



International Science Council

The global voice for science






WHO WE ARE

The International Science Council (ISC) works at the global level to catalyse and convene scientific expertise, advice and influence on issues of major concern to both science and society. The ISC has a growing global membership that brings together over **250 organizations**, including international scientific unions and associations from the natural and social sciences, and national and regional scientific organizations such as academies and research councils. It is the largest international non-governmental science organization of its kind.

Through its members and associates, its partnerships with other international organizations, and its wider networks of expertise, the Council is unique in its capacity to bring together and integrate scientific excellence and science-policy expertise from all fields of science and all regions of the world.

The ISC was launched in **2018** following a merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU), which was created in **1931**, and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), created in **1952**.

The Council is funded by contributions from its members, philanthropic donations, and external grants for specific scientific activities. It is headquartered in Paris, France, and has Regional Focal Points around the world.



WHAT WE
WANT TO
ACHIEVE

The ISC's **vision** is of science as a global public good. Its **mission** is to be the global voice for science: a trusted voice that speaks for the value of all science, everywhere.

Advancing human development within sustainable planetary boundaries is the most important challenge for humanity and for science. To deliver on the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must urgently intensify fair and equitable transformations to sustainability across all sectors – from science, policy, business and civil society.

These are ambitious goals that require collaboration between governments, scientists, research funders, the private sector and civil society. In this decisive decade, science must be empowered to work towards a dignified future for humanity and the planet, in partnership with society. This calls for courage, and it calls for commitment.

Work with the ISC to be part of the solution.



WHAT WE DO

The ISC's work includes coordinating a diverse range of projects, special campaigns, global events and scientific inputs into multilateral processes. It also convenes a varied group of affiliated bodies. The Council is committed to supporting the development of all science, from discovery to application, and including the full range of disciplines, from the natural and social sciences to the behavioural, data and technological sciences.

Science and society in transition

The ISC's Action Plan 2022–2024 sets out a framework for impactful activities across the following five domains:

1. Global Sustainability, including the [Global Commission on Science Missions for Sustainability](#), and projects on [Rethinking Human Development](#), and the [Global Risk Research Agenda](#) for 2030.

2. Converging Science and Technology in a Digital Era, including projects on digital transformations of science and [sustainability in the digital age](#).

3. Science in Policy and Public Discourse, including projects on science diplomacy, [science in and for the intergovernmental system](#), and the [public value of science](#).

4. Changing Practices in Science and Science Systems, including projects on [open science](#), the [future of scientific publishing](#), and the [evaluation of science](#).

5. Freedom and Responsibility in Science, including projects on [science in exile](#), [gender equality](#), and [combating systemic discrimination in science](#).

The ISC's 15 [affiliated bodies](#) include a range of international research programmes, scientific committees, experts' networks, observing systems and data bodies, many of which are co-sponsored with other international organizations and UN agencies, that advance international, inter- and trans-disciplinary science in a range of areas, such as:

- global sustainability
- climate change
- inequality
- disaster risk reduction
- urban health and wellbeing
- land, atmospheric, oceanic and space research
- data science
- science advice

GLOBAL LEADER

The ISC is a Lead Coordinator of the [United Nations Major Group for the Scientific and Technological Community](#). In this role the Council works with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) to secure a mandate for science at the UN and to integrate science 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.

WORK WITH US

In a world faced with complex global challenges, from climate change to pandemic response, the demand – and the potential – for science to provide actionable, solutions-orientated knowledge that can inform transformative political and societal responses have never been greater.

Scientific unions, associations, academies and similar bodies working towards these aims can join the ISC's growing global membership. By bringing together scientific excellence and science-policy expertise from all fields of science worldwide, the ISC and its members work to provide a powerful and credible voice for science on the global stage.

Governments, funding and philanthropic organizations, scientific partners, and intergovernmental organizations are invited to work with the ISC to help achieve our ambitious goal. Together, we can advance science as a global public good.

Explore ISC publications and other resources at: www.council.science

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Join the newsletter list: <https://council.science/newsletter/>

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