



## **International Science Council Statutes and Rules of Procedure**

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## STATUTES

### I. Denomination and Domicile

1. The International Science Council, hereinafter called ‘the Council’, is a global non-governmental and non-profit-making scientific organization of international, regional, and national science and research organizations and institutions.
2. The Council was created in 2018, following the merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). ICSU was created in Brussels in 1931, following the dissolution of the International Research Council. ISSC was created in Paris in 1952 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
3. The present legal domicile of the Council is in Paris, France, where the headquarters of its secretariat (‘Headquarters’) are located. Any change of the location and the legal domicile of the Headquarters will be decided by the General Assembly. It will be incorporated under the law of the country in which the Headquarters are domiciled.

### II. Vision, Mission and Values

#### 4. Vision

The vision of the Council is of science as a global public good. Knowledge derived from scientific research is a staple of human understanding and creativity. It is fundamental to the evidence that should inform societal decision-making and public policy. The importance of deliberative scientific understanding to society has never been greater, as humanity grapples with the problems of living sustainably and equitably on planet Earth. It is therefore vital that we safeguard science as a global public good. Scientific knowledge, data and expertise must be universally accessible and their benefits universally shared. A mutually supportive global community of science carries responsibility for this by ensuring inclusivity and equity, including in opportunities for scientific education and capacity development.

#### 5. Mission

The mission of the Council is to be the global voice of science. The Council seeks to provide a powerful and credible global voice that is respected both in the international public domain and within the scientific community. It will use that voice at the international level to:

- Speak for the value of all science and the need for evidence-informed understanding and decision-making
- Stimulate and support international scientific research and scholarship on major issues of global concern
- Articulate scientific knowledge on such issues in the public domain
- Promote the continued and equal advancement of scientific rigour, creativity and relevance in all parts of the world
- Defend the free and responsible practice of science.



## **6. Values**

In fulfilling its role, the values that the Council will uphold in its work, its governance and its partnerships include:

- Excellence and professionalism
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Transparency and integrity
- Innovation and sustainability

## **7. 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, recognizing 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.

## **III. Membership**

**8.** Members shall normally adhere to the Council in one of the following categories:

### **Full Members**

- i. Category 1: Scientific unions, associations and similar bodies, being international scientific organizations<sup>1</sup> devoted to the practice and promotion of specific scientific disciplines or areas.
- ii. Category 2: Academies of sciences, research councils or analogous not-for-profit scientific bodies representing a broad spectrum of scientific fields or disciplines in a country, region, territory or globally.

### **Affiliated Members**

- iii. Category 3: Other bodies, being governmental and non-governmental organizations, whose activities are in a field cognate to those of the Council.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of these Statutes an international scientific organization is an institution that draws membership from several countries within a region or from countries across at least two regions, and whose members are held together by a formal agreement, constitution or similar instrument.



9. A Member in good standing is defined as a Member which has paid the membership dues for the previous three years or, in the case of a Member of less than three years' standing, has paid dues since joining the Council. Only Full Members in good standing are entitled to vote in the General Assembly and to present candidates to hold office. Affiliated Members in good standing are entitled only to present candidates to hold office.

#### **IV. Key Decision-Making Bodies**

10. The key decision-making bodies of the Council are:
  - a) the General Assembly
  - b) the Governing Board
  - c) the Officers

