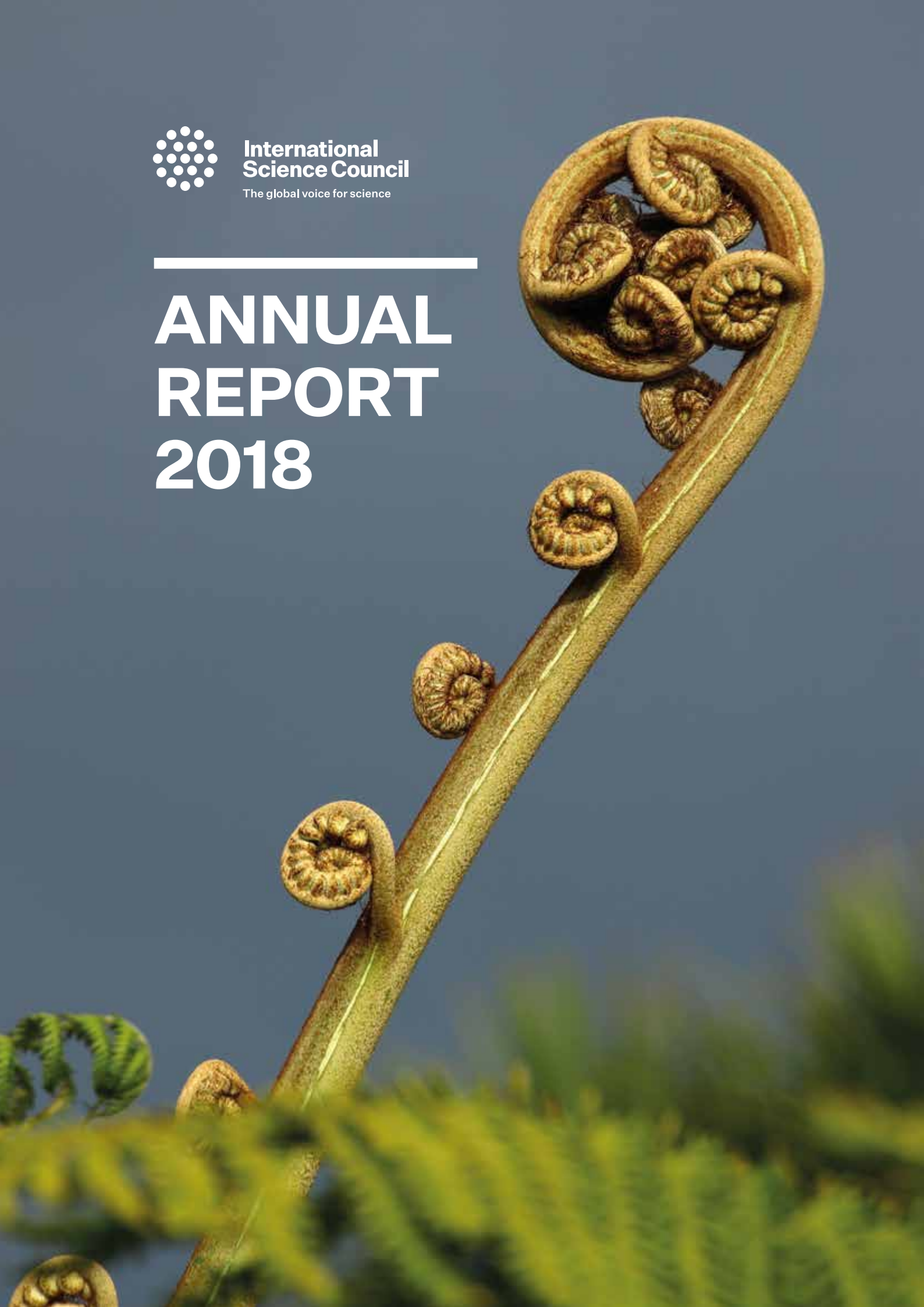

International Science Council

The global voice for science

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together 40 international scientific Unions and Associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils.

The ISC was created in 2018 as the result of a merger between the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC).

Front Cover: Photo of a silver fern by Sandy Millar on Unsplash. The Māori word for this tightly furled frond is "koru", and it signifies new life, new beginnings.

council.science/AnnualReport2018

Work with the ISC to advance science as a global public good.

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1 OUR ORGANIZATION

Photo: Heide Hackmann and Daya Reddy

Message from ISC President, Daya Reddy and CEO, Heide Hackmann:

With the creation of the International Science Council, 2018 marked a milestone in the world of international science. As we publish our first Annual Report, it is appropriate to reflect on the process that led to the merger of our two predecessor organizations, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the International Council for Science (ICSU). We acknowledge and thank all our members for their support of the merger: those who served on task teams to prepare the process; the individuals who served on our executive boards and committees; leaders of unions and associations, regional and national committees; members of the Secretariat past and present; and more widely the supporters and critical friends who have helped us shape the vision and mission of the International Science Council. We are particularly grateful to Gordon McBean, past President of ICSU, and Alberto Martinelli, past President of the ISSC, for their leadership throughout the merger process.

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The first General Assembly and launch of the Council in July 2018 was undoubtedly a highlight of the year, bringing together representatives from our members across the world at the Maison des Océans in Paris. We thank the Académie des Sciences for hosting the launch event and General Assembly, and for helping to make the events memorable.

At the launch of the Council, together with our members, we set ourselves a bold mission: to be a powerful, prominent and credible voice for science at the global level. The new Council should make the case for the value of all science as a global public good, universally accessible and its benefits universally shared. The ISC builds on the impressive legacy of its predecessor organizations, yet it must continue to learn from their experiences, and – crucially – it must be greater than the sum of its parts.

In order to fulfil this mission, the ISC must work harder to promote and defend science as a source of innovative solutions to global challenges, of critical evidence to inform decision-making, and of inspiration and wonder for future generations. Meeting the ambitions for the ISC will depend on active engagement with its members, and on managing relationships with the Council's key partners.

This work has now begun in earnest, with the newly elected Governing Board members leading the development of three-year action plans for science, for outreach and engagement, for regional engagement, and for freedom and responsibility in science. We were heartened by the constructive and detailed feedback from members on the development of our science plan in recent months, and our meetings with partners from the wider science and policy community have demonstrated that there is real interest in and appetite for an emboldened International Science Council that can represent all disciplines and can catalyse trans-national, inter- and trans-disciplinary activities in addressing today's global priorities.

As we proceed to implement plans for new activities and seek to boost the visibility of the new Council, it is an opportune moment to re-examine our place in the global science landscape and to re-state our commitment to the key principles that have driven the Council since its earliest beginnings almost 100 years ago as the International Research Council (IRC). As several of our scientific union members prepare for centenary celebrations, it is pertinent to ask: what is the role of international science collaboration today?

As a scientific community, we are more connected than ever before, more accustomed to working across disciplines and continents, and yet barriers to mobility and academic freedom persist. Scientific practice is weakened by enormous inequalities in access to knowledge and to facilities. There is still work to do to nurture a culture of scientific cooperation, exchange and benefit sharing, and to protect and promote the freedom of science.

The science system itself is also confronting sweeping and potentially disruptive changes, from the impact of advanced digital technologies and artificial intelligence, to a re-consideration of forms of scientific publishing around the aims of open science. The ISC must establish itself as a leader in addressing challenges in the evolving system

of science, and establishing principles for the responsible conduct of science and scientists.

The creation of the ISC also comes at a time when we're experiencing major changes in the geopolitical landscape, and the emergence of new players in the international fora which the Council seeks to influence. It is essential that the Council continues to promote the use of scientific evidence to inform policy at every level of governance, and to make the case for increased understanding as a driver of progress and human development.

Whilst public trust in science remains high, new online media have amplified the spread of scientific misinformation on topics such as environmental change and vaccination. Simply sharing more scientific information has not worked. We need to find new ways of increasing trust in and engagement with science: through the newly established Committee for Outreach and Engagement the Council will work towards a better understanding of science across all sectors of society, in order to strengthen the ability of science to serve the public good.

Since their election in 2018, Governing Board members have worked to frame this mission around four strategic domains which will guide our activities in the coming years:

1. **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
2. **The Digital Revolution**
3. **Science in Policy and Public Discourse**
4. **The Evolution of Science and Science Systems**

In considering the very large range of activities that the ISC has inherited and the many issues on which it is expected to lead within the four core action areas described above, the Council must make judgements as to which are uniquely relevant to its members and the broader community, and thus central to the ISC mission. In 2019, we will publish more detailed plans for the coming years, in order to move the vision of the ISC towards a realisable goal. Our engagements throughout 2018 and the overwhelming support for the merger have suggested that there is broad support – and demand – for the ISC's scientific aims, and a desire on the part of our broad and active membership to move forward with a new, exciting agenda.

This report sets out our highlights and key impacts of the year from before, and after, the inspiring launch events in July. We hope that you will enjoy reading it.

Daya Reddy
President
International Science Council

Heide Hackmann
CEO
International Science Council

OUR VISION

The vision of the Council is to advance science as a global public good. Scientific knowledge, data and expertise must be universally accessible and its benefits universally shared. The practice of science must be inclusive and equitable, also in opportunities for scientific education and capacity development.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the International Science Council is to act as the global voice for science. As part of that mission, the ISC:

i. Speaks for the value of all science and evidence-informed decision-making;

ii. Stimulates and supports international scientific research and scholarship on major issues of global concern;

iii. Articulates scientific knowledge on such issues in the public domain;

iv. Promotes the continued and equal advancement of scientific rigour, creativity and relevance in all parts of the world;

v. Defends the free and responsible practice of science.

