

3 January 2018

**Founding General Assembly of the International Science Council  
Paris, France  
3-5 July 2018**

**Election of the Governing Board**

To: Members of the International Council for Science (ICSU)  
and of the International Social Science Council (ISSC)

From: Alberto Martinelli (ISSC President) and Gordon McBean (ICSU President),  
Co-Chairs of the 2018 Elections Committee

The International Science Council (ISC), which will be created on the basis of a merger between the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), will hold its founding General Assembly in Paris, France, from 3-5 July 2018. The first Governing Board of the ISC will be elected during this meeting. This election will be managed in accordance with the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedures as they were discussed and agreed during the Joint Meeting of ICSU and ISSC members held in Taipei in October 2017.

We are writing now to inform you about the **composition of the 2018 Elections Committee**, and to invite **nominations for membership of the ISC Governing Board**.

**The 2018 Elections Committee**

In accordance with Article 32 of the ISC Statutes and Rule of Procedure 10.6, and as agreed during the October 2017 meeting of ICSU and ISSC members, the 2018 Elections Committee will be co-chaired by the Presidents of ICSU and ISSC, and will include four additional members elected by ISSC and ICSU members out of at least 8 candidates proposed by the two Councils' Executive bodies. Following the December 2017 vote by members of both Councils, we are pleased to announce that the elected committee members are:

**Richard Catlow**, Foreign Secretary, Royal Society, UK

**John Crowley**, Chief of Section, Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

**Marcia McNutt**, President, US National Academy of Sciences

**Molapo Qhobela**, Chief Executive Officer, National Research Foundation, South Africa

**Call for Governing Board Nominations**

On behalf of the Elections Committee and in accordance with ISC Rules of Procedure 6 and 7, we are pleased to invite you to submit nominations for the International Science Council's first Governing Board. You may submit:

- A single name for each of the offices of President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and two Vice-Presidents; and
- Proposals for Ordinary Members of the Governing Board. Note that you can submit more than one name for each of the Ordinary positions.

Please note that members of the Elections Committee are not eligible for election to the Governing Board.

*Multi-disciplinary composition of the first ISC Governing Board*

In order to ensure that the new Council's first Governing Board (2018-2021) reflects the multi-disciplinarity of the organisation's membership base and pays particular attention to the effective representation of the different branches of science, ICSU and ISSC members agreed during their October 2017 Joint Meeting in Taipei:

- that one ISC Vice-President will come from a former ISSC member and one Vice-President from a former ICSU member; and
- that at least one-third of the other Board members (excluding the President and the Vice-Presidents) will come from former ISSC members.

*Leadership qualities and responsibilities:*

In addition to the information specified in relevant articles of the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure, which are attached for your convenience, we remind you of the emphasis that has been placed on the qualities of the new Council's leadership for the success of the organisation. The ISC's high-level strategy, also approved during the October 2017 Joint Meeting of ICSU and ISSC members, refers to the importance of including "a relevant range of scientists of vision and exceptional achievement, recognised experience and distinction" as officers and board members in order to ensure the Council's "legitimacy in the scientific community that it claims to represent, credibility with the institutions and individuals that it seeks to influence, and convening power to engage members of the scientific and policy communities, the private sector and civil society in its work".

It is also important to keep in mind that the ISC's Standing Committees will be chaired and vice-chaired by members of the Governing Board and that we will therefore need to secure candidates with relevant expertise to lead the advisory work of the Committees for

- Science Planning
- Outreach and Engagement
- Freedom and Responsibility in Science
- Finance and Fundraising

When making your nominations, please be sure to inform your candidate(s) of the responsibilities of Board membership, which include attendance at Board meetings (twice a year, of which at least one meeting, usually of two days, will be in-person). In addition, please note that candidates for election are expected to attend the founding General Assembly in July 2018, and to be available to attend the Governing Board meeting immediately after that Assembly in the event that they are elected.

Further details about the duties of Governing Board Officers and Ordinary Members are provided in the Annex.

*The submission process:*

- Nominations should be submitted on the attached form and should include a statement of motivation by the proposed candidate, as well as the agreement of the candidate to serve if elected.
- Nominations should be submitted by email to [nora.papp@icsu.org](mailto:nora.papp@icsu.org)
- The deadline for submission of all nominations is **23 February 2018**.

