



## International Science Council

### Global Knowledge Dialogue

5 December 2022 | CTICC, Cape Town | South Africa

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 has never been greater.

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), and the African Union’s Agenda 2063 goals, 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.

This is why the [International Science Council](#), through the voices of its Members, is embarking on an ambitious schedule of Global Knowledge Dialogues, starting with Africa in 2022 at the [World Science Forum](#), and Latin America, North America, Asia-Pacific, and Europe in 2023.

The time for courage and commitment is urgent and it is now. The Council aims to convene dialogues for its Members to future proof and strengthen the global voice of and for science.

Presidents, executive officers, ISC focal points and key decision makers of scientific unions, associations, academies, and national bodies, along with [ISC Fellows](#) and Patrons, will gather in the coming 12 months as part of the Global Knowledge Dialogue series to work towards providing a powerful and credible voice for science on the global stage.

The active engagement of ISC Members in the Council’s work is central to securing this powerful global voice for science. ISC Members, together with key international partner organizations, will open the dialogue for the ISC to develop robust regional focal points that convene the required expertise and influence across scientific fields, disciplines, regions, and stakeholder communities to advance effective knowledge brokerage for all levels of policy making.

The *Global Knowledge Dialogue: Africa* will be hosted by ISC Governing Board Members and Fellows, including Peter Gluckman, Salim Abdool Karim, Motoko Kotani, François Baylis, Walter Oyawa and Connie Nshemereirwe, with more to be announced soon.

Three thematic blocks will be explored at the African Global Knowledge Dialogue including:

1. The ISC in a member context: An open dialogue between the ISC leadership, ISC Fellows, and ISC Members on the strategic and organizational objectives of the ISC for the next five years
2. Science in the Global context: Promoting diversity in science and science systems
3. The ISC in a regional context: A dialogue to co-design the global voice for science in Africa, looking at key priorities areas for strengthening science systems and the role of an ISC regional focal point, supported by Future Africa.

The day's proceedings will result in the launch of the ISC's global knowledge dialogue, spearheading the discussions on future dialogues in other regions with the voices of African science. A roadmap for an ISC regional focal point that will serve to strengthen the voice of African science, and work towards developing the actionable pathways to advance science as a global public good, will provide the ISC with a clear direction in its convening role as the global voice for science.

Delegates are then invited to join the ISC for a special VIP dinner in the harbour area of Cape Town, and attend the World Science Forum for the remainder of the week.

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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

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