OUR VALUES

The core values to be upheld in the Council's work, governance and partnerships are:

i. Excellence and professionalism;

ii. Inclusivity and diversity;

iii. Transparency and integrity; and

iv. Innovation and sustainability.

OUR LAUNCH

The merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) forged a new organization – the International Science Council – to advance the creativity, rigour and relevance of science worldwide. It created a unified, global voice for science, with a powerful presence in all regions of the world and representation across the natural (including physical, mathematical and life) and social (including behavioural and economic) sciences.

The founding General Assembly of the new organization was held on 3 and 4 July 2018, where the combined membership of ICSU and the ISSC elected their representatives on the governing structures of the new Council. Representatives of the Council's members elected Daya Reddy, a mathematician from South Africa, to be the first President. Peter Gluckman, the former Chief Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, became the President-elect, and will assume the Presidency durning the next General Assembly in 2021.

The ISC's membership elected Elisa Reis (Vice-President), Jinghai Li (Vice-President), Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Secretary) and Renée van Kessel (Treasurer) as executive Members, and Geoffrey Boulton, Melody Burkins, Saths Cooper, Anna Davies, Pearl Dykstra, Sirimali Fernando, Ruth Fincher, James C. Liao, Natalia Tarasova and Martin Visbeck as ordinary Members.

"We have set ourselves an ambitious goal to be a powerful, visible, credible voice for science. There's no time to waste. Let's get to work!" Daya Reddy accepting his position as inaugural President of the International Science Council.

The ISC's high-level strategy, "Advancing science as a global public good" was also launched at this time. That strategy has now been turned into an Action Plan that sets the agenda for the ISC from 2019-2021.

The ISC was inaugurated on 5 July 2018 at the Maison des Océans in Paris, which also included panel sessions as part of an International Science Day. The programme featured leading scientists including Craig Calhoun, Esther Duflo, Ismail Serageldin and Cedric Villani, who showcased the priorities for the new organization – freedom and responsibility in science and advancing science as a global public good.

Photo: Chin-Chun Yi, from the International Sociological Association

THE ISC: A GLOBAL VOICE FOR SCIENCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD, BY CRAIG CALHOUN

Renowned sociologist Craig Calhoun delivered a keynote address at the ISC's launch on 5 July 2018. The adapted version below provides for compelling reading.

The creation of the International Science Council and its mission to be a global voice for science are of enormous importance. Yet as we celebrate the new organization, we must also recognize that it faces challenges. Indeed, science itself and even knowledge, face challenges in the contemporary world.

As members of the scientific community, we stand for research-based knowledge, and for publishing our research so that it can be debated, critiqued and challenged. When we speak of the scientific method, we speak of the combination of logic, evidence and communication; of reasoning, gathering facts, and making our findings available for critical evaluation and improvement. This is part of the basic idea of science, underpinned by a commitment to humility and to doubt that allows us to continually question how to achieve better knowledge.

Today, these principles are accompanied by extraordinary capacities to create knowledge, with facilities such as CERN, born out of the collaboration of governments and scientists from around the world. The enormous expansion of knowledge institutions that enable science to advance is to be celebrated. We see a diversification of resources and of settings, with scientists moving back and forth between universities and corporate research, posing new questions about how proprietorial interests may affect scientific practice and publishing.

We also celebrate the use of knowledge. Science is not just the accumulation of research findings, nor even the continued questioning of those findings, it is also part of a larger social ecology in which scientific knowledge is used to make and remake the world and its inhabitants. In the contemporary world, scientific advances such as gene-editing are changing our understanding of ourselves and even our physical beings.

We celebrate the unity of science, including physical, natural, and social sciences; and including basic and applied science. The merger of ICSU and ISSC is, in part, an achievement based on this idea. Yet we must not become complacent. We have demonstrated the unity of science, the coherence of a scientific vision and the importance of a global voice for science for ourselves, but that does not mean that we have demonstrated these goods in the world at large. We live in a troubled world, in which the very idea of truth and knowledge is questioned in many settings. We live in a world that needs a more coherent global voice for science, but we need to ask ourselves who is listening and how to start a conversation.

Only by working together can we face up to a mistrust of experts. We have to admit that we have sometimes let our knowledge be coupled uncritically to projects that have deepened divides. We need to collaborate across institutions, national boundaries, and prestige hierarchies to counteract suspicion of science and fears that science is elitist. Without working to deepen understanding of both the public and policy-makers we risk inadequate policies and regulations. Finally, we need to recognize the challenge of inadequate public investment in science and in education.

Science is vulnerable in the era of fake news. Good data can be manipulated, and both misstatements and deliberate deceptions circulate widely. We have to be aware that the truth does not always automatically win out. Debates over climate change are an example of how persistent disinformation has distorted our understanding. To counteract the pattern of collapsing trust, we should not simply seek more trust, but trust in trustworthy sources. Finally, we need to recognize that science is not automatically all good, and its uses can be pernicious. What's more, the benefits of science are extremely unequally distributed, both between and within countries.

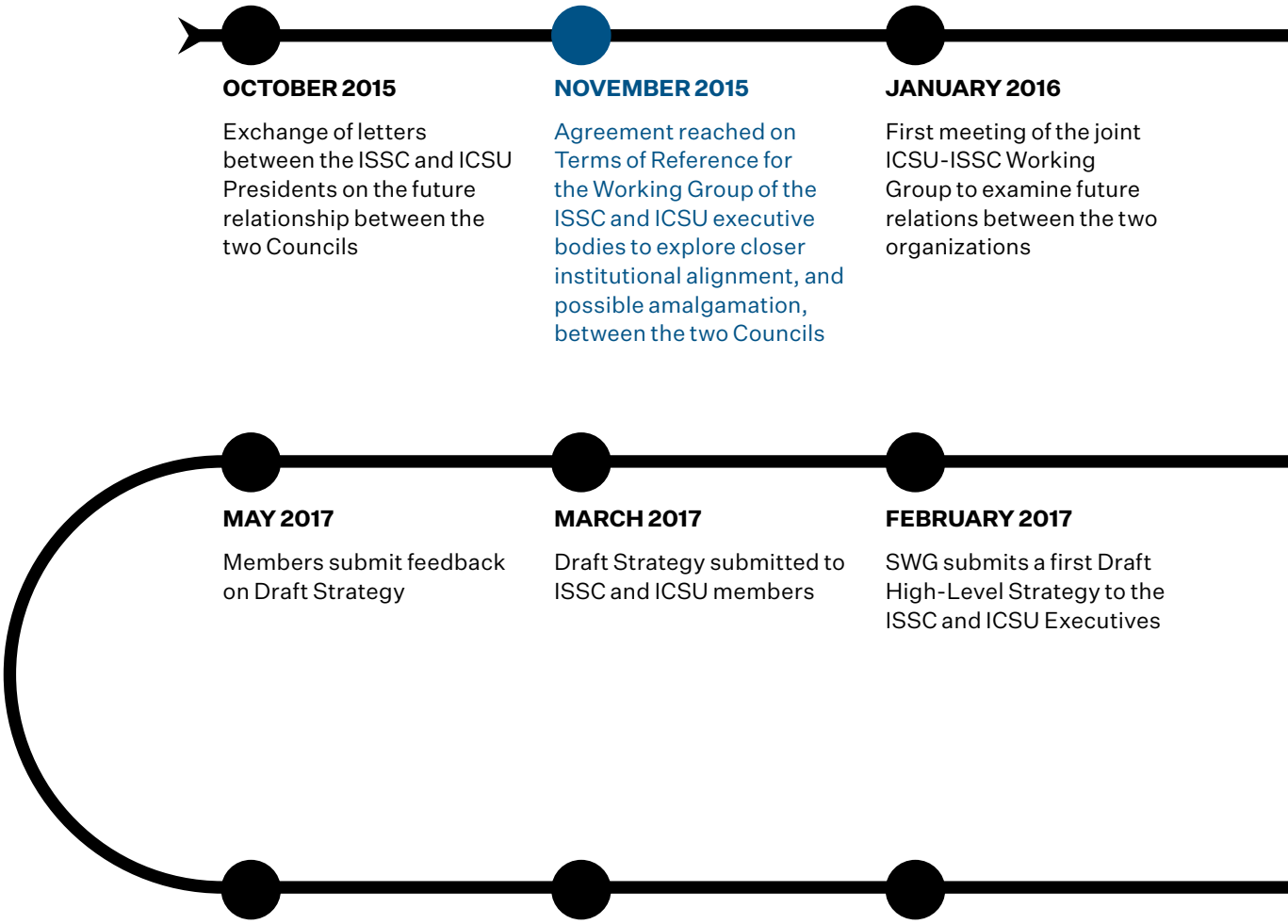
The way to confront these challenges is to strengthen scientific collaboration. We need to work together to address the many forms of inequality that affect scientific practice, including the huge disparity in the number of researchers in the global north and south, and in opportunities to access science. Despite our global institutions, we live in an era of renewed nationalism, posing challenges to international scientific collaboration and mobility. In an era of disruption, we need to collaborate across geographic and other divides to understand the changing world around us.

We need to collaborate to address urgent societal issues, such as climate change, transformations of the human being, or the changing global political economy, and to ensure maximal benefit from the new technologies emanating from science and research.

In short, we need to work together to nurture more trustworthy knowledge, to integrate fragmented scientific knowledge, to build global networks, to inform the public and to inform policy-makers. We need to collaborate to advance the public good, which is at the very heart and nature of science itself. This is the role of the ISC, and it is needed now more than ever.