*Overview of nominations process and timeline*

Four months before the General Assembly, the Elections Committee will send Members a shortlist of candidates containing two names for each Officer position, and if possible, at least 20 candidates for Ordinary Member's positions. The shortlist will consist of candidates that reflect the agreement regarding the multi-disciplinarity composition of the first ISC Governing Board. If the shortlist does not contain a Member's proposed candidate(s), the Member may re-submit the name(s) put forward or submit additional names until 2 months before the General Assembly. The Elections Committee will send Members the final list of candidates one month before the Assembly.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 3 January 2018   | Call for Nominations for the Governing Board                |
| 23 February 2018 | Deadline for submitting nominations                         |
| 3 March 2018     | Preliminary shortlist of candidates sent to Members         |
| 3 May 2018       | Deadline for re-submissions or submission of new candidates |
| 3 June 2018      | Final shortlist of candidates sent to Members               |
| 3 July 2018      | Founding General Assembly opens                             |

Should you have any questions regarding the nomination and election process, please do not hesitate to contact the ICSU or ISSC Executive Director ([heide.hackmann@icsu.org](mailto:heide.hackmann@icsu.org) and [mathieu@worldsocialscience.org](mailto:mathieu@worldsocialscience.org)).

Yours sincerely,



Alberto Martinelli



Gordon McBean

## Annex

Relevant articles taken from the International Science Council's Statutes and Rules of Procedure  
Full text accessible here: <https://icsu.sharefile.com/d-s446580ebe484ac29>.

### **Statutes**

[...]

#### 4. Vision

Science as a global public good:

Knowledge derived from scientific research is a staple of human understanding and creativity. It is fundamental to the evidence that should inform societal decision-making and public policy. The importance of deliberative scientific understanding to society has never been greater, as humanity grapples with the problems of living sustainably and equitably on planet Earth. It is vital therefore that we safeguard science as a global public good. Its knowledge, data and expertise must be universally accessible and its benefits universally shared. A mutually supportive global community of science carries responsibility for this by ensuring inclusivity and equity, also in opportunities for scientific education and capacity development.

#### 5. Mission

The global voice of science:

The Council seeks to provide a powerful and credible global voice that is respected both in the international public domain and within the scientific community. It will use that voice at the international level to:

- Speak for the value of all science and the need for evidence-informed understanding and decision-making
- Stimulate and support international scientific research and scholarship on major issues of global concern
- Articulate scientific knowledge on such issues in the public domain
- Promote the continued and equal advancement of scientific rigour, creativity and relevance in all parts of the world
- Defend the free and responsible practice of science

#### 6. Values

In fulfilling its role, the values that the Council will uphold in its work, its governance and its partnerships include:

- Excellence and professionalism
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Transparency and integrity
- Innovation and sustainability

7. The Principle of Freedom and Responsibility in Science: the free and responsible practice of science is fundamental to scientific advancement and human and environmental well-being. Such practice, in all its aspects, requires freedom of movement, association, expression and

communication for scientists, as well as equitable access to data, information, and other resources for research. It requires responsibility at all levels to carry out and communicate scientific work with integrity, respect, fairness, trustworthiness, and transparency, recognising its benefits and possible harms.

In advocating the free and responsible practice of science, the Council promotes equitable opportunities for access to science and its benefits, and opposes discrimination based on such factors as ethnic origin, religion, citizenship, language, political or other opinion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or age.

[...]

#### Governing Board

16. The overall function of the Governing Board is to provide scientific and strategic leadership, to oversee the achievement of the Council's vision, mission, principles and values, and to secure the financial and management robustness of the Council. It delegates management of the Headquarters and of the implementation of decisions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board to the Chief Executive Officer. The Governing Board is accountable to the General Assembly.
17. The Governing Board consists of:
  - a) Six Officers, namely the President, two Vice-Presidents, the President-Elect, the Treasurer and the Secretary
  - b) Ten Ordinary Members

All Members of the Governing Board are elected in their personal capacity.

