



Letter from the President

1 April 2019

Dear ISC Members, Dear Colleagues,

Over the last few months the Governing Board (GB) has been through an intense period of induction and action planning, aimed at operationalizing the ISC vision and mission. I'm pleased to say that this work has been undertaken with enthusiasm from GB members. As the communiqué, which follows below, indicates, action planning has been undertaken across the full range of ISC operations, with a priority focus on the development of a Science Action Plan.

With regard to the latter, I take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of the GB, those members who provided thoughtful and extensive feedback on the draft Science Action Plan. During its mid-March meeting, the GB had an opportunity to review the comments and suggestions made by members and on that basis to plan next steps in the development of the Plan; these are shared in point 6 of the communiqué.

We have also made good progress on the development of action plans for the ISC's work on outreach and engagement, as well as finance and fundraising. Furthermore, we are on the way to finalising a plan for ISC's engagement around freedom and responsibility in science. In June the GB will work towards the integration of these plans, as well as a revised regional strategy, into a comprehensive ISC Action Plan. This should provide the GB with a clear framework for guiding the further development of the Council's work in the coming years. It will also provide a basis for strengthening membership engagement in ISC activities, for extending our partnerships, and for mobilizing necessary resources.

Implementation of the ISC Action Plan will be guided by the statutory Advisory Committees that the GB will appoint in June. Further details about the appointment process are provided in point 1 of the communiqué. The Call for nominations for the Committees will be sent out to all members with a deadline of 15 May 2019. I urge all of our members to consider carefully the expertise required for each committee, and to nominate individuals from and beyond academia, who would bring the necessary skills and are willing to offer their time and energy to the work required.

As an early action for effective outreach at the global policy level, especially within the United Nations, the GB is proud to announce the appointment of Dr Flavia Schlegel as the ISC's Special Envoy for Science in Global Policy, initially for a period of one year (see point 7 of the communiqué). With regard to the UN, there are a number of key events taking place in 2019 that are of particular relevance to the ISC. One of these is the Climate Action Summit, to be convened by the UN Secretary General in New York on 23 September. The ISC will be represented – by both its CEO, Heide Hackmann, and its new Special Envoy – in the Science Advisory Group established by Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Summit. This is a fine example of the growing recognition of the ISC as the global voice for science, a go-to for scientific expertise, advice and influence at the highest levels.

The team at Paris HQ and in the Regional Offices continue to work hard to support the GB in the development of action plans while delivering on an impressive range of scientific activities. I encourage you to follow activity updates via the ISC website and newsletters, and draw your attention in particular to the current blog series on the global implications of Open Access and the Plan S initiative. This was launched in January this year with an interview from Robert-Jan Smits, former Special Envoy for Open Access and Plan S Architecture. The series also includes perspectives from the All European Academies (ALLEA), the Latin American Social Science Council (CLACSO), and from interviewees in South Africa and China.

It is worth noting that 2019 is a special year for some ISC members who are celebrating their centennial anniversaries. In the course of the year, the International Astronomical Union, the International Union of Academies, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Union of Radio Science will hold events throughout the world to celebrate this great milestone. On behalf of the Governing Board I extend to these members my warmest congratulations and very best wishes.

In closing, the ISC Governing Board and ISC staff are motivated, determined and looking forward to finalizing and implementing the action plans over the coming year, to delivering for the ISC's membership, and to ensuring that the ISC is recognized as the global voice for science within our scientific community and beyond.

With warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daya Reddy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daya Reddy

ISC President



Governing Board Communiqué

April 2019

The third meeting of the International Science Council (ISC) Governing Board (GB) was held in Paris on 18-19 March 2019. Highlights of key outcomes of the Board's deliberations are shared in this communiqué. We invite ISC members and partners to note these and to engage with us on any questions or suggestions they may prompt. We welcome all feedback, which should be sent to Nora.Papp@council.science.

