



BECOMING A MEMBER

International Science Council (ISC)

Introduction

The unique [membership](#) of the International Science Council (ISC), which brings together nearly 200 national, regional and international scientific organizations, provides an essential foundation for the ISC's work. This document provides information on the ISC membership categories, as well as criteria and procedures for formal admission to the ISC membership. It is based on terms set out in the [ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure](#).

Membership Categories

ISC Members adhere to the Council as institutional organizations in the following categories:

- **Full Members (Category 1)** are international scientific organizations (such as scientific unions, associations and similar bodies), which are devoted to the practice and the promotion of, and which serve to advance one or more scientific disciplines or specific areas of science. Organizations in this category are communities of scientists from all over the world and of a disciplinary commitment working together. They typically have an international institutional membership of their own (national academies, research councils, national agencies, national or regional institutes, associations, etc.; some may have individual membership) and organize international scientific meetings as well as scientific and outreach activities.
- **Full Members (Category 2)** are academies of sciences, research councils or analogous not-for-profit scientific bodies representing a broad spectrum of scientific fields or disciplines in a country, region, territory or globally. Under different names, these organizations typically represent the scientific communities of individual nations, regions or territories, working together to give the national, regional or territorial communities to which they belong a single scientific voice. ISC Members of Category 2 are in majority national academies, but also research councils, ministries and universities.
- **Affiliated Members (Category 3)** are other international governmental and non-governmental organizations, whose affiliation with the ISC is not covered by the membership categories above, and whose activities are in a field cognate to those of the ISC. Affiliated Members have no voting rights.

Eligibility Criteria

In reviewing an application, the [ISC Governing Board](#) will consider the following criteria:

- If the applicant organization represents scientific excellence in its domain
- If the applicant organization's vision, mission and work is in line with the ISC's values and non-discrimination principles (see [ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure](#))
- In the case of an application for Category 1: If the applicant organization is of an established, independent, non-governmental and international nature. International bodies are defined by the ISC as those bodies to which appropriate organizations in all countries of the world are eligible to adhere.
- If the new admission positively affects the balance of disciplines within the ISC membership and does not contribute to excessive fragmentation of sub-disciplines.
- Overall benefits of the applicant organization to the ISC community



Value of ISC Membership

☆ Be part of a global voice for science

The ISC is the largest global science organization that brings together the natural and social sciences to advance science as a global public good.

☆ Benefit from the ISC's convening power

The ISC 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.

☆ Participate in the ISC Action Plan

The [ISC Action Plan](#) sets out a practical framework towards our vision of science as a global public good, and we rely on our Members' participation for its successful delivery. Contribute to the development of priority actions and collaborate with us on our various projects, [opportunities](#) and our work with [affiliated bodies](#), and amplify your voice in how the scientific community responds to and provides actionable outcomes to global challenges.

☆ Approve the priority agendas for the ISC

Full Members are entitled to voting rights on decisions related to scientific strategy, governance, elections and other procedural matters as well as finances and dues.

☆ Chart the strategic direction of the ISC

Come together with all ISC Members every three years at the [General Assembly](#) to determine the priority agendas of the scientific work and the ISC governance.

☆ Determine the composition of the ISC Governing Board

Nominate candidates for and elect the ISC Governing Board, which provides scientific leadership and enables delivery of the vision, mission, principles and values, as well as the financial and management robustness of the Council.

☆ Take up an advisory role for the ISC Governing Board

Nominate candidates to join [ISC advisory bodies](#), including standing and ad-hoc committees, working groups and task forces on specific topics and key aspects of the Council's work and the Governing Board's duties.

☆ Support the ISC's mandate at the United Nations

Through our Members, the ISC is uniquely placed to convene expertise and integrate science in the [intergovernmental system](#), improving the science-policy interface at the global and regional levels, and playing an effective role in this enhanced global science-policy interface. The ISC is a lead coordinator of the [UN Major Group for the Scientific and Technological Community](#) and through our many memoranda of understanding with UN agencies, our Members' voices are integrated in major global policy processes (including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate Change, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction).

☆ Advance science in your region

Work with our regional structures to develop and deliver global scientific strategy and action that has both regional resonance and global impact.

☆ Harness global opportunities

Access information on international activities, funding and other opportunities for collaboration to advance your organization's scientific priorities and interests.