"We live in a world that needs a more coherent global voice for science, but we need to ask ourselves who is listening and how to start a conversation" Craig Calhoun, Professor of Social Sciences, Arizona State University.

MERGER TIMELINE



OCTOBER 2015

Exchange of letters between the ISSC and ICSU Presidents on the future relationship between the two Councils

NOVEMBER 2015

Agreement reached on Terms of Reference for the Working Group of the ISSC and ICSU executive bodies to explore closer institutional alignment, and possible amalgamation, between the two Councils

JANUARY 2016

First meeting of the joint ICSU-ISSC Working Group to examine future relations between the two organizations

FEBRUARY 2017

SWG submits a first Draft High-Level Strategy to the ISSC and ICSU Executives

MARCH 2017

Draft Strategy submitted to ISSC and ICSU members

MAY 2017

Members submit feedback on Draft Strategy

28-29 JUNE 2017

Joint meeting of the ICSU and ISSC Executives

JUNE 2017

Transition Task Force Meeting
Second Draft Strategy submitted to the Executives of ISSC and ICSU

30-31 MAY 2017

Strategy Working Group meeting

"With the birth of the ISC, we've got a lot more international scientific unions and now a lot more national academies of sciences making this finally a truly global scientific institution perfectly equipped to solve those problems that need scientific expertise"
Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Former Executive Director, International Council for Science (ICSU), 5 July 2018.

APRIL 2016

Executive bodies of ICSU and ISSC follow the Working Group's recommendation for the two Councils to merge, and recommend this course to the Councils' members

JUNE 2016

Joint meeting of the ISSC and ICSU Executives

OCTOBER 2016

At a joint meeting in Oslo, Norway, members of ICSU and ISSC agreed in principle to merge the two Councils and to develop detailed transition plans towards a single organization

NOVEMBER 2016

Transition planning process gets underway with a call for nominations to members for a Strategy Working Group (SWG) and a Transition Task Force (TTF)

DECEMBER 2016

TTF and SWG appointed by the Executives of ISSC and ICSU

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2017

SWG and TTF hold their first meetings

JULY 2017

Circulation to members of revised Draft Strategy, and of draft Statutes and proposed Transition plans developed by the TTF

23-26 OCTOBER 2017

Vote in favour of the merger

In October 2017, members of both councils voted overwhelmingly to merge, launching a process to form a single global entity called the International Science Council in 2018. Members also approved the High-Level strategy and Transition plans for the new organization.

MAY 2018

In electronic General Assemblies members of the two councils approved the Merger Treaty, which set 30 June as official date for the establishment of the International Science Council.

3-5 JULY 2018

The first General Assembly of the International Science Council and election of the new executive governance body took place on 4 July 2018, in Paris, France, hosted by the Académie des Sciences.

2 OUR GLOBAL REACH

The Council convenes the scientific expertise and resources needed to lead on catalysing, incubating and coordinating impactful international action on issues of major scientific and public importance. Our activities focus on three principle areas of work:

- Science-for-policy to stimulate and support international scientific research and scholarship, and to communicate science that is relevant to international policy issues;
- Policy-for-science to promote developments that enable science to contribute more effectively to major issues in the international public domain; and
- Scientific freedom and responsibility to defend the free and responsible practice of science.

With a broad range of co-sponsored international research programmes, networks and committees, the Council's activities span a large range of issues, from global sustainability, poverty, urban health and wellbeing and disaster risk reduction, to data, observing systems and science advice to governments. The following pages outline our activities and impact in 2018 - from defending scientific freedom for researchers, to building capacity for early career scientists, to making the voice of science heard throughout the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – the ISC has hit the ground running in its first six months since the merger!

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

HEADQUARTERS

● World Social Science Forum

The last four decades have seen the development of new forms of war and conflict, environmental change, emerging risks from new technology, and growing tensions as a result of increasing numbers of refugees and displaced people. At the same time, insecurity is increasingly being used to justify attacks on freedom and democracy. Security is one of the most critical issues of today, and its various dimensions are connected in ways that make it impossible to address one aspect of security independently from the others.

Against this backdrop, the ISC brought together around 1,000 delegates and world renowned experts from about 80 countries for the World Social Science Forum, which took place in Fukuoka, Japan, in late September 2018. The theme was 'Security and equality for sustainable futures', with plenary and paper sessions focussing on cross-cutting issues such as gender security, social progress, biosecurity, migrations, resilience, and the kind of research approaches needed to address the multidimensional realities of security.

Several ISC members, including many from Asia and Africa, organized sessions and events, and helped provide an encompassing view of the variety of security issues and their interconnections across the world. A specially dedicated grant programme, established with South Africa's Human Sciences Research Council, to which several ISC members and international organizations contributed, helped support the participation of 26 early career presenters from low-income countries.

The Forum was officially opened by Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Japan. In his opening speech, His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito (who acceded to the Throne on 1 May 2019, becoming Emperor of Japan), noted the importance of the Forum "for scholars working in humanities, social sciences and natural sciences to discuss among themselves and work together for the world's urgent issues".

The Forum was organized by the ISC together with a consortium of local partners led by Kyushu University. The World Social Science Forum series was launched by the International Social Science Council in 2009 in Bergen, Norway. The 2018 event was the first Forum to take place in Asia, and the first international scientific event of the newly formed International Science Council.

"The discussions here truly demonstrate that the contributions of the social sciences are vital for solving the most pressing challenges of the 21st century."
Kazuo Miyamoto, Senior Vice-President of Kyushu University and Chair of the local organizing committee for the 2018 World Social Science Forum.

● LIRA - Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa

2018 was the third year of implementation in the five-year programme, in partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agengy (Sida) and in collaboration with the ISC Regional Office for Africa and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC). The programme aims to develop the potential of next-generation scientists in Africa to produce and communicate integrated policy-relevant knowledge to inform policy processes such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

To this end, LIRA awarded 11 collaborative research projects across Africa in 2018. These projects, together with non-academic partners (e.g. civil society, policy-makers, and private sector), are expected to examine the inherent complexity of cities and to explore the interconnections, trade-offs and synergies between different dimensions of urban systems.

Significant additional support to the programme from the Robert Bosch Foundation in 2018 helped to deliver additional capacity building activities to the LIRA community. Workshops held throughout the year included trainings on transdisciplinary research, stakeholder engagement, application of theories of change in research projects, science communication and working collaboratively within an integrated team of diverse researchers.

"I effectively learned in two compressed days what I usually learn in more than a month. The trainers were able to take the complex and make it simple. What I liked best were the useful tips to select stakeholders and keep them close and motivated during a Transdisciplinary Research project. I also enjoyed the engaging nature and the use of real-life case studies to demonstrate how to negotiate the boundaries of Transdisciplinary Research." *Blaise Nguendo-Yongsi, researcher in health geography and spatial epidemiology, IFORD-University, Cameroon.*

"The United Nations Science, Technology and Innovation forum was a great learning experience for me since I have never been to such a high-level global event. I was most surprised to learn that the transdisciplinary approach of LIRA is still quite novel! I also learned that indigenous and local knowledge are now getting greater attention; which sits well with our LIRA work with communities. I noted that the LIRA team was well placed to present views from the South on embedding research and engaging stakeholders." *Amollo Ambole, researcher at the Institute of Climate Change and Adaptation, University of Nairobi.*

In 2018, the LIRA programme also provided several opportunities for African early career scientists to present their research at international scientific events, to contribute to and learn from global policy processes, and to expand their scientific networks. The events included the UN Science, Technology Innovation (STI) Forum on Sustainable Development, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), "Cities and Climate" Conference, the Next Einstein Forum and the Future Earth Seedbeds of Transformation, to name a few.

● The Transformations to Sustainability programme (T2S)

The Sida-supported Transformations to Sustainability programme was launched in 2014 with the aim of supporting international research teams led or jointly led by social scientists in the Global South to do solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary research on the social dimensions of sustainability and global environmental change. The three Transformative Knowledge Networks funded by the programme, counting more than 70 partner institutions and more than 200 collaborators, will be formally wrapping up their ISC-funded work in 2019. In 2018 they consolidated their research findings and began to produce the major outputs of their work.

2018 was also a year where early career researchers in the programme deepened their collaborations. Several researchers were prominent at the Future Earth 'Seedbeds of Transformation' conference in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in May, and 16 of them jointly designed and organized a novel type of summer school – the 'Living Aulas' Research School – in June in Colombia.

A partnership with the journal COSUST (Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability) to produce an ongoing virtual special issue on transformations to sustainability was established in December. The first original paper should appear in mid-2019, and at least one paper should appear in every volume thereafter. A series of briefs, bringing peer-reviewed research on social transformations to wider audiences, was launched with *Ten essentials for research that responds to the climate challenge*. The programme also produced 16 short clips featuring interviews of T2S researchers, including early career researchers, filmed at the Transformations 2017 conference in Dundee, Scotland.

Just Transition(s) to a Low-Carbon World

The concept of a 'Just Transition'—the idea that justice and equity must form an integral part of the transition towards a low-carbon world—is gaining popularity as the international community seeks to achieve the ambitious aims of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Yet not all stakeholders agree on what 'Just Transition' really means, what a Just Transition might look like, and how we should get there. Is 'Just Transition' just another buzzword?

To examine some of these questions, and to bring voices from the social sciences and humanities into the ongoing debate, the T2S team partnered with the Just Transition Research Collaborative to develop an online publication on the topic. Featuring contributions from scholars, civil society leaders and trade union representatives, the 17 blog pieces were viewed over 8,000 times in 2018, and include a contribution from T2S early career researcher Rebecca Shelton.

