BECOMING A MEMBER
International Science Council (ISC)

Introduction

The unique membership base of the International Science Council (ISC), which brings together national, regional and international scientific organisations, provides an essential foundation for the Council’s work.

This document provides information on the ISC membership categories, as well as criteria and procedures for formal admission to 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 in one of the following categories:

- **Member Unions and Associations** are international scientific bodies, 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. There is no restrictive definition or imposed structure for international scientific unions and associations, however these organisations typically have an international institutional membership of their own (national academies, research councils, national agencies, national or regional institutes, associations, etc.), in addition some have individual membership, and they organise international scientific meetings and scientific and outreach activities.

- **Member Organizations** are academies of sciences, research councils or analogous not-for-profit scientific bodies representing science in a country, region or territory. Under different names, these organisations typically represent the scientific communities of individual nations - or regions, territories- working together to give the national communities to which they belong a single scientific voice. ISC Member Organizations are in majority national academies, but there are also research councils, ministries and universities that fulfill the above conditions.

- **Affiliated Members** are other governmental and non-governmental organisations, whose affiliation with the Council is not covered by the membership categories above, or whose activities are in a field cognate to those of the Council. Affiliated members pay dues but have no voting rights.

Eligibility Criteria

In reviewing an application, the ISC Governing Board will consider the following criteria:

- If the applicant organisation represents scientific excellence in its domain
- If the applicant organisation is in line with ISC’s values and non-discrimination principles (see Statutes)
- In the case of and application for the Member Unions and Associations category: If the applicant organization is of an established, independent, non-governmental and international nature. International bodies are defined by ISC as those bodies to which appropriate organisations 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 to contribute to excessive fragmentation of sub-disciplines.
- Other benefits of the new membership for the ISC family
Benefits of ISC Members

Through engagement with the ISC and its network, ISC members benefit from:

- Voting rights: Both Member Unions and Associations and Member Organisations have voting rights within the ISC unless they fail to fulfil their obligations (Statute 9 and Rule of Procedure 9.2). Affiliated Members do not have the right to vote.

- Access to international opportunities to advance their own priorities and interests, including participation in important international scientific conversations and activities organized in the framework of the United Nations, the World Economic Forum, etc.

- Opportunities to collaborate with each other on issues of common interest, including South-South and North-South collaboration

- Access to information on international scientific developments, including funding opportunities and support for the exchange of best practices, e.g. on trans-disciplinarity, gender and youth policies, etc.

- Opportunities to strengthen national and international awareness of and support for the disciplinary or national scientific communities they represent.

Obligations of ISC Members

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

- To support ISC’s values of excellence and professionalism; inclusivity and diversity; transparency and integrity; innovation and sustainability.

- To adhere to 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 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 Family: Members are expected to participate in the important events and activities of the community, be represented at the ISC General Assembly at high level, and engage with the ISC science programmes and bodies.

- To pay annual dues to ISC within a scale determined by the General Assembly. Following the recent creation of ISC, a new, fair and affordable dues structure is under development to be presented to the next ISC General Assembly in 2021. Currently, dues for Member Organizations are based on the GDP, while dues for Member Union and Associations are based on the income from their dues. Dues for Affiliated Members are fixed at 520 €. Until the new dues structure is in place, new applicants’ annual dues will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will not be higher than those paid by relevant bodies until 2021.
**Application and Selection Procedure**

All applications for ISC membership must be addressed in writing to the ISC Membership Liaison Officer using the membership application form and must be received in advance of the Governing Board meeting at which they are to be considered.

Each application must be accompanied by

- A copy of the Statutes of the organisation (or equivalent)
- A signed statement that the applicant will comply with ISC’s Statutes and Rules of Procedure (Rules of Procedure 8.1 and 8.2.)

Applications will be considered by the Governing Board, which will decide whether to ask the ISC Headquarters to ascertain if there is adequate support from at least twelve Members for applications for Member Union and Association category and for Member Organisation category and from nine Members for Affiliate membership, including at least three Member Unions and Associations and three Member Organisations (Rules of Procedure 8.3 c and 8.5 b). Support for applications should clearly indicate that Membership of the organisation concerned would enhance the Council’s activities. Voting Members will have the opportunity after receiving the before-mentioned request to ask for an electronic ballot from all Members on the Membership of the applicant. If no such ballot is requested the Governing Board will decide on the application.

All successful applications shall have effect from the conclusion of the session of the Governing Board at which they were agreed (Rule of Procedure 8.4).

Please do not hesitate to contact Anne Thieme (anne.thieme@council.science) at the ISC Secretariat for any membership-related queries.