#### **V. General Assembly**

11. The General Assembly is the highest authority of the Council. It shall, as appropriate and generally after recommendations from the Governing Board:
  - a) examine and approve the priority agendas and the associated implementation plan of the Council;
  - b) review the activities of the Council as overseen by the Governing Board since the end of the previous ordinary session of the General Assembly;
  - c) establish committees and bodies it deems necessary for the scientific, educational and administrative work of the Council;
  - d) review the activities of any committee or body created by the Council, discharge them of their responsibilities when their service is no longer required, and approve their dissolution;
  - e) examine and approve the audited accounts of the Council on an annual basis, by electronic or other means, as appropriate;
  - f) appoint an external auditor ('commissaire aux comptes');
  - g) discharge the Vice-President for Finance from liability, set the scale of annual dues to be paid by Members, and approve the draft budgetary outlines as proposed by the Governing Board for the ensuing period;
  - h) examine and endorse applications received through the Governing Board for membership of the Council;
  - i) consider and decide upon the suspension of any Member which has failed to fulfil its obligations as outlined in the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure;
  - j) elect the members of the Elections Committee, by electronic or other means, as appropriate;
  - k) elect the Officers and Ordinary Members of the Governing Board;
  - l) consider and decide upon changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure; and
  - m) take any other action as appropriate.



12. The General Assembly shall meet in ordinary session once every three years.
13. An extraordinary session of the General Assembly may be called either on the initiative of the Governing Board or at the request, in writing, of at least one third of the Members entitled to vote. Extraordinary sessions may take place in physical or virtual format, as decided by the Governing Board.
14. The General Assembly consists of representatives of all Members as defined in Statute 8. Each Member shall be represented in the General Assembly by a delegation of its own selection, any members of which may speak in the General Assembly, and the composition of which shall be communicated to Headquarters at least one month prior to the General Assembly.
15. The General Assembly will vote with a different system for three different types of issues:
  - i. Regarding voting on scientific strategy and activities: *‘One Member, one vote’*, whereby:
    - Each Member of Category 1 will have a weighted vote equal to the total number of Members of Category 2 divided by the total number of Members of Category 1, within the total membership base.
    - Each Member of Category 2 shall have one vote.
  - ii. Regarding voting on elections and other procedural matters:
    - Each Member of Category 1 will have a weighted vote equal to the total number of country, territory or region votes divided by the total number of Members of Category 1, within the total membership base.
    - Each Member of Category 2 shall have one vote, except in cases where there is more than one Member of Category 2 representing the same country, territory or region as defined by the General Assembly, in which case the Members from that country, territory or region need to agree on a common voting position resulting in a single vote. Should there be no agreement amongst them, each Member of Category 2 shall have a proportion of that one vote. Exceptions to this voting rule may be agreed by a resolution of the General Assembly.
  - iii. Voting on financial matters related to the budget and the dues structure: *‘Weighting according to dues’*, whereby each Member has a weighted vote based on its position in the Dues Scale.

## **VI. Governing Board**

16. The overall function of the Governing Board is to provide scientific and strategic leadership, uphold the Council’s principles and values, oversee the pursuit of the Council’s vision and mission, and secure the financial and operational robustness of the Council. The Governing Board is accountable to the General Assembly.



- 17.** The Governing Board consists of:
- a)** five Officers, namely the President, the President-elect, the Vice-President for Outreach and Engagement, the Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science, and the Vice-President for Finance;
  - b)** ten Ordinary Members; and
  - c)** the CEO as a non-voting member.

All members of the Governing Board serve the Council in their personal capacity.

- 18.** Each Officer and each Ordinary Member have one vote.
- 19.** The membership of the Governing Board should reflect the multi-disciplinarity of the Council's membership base, with particular attention being paid to ensuring effective representation of the different branches of science. The membership of the Governing Board should also reflect regional and gender diversity.
- 20.** The Governing Board shall meet at least twice a year, no more than twice in person per year. The Governing Board shall meet before and after each session of the General Assembly. The Governing Board shall be assisted by Headquarters.
- 21.** Among its duties, the Governing Board shall:
- a)** provide strategic leadership and develop priority agendas and associated activity and business plans for approval by the General Assembly;
  - b)** review the implementation of the activity and business plans and monitor performance measures;
  - c)** review the scientific activities of the Council and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly;
  - d)** present to each General Assembly a report on the scientific activities and other operations of the Council since the previous ordinary session of the General Assembly;
  - e)** propose, for consideration by the General Assembly, a draft budgetary outline for the Council, and the scale of annual dues to be paid by Members for the ensuing three-year period;
  - f)** decide on the annual budget and seek approval of the annual accounts by the General Assembly, as indicated in Statute 11;
  - g)** on delegation by the General Assembly, admit new Members;
  - h)** prepare the agenda for the General Assembly; and
  - i)** on delegation by the General Assembly, appoint members of standing and ad hoc committees.
- 22.** In the event of a vacancy among the Ordinary Members of the Governing Board, the Officers shall have the power to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.



