



# International Union for Quaternary Research

September 2, 2008

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Dr. Stanley Finney  
Chair, International Commission on Stratigraphy  
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Dear Stan:

We are writing with regard to the position of the Quaternary in the Geologic Time Scale, specifically to endorse the position articulated by Phil Gibbard and Martin Head in their letter to you dated September 1, 2008. The SQS position was endorsed by the INQUA Executive Committee in May 2007 (letter to IUGS dated May 13, 2007). Subsequently, INQUA unanimously endorsed this position at its General Assembly in Cairns, Australia, in August 2007.

Specifically, INQUA advocates that ICS:

- lower the base of the Quaternary to the GSSP of the Gelasian Stage, which has a calibrated age of 2.588 Ma;
- lower the base of the Pleistocene Series to coincide with that of the Quaternary System boundary (the Gelasian GSSP); and
- retain the Vrica GSSP as the base of the Calabrian Stage, the second stage of the revised Pleistocene Series.

We urge ICS to rapidly move forward to resolve the status of the Quaternary, an issue that has caused dissent within the geological community for decades.

Sincerely,

Allan Chivas  
President INQUA

John J. Clague  
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