18. Each Officer and each Ordinary Member has one vote.
19. The Membership of the Governing Board should reflect the multi-disciplinarity of the Council's Membership base, with particular attention being paid to ensuring effective representation of the different branches of science. The Membership of the Governing Board should also reflect regional and gender diversity.
20. The Governing Board shall meet twice a year, of which at least one meeting shall be in-person. The Governing Board shall meet before and after each session of the General Assembly. A meeting can be convened by the President and, upon notice in writing, at the request of at least half of its voting Members.
21. The Chief Executive Officer of the Council will attend Governing Board meetings as a non-voting Member.
22. Among its duties, the Governing Board shall:
  - a) Provide strategic leadership and develop priorities agendas and associated activity and business plans for approval by the General Assembly;

- b) Review the implementation of the activity and business plans and monitor performance measures;
  - c) Review the scientific activities of the Council and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly;
  - d) Present, to each General Assembly, a report of the scientific activities and other operations of the Council since the previous ordinary session of the General Assembly;
  - e) Propose, for consideration by the General Assembly, a draft budgetary outline for the Council, and the scale of annual dues to be paid by Members for the ensuing 3-year period;
  - f) Decide on the annual budget and seek approval of the annual accounts by the General Assembly, as indicated in Article 11;
  - g) On delegation by the General Assembly, admit new Members;
  - h) Prepare the Agenda for the General Assembly;
  - i) On delegation by the General Assembly, appoint Members of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees;
  - j) On a non-binding recommendation of the Officers, appoint the Chief Executive Officer.
23. The Governing Board shall be assisted by Headquarters. The Chief Executive Officer shall direct Headquarters and be responsible for its management, including the appointment of staff, the management of personnel and resources and the payment of accounts.
24. In the event of a vacancy among the Ordinary Members of the Governing Board, the Officers shall have the power to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.
25. No person may serve on the Governing Board for more than six consecutive years, with the exception of a Governing Board Member who can serve for a total of nine consecutive years if he or she is elected as President-Elect after serving a first term on the Board.

#### Officers

26. The Officers of the Council are:
- i. The President
  - ii. The President-Elect
  - iii. Two Vice-Presidents
  - iv. The Secretary
  - v. The Treasurer
27. The Officers are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day affairs of the Council between meetings of the Governing Board. In addition to participating in the Governing Board, they shall meet as often as is deemed necessary, normally twice a year.

28. The President and Vice-Presidents shall hold office for one term of three years, non-renewable. The Secretary and Treasurer may be re-elected for a second term of three years.
29. In the event that the President is unable to fulfil his or her duties, the Governing Board shall appoint one of the two Vice-Presidents to fulfil the duties of the President.
30. In the event that any Officer is unable to fulfil their duties, the Governing Board shall decide who shall undertake such duties.

#### Advisory Bodies

31. Various Standing Committees will be set up by the General Assembly to advise the Governing Board on key aspects of the Council's work and the Governing Board's duties. These Committees shall be appointed by the Governing Board on the basis of nominations by Members. The chair and vice-chair of the Standing Committees shall be Governing Board Members, and the committees shall include non-Governing Board Members. The Governing Board will select and appoint a group of up to four advisors who will assist in ensuring that the Committees will include people with the right knowledge and expertise.

Such Committees will include:

- a) Committee for Science Planning will undertake scientific strategic planning and reviews and address major thematic issues concerned with science-for-policy and policy-for-science.
  - b) Committee for Outreach and Engagement will engage with Members, and focus on Membership matters, outreach to external stakeholders, partnerships, and strategic communications.
  - c) Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science will deal with freedom and responsibility of science issues at the global level.
  - d) Committee for Finance and Fundraising, of which the Treasurer will be a Member, will address issues of finance, auditing, resource mobilisation, and risk management.
32. An Elections Committee, chaired by the President and including four additional Members proposed by the Governing Board and elected by the General Assembly will be responsible for advising on and managing the Governing Board nominations and election processes.
  33. The Forum of Patrons will consist of a number of outstanding individuals from different sectors, who will be appointed by the Governing Board and will help the Council with advice, name recognition and credibility within and beyond the scientific world. The President will convene and chair the meetings of the Forum of Patrons.
  34. Ad Hoc Committees may be established by the General Assembly or the Governing Board for a limited duration to deal with specific objectives and tasks and will be dissolved after completion of the task or achievement of the objective.

[...]

## Rules of Procedure

[...]

