



Governing Board Communiqué

14 July 2022

Dear friends and colleagues,

It has been a busy period since our last communiqué in April, with the launch of the [COVID-19 Scenarios report](#) in Geneva on 17 May, the renewal of the ISC Standing Committees, and the ongoing recruitment process for the ISC CEO, among many other activities.

We were immensely proud to [launch the ISC Fellowship](#) with a small ceremony on 9 June in Paris. The Fellowship is intended to be the highest honour the ISC can award to an individual and it recognizes outstanding contributions to promoting science as a global public good. Sixty-six eminent individuals from a great diversity of backgrounds and career stages have been appointed Foundation Fellows, with 11 of them forming a [Foundational Fellowship Council](#), chaired by Professor Terrence Forrester of Jamaica, which will develop processes for the appointment of further Fellows. From 2022 an annual process of requesting nominations from ISC Members and other partners will be established, until about 600 active Fellows are in place.

Please note that a call for nominations for the next intake of Fellows will be made in the third quarter of this year with a view to appointing a further 60 fellows by the end of the year. Members will very soon be informed about how to prepare a nomination package. The call will be formally opened by the beginning of September, with a deadline at the end of the month.

The launch of the Fellowship rounded off a very productive, three-day, in-person Governing Board meeting in Paris on 7–9 June – the first in-person governance meeting since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic – at which the Board reflected on strategic and operational issues and reached a number of important decisions that set the direction for ISC policy and operations for the near future. Details on these, as well as on other recent Board decisions, are given below.

Our Secretariat continues to reach out to young academies and associations to join the ISC, and we therefore encourage you to put us in touch with relevant early career academies and international disciplinary organizations.

Along with great interest from young scientists' organizations, we have recently welcomed six new members to the ISC fold:

- International Commission for Optics (ICO) has moved from Category 3 (ISC Affiliated Bodies) to become a full Member
- International Commission on Illumination/Commission Internationale de l'Éclairage (CIE) has moved from Category 3 (ISC Affiliated Bodies) to become a full Member
- National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), Kenya
- Académie Congolaise des Sciences (ACCOS), Democratic Republic of Congo

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

- International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM) has moved from Category 3 (ISC Affiliated Bodies) to become a full Member
- International Consortium of Research Staff Associations (ICoRSA)

I want to remind all members that they are invited to approve the [2021 ISC accounts](#) in line with procedures outlined in the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure. The closing date is 31 July (Password: Accounts2021%).

The ISC is delighted to be partnering with EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) on 13–16 July, where the ISC President will give a keynote speech, Vice-President Salim Abdool Karim will participate in the opening plenary, and Irina Bokova, Co-Chair of the Global Commission on Mission Science for Sustainability, will address a VIP lunch. To attend the forum and the ISC lunch, please visit council.science/esof/.

ESOF will be the first of many regional and global meetings the ISC will be attending, including the World Science Forum in South Africa in December and more to be announced as part of the Global Knowledge Dialogue ‘road show’ in 2023.

The recruitment of the new ISC Chief Executive Officer is ongoing. Interviews were held in the week of 11 July and the outcome will be announced as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank the Secretariat at the ISC and particularly the Acting CEO Mathieu Denis for steering the ISC through the current transition of management surely and skilfully, and with style. The Secretariat continues to be highly productive and agile and a key asset to the organization.

We will organize another Q&A for the Members with the President in September, as these encounters have proved to be very useful moments for you, the Members, to raise issues and offer valuable ideas and suggestions.

In the meantime, we invite you to send any questions or comments about the contents of this communiqué to the Governing Board support team: sarah.moore@council.science and mia.joubert@council.science.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Gluckman', followed by a period.

Peter Gluckman
President, ISC

Overview of decisions of the ISC Governing Board (April to June 2022)

1. ISC governance and strategy

I. Standing Committees

The Officers were mandated, with the assistance of the Secretariat and the advice of the Senior Advisers, to finalize the composition of and make the appointments to the statutory Standing Committees. The membership of the Committees will be announced in the coming weeks.

II. Strategic partnerships and presence

The Governing Board has agreed that it should be a priority of the ISC to build relationships with relevant partners in the multilateral system and that the ISC should commit resources to establishing a presence in New York in the first instance and potentially in other places, notably Geneva. The first step is to appoint an ISC representative in New York, hosted by one of our members or partners.

III. ISC Trust

The Board agreed to establish a charitable trust to support the activities of the ISC and to allow the organization to accept private and philanthropic donations and sponsorship. Based on careful study of the available options, it has been decided to establish the trust in the UK. The ISC will be the settlor of the trust and the founding articles of the trust will be discussed with membership.