23. No person with voting rights may serve on the Governing Board for more than six consecutive years, with the exception of a person who is elected President-elect after serving a first term on the Governing Board; in this case, he or she may serve a maximum of nine consecutive years.

## **VII. Officers**

24. The Officers of the Council are:
- i. the President
  - ii. the President-elect, responsible inter alia for Science Planning
  - iii. the Vice-President for Outreach and Engagement
  - iv. the Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science
  - v. the Vice-President for Finance
25. The Officers are responsible for overseeing the day-to-day affairs of the Council between meetings of the Governing Board. In addition to participating in Governing Board meetings, they shall meet as often as is deemed necessary, normally twice a year.
26. The President and Vice-Presidents shall hold office for one term of three years, non-renewable.
27. Inability to fulfil duties:
- i. In the event that the President is unable to fulfil his or her duties, the President-elect assumes the position of the President.
  - ii. In the event that the President-elect is unable to fulfil his or her duties, the Governing Board shall appoint one of the Vice-Presidents to fulfil the duties of the President-elect.
  - iii. In the event that any Vice-President is unable to fulfil their duties, the Governing Board shall decide who shall undertake such duties.

## **VIII. Chief Executive Officer**

28. The Chief Executive Officer is appointed by the Governing Board on a non-binding recommendation of the Officers.
29. The Governing Board delegates management of the Headquarters and implementation of decisions of the General Assembly and the Governing Board to the Chief Executive Officer.
30. The Chief Executive Officer shall direct Headquarters and be responsible for its management, including the appointment of staff, the management of personnel and resources and the payment of accounts.

## **IX. Advisory Bodies**

31. Various Standing Committees will be set up by the General Assembly to advise the Governing Board on key aspects of the Council's work and the Governing Board's duties. These committees shall be appointed by the Governing Board on the basis of nominations by Members. The vice-chair of each Standing Committee shall be a Governing Board member, and the committees



shall include non-Governing Board members. The Governing Board will select and appoint a group of up to four advisers who will assist in ensuring that the committees include people with the appropriate knowledge and expertise.

Such committees will include:

- a) **Committee for Science Planning**, chaired by the President-elect, undertaking strategic science planning and reviews and addressing major thematic issues concerned with science for policy and policy for science.
  - b) **Committee for Outreach and Engagement**, chaired by the Vice-President for Outreach and Engagement, engaging with Members, and focusing on membership matters, outreach to external stakeholders, partnerships, strategic communications, and the awards programme of the Council.
  - c) **Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science**, chaired by the Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science, dealing with freedom and responsibility of science issues at the global level.
  - d) **Committee for Finance**, chaired by the Vice-President for Finance, addressing issues of finance, auditing, resource mobilization, and risk management.
32. An **Elections Committee**, chaired by the President and including eight additional members. The additional members are proposed by the Governing Board, having taken geographical, disciplinary and gender considerations into account, and elected by the General Assembly. The Elections Committee will be responsible for advising on and managing the Governing Board nomination and election processes.
33. The **Forum of Patrons** will consist of a number of outstanding individuals from various sectors, appointed by the Governing Board, who will help the Council with advice, name recognition and credibility within and beyond the scientific world. The President will convene and chair the meetings of the Forum of Patrons.
34. **Ad hoc committees** may be established by the General Assembly or the Governing Board for a limited duration to deal with specific objectives and tasks and will be dissolved after completion of the task or achievement of the objective.
35. Composition, duration and detailed terms of reference for these committees are provided in the Rules of Procedure, as are the responsibilities of the Officers and the Chief Executive Officer.