The ISC is also participating in the Belmont Forum–NORFACE joint programme on Transformations to Sustainability. Twelve projects were funded in 2018 to the value of 11.5m EUR. The ISC is supporting research partners from low income countries in eight of those projects, with funding from Sida and the European Commission. The projects kicked off between September and November 2018 and will run for a maximum of three years.

The new projects were publicly launched at the World Social Science Forum in Fukuoka with a keynote talk by Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Director Melissa Leach. The full workshop report and presentations are available on the programme webpages.

"Any of the challenges we seek to have impact on and help to solve cannot be solved without the very necessary involvement of the social sciences"
Heide Hackmann

● 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

The ISC is working to turn its flagship publication A Guide to SDG interactions: from Science to implementation into a toolkit that countries and decision-makers can use to inform their priority-setting and implementation strategy of the SDGs in different local contexts. To that end, the ISC and the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) partnered with the International Institute on Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the European Commission Joint Research Center (JRC), and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) to develop the vision for a two-year project that will produce an online software tool to map interactions between SDGs areas, and design a multi-stakeholder process to facilitate a dialogue between scientists, policy-makers and stakeholders to identify the most relevant interactions, and support priority-setting for SDG implementation and monitoring in their particular contexts. Support from the Irish Environmental Agency was secured for a pilot programme to be implemented in 2019. The concept was presented at the European Science Open Forum during July in Toulouse, France and the INGSA conference in November, Tokyo, Japan.

The Council champions the need for an integrated approach to SDG implementation and the need to build national Science Technology Innovation (STI) systems to address the opportunities and challenges posed by the SDGs. This was evident at the UN STI Forum and the High-Level Political Forum in June and July respectively, in New York, United States. As co-cordinator of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, information-sharing and community-building activities included the production of a Science X HLPF newsletter reporting on the latest news from the scientific community working on the SDGs, which was well received by ISC members.

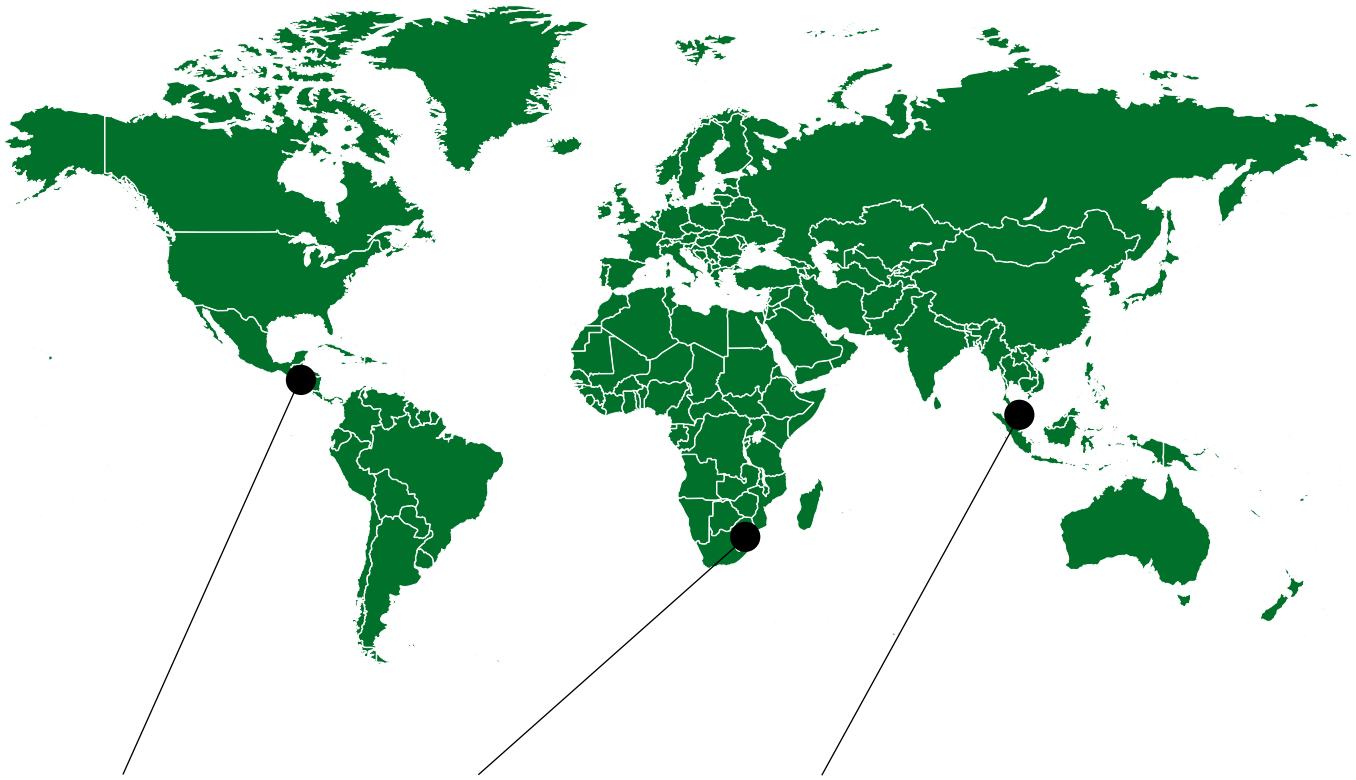
The UN Habitat III process in 2015 adopted the new Urban Agenda as a framework for action globally towards sustainable urbanization. Since that time, the ISC has worked with the urban scientific community to reflect on the implications of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda on the kind of science required to meet the goals of the Urban Agenda. This collaboration resulted in a University College London-Nature Sustainability expert panel report on the Future of Urban Science, which not only called for stronger collaboration across a wide range of disciplines, but also stronger engagement with decision-makers and practitioners at local levels to address their knowledge needs.

● Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - IPBES

In 2018, the ISC was selected to coordinate the first external review of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) - an international mechanism supported by 132 countries and established in 2012 to assess the state of knowledge on nature and its contributions to people, and support decision-making to address biodiversity loss and ecosystems degradation. The ISC supported a 10 member-review panel, chaired by Professor Peter Bridgewater, and developed the methodology for evaluating the performance of the Platform mobilizing a wide range of inputs from the scientific, policy and stakeholder communities.

REGIONAL OFFICES

Under the guidance of regional scientific committees, the offices promote the further development and strengthening of science in the context of regional priorities, and bring the science of developing countries closer to the ISC. The offices also work to ensure that scientists from the region become involved in ISC activities, especially those related to the priority areas of the region.



The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean was inaugurated in April 2007. It was hosted by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences in Rio de Janeiro until November 2010, when it relocated to the Mexican Academy of Sciences in Mexico City. It moved again in August 2016 and is now located in San Salvador, El Salvador.

The priority areas for Latin America and the Caribbean are:

- sustainable energy
- natural disasters
- mathematics education
- biodiversity
- disaster risk reduction
- urban health

The Regional Office for Africa (sub-Sahara) was established in September 2005 and is hosted by the South African National Research Foundation in Pretoria.

The priority areas for Africa are:

- sustainable energy
- natural and human-induced hazards and disasters
- health and human wellbeing
- global environmental change (including climate change and adaptation)

The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific was inaugurated in September 2006 and is hosted by the Malaysian Academy of Sciences in Kuala Lumpur.

The priority areas for Asia and the Pacific are:

- sustainable energy
- ecosystem approach
- hazards and disasters
- earthquakes, floods and landslides
- special vulnerability of islands

● Regional Office for Africa (ROA)

During the year, ROA collaborated with various partners on the continent to promote science as a global public good. This included a partnership with the Africa Future Earth Committee, tasked with setting up other regional Future Earth offices throughout the continent, assisting in the implementation of the LIRA2030 programme and providing leadership for the African Open Science Platform.

The African Open Science Platform is a pan-African endeavour which aims to position African scientists at the cutting edge of data-intensive science, by stimulating interactivity and creating opportunity through the development of efficiencies of scale, the creation of critical mass through shared capacities, and amplifying impact through a commonality of purpose and voice. It is anticipated that the fully-fledged platform will be launched in 2020. South Africa's Department of Science and Technology, the NRF, CODATA, the South African Academy of Science and the ISC continue to actively participate in the initiative.

The platform was presented in December at the *Science Forum South Africa* by Dr Khotso Mokhele, co-chairperson of the advisory council of the Platform and former President of the National Research Foundation (NRF).

ROA also brought together African scientists and policy-makers to deliberate on the challenges on the continent in collaborations and events such as:

- The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission Summer School (South Africa, December 2018), organized by the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA)-Africa Chapter (hosted at ROA) in collaboration with the African Academy of Sciences and the African Union Commission;
- The launch of the Future Earth Regional Office in Southern Africa, based in South Africa, with the aim of setting up similar Regional Offices in other sub-regions of the continent;
- Participating in the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development as part of the co-convening role of the ISC for the UN's Scientific and Technological Community Major Group; and
- The publication of a book, *African Indigenous Medical Knowledge and Human Health* developed by the Human Wellbeing Consortium coordinated by ROA.

● Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

A key achievement for ROAP in 2018 was the launch of Future Earth Mongolia, launched in Ulaanbaatar during June, and Future Earth Philippines, in Manilla in November.

Organized by the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS), the Future Earth Ulaanbaatar event heard from Professor Jia Gensuo, a member of the regional committee for ROAP and Deputy Director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, on "The Digital Belt & Road - Climate Change and Disaster Risks". The digital belt and road promotes sustainable development through the harnessing and application of big data to build capacity for communities to build resilience and respond to disaster risk. Prof. Gensuo encouraged Mongolian colleagues, young scientists and students to join local capacity building programmes and be part of local solutions in disaster risk reduction.

