



**International
Science Council**

The global voice for science

Communiqué to Members 15 April 2022

Dear colleagues,

It has now been six months since the last General Assembly of the ISC and the election of the current Governing Board. The Governing Board has a growing and increasingly complex portfolio of work in a world still impacted heavily by the COVID-19 pandemic and now gripped by the war in Ukraine.

Although the Secretariat and I communicate frequently with you in various ways, we intend to reinstate the practice of informing you about the decisions of the Board after each Board meeting – the most recent one having been on 7 April 2022. The Board is currently meeting every two months, with the Officers meeting in alternate months to take operational decisions and give strategic direction. The dedication of the Board members and the engagement of the ISC members during these testing times have been inspiring.

I am committed to meeting regularly with members. Please join me on 9 or 10 May for direct interaction and exchange:

Zoom Meetings 9 and 10 May

Meet and Greet with the ISC President: A chance for members to receive critical updates from the President on issues such as the Global Commission on Science Missions for Sustainability, the Board's Standing Committees and Working Groups, the development of ISC's membership base, Global Knowledge Dialogue, and more.

[Register here](#)

The ISC is progressing well with the implementation of its strategy for the intergovernmental system. I use this opportunity to signal that there will be two information sessions on this topic later this month led by the Secretariat:

Zoom Meetings 25 and 26 April

ISC and the United Nations: A progress report on the actions from the report, [ISC Strategy in the Intergovernmental System](#), including discussions on member engagement in Stockholm+50 in June and UN processes.

[Register here](#)

Best regards,

Peter Gluckman,
President, International Science Council

1. Governing Board operations

For efficiency and to take full advantage of the expertise and capacities of the Board members, the Board has decided to experiment with a new mode of working. The Board is currently working in four 'Board Subcommittees' of three to six members of the Board who take special responsibility for reflection and guidance in a domain of activity, corresponding to the domains of the statutory standing committees, as follows (see also [here](#)):

- Subcommittee for Science: Kotani (Chair), Visbeck, Boulton, Batthyany, Matson, Nader
- Subcommittee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science: Husebekk (Chair), Baylis, Burkins
- Subcommittee for Outreach and Engagement: Karim (Chair), Chiu, Paradiso, Oyama
- Subcommittee for Finance and Operations: Shirahase (Chair), Gluckman, Kotani, CEO

The President and the CEO are ex officio members of all subcommittees. This arrangement permits the full Board, when it convenes, to concentrate on strategic matters. Specialized working groups are set up for specific, time-bound tasks.

2. Renewal of the Standing Committees

The mandates of the statutory Standing Committees will come to an end in July 2022. The process to renew the membership of the Standing Committees is underway and the call for nominations will soon be shared with the ISC Members (by 22 April). It is foreseen that the members of the Board Subcommittees mentioned above will be part of the Standing Committees, supplemented with nominees from the ISC members. The selection of Standing Committee members should take place in June.

3. Expanding the membership base of the ISC and opening towards young academics and associations

The Board has agreed on a strategy to expand the membership of the ISC which will see targeted eligible organizations encouraged to join as full members but offered the opportunity to join as affiliate members while a new dues structure is being developed for approval at the next General Assembly.

Regarding the membership of young scientists' academies and associations, which the Board views as a priority, the Board has decided to:

1. Offer immediate affiliate membership to all organizations of young scientists meeting the criteria of membership categories 1 and 2;
2. Waive the affiliate membership fees of those organizations until the ISC Statutes have been revised to accommodate their full membership and the dues structure has been adjusted.

4. Engaging with members

The Board Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement was mandated by the Board to develop a strategy to facilitate closer engagement with members, including ways for members to support the

implementation of the Action Plan, a scheme for the 100,000 EUR to support member-driven projects foreseen in the Action Plan, and to give assistance to members in the domain of science advice, in collaboration with INGSA.

5. Re-design of the Global Knowledge Dialogue

Circumstances have rendered it impossible to hold a successful Global Knowledge Dialogue (GKD) in Muscat in January 2023. The Board decided to re-design the GKD as a year-long tour of the world regions by the ISC. This tour will consist of a series of ISC events and meetings in the world's most important science and technology fora, starting in December 2022 and ending in October 2023 and taking in the following events:

1. World Science Forum, South Africa, December 2022
2. AAAS Annual Meeting, US, March 2023
3. Foro Abierto de Ciencias (CILAC) 2023, Mexico, April 2023
4. EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) 2023 [location tbc], July 2023
5. Science and Technology in Society Forum (STS Forum), Japan, October 2023

In each of these events, the ISC would seek to do three things:

1. Organize at least one ISC panel on a topic that addresses the conference's theme and speaks to the ISC agenda
2. Convene a side meeting for ISC members and partners in the region, to discuss issues pertaining to ISC strategic development
3. Hold an ISC dinner with key science institutions and potential donors.

Fuller information and invitations will be shared with members in due time.

6. ISC Fellowship programme

Following the 2022–2024 Action Plan, the Board set up a working group including past-President Daya Reddy to develop a concept for an ISC Fellowship programme. The principles of the fellowship and procedures for its establishment (see Annex A) were approved by the Board at its meeting in February 2022.

The founding fellows will be announced during a ceremony on the fringes of the June Governing Board meeting in Paris, and the first annual call for nominations for fellows will follow in July.

