



International Association of Geodesy

of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics

President

Paris, August 18, 2020

Prof. Dr. Paul Becker
President
Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy
Richard-Strauss-Allee 11
10598 Frankfurt, Germany

Dear Professor Becker,

On behalf of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) I very much welcome the offer from the Federal Government of Germany to host the office of the Global Geodetic Center of Excellence (GGCE) for the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management – UN-GGIM. The IAG very much appreciates Germany's effort towards the enhancement and sustainability of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF). In particular IAG acknowledges and greatly appreciates Germany's contribution in maintaining and operating three Core sites in Wettzell, La Plata and O'Higgins that are fundamental sites for the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF).

I note with satisfaction the paragraph inserted in your proposal document to the 10th Session of UN-GGIM regarding the role of IAG in bringing together the necessary geodetic institutions since more than 150 years, in building upon the international services who are providing the fundamental geodetic products, and that the IAG will be represented in the advisory body of the GGCE.

In this regard I am looking forward for concrete cooperation and coordination between the GGCE staff and the IAG components in shaping the priorities of the GGCE work plan in order to enhance the global geodetic infrastructure that is in need of improvement and sustainability in order to meet scientific and societal challenges.

As President of IAG, I assure you my personal engagement and dedication to advance global geodesy for the benefit of science and society, and without doubt, the GGCE will be a cornerstone in that direction.

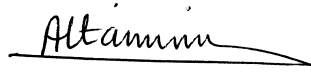
I also remain, dear President, at your entire disposal would you wish more dialog regarding the interaction between the future GGCE and IAG.

President
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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Altamimi". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Dr. Zuheir Altamimi
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