Prof. Tetsuzo Yasunari, Director General of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan and member of the Future Earth Advisory Committee gave a keynote speech entitled "Future Earth: Research for sustainability in the Asia-Pacific region", where he emphasized the important roles of national and regional networks as bottom-up processes to tackle global sustainability challenges.

The launch also heard from members of the Future Earth Regional Committee for Mongolia, including Dr D. Odgerel, Head of Science and Technology at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports; Prof. Avid. B, Secretary General, Mongolian Academy of Sciences and Ms. S. Oyun, Member of the Future Earth Advisory Committee.

The Future Earth Philippines Programme, funded by the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines, was launched with the aim of strengthening the country's resilience through the creation of the Philippine Knowledge-Action Programmes for Sustainability. It seeks to link the Philippines with regional and global initiatives on sustainability by encouraging collaboration among relevant agencies, institutions and stakeholders.

ROAP's other activities throughout the year included:

- Training courses held in Taipei on themes including disaster risk reduction in systems approaches for slow onset climate disasters; landslide risk reduction training and earthquake hazard and risk assessment training in East Asia;

- A two-day workshop on the IPCC Assessment Report 6 cycle for early career scientists working on climate change, disaster risk reduction and their interaction with sustainable development;
- Capacity building workshops and events in collaboration with INGSA on science advice for governments, including trainings in Bangladesh, India and a major conference in Tokyo, aimed at creating a platform to build and strengthen networks of science advice in the region;
- Participation of ROAP committee members in the *International Symposium on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment*, held in Xiamen, China in October. The Symposium brought together urban health experts to discuss progress and advance health and wellbeing in changing urban environments. It provided an opportunity to present evidence and case studies on the benefits generated by better understanding of the interconnectedness of specific urban health and well-being issues when addressed through systems approaches, by putting health at the core of urban policy making.

● Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

One of the major priority areas for ROLAC in 2018 included the promotion of an integrated multi-disciplinary framework around research into disaster risk reduction. In January, ROLAC launched a book entitled *The Forensic Investigation of Disasters* with the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador. The publication provided a conceptual map and guide for forensic disaster investigations, focusing on the investigation of the causes of disasters and their occurrence.

Capacity building around the publication and its framework took place in Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico and Panama, with journalists and media professionals joining sessions in El Salvador to highlight the important role the media has in reporting on disaster resilience and in communication during and in the aftermath of a disaster. In October, the DRR meetings coincided with the Latin American and Caribbean Open Science Forum, held in Panama, where discussions were held on how to strengthen activities around the Forensic Investigation of Disasters publication and specifically, how to strengthen collaboration with the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk and other regional disaster risk programmes.

ROLAC convened scientists and policy-makers through activities and events such as:

- The inaugural INGSA capacity building workshop in the Caribbean in February, where 40 early career and established scientists and policy-makers participated in case studies that highlighted the need to have strong scientific data for policy-makers to find solutions to complex issues. Further INGSA workshops were also held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Panama City, Panama;
- A conference in March with the International Mathematical Union and its Committee for Women in Mathematics on reducing the gender gap in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), in the region. Around 700 delegates attended, sharing ideas and recommendations on actions that could be taken at local and regional levels to promote gender equality in STEM.
- A delegation from the Ministry of Health, El Salvador, visited Cuba's International Convention on Cuba Salud in April, to exchange ideas and best practices with delegations from Cuba's Ministry of Health as part of the Urban Health and Wellbeing programme.
- The World Data System Latin America conference and the Caribbean Scientific Data Management workshop both hosted by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences in April successfully mapped the strengths and limitations, and new opportunities for, collaboration of data initiatives in the region that are either underway or in the process of being developed; and
- The launch of a network promoting ancestral knowledge at the Symposium on Ancestral Knowledge, Public Policies and Dialogue of Knowledge, organized in conjunction with the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the Ministry of Culture in El Salvador in December.

COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY IN SCIENCE

The Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS) promotes freedom and responsibility in the conduct of science by issuing advisory material, organizing scientific meetings and by considering cases of individual scientists whose human rights are infringed.

During the first half of 2018, the preceding (ICSU) committee continued to follow a wide range of individual issues associated with freedom and responsibility in science and held workshops. The CFRS concluded its mandate on 30 June 2018 and the ISC Governing Board took charge of addressing urgent freedom and responsibility cases until a new CFRS, the first of the new Council, would be appointed in early July 2019.

Shaping the future of researchers in developing countries

The CFRS held a workshop in March 2018 in Abuja, Nigeria, organized in conjunction with the Nigerian Academy of Science and the ISC's Regional Office for Africa. The aim of this session was to discuss with government, researchers and institutions strategies for better enabling and enhancing the value of research in developing countries. Discussions were focused on the following themes:

(i) Ensuring the rights, freedoms, duties and responsibilities for African researchers at institutional and state level;

(ii) Identifying the main drivers of "brain drain" and good examples of how to mitigate against this loss;

(iii) Creating an enabling environment for researchers; and

(iv) Security of employment and sustaining support to specific groups (e.g. young and female researchers).

The workshop was well attended and resulted in a number of recommendations promoting research in science and technology to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development in African countries. Partners included UNESCO, the Nigerian Academy of Science, the Nigerian Young Academy and the Nigerian government.

In the first half of 2018, the Committee considered seven cases where the rights and freedom of individual scientists to conduct their work may have been restricted. In respect for the members involved in these cases and the wishes of their family, the details of these cases are confidential. In some instances, we have been given permission to raise awareness about these cases.

Once such case regarded the Argentinian glaciologist Ricardo Villalba, who was facing charges, along with three government officials, for the conduct of a countrywide glacial survey. The charges were associated with a claim that he manipulated a government survey of glaciers at the request of mining interests. Due consideration revealed that his inventory of glaciers was equal to, or better than, international standards. A letter to Argentinian authorities noted the potential negative impact on local and global scientific endeavours if such cases succeeded in court.

In September 2018, ISC President Daya Reddy endorsed an appeal by the United Nation's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to immediately release Xiyue Wang, a US national and PhD student being held in an Iranian prison on unfounded espionage charges.

Throughout the year, the Committee also collaborated with Scholars at Risk, the Committee for Concerned Scientists, and The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies, to raise awareness and respond to human rights issues associated with freedom and responsibility in science. The committee contributed to the Human Rights Network's resource guide released in September 2018.

CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMMES

● CODATA

CODATA is the Committee on Data of the International Science Council (ISC) which promotes global collaboration to advance Open Science to improve the availability and usability of data for all areas of research.

The General Conference of Weights and Measures in November 2018 took the momentous decision to re-define the International System of Units (SI) based on exact values of the fundamental constants—a decision that was enacted from 22 May 2019. This weighty decision means that the globally definitive kilogram is now no longer based upon a reference lump of metal (carefully guarded in a vault near Paris), but rather, calculated from a precise value determined following a review by the CODATA Task Group on Fundamental Physical Constants.

Since 1969, the CODATA Task Group has undertaken the task of reviewing the data from metrology labs around the world and periodically revising the fundamental constants that are used in many areas of science. This painstaking work is essential to science, to the calibration of high precision measures around the world and ultimately through the SI system of units to every human on the planet.

In addition to re-defining the kilogram, decisions were taken to define a further three SI base units - the ampere, kelvin, and mole (measures of electric current, temperature, and amount of substance, respectively) - using fundamental constants. Three other base units — for the second, metre, and candela (a measure of a light's perceived brightness) — were already being defined using fundamental constants.

The International Data Week, held in November in Gaborone, Botswana, was attended by over 850 data experts from around the world, ensuring the visibility and advancement of African data issues. The conference was organized by CODATA, the ISC's World Data System, the Research Data Alliance and the African Open Science Platform (an initiative directed by CODATA and ISC). The event was a significant milestone for the African Open Science Platform, which will launch its operational phase in 2019.

The human dimension of the global data community is recorded at events like International Data Week in the Humans of Data art project which showcases the voices and thoughts of data practitioners from around the world.

For more information on CODATA's activities in 2018 see www.codata.org

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● CROP - Comparative Research On Poverty programme

The Comparative Research On Poverty programme (CROP) was established in 1992. It works in collaboration with knowledge networks, institutions and scholars to build independent and critical knowledge on poverty, and to help shape policies for preventing and eradicating poverty. It is jointly sponsored by the ISC and the University of Bergen (UiB), Norway, where its secretariat is located.

Activities throughout 2018 continued to promote critical knowledge on the causes of and solutions to poverty in collaboration with local and international partners. CROP co-organized four international workshops and was responsible for two panels at the World Social Science Forum. CROP also published two books and eight "poverty briefs", on topics as varied as welfare reform in China, representation of the poor in Brazilian media, using progress indicators for measuring economic, social and cultural rights, and on the problems and options of renewing social democracy.

At the same time, CROP was active in discussions on Sustainable Development and Sustainability Science at its parent institution, the University of Bergen, Norway, participating in seminars and conferences on how to respond to global challenges and meet the SDGs.

During the year, UiB and ISC initiated a process to renew CROP and expand its scientific focus to cover issues of inequality. The results of that renewal process will be announced in late 2019.

For more information on CROP's activities in 2018, see www.crop.org

● Future Earth

Future Earth is a major international research platform providing the knowledge and support to accelerate transformations to a sustainable world, by building capacity in global sustainability and providing an international research agenda to guide natural and social scientists working around the world. It is also a platform for international engagement to ensure that knowledge is generated in partnership with society and users of science.