7. Upcoming Governing Board and Officers' meetings

- Officers' meeting, 12 May 2022, virtual
- Governing Board meeting, Paris, 7–9 June 2022

Annex: The ISC Fellowship programme

Rationale

The Fellowship shall be the highest honour awarded to individual scientists by the ISC. It recognizes individuals who have an exceptional track record in *more than one of the following domains*:

- Promoting science for the global good internationally
- Providing broad scientific leadership (in the international or regional arena)
- Promoting the global voice for science
- Developing major scientific initiatives and structures
- Scientific accomplishments.

ISC Fellows must have the capacity to add value to the ISC in amplifying the global voice for science through ambassadorial and advisory roles, and in accepting the fellowship acknowledge their willingness to assist ISC activities when appropriate. By way of example, particular forms of assistance might include:

- Participating in ISC projects, advisory committees and working groups
- Assisting in recruiting new members
- Assisting ISC in promoting its profile and developing key relationships
- Promoting ISC activities and reports in the media
- Assisting in gaining access to key individuals and organizations
- Assisting regional focal points of the ISC
- Assisting in gaining access to resources and fundraising
- Assisting in engagement of early career and next generation scientists

Categories of Fellows

Fellows shall be categorized as *active, emeritus, or honorary*:

- Active fellows shall be defined as fellows who have been elected to the fellowship within the last seven years.
- Emeritus fellows are those who have been elected more than seven years previously.
- Honorary fellowships may be awarded by exception and on occasion to those not meeting the criteria to be a fellow (for example, non-scientists) but who have made distinguished contributions to promoting science for the global good and other goals of the ISC.

The active fellowship shall have a minimum of 40% of either gender and have due regard for geographical and disciplinary balance. At least 40% of the active fellows should come from, or work primarily in, Global South countries.

Terminating a fellowship

The ISC Governing Board can revoke the fellowship of any individual if a case of misconduct is brought forward by the Fellowship Council based on due process (to be determined by the foundational Council).

The Fellowship Council

The Fellowship Council shall comprise 13 fellows of whom at least eight are active fellows. The president and president-elect of the ISC are *ex officio* members of the Council. Other members of the ISC Governing Board are not eligible to be members of the Council while serving their term on the governing board.

- The primary role of the Council is the selection of new fellows.

- The Council shall be consulted on the development of ISC Action Plans and may also serve as an *ad hoc* sounding board for the Governing Board, as requested.
- The Fellowship Council may suggest or participate in other types of activities, which shall be subject to approval by the Governing Board. There shall be an annual call for nominations to the fellowship. These may be made by one of two routes:
 - **Group A**
 - Heads of the members or affiliate members of the ISC (including presidents and executive/directors or their equivalents)
 - Fellows of the ISC
 - Heads of ISC affiliated bodies (including Chairs and Executive Directors or their equivalent)
 - **Group B**
 - The Co-chairs of the InterAcademy Partnership
 - The president of the Governing Board of the ISC
 - The assistant directors-general for social and for natural sciences of UNESCO
 - The chairs/presidents of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences

Nominations

Nominations from Group A must be supported by three signatories who must come from more than one member or from fellows who are not members of the same member organization.

Nominations from Group B need only one nominator and shall be considered if the nomination is supported by the three vice-presidents of the Governing Board.

Nominees must agree to receiving the fellowship before it is formally awarded.

Fellows may use the post-nominal: FISC or FISC(hon)

Process of establishment and timeline

1. The current and past Governing Board members are appointed founding fellows¹. The past president, current president and president-elect shall decide upon and invite at least 20 and up to 40 further founding fellows having account of the criteria described above and consulting with the officers of both the past and present Governing Boards (by mid-2022).
2. The founding fellows shall appoint an initial selection committee comprising 11 founding fellows who are not members of the current Governing Board plus the president and president-elect. It shall act for 18 months as the Foundational Council of the fellowship (mid-2022 until end 2023).
3. The Foundational Council shall call for nominations from the nominating bodies/individuals in July 2022 for an additional 60 fellows to be appointed by Jan 2023.

¹ Members of the Governing Board of the ISC comprise individuals who largely meet the criteria of fellowship on election and certainly do so by the end of their term. The Governing Board must be collegial, and was agreed therefore, that the Board members be appointed fellows on election to the Governing Board. This is a maximum of 14 additional fellows every three years

The Foundational Council shall prepare a nomination and selection process that will include details such as a nomination form, which should include appropriate information, CV and suggested referees, the formation of a nomination and selection committee(s) and selection process. The processes outlined in those documents should be approved by the Governing Board of the ISC no later than February 2023.

4. By the end of 2022 up to 100 fellows may be appointed (excluding the 28 from the current and initial ISC Governing Board).

In the subsequent two years (2023-2024) another 100 Fellows may be appointed each year.

In fourth and ongoing years, up to 75 fellows may be appointed each year. This means that by year 2029, once the first batch of active fellows have become emeritus, there should be in the region of 600 active fellows.

These numbers may be changed by the Governing Board in consultation with the Fellowship Council.

Honorary fellowships shall be exceptional and shall require, on advice of the Fellowship Council, the approval of the Governing Board.

5. Within six months of the first selection round being complete (i.e. by July 2023), the Fellowship shall conduct its own process to elect/appoint the Council. Membership on the Council is limited to three years so that one third of the Council (excluding the ex officio members) shall retire each year. However, after the initial election one third shall retire after two years, one third after three and one third after four years so that all members of the initial Council serve at least two years.
6. The ISC secretariat will provide the necessary support for the fellowship and the Fellowship Council to operate.
7. Fellows shall not be charged a membership fee.