## X. Finance

36. The financial resources of the Council are provided by:
- a) the dues of Members; and
  - b) subventions, donations and other financial support accepted by the Governing Board or the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Council.
37. Each Member of the Council shall pay annual dues on a scale determined by the General Assembly.



## **XI. Legal Representation**

38. The President, or, if he or she is not available, the President-elect or one of the Vice-Presidents, is the legal representative of the Council. The President or his or her legal representative may authorize the Chief Executive Officer to represent the Council.
39. In particular, the Governing Board may authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and conclude agreements with other organizations on behalf of the Council, within the guidelines established by the Governing Board. Any delegation of authority and responsibility outside the Headquarters shall be subject to approval by the Governing Board.

## **XII. Dissolution and Merger**

40. The Council may be dissolved or merged on the initiative of the Governing Board, by a General Assembly. A decision to dissolve or merge the Council shall require a vote of two thirds of all Members present and voting.
41. If the Council is dissolved as provided for above, the General Assembly shall appoint three liquidators of different nationalities to conclude its affairs. The liquidators shall determine the allocation of resources belonging to the Council, in accordance with the vision and mission contained in the Statutes. If the Council is merged with another organization, the net assets should be passed to the successor body upon such terms as are agreed for the merger.

## **XIII. Modification of the Statutes**

42. Any change to the Statutes shall require a vote of two thirds of all Members present and voting.
43. Proposals for changes to any articles of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure may be made by a Member of the Council or the Officers of the Council with the Governing Board's endorsement. Proposed draft amendments to the Statutes shall be conveyed in writing, by Members, to the President, at least six months before the General Assembly in which they are to be considered, to allow sufficient time for them to be examined by the Governing Board and for the proposed amendments to be distributed to all Members.
44. Decisions on all matters not covered by the present Statutes shall be made as required by the Governing Board, subject to approval at the next General Assembly.

## **XIV. Interpretation of the Statutes**

45. These Statutes shall be governed by, and interpreted in accordance with, the law of the country where the Council is domiciled. In case of a conflict between the English and any translated version of these Statutes, the English version shall prevail.



## **RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **1. Quorum**

- 1.1** In sessions of the General Assembly a quorum shall consist of a minimum of 50% of the voting Full Members.
- 1.2** In sessions of the Governing Board a quorum shall consist of a minimum of 50% of the voting members of the Governing Board.
- 1.3** For any decision made by the Officers in accordance with the Statutes, at least three of the five Officers must register their support.

### **2. Voting Procedures**

- 2.1** If voting is necessary and a decision of the General Assembly cannot be reached by acclamation, a decision will be reached in accordance with Statute 15 and by a simple majority of the votes of those present or otherwise taking part. A two-thirds majority is only necessary when explicitly stated in the Statutes or Rules of Procedure.
- 2.2** All majorities shall be calculated on the basis of the total number of affirmative and negative valid votes actually cast.
- 2.3** The election of the members of the Governing Board at the General Assembly shall be by secret ballot. Each voting Member shall vote for no more names than there are vacancies to be filled. The number of votes to be cast by each voting Member shall be in conformity with Statute 15.
- 2.4** At each ballot, the candidates shall be ordered according to the number of votes each receives and elected in that order.
- 2.5** If at any stage a choice must be made between candidates who have obtained the same number of votes, a separate ballot shall be taken.
- 2.6** Decisions of the Council's key decision-making bodies (Statute 10) may be arrived at entirely or in part by electronic means, as appropriate, provided that a quorum is attained, except in the case of approval of the audited annual accounts where a quorum is not required.
- 2.7** The vote of each Full Member shall normally be cast at the meeting by the representative of that Member or by a proxy nominated by that Member. This nomination must be submitted in writing to the President prior to the session at which the proxy is to operate. If a Member is unable to designate a proxy to vote at the meeting, votes on those issues already on the agenda (and not arising from the floor) may be submitted in writing to the President prior to the meeting.