The ISC Governance System

1. Standing Committees

A call for nominations for candidates to be appointed to ISC Standing Committees will be launched at the beginning of April 2019. The Committees and GB members who have agreed to chair and vice-chair these Committees include:

- Committee for Science Planning: Peter Gluckman (Chair); Geoffrey Boulton (Vice-Chair)¹
- Committee for Outreach and Engagement: Martin Visbeck (Chair); Melody Burkins (Vice-Chair)
- Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science: Daya Reddy (Chair); Saths Cooper (Vice-Chair)
- Committee for Finance and Fundraising: Renée van Kessel (Chair); Sirimali Fernando (Vice-Chair)

The four independent advisors who have been appointed to assist the GB in selecting and appointing Committee members are:

- Gudmund Hernes: Norway; sociologist, politician, former ISSC President
- Julie Maxton: UK; academic lawyer, former Registrar of the University of Oxford, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of London
- Bruce Alberts: USA; biochemist, former President of the US National Academy of Sciences, former Editor-in-Chief of Science, and awardee of the US National Medal of Science by President Barack Obama in 2014
- Zakri Abdul Hamid: Malaysia, Founding Chair of IPBES, former Chief Science Advisor to the Government of Malaysia, and member of the former UN Secretary General's Science Advisory Board

¹An additional Vice-Chair, representing the social sciences, will be appointed by the GB from amongst the Committee's members.

2. GB Representatives to ISC Regional Committees

In addition to inviting the Directors of ISC Regional Offices to attend GB meetings as observers, the GB has agreed to appoint GB representatives to each of the three ISC Regional Committees. This role will be undertaken by the President and two Vice-Presidents, as follows:

- Regional Committee for Africa: Daya Reddy
- Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean: Elisa Reis
- Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific: Jinghai Li

3. Forum of Patrons

The GB has agreed on the terms of reference for establishing a Forum of Patrons (shared in Appendix A) and will now formally invite two distinguished individuals to become Patrons and to work closely with the GB on expanding the Forum during the course of 2019. We look forward to announcing the appointment of the first two ISC Patrons in due course.

4. Ad Hoc Dues Committee

Regarding the Ad Hoc Dues Committee that will be asked to propose a new ISC dues structure (for the General Assembly's discussion and approval in 2021), the GB has decided to invite representatives of two national member organizations and two international unions/associations to constitute the Committee. Their names will be announced to the ISC membership in due course.

The GB will appoint an independent Committee chair, and will work closely with the Committee to ensure that its work includes processes of effective consultation with the broader ISC membership.

5. The 2021 General Assembly

In preparing for the ISC's next General Assembly (GA), to be held in Oman from 10-14 October 2021, the GB has agreed to develop a new format for the Council's triennial membership meetings. The idea is to convene, every three years and in conjunction with the GA, a Global Science Dialogue or Summit as a platform for strategic exchange and debate with the leadership of global science and science policy, including from the UN and the growing range of ISC partners. The tentative theme of the 2021 Summit, which will include a high-level scientific event, will be '*Science Creating Solutions for the World*'. Initial positive discussions about the concept were held in February 2019 by the ISC Officers with senior representatives of the government and Research Council of Oman. Members will be kept updated as the concept for the event and associated planning process unfolds.

ISC Action Planning

Since its last meeting, held in early October 2018, GB Working Groups (WGs) have been engaged in concrete action planning across the full range of ISC operations. Further information on the composition, tasks, as well as current status and anticipated timeframes of each WG is presented in Appendix B.

The GB will aim to integrate the outcomes of current planning processes and publish a consolidated ISC Action Plan for the period 2019-2021 in July this year.

6. Science Planning

A draft Science Action Plan was circulated to ISC members (as well as ISC programmes, committees, networks, observing systems and data bodies) on 11 February 2019, and the deadline for initial feedback extended from the 1st to the 11th of March 2019. The GB was

gratified by the number and the quality of responses received during this admittedly short period of time. Appendix C provides a breakdown of respondents, as well as a summary of the frequently emphasised general comments received.

Based on its discussion of the perceptive comments received, including the more detailed and very helpful reactions to each of the proposed projects included in the Plan, the GB has agreed on the following process towards refining the Plan:

- To revise the text and clarify priorities on the basis of general comments received;
- To further develop each priority project on the basis of detailed responses to each and with the aim of
 - clarifying their focus and anticipated impact, including target audiences; and
 - elaborating, per proposal, implementation plans that will specify (potential) delivery partners and address issues of resource needs, possible sources of support, as well as anticipated project duration

Once finalized, the GB will re-engage with members on the basis of revised proposals and with the specific intention of determining their interest in supporting specific projects, with support options including the possibility of becoming project partners and/or (co-)leads.

