

UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS YOUTH FORUM

Operational Guidelines

UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM composition

The Members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM are the appointed nominee (or nominees) of the GGN National Fora/Committees. Participants need to be aged from **18 to 24** years (according to UN/UNESCO Youth designation), showing their engagement with UNESCO Global Geoparks;

In countries where no GGN National Forum/Committee exists, the existing GGN Institutional Member in nominating the member in the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM.

Becoming a member of the UNESCO Global YOUTH FORUM the person will represent its territory and country for 2 years. Re-election is possible for additional 2 years time.

Observers may include youths from Countries hosting aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks.

The Members of the GGN Executive Board, Coordinators of the Regional Geopark Networks may attend UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM meetings as observers.

Observers do not have the right to participate in the vote.

The status of Member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM shall be forfeited in the case of :

- suspension of the function of the appointed representative of a GGN National Forum/Committee;
- unexpected obstacle or resignation transmitted by a formal written note addressed to the GGN Secretariat.

Role of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM

The role of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM shall be to:

- advise the Executive Board and the General Assembly on issues relating to GGN's policies, programmes, procedures and finances;
- give its opinion on issues and actions in GGN's general interest;
- propose new initiatives to GGN.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM reports its proceedings in an annual report to be submitted to the President and the Secretary General of GGN up to 31st January of the following year.

This report is to be presented by the Chairperson of **the** UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM to the GGN Executive Board at the 1st GGN Executive Board Meeting in the following year.

UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM Meetings

The UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM shall hold an ordinary meeting at least every 2 years, simultaneously with a session of the International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks and the GGN General Assembly.

Its Chairperson shall give the notice of meeting. The meetings shall be held on the dates designated by the President of GGN.

An extraordinary UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM meeting may be held at the request of the GGN Executive Board.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM Chairperson must ask the participants to attend the meeting within a reasonable time limit. The extraordinary session must be held within three (3) months after receipt of the request from the Executive Board, preferably simultaneously with a session of and at the place of a Regional Conference.

Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM

The appointed representatives of GGN National Fora/Committees shall elect the Chairperson, then the Vice-Chairperson during the Assembly of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM. The Chairperson's and Vice-Chairperson's terms of office will last four (4) years, shall expire upon the election of their successors. At least three (3) months prior to the expiry of the current terms of office, the General Secretary shall write a letter to the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM, to Chairpersons of all the GGN National Fora/Committees, calling for nominees for the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM.

At least two (2) months prior to the expiry of the current terms of office, the General Secretary of GGN shall write a letter to the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM, to Chairpersons of all the GGN National Fora/Committees, calling for candidacies for the offices of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

The General Secretary of GGN must receive the candidacies no later than 40 days before the election date as set forth in the call for candidacies. The General Secretary of GGN shall submit the names of the candidates, together with any biographical profiles, to the Members of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM at least one (1) month before the election is to be held. Voting shall be done at the conference meeting.

The candidate for each office having received the largest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided that he or she obtains more than 50% of the votes in the first voting round. If no candidate obtains more than 50% of the votes, a second voting round is to be organized between only the two candidates having received the highest number of votes in the first voting round. At the conclusion of the second voting round, the candidate having received the majority shall be declared elected. The elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall take office once the results of their election have been declared.

Duties of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM Chairperson

The UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM Chairperson carries out the following tasks:

- convene and preside over the GGN YOUTH FORUM meetings;
- represent the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM and reports at Executive Board meetings without voting rights;

In the case of absence of the Chairperson or of unforeseen obstacles, the Vice-Chairperson presides at the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM meeting and carries out the duties and responsibilities incumbent upon the Chairperson.

Duties of the Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee

The Vice-Chairperson assists the Chairperson in overseeing the GGN YOUTH FORUM and may represent it at Executive Board meetings in case of absence of the Chairperson or unforeseen obstacles.

The Vice-Chairperson of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM performance of all duties conferred upon him or her by the Chairperson of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM

Vacancies

If the office of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson becomes vacant, during its next meeting, the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM shall elect one of its Members to be Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson to deputise the former Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson for the duration of his or her remaining term of office.

Voting at UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM meetings

The Chairpersons of the UNESCO Global Geoparks YOUTH FORUM and the appointed members by the National Fora/Committees, shall each have one (1) vote per country.

Resolutions are adopted by a single majority vote of the Members present in person.

The members can decide on voting secret or open. If 30% of the participating members wish so, a secret voting shall be realised.