### **3. General Assembly**

- 3.1** The Governing Board shall inform Members in writing, at least six months in advance, of the place and date of the next session of the General Assembly and provide them with the agenda for that meeting. Items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly must be received by the President at least four months before the date fixed for an ordinary session of the General Assembly. The final agenda of the General Assembly shall be communicated by the President to all Members of the Council at least three months before the first day of the session. No item that has not been accepted for the agenda may be discussed unless a proposal to that effect is approved in the General Assembly by at least two thirds of the votes of the Members taking part in the vote.
- 3.2** In the case of an extraordinary session of the General Assembly as laid down in Statute 13 the Governing Board shall inform Members in writing, at least 30 days in advance, of the place and date of that session and provide them with the agenda for that meeting. No item that has not been placed on the agenda may be discussed unless a proposal to that effect is approved in the General Assembly by at least two thirds of the votes of the Members taking part in the vote.
- 3.3** The current edition of 'Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised' shall be used for the conduct of all meetings of the Council.

### **4. Governance**

- 4.1** The President shall chair all meetings of the General Assembly, the Governing Board and the Officers. The President shall chair the Elections Committee and the Forum of Patrons.
- 4.2** The President-elect shall chair the Committee for Science Planning, and assume other duties assigned by the Governing Board.
- 4.3** The Vice-President for Outreach and Engagement shall chair the Committee for Outreach and Engagement, and assume other duties assigned by the Governing Board.
- 4.4** The Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science shall chair the Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science, and assume other duties assigned by the Governing Board.
- 4.5** The Vice-President for Finance shall chair the Committee for Finance, and assume other duties assigned by the Governing Board.
- 4.6** The Chief Executive Officer, or his or her delegated representative, shall act as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Governing Board and the Council's Advisory Bodies. He or she will work with the President on meetings of the General Assembly and Governing Board. He or she shall be accountable to the Governing Board:
  - for the day-to-day management of Headquarters;
  - through the Vice-President for Finance, for financial and auditing matters; and
  - through the President, for general performance and implementation of the Council's activity and business plans.



- 4.7 With the approval of the Governing Board, responsibility for a particular duty normally discharged by an Officer may be delegated to other persons.
- 4.8 On the advice of the Governing Board the President may invite any individual to an ordinary or extraordinary session of the General Assembly, or to a meeting of the Governing Board.

## **5. Principles of Governing Board Composition**

- 5.1 The role of the Elections Committee (as determined in Statute 32; see also Rule of Procedure 10.7) will be central to ensuring quality and diversity in the composition of the Governing Board, honouring principles of multi-disciplinary representation, as well as regional and gender diversity, as laid down in Statute 19. With regard to disciplinary representation, the Elections Committee will need to pay particular attention to ensuring there is broad representation of different fields of science on the Governing Board.
- 5.2 Governing Board members will be individuals of the highest calibre who have widely recognized achievements and contributions to the scientific endeavour.

## **6. Election of Officers**

- 6.1 At least six months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly, each Member of the Council in good standing (according to Statute 9) shall be invited by the Elections Committee to propose a single candidate for each of the offices of President-elect and the three Vice-Presidents. Each proposal shall be accompanied by biographical information and a statement of motivation and intention to serve if elected.
- 6.2 The Elections Committee, after reviewing these proposals and with appropriate regard to Rule of Procedure 5, shall propose a list of candidates containing two or three names for each Officer position listed under Rule of Procedure 6.1. The Elections Committee may include on this list additional names not proposed by a Member of the Council if it deems the pool of proposed candidates received to be inadequate in any respect. The list shall constitute the final list of candidates.
- 6.3 The Elections Committee's list of candidates for Officer positions shall be sent to all Members of the Council two months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly.
- 6.4 In the case that any candidate as mentioned under 6.3 is unable to stand for election – for whatever reason – leaving only a single candidate for that specific Officer position, the Elections Committee will make sure that another candidate is presented at the General Assembly.
- 6.5 Election of the Officers by the General Assembly shall take place according to established voting procedures (see Statute 15 and Rule of Procedure 2).