### Governance

4.1 The President shall chair all meetings of the General Assembly, the Governing Board and the Officers.

4.2 The Secretary shall serve as Secretary of the General Assembly and the Governing Board, which includes:

- preparing meeting agendas;
- being the custodian of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure;
- overseeing reporting and monitoring of the agreed actions of the Governing Board and the General Assembly;
- receiving Membership applications; and
- any other duties assigned by the Governing Board.

4.3 The Treasurer shall:

- oversee the administration of the finances of the Council, including annual budgets, audits and accounts;
- report on financial matters to the General Assembly;
- assist with fundraising for the Council's activities;
- advise on investments;
- oversee risk management and the implementation of internal organisational policies and procedures; and
- any other duties assigned by the Governing Board.

### Principles of Governing Board Composition

5.1 The role of the Elections Committee (as determined in Statute 32; see also Rule of Procedure 10.7) will be central to ensuring the quality and diversity in the composition of the Governing Board, honouring principles of multi-disciplinary representation, as well as regional and gender diversity, as laid down in Statute 19. With regard to disciplinary representation, the Elections Committee will need to pay particular attention to helping ensure that there is a broad representation of different fields of science on the Governing Board.

5.2 Governing Board Members will be individuals of the highest calibre who have widely recognised achievements and contributions to the scientific endeavour.

### Election of Officers

6.1 At least 6 months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly, each Member of the Council shall be invited by the Elections Committee to propose a single name for each of the offices of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and each of the two Vice-Presidents. Each proposal shall be accompanied by biographical information, a statement of motivation and the agreement of the candidate to serve if elected.



- 6.2 The Elections Committee, after reviewing these proposals and with appropriate regard to Rule of Procedure 5, shall propose a recommended shortlist of candidates containing two names for each Officer position listed under Rule of Procedure 6.1. The Elections Committee may include on this shortlist additional names not proposed by a Member of the Council if it deems the group of proposed candidates received to be inadequate.
- 6.3 The Election Committee shortlist shall be sent to all Members of the Council 4 months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly.
- 6.4 If the Elections Committee's shortlist does not contain a Member's proposed candidate(s), the Member may re-submit the name(s) put forward or submit additional names in accordance with Rule of Procedure 6.1. Such re-submissions or new submissions of candidates must be received by the Elections Committee 2 months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly.
- 6.5 The Elections Committee's shortlist of candidates for Officers and all resubmissions and additional submissions, shall be distributed to all Members at least 1 month in advance of the date of the ordinary session of the General Assembly. This shall constitute the final list of nominations.
- 6.6 In case any candidate as mentioned under 6.5 - for whatever reason - is unable to stand for election, leaving only a single candidate for that specific Officer's position, the Elections Committee will make sure that at the General Assembly another candidate is presented.
- 6.7 Election of the Officers by the General Assembly shall take place according to established voting procedures (see Statute 15 and Rule of Procedure 2).

#### Election of Ordinary Members of the Governing Board

- 7.1 Proposals for Ordinary Members of the Governing Board, accompanied by biographical information, a statement of motivation and the agreement of the candidate to serve if elected, shall be invited by the Elections Committee at least 6 months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly.
- 7.2 The Elections Committee, after reviewing these proposals and with appropriate regard to Rule of Procedure 5, shall propose a recommended shortlist containing, if possible, at least twenty candidates. The Elections Committee may include on this shortlist additional names not proposed by a Member if it deems the group of proposed candidates received to be inadequate.
- 7.3 This shortlist shall be sent to all Members of the Council 4 months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly.
- 7.4 If the Elections Committee's shortlist does not contain a Member's proposed candidate, the Member may re-submit the name put forward or submit additional names in accordance with Rule of Procedure 7.1. Such re-submissions or new submissions of candidates must be received by the Elections Committee 2 months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly.

- 7.5 The Elections Committee's shortlist of candidates for Ordinary Members of the Governing Board and all resubmissions and additional submissions, shall be distributed to all Members at least 1 month in advance of the date of the ordinary session of the General Assembly. This shall constitute the final list of nominations.
- 7.6 Election of the Ordinary Members of the Governing Board by the General Assembly shall take place according to established voting procedures (see Statute 15 and Rule of Procedure 2).