IV. Review of the ISC

The 2022-2024 Action Plan raises the question of a possible review of the ISC in 2023. The Governing Board has agreed that, given the deep and extensive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on both the ISC membership and the Secretariat, it would be premature for the ISC to undergo a review in 2023. The timing of a review will be reconsidered in 2023.

V. Statutes and rules of procedure

The Board Subcommittee for Finance and Operations, in consultation with the Secretariat, will propose a process to revise the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure that will include a consultation of the ISC membership and relevant experts, with a view to convening an extraordinary session of the ISC General Assembly not later than March 2024. Revisions of the Statutes and Rules of Procedures are foreseen in relation to a number of areas of operation of the Council, notably on membership, dues and voting rights and the role and functioning of governance bodies.

2. ISC activities and partnerships

I. ISC Patrons and Fellowship

The Governing Board agreed to invite Irina Bokova, who has been an active champion for the ISC in recent years, to become a Patron of the ISC. Madame Bokova has accepted to become an ISC patron, and this will be announced during the European Open Science Forum (ESOF) in Leiden on 15 July 2022.

The Governing Board agreed in principle to have between three and five Patrons at any time and that past-Patrons should normally be invited to become Honorary Fellows.

The Board mandated the President, President-elect, and Past-President to appoint 11 Fellows to form the Foundational Council of the Fellowship, in addition to the President and President-elect as *ex officio* members. The composition of the Fellowship Council will soon be announced.

II. Affiliated and co-sponsored bodies

The Governing Board has noted the diversity of the bodies currently called [Affiliated Bodies](#), from thematic research programmes to observing systems, and the diverse nature of their interaction with the ISC.

The Secretariat has been asked to undertake a critical analysis of the ISC's relationship with each of its Affiliated Bodies, in the spirit of an internal review, and to develop a more appropriate classification of the entities and relationships. The Secretariat will furthermore articulate principles for co-sponsorship of and interaction with Affiliated Bodies, including criteria for launching new relationships.

III. Sponsorship policies

The Governing Board has requested the Secretariat to formalize a policy on, including criteria for, ISC sponsorship of activities of members and partners, explicitly covering criteria for use of the ISC logo. The Secretariat is also asked to formalize a policy on private sector involvement in ISC activities, including in any ISC trust.

IV. Relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO)

Following the meeting between the ISC President and Acting CEO and the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Chief Scientist, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, on the margins of the COVID-19 report launch in Geneva on 17 May 2022, the ISC Secretariat was tasked to prepare a formal application to have an official relationship with the WHO. The application was submitted to the Office of the Chief Scientist in early July, and after finalization it will be transmitted to the WHO Executive Board to be reviewed at its session in January 2023.

V. Relationship with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations

The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) in April 2022. The MoU formalizes the strong working relationship between the ISC and the WFEO, particularly in the context of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group (STC MG) that we have jointly led with the WFEO since 1992.

3. Membership and regional presence

I. Membership drive

The Governing Board mandated the Officers and Subcommittee for Outreach and Engagement to elaborate a set of principles for membership of the ISC, with a view to actively expanding the membership. A membership drive will furthermore be based on an up-to-date gap analysis of membership, by country and discipline, and identification of eligible organizations, with a particular focus on young scientists' academies and associations (which have earlier in the year been invited to join the ISC as affiliated members with a fee waiver).

II. Membership engagement

The Governing Board agreed that quarterly Q&A sessions between the President, Secretariat and members have been very valuable in maintaining relationships and assessing and responding to members' needs and should be continued, while also developing additional mechanisms to facilitate strategic engagement between the Board and ISC members.

The Board considered that the release of significant ISC outputs should be systematically accompanied by a process of membership engagement.

III. New membership applications

The membership applications of five organizations have been approved by the Board since April:

As Category 1 members:

- International Commission for Optics (ICO)
- International Commission on Illumination/Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage (CIE)
- International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM)

As Category 2 members:

- National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)
- Académie Congolaise des Sciences (ACCOS)

As Category 3 members:

- International Consortium of Research Staff Associations (ICoRSA)

IV. LAC Liaison Committee

In May the Governing Board approved the proposed composition of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Liaison Committee based on nominations from members. The composition is currently being confirmed and will be announced shortly. The Regional Focal Point for the LAC will organize the first meeting of the Liaison Committee on 21 July.

4. ISC operations

I. ISC 2021 accounts

The ISC's 2021 accounts have been audited and found to conform well to auditing standards. Members are invited to approve the [2021 ISC accounts](#) in line with procedures outlined in ISC statutes, with a closing date of 31 July (Password: Accounts2021%).

II. Travel policy

The Governing Board has asked the Secretariat to revise the ISC Travel Policy to reflect the post-COVID situation and environmental and other sustainability considerations.

5. Next meetings

The next Governing Board meeting will take place in Paris on 10-11 October 2022.

It is foreseen that the Board will meet again in person in April or May 2023.