## **7. Election of Ordinary Members of the Governing Board**

- 7.1 At least six months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly, Members of the Council in good standing (according to Statute 9) shall be invited by the Elections Committee to



propose candidates for ordinary membership of the Governing Board. Each proposal shall be accompanied by biographical information, and a statement of motivation and intention to serve if elected.

**7.2** The Elections Committee, after reviewing these proposals and with appropriate regard to Rule of Procedure 5, shall propose a list of candidates containing 20–30 names for ten positions of ordinary membership of the Governing Board. The Elections Committee may include on this list additional names not proposed by a Member if it deems the pool of proposed candidates received to be inadequate in any regard. The list shall constitute the final list of candidates.

**7.3** This final list of the candidates shall be sent to all Members of the Council two months in advance of an ordinary session of the General Assembly.

**7.4** Election of the Ordinary Members of the Governing Board by the General Assembly shall take place according to established voting procedures (see Statute 15 and Rule of Procedure 2).

## **8. Applications for Membership**

**8.1** All applications for membership of the Council must be addressed in writing to the President and must be received by Headquarters at least two months in advance of the Governing Board meeting at which they are to be considered.

**8.2** Applications for membership must be accompanied by a copy of the statutes of the applicant organization, a signed statement that the applicant will comply with the Council's Statutes and Rules of Procedure and a letter explaining the motivations for the application.

**8.3** (a) In the event of an application for membership in Category 1 by an international union, association or similar body which was previously a part of an existing Member of the Council, the applicant should inform the relevant Member and seek its support before applying for membership.

(b) In the event of an application for membership in Category 2 by an organization in a country, region or territory which already has existing Member(s) of the Council, the applicant organization should inform the existing Member(s) and seek their support before applying for membership.

**8.4** Upon the guidance of the Governing Board, Headquarters shall approach the relevant Members of the Council to seek information as to the benefits to the Council of admitting the applicant. Headquarters shall then ascertain whether there is adequate support for the application from at least 12 Members, including at least three Members of Category 1 and three Members of Category 2, by request to all Members. Support for applications should clearly indicate how the adherence of a given organization would enhance the Council's membership base and capacities. Voting Members will have the opportunity, upon receiving the said request, to ask for an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant. If no such ballot is requested, the Governing Board will decide on the application. In the case of letters of opposition, the Governing Board may request an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant.



**8.5** Applications for affiliate membership shall be transmitted to the Governing Board, which shall decide whether to ask Headquarters to ascertain whether there is adequate support for the application from at least nine Members, including at least three Members of Category 1 and three Members of Category 2, by request to all Members. Support for applications should clearly indicate how affiliate membership of the organization concerned would enhance the Council's membership base and capacities. Voting Members will have the opportunity after receiving the said request to ask for an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant. If no such ballot is requested, the Governing Board will decide on the application. In the case of letters of opposition, the Governing Board may request an electronic ballot of all Members on the membership of the applicant.

**8.6** All successful applications shall have effect from the conclusion of the session of the Governing Board at which they were agreed.

## **9. Resignation or Termination of Membership**

**9.1** Any Member wishing to resign from the Council must give three months' notice in writing, addressed to the President.

**9.2** Any Member of the Council which is in arrears with its dues (payable before 31 December in each year) shall cease to be in good standing as defined in Statute 9 and lose the right to vote in the General Assembly and to present candidates to hold office, until the outstanding dues have been paid. The Governing Board may, in extraordinary circumstances, waive the payment of outstanding dues.

**9.3** The General Assembly may, with the agreement of a majority of at least two thirds of the votes of the Members taking part in the vote, exclude from membership any Member which has failed to fulfil any of its obligations or for which affiliation with the Council is no longer deemed appropriate.