Future Earth is co-sponsored by the International Science Council (ISC), the Belmont Forum of funding agencies, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations University (UNU), The Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Future Earth's highlights for 2018 included the Global Carbon Project, involving scientsts from 15 countries researching the global carbon budget; The Program for Early-stage Grants Advancing Sustainability Science (PEGASuS); the Sleeping Financial Giants project aimed at engaging the finance sector in realizing its links to global sustainability; and the Exponential Climate Action Roadmap, charting essential steps to 2030 to catalyze action at the speed and scale now required to combat climate change.

During 2018, the ISC's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific helped launch Future Earth Mongolia and Future Earth Philippines. The launch event for Mongolia, held in Ulaanbaatar in June, was supported by the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. Future Earth Manilla has created Philippine Knowledge-Action Programmes for Sustainability as part of its roadmap for collaboration on sustainability issues (see ROAP entry for more details).

The 'Seedbeds of Transformation' conference co-organized by Future Earth in Port Elizabeth, South Africa in May included several presenters from the Transformations to Sustainability and LIRA programmes. The conference provided a platform for collaborative, transdisciplinary science for researchers from diverse perspectives to explore transformations and the SDGs in Africa.

For more information on Future Earth's activities in 2018 see www.futureearth.org

● International Network for Government Science Advice - INGSA

INGSA provides a forum for policy-makers, practitioners, national academies, scientific societies, and researchers to share experience, build capacities, and develop theoretical and practical approaches to the use of scientific evidence in informing policy at all levels of government.

The ISC has worked closely with INGSA to build capacity and produce knowledge at the interface of science and public policy in low- and middle-income countries – an important aspect of the ISC's work that promotes and strengthen evidence-based decision-making. With funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, the ISC has awarded and managed six research grants in 2018 in a highly competitive process from a large pool of applicants. The research projects will look to strengthen the interface of science and public policy on issues such as drug control, coastal management and sea level rise, water governance and household energy management. The ISC regional offices continued to help manage three INGSA regional chapters in Asia, Latin America and Africa by delivering workshops, research and science-policy engagement activities to a range of grantees aimed at assisting their professional development.

For more information on INGSA's activities in 2018 see www.ingsa.org

● Integrated Research on Disaster Risks (IRDR)

With the help of the IRDR programme, the ISC mobilized the scientific community to provide inputs into the UNDRR Global Assessment Report, a two-yearly publication assessing the state of knowledge on hazards, disaster risks and progress towards achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The ISC also convened scientists from the IRDR, Future Earth and WCRP programmes to discuss their joint contribution in addressing systemic and cascading risks across multiple domains (environment, food production and food security, health, trade, technology, etc.) and geographies.

The ISC supported a working group on international collaboration for data sharing and data interoperability (in particular around events such as the Indonesia earthquake and tsunami). Its aim was to develop a framework for multi-hazards early warning systems now used by a number of countries, including Small Island Developing States, to design their own systems and support international collaboration across agencies and sectors.

For more information on IRDR's activities in 2018 see www.irdrinternational.org

● Urban Health and Wellbeing Programme

The Urban Health and Wellbeing programme proposes a new conceptual framework for considering the multi-factorial nature of both the determinants and the manifestations of health and wellbeing in urban populations. The programme generates multi-disciplinary and collaborative projects addressing multiple aspects of urban health, with the ambition of producing reports useful to policy-makers.

The programme, established in 2014, is currently co-sponsored by the ISC, Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP), the International Society of Urban Health (ISUH) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), who also hosts the programme's secretariat in Xiamen, China.

In 2018, the ISC undertook a review of the programme in order to guide the next phase of its activities and partnership development, especially in the context of Agenda 2030 and UN Habitat's National Urban Policy Programme

The 15th International Conference on Urban Health took place in Kampala, Uganda, in November under the theme "Managing Urbanisation for Health: A priority for all nations". Bringing together researchers, policy-makers and other stakeholders, the conference led to the acknowledgement by several countries of the increasing importance of urban housing conditions on health due to demographic and climate change.

Together with the International Society of Urban Health, the ISC launched the Africa Working Group for Urban Health at the conference. The group, consisting of researchers from the ISC's LIRA programme and practitioners in the field of urbanization and health seeks to build critical mass of urban health researchers and practice in Africa, with the aim of promoting an "Africa-first" approach to urban health issues.

For more information on the Urban Health and Wellbeing Programme's activities in 2018 see www.urbanhealth.cn

● World Climate Research Programme - WCRP

The World Climate Research Programme facilitates analysis and prediction of Earth system change for use in a range of practical applications of direct relevance, benefit and value to society. WCRP aims to determine the predictability of climate and the effect of human activities on climate.

The International Science Council together with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO coordinated an internal review of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) during 2018. The review was led by Julia Slingo (Chair), Mark New, Alan Thorpe, Steven Zebiak, Fumiko Kasuga, Sergey Gulev, and Neville Smith. The report published at the end of this process explored the WCRP's scientific achievements and impact since 2009, and provided strategic directions for future development. It also assessed the appropriateness and effectiveness of the governance, operational structure, management and resourcing of the WCRP and informed the development of the 2019-2028 WCRP Strategic Plan. The review was featured in Nature Climate Change.

During March, the WCRP together with the IPCC, Future Earth, C40 (a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change), and other partners co-organized a Cities and Climate Change Science Conference in Edmonton, Canada. The conference inspired the next frontier of research focused on the science of cities and climate change and as a result, the Cities IPCC Research and Action Agenda was established. Its focus will be on the joint identification of key gaps by the academic, practitioner and urban policy-making communities, a concept which was presented at a side event at COP24 during December in Katowice, Poland, to stimulate discussion on effective urban responses to climate change.

For more information on WCRP's activities in 2018 see www.wcrp-climate.org

● World Data System (WDS)

2018 was a year of change for the World Data System (WDS), starting with the appointment of the new WDS Scientific Committee for 2018–2021. The previous Committee held its final meeting during the Latin America and the Caribbean Scientific Data Management Workshop in April in Rio de Janeiro. The event brought together more than 150 researchers and members of scientific organizations, policy-makers, and funders in the region to exchange information and develop greater synergies on topics such as trends in open data and open science.

The new WDS Scientific Committee continued to show a strong commitment in nurturing the next generation of young scientists by adding a one-year 'rolling' seat to the 2018–2021 Committee, filled by a representative of the recently established WDS Early Career Researcher and Scientist Network. The Network builds on the success of the WDS Data Stewardship Award, won in 2018 by Dr Wouter Beek who was presented the Award at International Data Week, held in November in Gaborone, Botswana and co-hosted by CODATA, WDS and the Research Data Alliance.

WDS held its first International Data Repositories Day at the end of International Data Week. The open event offered participants the opportunity to get to know WDS and its Members through presentation and networking opportunities, leading to a greater understanding of the ways in which WDS can assist the repository community. The WDS Scientific Committee profited from being in Southern Africa by having its November meeting in Cape Town. The meeting focused on the positioning of WDS within the ISC, and in particular looked at how data management and data integration across all domains will have a vital role in supporting research that will find transformative pathways to addressing the challenges facing humanity. One of the key outputs of the Committee's Cape Town meeting was the development of the WDS Strategic Plan for 2019–2023 which aims to maximize the WDS contribution to the ISC's 2019-2021 Action Plan, as well as to ensure the effectiveness of WDS liaisons with ISC members.

Of huge importance to future WDS strategy, is the selection by the WDS Scientific Committee of a Canadian consortium—formed by three WDS Regular Members—to host the first WDS International Technology Office (WDS-ITO) housed at the University of Victoria. The WDS-ITO is led by Dr Karen Payne, who was officially appointed as Associate Director in November. The WDS-ITO provides technical infrastructure and services in support of WDS goals. Its remit is to coordinate WDS contributions to Global Research Data Infrastructure (GRDI), and to assist WDS Members and the wider community in building trustworthy and enduring GRDI for the public good.

For more information on WDS' activities in 2018 see www.icsu-wds.org

3 OUR GOVERNANCE

Governing Board

The Council is governed by an international Governing Board which provides scientific and strategic leadership for the organization, and is advised on key aspects of its work by a number of Advisory Bodies. The Council's global headquarters are located in Paris, France. Its Regional Offices – for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific – work closely with national and regional Members to ensure the relevance of the Council's work and priorities in all parts of the world. A General Assembly of all Members is convened every three years, with the next one being in Muscat, Oman in 2021.

Governing Board

International Science Council Governing Board 2018 - 2021

Row 1: Renée van Kessel, Pearl Dykstra, Melody Burkins, Elisa Reis, Daya Reddy, Peter Gluckman, Sirimali Fernando, Heide Hackmann (ex-officio).

Row 2: Jinghai Li, Geoffrey Boulton, Saths Cooper, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, James C. Liao, Anna Davies, Natalia Tarasova

Absent: Martin Visbeck, Ruth Fincher

FINANCES FOR THE PERIOD

Statement of Combined Income and Expenditure of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) from 1 January to 30 June 2018, and the International Science Council from 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018.

