

**The Assistant Director-General
For Priority Africa and External Relations a.i.**

To all Permanent Delegates
and Observers to UNESCO

17 November 2025

Ref.: SC/EES/EG/25/8952

Sir/Madam,

UNESCO is the only United Nations Organization with a mandate to support research and capacity building in geology and geophysics, and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) is our flagship with two pillars, representing the two activities: the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), a co-operative venture with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), and the UNESCO Global Geoparks, in partnership with the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).

We are pleased to announce an open call for candidates for the two governing Councils of the IGGP, aimed at attracting high-level experts who are actively engaged and embrace the objectives of the IGGP. According to the Statutes of the International Geoscience and Geopark Programme approved by the 38th General Conference, the members of the Councils must be renewed regularly. For the present call, application forms and terms of reference can be found under the following links:

- Call for applications to the Council of the International Geosciences Programme (IGCP) seeking three new candidates:

<http://www.unesco.org/en/articles/2026-call-candidates-international-geoscience-programme-council>.

- Call for applications to the Council of UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) seeking six new candidates:

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/2026-call-candidates-renew-six-members-unesco-global-geoparks-council>.

Please share this with potential candidates who have an exemplary track record that meets the requirements listed in our terms of reference and a passion for international collaboration, and encourage them to apply.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the Natural Sciences Programmes in UNESCO alive at the highest possible level of excellence.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Xing Qu

cc: All National Commissions for UNESCO
All UNESCO Field Offices