## **10. Terms of Reference for Advisory Bodies**

**10.1** Under Statute 31 four Standing Committees are set up by the General Assembly.

Each of these Standing Committees:

- a)** is responsible for advising the Governing Board;
- b)** will have as vice-chair an Ordinary Member of the Governing Board, appointed by the Governing Board;
- c)** will comprise up to 12 individual members, including up to 10 non-Governing Board members who will be appointed by the Governing Board on the basis of nominations by Members; the Governing Board will be assisted in this process by a group of up to four senior advisers, selected and appointed by the Governing Board to ensure that the committees include people with a high level of relevant knowledge and expertise;
- d)** will have a three-year mandate; and
- e)** will generally meet once per year in person and conduct their ongoing work by virtual means.



**10.2** The Committee for Science Planning shall:

- a) advise the Governing Board on the future course of its activities in line with the Council's vision and mission;
- b) address major thematic issues concerned with science, science for policy and policy for science, knowledge systems and science education;
- c) coordinate the collection and development of proposals for major new scientific initiatives by the Council;
- d) advise the Governing Board on priorities for such initiatives; and
- e) consider, in consultation with co-sponsors, hosts and funders, the need for reviews of international programmes, networks and coordinating structures; and, in line with the Council's high-level strategy, advise the Governing Board on necessary follow-up actions.

**10.3** The Committee for Outreach and Engagement shall:

- a) assist and advise on membership relations, as well as expansion of the membership base of the Council;
- b) engage with external stakeholders to further the impact and visibility of the Council;
- c) establish and maintain strategic partnerships in line with the high-level strategy;
- d) advise on strategic communications and public outreach activities;
- e) advise and assist with media relations; and
- f) advise on the awards programme.

**10.4** The Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science shall:

- a) promote and uphold the Principle of Freedom and Responsibility in Science (Statute 7);
- b) seek to find solutions to problems concerning the free passage of scientists, free collaboration among scientists and freedom to pursue science; and
- c) monitor adherence to the core values of the Council.

**10.5** The Committee for Finance shall:

- a) make recommendations on finance and budgeting; and
- b) oversee the auditing of the accounts, reporting to funders, as well as internal policy development (travel, procurement, etc.) and risk management of the Council.

**10.6** The Elections Committee shall be chaired by the President of the Council and shall consist of eight additional members, elected by the General Assembly from among at least 16 candidates proposed by the Governing Board. Governing Board members who have an interest in being elected for a further term will not take part in the Governing Board's discussion and decision-making process.

**10.7** No member of the Elections Committee shall be a candidate for election to the Governing Board, as an Officer or Ordinary Member, at the General Assembly concerned.



- 10.8** The Forum of Patrons is a special advisory body, that shall meet once per year in the context of a scientific event of the Council. The Forum will bring together highly respected and well-known people from different sectors to support the Council in achieving its vision.
- 10.9** For the Advisory Bodies, the Members – through their nominations – and the advisers to the Governing Board as mentioned in Statute 31 shall promote relevant representation from the world of policy, business and civil society.
- 10.10** The Resolutions Committee shall consist of four members appointed by the General Assembly at the suggestion of the Governing Board. It shall collate, edit and present any eligible resolutions proposed for adoption by the General Assembly. Resolutions proposed at a General Assembly must be related to an item on the agenda and must have been discussed at the current Assembly in order to be considered. Only those matters which clearly require stronger endorsement by the full Council membership than a decision of the General Assembly would confer, or which are a statement of intent or opinion on the part of Council, should be the subject of resolutions. Any proposed resolution which does not fulfil these criteria will be ruled out of order by the Resolutions Committee. The Governing Board will ensure that all necessary action on a resolution is taken.

## **11. Modification of Rules of Procedure**

- 11.1** No change may be made in the Rules of Procedure except with the approval of the General Assembly by the majority of the votes cast by the Members taking part in the vote. Changes to the Rules of Procedure are effective at the end of the General Assembly adopting them, unless otherwise specified by a resolution of the General Assembly.