all the program.

**Rocha Daniela (Coordination Committee of the Portuguese Network of UNESCO Global Geoparks)** I would like just to say that in the name of Portugal, we will send our proposals as soon as possible.

**N. Zouros (GGN President)** So I would like to thank all the colleagues for their patience and their proposals. I think will be very, very useful for the first discussion at the level of the GGN Executive Court where we will have the combination of the document, the first combination of the document, including all the proposals that have been contributed till now to this dialogue. And I hope that in the next meeting we can have additional proposals. And of course, the compiled document which will include all the proposals for discussion and final, final adoption by the advisory committee before the final adoption from the GGN Executive Board to be sent to all the members of the network for the discussion in September. I know that is a pressing procedure for the first time this happens at that level because all the previous time we have not established such a procedure with the contribution of the national, regional and networks and working groups. And this shows how the GGN goes in a different stage of development with more inclusive with the ideas expressed by all members. And I hope that the final proposal for the action plan for 2025, 2027 will reflect all your expectations, all your proposals or your dreams for the future of GGN.

## **7. Any Other Business**

**Setsuya Nakada (Acting Chair of the GGN Advisory Committee/Japan)** asked the members if they want to discuss on any other business.

**N. Zouros (GGN President)** Encourage all the members of the Advisory Committee to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geoparks in Kütralkura in Chile. He reminded the deadlines for the abstracts and the parallel events such as the “Waving Hope” project and the thematic Workshops, organized by the GGN Working Groups. He also mentioned that he asked the organizers for a small extension regarding the deadlines of the conference.

The meeting closed at 13:43 GMT.

## Summary & Useful links

### A. Long Term GGN Strategy 2025-2035 (Document B - Implementation)

1. [Implementation starting point](#) (Powerpoint Presentation)
2. [Action Plan 2025-2027 Template](#)
3. [Road map for the procedures for the GGN strategic Action Plan](#)

### B. Calendar of the GGN 2025 events

- **Calendar of Events**  
[www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/calendar-events-0](http://www.globalgeoparksnetwork.org/news/calendar-events-0)
- Send us your recommendations about any additional activities

## Participants & Observers

a/a	PARTICIPANTS	Country
1	NAKADA Setsuya	GGN Advisory Committee Acting Chair / Japan
2	GULAS Oliver	Austria
3	GUIMARÃES Eduardo PINHEIRO Allysson	Brazil
4	PASKOVA Martina	Czech Republic
5	HERRERA Patricia	Chile
6	ZHENG Yuanyuan	China
7	PAVIC Goran	Croatia
8	WALLØE Hansen Jakob	Denmark
9	LOPEZ Boris	Ecuador
10	HERMANSSON Terttu	Finland
11	SAUER Nancy	Germany
12	Sigurður Sigursveinsson	Iceland
13	FARID Zaini Mohamad	Indonesia
14	AMRIKAZEMI Alireza	Iran
15	GLANVILLE Clare	Ireland
16	AMORFINI Alessia	Italy
17	KAUSCH Birgit	Luxembourg
18	MUNIF Azmil RUHAIZA Nazatul	Malaysia
19	PALACIO Jose L	Mexico
20	ROELFS Gretha	Netherlands
21	JANSEN Helen	New Zealand

22	PINAT M. Joanne	Philippines
23	POROS Michał	Poland
24	ROCHA Daniela	Portugal
25	Min Hun	Republic of Korea
26	ANDRASANU Alexandru	Romania
27	REŽUN Bojan	Slovenia
28	SALMAN Karmah	Spain
29	BERGENGREN Anna	Sweden
30	KHATIBU Ramadhani	Tanzania
31	DEMIR Tuncer	Turkey
32	BIDONDO Eugenio	Uruguay
33	TRAN Tan Van	Vietnam

a/a	<b>OBSERVERS</b>	
1	ZOUROS Nickolas	GGN Executive Board President / Greece
2	JIN Xiaochi	GGN Executive Board President / China
3	RAGNES Kristin	GGN Executive Board Treasurer/ Norway
4	BORDER Melanie	GGN Executive Board member / UK
5	FREY Marie-Luise	GGN Executive Board member / Germany
6	FURUSAWA Kana	GGN Executive Board member / Japan
7	SÁ Artur	GGN Executive Board member / Portugal
8	JUSTICE Sophie	EGN Coordinator / France
9	FASSOULAS Charalampos	EGN Vice-Coordinator / Greece
10	ROSADO Emmaline	GeoLAC Coordinator / Mexico
11	BENTANA Konstantina	Executive Assistant GGN Secretariat / Greece
12	LAMPRAKOPOULOS Aggelos	GGN Secretariat Assistant / Greece

## **ANNEX I**

### **Agenda**

- 1. Welcome and adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> GGN Advisory Committee meeting**
- 3. Strategic Action Plan 2025-2027 ( Document B) – Analysis of the proposals**
- 4. Any Other Business**

Prof. Nickolas ZOUROS

GGN President

Prof. Setsuya Nakada

GGN Advisory Committee acting Chair