The work outlined above will be undertaken by the GB's Science Planning WG, led by the chair and vice chair of the future Science Planning Committee (see Appendix B).

7. Outreach and Engagement Planning

As part of early actions to advance the ISC's profiling and outreach ambitions, the GB has appointed Dr Flavia Schlegel as Special Envoy for Science in Global Policy for the ISC. The appointment is for one year, starting 1 April 2019. A key role for Dr Schlegel will be to build the ISC identity and presence within the UN family, including amongst member state delegations at the highest levels.

During its meeting the GB discussed additional outreach and engagement action and tasked the relevant WG, now under the leadership of the chair and vice chair of the future Outreach and Engagement Committee (see Appendix B), to continue working on its further development. The plan addresses a number of key issues that include:

- How the ISC can better engage and secure the confidence of ISC members;
- The development of active, supportive and synergistic partnerships with other key international scientific organizations (such as the InterAcademy Partnership); and
- Commencing a dialogue with ISC members on a future membership structure and value proposition for the ISC.

The Communications team also presented the GB with a new ISC general brochure and gave an update on the website, which will receive some tweaks in the coming months to provide a better interface for members.

8. Freedom and Responsibility in Science

In addition to the science and outreach and engagement action plans, the GB considered a discussion document on the objectives and activities of the ISC in relation to its work in the area of scientific freedom and responsibility. The document, which was prepared by a GB-appointed WG, provides, inter alia, guidance on a plan for implementing a strategy in relation to freedom and responsibility; proposes actions aimed at ensuring the proper integration of this work with

the Science, as well as Outreach and Engagement Action Plans; and sets out possible mechanisms for closer member engagement in this area of work of the ISC.

Under the leadership of the chair and vice chair of the Council's Committee for Freedom and Responsibility (see Appendix B), the WG will continue to support current action planning processes, and work towards completing a plan for ISC's engagement around Freedom and Responsibility in Science, as well as more detailed Terms of Reference and operational priorities for the CFRS.

Next Meetings of the Board

The GB will meet again in Paris on 18-19 June 2019, and has gratefully accepted an invitation from the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) to host its meeting on 14-15 October 2019 in Beijing.

Appendix A: Terms of Reference for the ISC Forum of Patrons

The Forum of Patrons convenes a diverse group of individuals of the highest order from within and beyond the scientific world who will add prestige, lend credibility and raise the visibility of the ISC by being positively and publicly supportive of the Council's vision and mission. The Forum may include Nobel laureates, former heads of state or senior politicians, global celebrities, global citizens with policy interests and expertise, and major philanthropists.

Patrons should serve as champions of the ISC. They would do this in a variety of ways that are suited to their diverse and complementary backgrounds, areas of expertise and interests.

Their functions would include:

- Giving wise counsel and advice to the Board on priority concerns, emerging issues and appropriate interventions from the perspective of their sectors and spheres of influence
- Creating awareness of and engagement in the ISC amongst key opinion leaders from the worlds on science, policy, private sector and civil society
- Communicating key ISC messages (e.g. in public speaking events and by promoting the ISC in the media)
- Opening doors in key places (e.g. by facilitating contacts for the Board and CEO)
- Convincing major donors, philanthropists and foundations to assist the ISC (e.g. by establishing contacts or hosting high-level donor events)

The Patrons must be seen to have:

- Name recognition
- A sympathy for, and understanding of science
- Broad acceptability politically and to the science community
- The ability to open doors to key policy communities, key opinion leaders, as well as major foundations and individual donors
- The capacity to assist in shaping and promoting the macro-profile of the ISC
- The time and commitment to put in the effort rather than simply being 'names on a piece of paper'

Meetings of the Forum of Patrons will be convened and chaired by the ISC President. Ideally, the Forum would meet with the ISC Board once a year and hold regular teleconferences. Their meetings should provide an opportunity to update Patrons on the ISC's strategic work and discuss developing needs and opportunities for Patrons' support. In addition, Patrons would be expected to attend ISC General Assemblies and, specifically, to participate in the high-level public events organized in that context.