Income (Euros)	
Membership dues	
Member Organizations	**2,747,108**
Member Unions and Associations	**181,133**
Affiliated Members	**11,500**
Provision Arrears	**79,774**
National Member support for GA / Dev. Countries travel	**40,000**
Contribution from French Government	**100,000**
China CAST - Integrated data activity	**90,354**
Grants from NSF	**324,149**
NSF dedicated funds at the end of previous year	**266,133**
Taipei grant for ICoE	**282,486**
Taipei dedicated funds at the end of previous year	**442,343**
Sida Grant for LIRA activities	**1,458,641**
Sida dedicated funds at the end of previous year	**128,580**
Bosch for LIRA Programme	**35,000**
IDRC funds for INGSA	**383,537**
IDRC dedicated funds at the end of previous year	**8,669**
Sida & NORFACE funds for T2S activities	**351,279**
Sida T2S dedicated funds at the end of previous year	**978,726**
UNEP for IPBES review	**55,679**
Other income	**29,500**
Cancellation other provision	**5,981**
Investment income	**77,312**
Total Income	**8,077,884**

Expenditure (Euros)	
Governance meetings	**169,794**
Policy committees	**64,819**
International Programme & Interdisciplinary Bodies	**1,629,771**
Policy Activities & Fora	**90,915**
Capacity Development & Early Career Science activities	**2,528,307**
International Events	**89,315**
Other Review response actions & New Initiatives	**32,740**
Membership	**306,663**
Regional Offices	**232,363**
Outreach	**157,633**
Human resources	**2,555,466**
Administration / Overheads	**216,915**
Contingency / Provision	-
Loss on arrears	**62,656**
Loss on exchange	**337**
Investment charges & losses*	**65,923**
Total Expenditure	**8,203,618**
Excess of expenditure over income	**-125,733**

* Including provision for unrealized losses on Portfolio for a total amount of 53K €

BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet of the International Science Council on 31 December 2018.

Assets (Euros)	
Bank & cash balances	**3,555,220**
Marketable securities	**2,279,004**
UNEP grant - balance to be received	**11,808**
Others assets	**112,924**
Fixed assets	**40,261**
Total assets	**5,999,217**

Liabilities (Euros)	
External funds allocated	**1,630,009**
Sundry creditors & accruals	**496,511**
Provision / Retirement	**253,779**
Total liabilities	**2,380,299**

Reserves (Euros)	
Mandatory reserve	**1,500,000**
General fund / Retained earnings	**2,244,651**
Total reserves	**3,744,651**

Net Result	**-125,733**

4 OUR MEMBERS

The Council's membership provides the foundation for its work. Through its activities, the Council aims to create opportunities for Members to participate in important scientific conversations and activities, to showcase their scientific contributions at the international level, and to connect to each other and to influential networks worldwide. The ISC's unique global membership brings together 40 international scientific Unions and Associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils, listed on the following pages:

4S, Society for Social Studies of Science

A

AAS, African Academy of Sciences

AASSA, Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia

Academy of Social Sciences, United Kingdom

ACSS, Arab Council for the Social Sciences

Albania, Academy of Sciences

Angola, Foundation of Science and Development

Argentina, National Scientific and Technological Research Council (CONICET)

Armenia, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia

ASTC, Association of Science-Technology Centers

Australia, Australian Academy of Science

Austria, Die Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften

Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

B

Bangladesh, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences

Belarus, National Academy of Sciences (NASB)

Belgium, Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium (RASAB)

Bolivia, Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Bolivia (ANCB)

Bosnia & Herzegovina: ANUBiH, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia & Herzegovina: ANURS, Academy of Sciences and Arts of the Republic of Srpska

Botswana, Ministry of Infrastructure, Science and Technology

Brazil, Academia Brasileira de Ciências (ABC)

Brazil, Association Nacional de Pos-Graduacao e Pesquisa em Ciencias Sociais (ANPOCS)

Bulgaria, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS)

Burkina Faso, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique

C

Cameroon, Cameroon Academy of Sciences

Canada, National Research Council of Canada

Canada, Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)

Caribbean, Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS)

Chile, Academia Chilena de Ciencias

China: CAST, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST)

China: Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

China: Taipei, Academy of Sciences located in Taipei

CIE, Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage

CLACSO, Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales

CODESRIA, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa

Colombia, Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Fisicas y Naturales

Costa Rica, Academia Nacional de Ciencias

Côte d'Ivoire, Académie des Sciences, des Arts, des Cultures d'Afrique et des Diasporas Africaines (ASCAD)

Cuba, Academia de Ciencias de Cuba

Czech Republic, Czech Academy of Sciences

D

Denmark, Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters

Dominican Republic, Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic

E

EADI, European Association of Development and Training Institutes

ECPR, European Consortium for Political Research

Egypt, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT)

El Salvador, Viceministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología de El Salvador

Estonia, Estonian Academy of Sciences

Ethiopia, Ethiopian Science and Technology Agency

F

FIG, Fédération Internationale des Géomètres

Finland, Council of Finnish Academies

FLACSO, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales

France, Académie des Sciences

G

Georgia, Georgian Academy of Sciences

Germany, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

Ghana, Ghana Academy of Arts & Sciences

Greece, Academy of Athens

Guatemala, Academia de Ciencias Médicas Fisicas y Naturales de Guatemala

H

Honduras, National Academy of Sciences of Honduras

Hungary, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

I

IAAP, International Association of Applied Psychology

IAHR, International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research

IALS, International Association of Legal Science

IASC, International Arctic Science Committee

IASSA, International Arctic Social Sciences Association

IAU, International Astronomical Union

ICA, International Cartographic Association

ICA, International Commission for Acoustics

ICIAM, International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

ICLAS, International Council for Laboratory Animal Science

ICO, International Commission for Optics

ICSTI, International Council for Scientific and Technical Information

IEA, International Economic Association

IFDO, International Federation of Data Organizations for Social Science

IFIP, International Federation for Information Processing

IFLA, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

IFS, International Foundation for Science

IFSM, International Federation of Societies for Microscopy

IGU, International Geographical Union

IIASA, International Institute for Applied System Analysis

IMU, International Mathematical Union

India, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

India, Indian National Science Academy

Indonesia, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)

INQUA, International Union for Quaternary Research

IPRA, International Peace Research Association

IPSA, International Political Science Association

Iran, Islamic Rep. Of, University of Tehran

Iraq, Ministry of Science and Technology

Ireland, Royal Irish Academy

ISA, International Sociological Association

ISA, International Studies Association

ISDE, International Society for Digital Earth

ISEE, International Society for Ecological Economics

ISPRS, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

Israel, Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Italy, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

IUBS, International Union of Biological Sciences

IUCr, International Union of Crystallography

IUFoST, International Union of Food Science and Technology

IUFRO, International Union of Forest Research Organizations

IUGG, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics

IUGS, International Union of Geological Sciences

IUHPST, The International Union for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology

IUIS, International Union of Immunological Societies

IUMRS, International Union of Materials Research Societies

IUMS, International Union of Microbiological Societies

IUNS, International Union of Nutritional Sciences

IUPAB, International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics

IUPAC, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

IUPAP, International Union of Pure and Applied Physics

IUPESM, International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine

IUPHAR, International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology

IUPS, International Union of Physiological Sciences

IUPsyS, International Union of Psychological Science

IUSS, International Union of Soil Sciences

IUSSP, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

IUTAM, International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics

IUTOX, International Union of Toxicology

IUVSTA, International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications

IWA, International Water Association

J

Jamaica, Scientific Research Council

Japan, Science Council of Japan

Jordan, Royal Scientific Society

K

Kazakhstan, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Kenya, Kenya National Academy of Sciences

Korea Democratic People's Republic of, State Academy of Sciences

Korea Republic of, Korean Social Science Research Council (KOSSREC)

Korea Republic of, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Korea

L

Lao PDR, Lao National Science Council

Latvia, Latvian Academy of Sciences

Lebanon, National Council for Scientific Research

Lesotho, Department of Science and Technology

Lithuania, Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

Luxembourg, Fonds National de la Recherche

M

Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Rep. Of, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Madagascar, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique

Malawi, National Commission for Science and Technology

Malaysia, Academy of Sciences Malaysia

Mauritius, Mauritius Research Council

Mexico, Academia Mexicana de Ciencias

Mexico, Consejo Mexicano de Ciencias Sociales, COMECSO

Moldova, Academy of Sciences of Moldova

Monaco, Principauté de, Centre Scientifique de Monaco

Mongolia, Mongolian Academy of Sciences

Montenegro, Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts

Morocco, Hassan II Academy for Science and Technology

Mozambique, Scientific Research Association of Mozambique (AICIMO)

"We draw our strengths from our members, we draw our identity from them, and together we will forge the strength and identity of the ISC" *Heide Hackmann, CEO*

N

Namibia, National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)

Nepal, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST)

Netherlands, Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen

New Zealand, Royal Society Te Apārangi and Māori

Nigeria, Nigerian Academy of Science

Norway, Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters

Norway, Research Council of Norway

Norway, University of Bergen, UiB

O

Oman, Sultanate of, Research Council of Oman

OSSREA, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa

P

Pakistan, Pakistan Association for the Advancement of Science

Panama, Universidad de Panama

Peru, Academia Nacional de Ciencias

Philippines, National Research Council

Philippines, Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC)

Poland, Polish Academy of Sciences

Portugal, Academia das Ciencias de Lisboa

PSA, Pacific Science Association

R

Romania, Academia Româna

Russian Federation, Russian Academy of Sciences

Rwanda, Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), Rwanda

S

Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST)

Senegal, Association des Chercheurs Sénégalais

Serbia, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Seychelles, Seychelles National Parks Authority

Singapore, Singapore National Academy of Science

Slovak Republic, Slovak Academy of Sciences

Slovenia, Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

South Africa, Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa (HSRC)

South Africa, National Research Foundation (NRF)

South Pacific, University of the South Pacific

Spain, State Secretariat for Research, Development and Innovation (SEIDI)

Sri Lanka, National Science Foundation

SSRC, Social Science Research Council

Sudan, Republic of, National Centre for Research

Swaziland, National Research Council

Sweden, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Switzerland, Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences (SAHS)

