International Science Council and InterAcademy Partnership: Strengthening cooperation and collaboration

Joint Commitment
December 2020

The imperative for science to make its voice heard at the global level has come into sharp relief with the ongoing global pandemic. The demand from governments and publics for scientific consensus and clarity is higher than it has ever been, covering a daunting number of policy challenges – such as global health; climate change; food, water and energy security; and safeguarding the environment. At the same time, increasing volumes of new, diverse and increasingly transdisciplinary forms of research, ever expanding datasets, new and fastmoving technologies and ways of sharing information bring significant challenges to the research enterprise itself.

The global research community requires strong, coordinated leadership and representation on wide-ranging science-for-policy and policy-for-science issues. The International Science Council (ISC) and InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) both have important and essential contributions to make to global science and the global good: in their capacity to publish major reports, consensus statements and commentaries of global significance and in their convening power as conduits at the regional and global levels to academies, scientific unions, research institutions and ministries, and learned societies.

With their complementary goals and overlapping membership¹, ISC and IAP seek to work together more effectively in order to harness the talents and expertise of the two organizations for the benefit of society. To this end, the ISC and IAP have formalised a commitment: to strengthen cooperation and capacity at global, regional and national levels, to promote coordinated, collaborative and synergistic interactions, and to work to the respective strengths of the two organizations. ISC and IAP leadership undertake to honour this commitment at all levels of governance and to review progress annually.

¹ 80 academies are members of both IAP and ISC, constituting c. 60% and c.30% of their membership, respectively.