Patrons will be appointed by the Board and serve an initial term of up to three years, with the possibility of extension.

Appendix B: Governing Board Working Groups for the period November 2018 to June 2019

Challenge Domains WG

Members: Geoffrey Boulton, Melody Burkins, Peter Gluckman
Task: Define the four ISC challenge domains as input to the Science Action Plan
Status: Work completed in December 2018

Existing Activities WG

Members: Anna Davies; Alik Ismail-Zadeh; Renée van Kessel; Martin Visbeck
Task: Review existing ISC activities and recommend actions related to their future implementation as input to the Science Action Plan
Status: Work completed in January 2019

Science Planning WG

Members: Geoffrey Boulton; Pearl Dykstra; Ruth Fincher; Jinghai Li (Lead); Elisa Reis; Martin Visbeck
Task: Prepare a draft Science Action Plan for the period 2019-2021
Status: WG members to continue supporting the planning process (see point 6 above), now under the leadership of Peter Gluckman and Geoffrey Boulton, respectively chair and vice-chair of the ISC Science Planning Committee

Freedom and Responsibility WG

Members: Daya Reddy; Roger Ridley (CFRS Executive Secretary) and two members of the former CFRS, Merry Bullock and Leiv Sydnes
Task: To develop a plan for Freedom and Responsibility in Science, to be integrated with the Science Action and Outreach and Engagement Plans, and to advise on future CFRS terms of reference and operational priorities.
Status: WG members to continue supporting the planning process, now under the leadership of Daya Reddy and Saths Cooper, respectively chair and vice-chair of the Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science. The work is scheduled to be completed by June 2019.

Outreach and Engagement WG

Members: Saths Cooper; Anna Davies (Lead); Sirimali Fernando; Peter Gluckman; Alik Ismail-Zadeh; Natalia Tarasova
Task: Prepare a draft Outreach and Engagement Action plan, covering issues related to membership structure and engagement, partnership development and communications
Status: WG members to continue supporting the planning process (see point 7 above), now under the leadership of Martin Visbeck and Melody Burkins, respectively chair and vice-chair of the ISC Outreach and Engagement Committee

Regional Strategy WG

Members: Saths Cooper; Sirimali Fernando; James C. Liao
Task: To oversee and guide preparatory work towards a regional strategy (by members of the ISC Secretariat, including Regional Office Directors) and develop a draft ISC regional Strategy
Status: Work to be completed in June 2019

Finance and Fundraising WG

Members: Melody Burkins; Peter Gluckman (Co-Lead: Fundraising); James Liao; Renée van Kessel (Co-Lead: Finance)

Task: Develop ideas on fundraising (also as input to the Science Action Plan) and prepare proposals related to ISC policies on travel, internal risk and audit, and dues for new members joining the ISC in the period 2019-2021.

Status: Work to be completed in June 2019

Appendix C: Responses to the Draft Science Action Plan

Breakdown of respondents:

- 12 Member Organizations
(including from the European Members Group, which represents 47 members, and the Inter-American National Academies Network representing 15 members)
- 16 Scientific Unions/Associations
- 3 Affiliate Members
- 13 international programmes, committees, networks, observing systems and data bodies
- 2 Regional Offices

Total number of responses received: 46

Frequently emphasised general comments:

- reconsider the statement on the purpose of science
- apparent ISC and IAP overlap must be addressed
- the unique potential of ISC to be expressed more clearly
- focus on the integration of natural and social sciences
- clarify the continuation/discontinuation of existing ISC activities, including the role of international programmes and other (co-)sponsored bodies in delivering projects
- consider building on existing inter-union/association initiatives as basis for some projects
- work towards a balanced portfolio between science for policy and policy for science
- focussed, deliverable, impactful outputs must be preferred to grand statements
- provide greater clarity about the nature and character of the “global voice”
- ‘education’ remains an inadequately represented priority