☆ Uphold and protect the freedom and responsibility in science

Stand with us and our Members by advocating the free and responsible practice of science. [The Principle of Freedom and Responsibility in Science](#) is embedded in the ISC's Statutes as fundamental to scientific advancement and human and environmental well-being and we work towards upholding and protecting the freedoms that scientists should enjoy, and the responsibilities they carry, while engaging in scientific practice.

☆ Amplify your science

Connect with us and let us know about your impact stories, events, vacancies, podcasts and calls to action so we can share your messages, initiatives and opportunities with the ISC community via the ISC social media channels, the ISC newsletter and on the ISC website. All Members are listed on the [ISC membership online directory](#), including an introductory text of as well as a link to their organization.

☆ Get connected

Collaborate with other ISC Members on issues of common interest, find partner organizations for your projects and guest speakers for your next conference. We stand ready to facilitate your connection with relevant stakeholders and representatives from the ISC community.

☆ Exchange knowledge

Access information on international scientific developments and support for the exchange of best practices. Support us in enhancing knowledge sharing and strengthening the relationship among the ISC membership by joining our regular membership dialogues in the frame of the [ISC knowledge sharing sessions](#). The topics of this online event series range from Q&A sessions on ISC governance, consultations on ISC projects, informal discussions and workshops, and are targeted at all staff members, officer bearers and representatives of ISC Members.

☆ Stay informed

A devoted membership liaison officer stands ready to answer your questions and ensures that Members receive the latest opportunities for collaboration and updates on ISC developments directly to their inbox through weekly membership update emails. The dedicated [Membership Notice Board](#) page on the ISC website collates all membership updates and more relevant information for ISC Members. Connect with us in a bilateral video call to share more information on your projects, initiatives and current priorities for science, and learn more about our work and ongoing opportunities for collaboration at the ISC.

Obligations of ISC Members

When adhering to the ISC membership, Members commit to the following obligations:

- To **support the ISC's values** of excellence and professionalism; inclusivity and diversity; transparency and integrity; innovation and sustainability.
- To **adhere to the ISC's vision** of science as a global public good and its **mission** to provide a powerful and credible global voice for science.
- To **comply with ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure**, notably Statute II., Article 7, which sets forth the Principle of Freedom and Responsibility in Science: "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.”

- To **maintain links with the activities of the ISC community**: Members are expected to participate in events and activities of the community, be represented at the ISC General Assembly, and engage with the ISC science programmes and bodies.
- To **pay annual dues** to the ISC within a scale determined by the General Assembly. Currently, dues for Full Members in Category 1 are determined by the income from their own membership fees while dues for Full Members in Category 2 are based on the national GDP. Dues for Affiliated Members currently amount to a fixed fee of € 530 p.a. in 2022.

Application Procedure

Application for ISC membership must be addressed in writing to the [ISC Membership Liaison Officer](#) by submitting:

- the completed and signed membership application form,
- a copy of the Statutes of the applying organization (or equivalent document), and
- a signed statement that the applicant will comply with ISC’s Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

In the event of an application for membership in Category 1 by an international union, association or similar body which was previously a part of an existing Member of the Council, the applicant should inform the relevant Member and seek its support before applying for membership ([Rule of Procedure 8.3](#)).

In the event of an application for membership in Category 2 by an organization in a country, region or territory which already has existing Member(s) of the Council, the applicant organization should inform the existing Member(s) and seek their support before applying for membership ([Rule of Procedure 8.3](#)).

All applications for membership will be transmitted to the ISC Governing Board, which shall decide whether to ask ISC Headquarters to ascertain whether there is adequate support for the application from ISC Members. In the case of applications for full membership, support from at least 12 Members, including at least three Members of Category 1 and three Members of Category 2, is needed. In the case of applications for Affiliated membership, support from at least nine Members, including at least three Members of Category 1 and three Members of Category 2, is needed. Voting Members will have the opportunity, upon receiving the said request, to ask for an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant. If no such ballot is requested, the Governing Board will decide on the application after having secured adequate support from ISC Members. In the case of letters of opposition, the Governing Board may request an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant ([Rules of Procedure 8.4 and 8.5](#)).

All successful applications shall have effect from the conclusion of the session of the Governing Board at which they were agreed ([Rule of Procedure 8.6](#)).

We look very much forward to receiving your application. Please do not hesitate to contact the Membership Liaison Officer Anne Thieme (anne.thieme@council.science) should you have any questions.