Switzerland, Swiss Academy of Sciences

T

Tajikistan, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan

Tanzania, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology

Thailand, National Research Council of Thailand

TNI, Transnational Institute

Togo, Chancellerie des Universités du Togo

Tunisia, Université Tunis El Manar

Turkey, Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey

Turkey, Turkish Academy of Science (TÜBA)

TWAS, The World Academy of Sciences

U

UAI, International Union of Academies

Uganda, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST)

UIS, Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences

United Kingdom, British Academy

United Kingdom, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

United Kingdom, Royal Society

United States, National Academy of Sciences

URSI, Union Radio-Scientific Internationale

Uruguay, Consejo Nacional de Innovación, Ciencia y Tecnología (CONICYT)

Uzbekistan, Republic of, Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences

V

Vatican City State, Pontificia Academia Scientiarum

Venezuela, Fondo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación

Vietnam, Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations

W

WAPOR, World Association for Public Opinion Research

WAU, World Anthropological Union

Z

Zambia, Zambia Academy of Sciences

Zimbabwe, Research Council of Zimbabwe

*Denotes list as of 31 December 2018

5 OUR FUTURE

Action Plan 2019-2021

The International Science Council's goals for action over the next two and a half years are set out in its Action Plan, Advancing Science As a Global Public Good, published in September 2019. Its most important purpose is to form a practical framework for the ISC's work, in all of its key functions, until the end of 2021. In addition, it will serve as a basis for active engagement with ISC members, and as a point of departure for dialogue and cooperation with partners and funders who share our objectives.

At the heart of the Action Plan is a selection of projects and programmes that are relevant to all scientific fields and all parts of the world. Some of these are already in progress, others are ready for development. Many encompass and build on ongoing ISC activities, including the Council's portfolio of international research programmes, scientific committees, networks, data bodies and observing systems.

Work with us to advance science as a global public good: www.council.science/ActionPlan

CONFRONTING THE PROBLEMS OF OUR TIME, BY ISMAIL SERAGELDIN

Ismail Serageldin participated in the inauguration of the International Science Council on 5 July 2018 at the Maison des Océans. He is now a Patron of the ISC.

When C.P. Snow wrote about "the two cultures" over half a century ago, he bemoaned a degree of ignorance, even rising enmity between the culture of science and the culture of the humanities. The stand-off has survived, but has mutated. The non-science view is sustained by some who deny that science is anything more than just another discourse reflecting the power relationships of society, and that its practitioners, the scientists, are no more than another social group vying for resources and power. Other voices, amplified by the ubiquitous power of the world-wide-web and social media, promote self-serving beliefs, "fake news" and distortions that fly in the face of rigorous evidence about vaccination, moon landings, climate change etc. Both politicize debate and reject evidence. Both undermine the potential of science to contribute to the public good.

Yet science *is* different.

We lose sight of that difference at our own peril. In science, there is no individual authority, no book that governs right or wrong, no high priests that interpret the sacred texts: there is a method. A method based on rationality and evidence. Science encourages engagement with the contrarian view, and hails the overthrow of existing paradigms and conceptions as breakthroughs. Many of the innovators in science are very young. Marie Curie was 31 when she discovered radium. Einstein was 26 when he published his revolutionary papers. Watson was 25 when he co-discovered the structure of the double Helix. All were hailed for their discoveries and are in the pantheon of the greatest scientists.

But powerful as the empirical scientific method is, it is not enough to deal with many of our problems, which are not just individual or systemic, but also social and environmental, local and global. In addition to the knowledge of the natural sciences, we need the insights of the social sciences and the wisdom of the humanities. We need to bridge the two cultures more than ever before, and jointly to extend that bridge further into society.

It is against that background that the International Science Council (ISC) was created in Paris on July 5th 2018. At that moment, the ISSC (representing the social sciences), and ICSU (representing the natural sciences) merged to create the first comprehensive umbrella organization that combined the best practitioners of both the social and the natural sciences, as well as several scholarly organizations that include the humanities. The ISC is thus poised to become the global voice of science at a time when the world needs that more than ever.

Many of the most serious challenges that humanity faces in trying to deal with climate change, water shortages, massive pollution, destruction of ecosystems, loss of natural habitats, soil degradation, species extinction, food security, poverty, inequalities, and so much more, are not amenable to simple technological fixes. They need societal involvement, broad public understanding, political commitment and international cooperation. Science has many contributions to make, but many of these contributions as they provide new solutions and services do raise profound ethical, social and philosophical issues. Just look at new genome editing techniques and potential misuse on humans; the issues surrounding social connectivity on the new media and privacy; the deployment of the technologies of artificial intelligence in mass surveillance and their capacity to erode individual liberties and potentially, human sense of autonomy; or the alarming negative potential of new "Deep Fake" videos.

So many of the problems of our time, from gender to medical issues, from the deployment of technology to environment, from social cohesion to international peace, focus attention on human individuals and societies as much as on the natural world we live in. Human beings are social beings, living things that have motives, intentions, norms and values, whose social institutions have meaning symbols, rituals and cultures. All of these are precisely the domains of the Social Scientists. Ethical issues require the wisdom of the humanities. For the benefit of humanity in this new

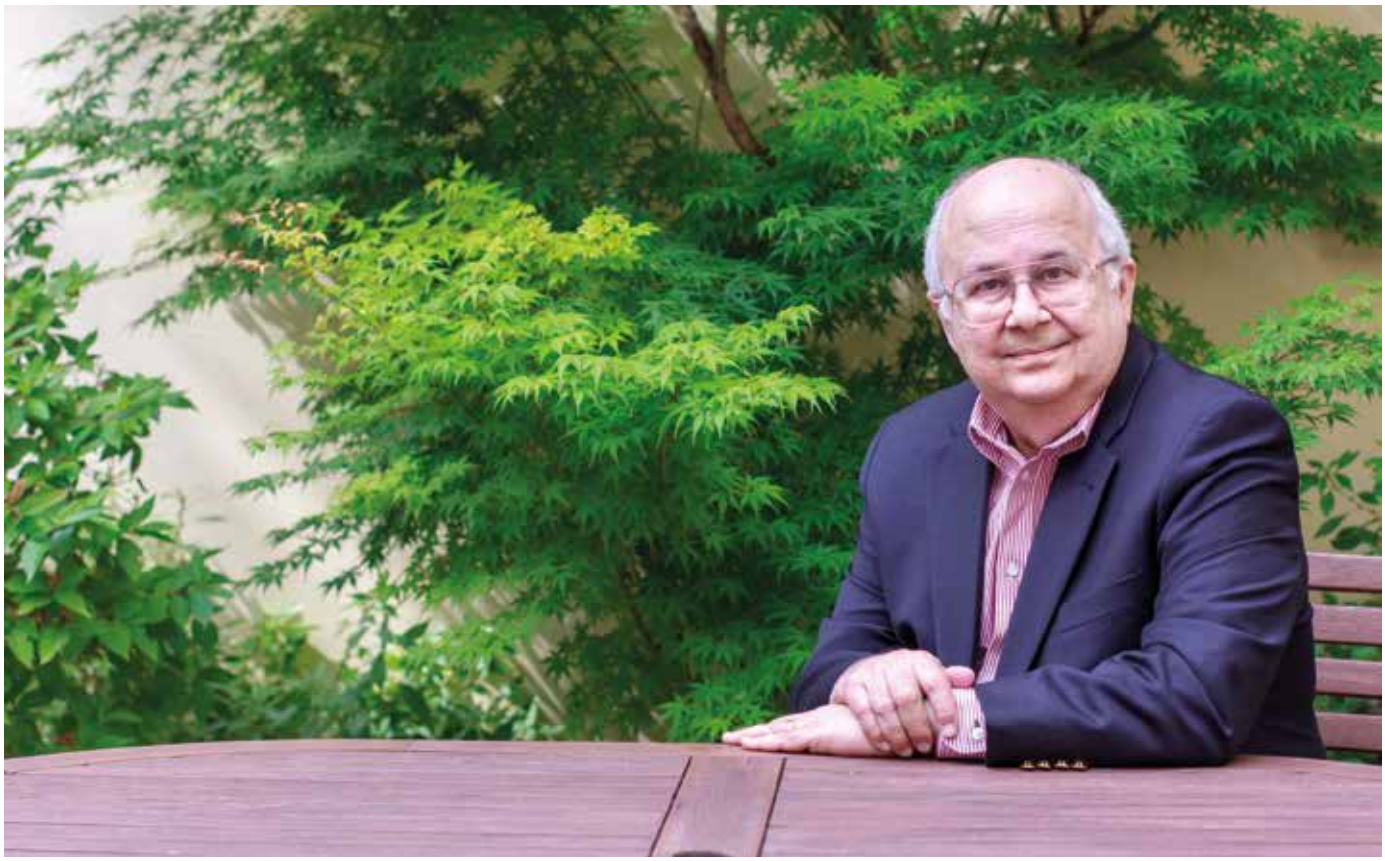

Photo: ISC Patron, Ismail Serageldin

century, we must bridge the rift between the two cultures. We must be able to bring their different and complementary insights to bear on the great problems of our time and engage with society in ways that enhance socio-political legitimacy.

This is the time for the ISC to bring the collective voice of science, with its reason, rationality and understanding to help the world appreciate the scope of the challenges we face, as well as the solutions that science can bring. And the ISC must do that job well so that the world will listen, and that may help humanity move on from its conflicted present to a great and glorious future. It takes up this urgent challenge by working to mobilise the collective strengths of the sciences in deploying their expertise and advice for the global public good and by engaging publicly on the great contemporary issues of concern to science and society.

IMPRINT

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