



**International  
Science Council**  
The global voice for science

## 2nd General Assembly

**INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL**  
11 - 15 October 2021 (online)

# Draft report of the ISC extraordinary General Assembly of 1–5 February 2021

ISC/GA-2/DOC.1.4

For adoption

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# International Science Council

## Extraordinary General Assembly

1–5 February 2021 (online meeting)

### Draft Report

#### Day 1 (1 February 2021)

##### 1. Welcome and opening

The Assembly adopted the agenda by acclamation.

##### 2. Election of tellers

The Assembly approved by acclamation the persons proposed by the Governing Board to serve as Tellers.

- Christine Roland-Lévy, International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP)
- Maria J. Esteban, International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM)
- Anindita Bhadra, Global Young Academy (GYA)

##### 3. Introduction to the proposed changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure

It was noted that the Working Group which had been tasked with drafting the changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure had comprised:

- Saths Cooper, ISC Governing Board
- Sir Peter Gluckman, ISC President-elect
- Heide Hackmann, ISC Chief Executive Officer
- Alik Ismail-Zadeh, ISC Secretary
- Daya Reddy, ISC President (Chair)

The proposed changes to the documents had been grouped into four 'groups' (each subdivided into several sub-groups):

- Group I: Membership (categories and application procedures)
- Group II: Governing Board (composition and roles of officers and CEO)
- Group III: Elections (committee and procedures)
- Group IV: Other changes

#### **4. Group I: Membership (categories and application)**

Concerning:

- I.I Membership categories (Statutes 8 and 9)
- I.II Application for Membership (RoP 8.1–8.6)
- I.III Related minor changes (Statute 15, RoP 1.1 and 2.7)

The President noted that the aim of the proposed changes was to clarify the categories of membership and to allow other bodies to be considered for ISC membership.

The following comments/recommendations were made during the discussion:

- Statute 9: To differentiate between existing members in good standing and new members in good standing, the meeting suggested the following addition: ‘Members of less than three years standing who are up to date in dues are entitled to vote’.
- It was suggested that the application process and language regarding the step of seeking support for new members be clarified. It was clarified that there were two separate issues: 1) support for new members from existing members, 2) issues of dues.
- The Assembly noted that a new dues structure for ISC would be presented and discussed at the October GA.
- RoP 8.3a: It was suggested to add ‘or similar body’.

#### **5. Group II: Governing Board (composition and roles of officers and CEO)**

Concerning:

- II.I Composition of the Governing Board (Statutes 17 and 24)
- II.II Roles of the Officers (Statutes 27, 31 and RoP 4.2–4.5, 10.3 and 10.5)
- II.III Chief Executive Officer (Section VIII, Statutes 28-30 (new))
- II.IV Related minor changes (Statutes 11g, 23, 26 and RoP 1.2, 1.3, 4.6, 8.1 and 10.1)

The following comments/recommendations were made during the discussion:

- Some members were in favour of retaining the position of Treasurer. It was clarified that the ISC CEO and Director of Operations were responsible for operational financial decisions, within the constraints of the annual budget approved by the Governing Board.
- It was suggested that the term of office of the Vice-President for Finance should be renewable once.
- Several members had concerns regarding the proposal that two Governing Board members could be co-opted by the Governing Board in the interest of regional and disciplinary diversity. An indicative poll showed that 78.6% of the voting members preferred that all Governing Board members be elected in the conventional way.
- Statute 20: It was suggested to add ‘the GB shall meet at least twice per year but no more than twice per year in person’ (admitting the possibility of organizing additional virtual meetings as needed).
- Statute 16: It was proposed to change the language as follows: ‘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 operational robustness of the Council.’

## 6. Presentation of final proposed changes after discussion (Group I and Group II)

It was decided that the members would receive the consolidated final proposed changes by email at the end of the GA for a decision by midday 5 February.

## Day 2 (2 February 2021)

### 7. Recap of Day 1

The President informed the Assembly that the Statutes and Rules of Procedure Working Group, having reflected on the discussion of Day 1 of the e-GA, had revisited the proposed changes regarding the term of office of the Vice-President for Finance (Group II).

The President suggested that the General Assembly consider the possibility of a second term for all vice-presidents, for consistency's sake. Members expressed support for this suggestion in the 'chat box'.

In response to a suggestion from the floor that the terms of office of the chairs of the Standing Committees be staggered to ensure continuity, it was pointed out that continuity would be ensured by the incoming president, the ISC secretariat and the possible re-election of some Governing Board members.

It was agreed that the Governing Board would further consider the issue and the suggestions regarding terms of office of vice-presidents, including the possibility of staggering terms of office and bring a recommendation to the General Assembly in October 2021.

### 8. Group III: Elections (Committee and procedure)

Concerning:

- III.I Elections (Committee and procedure)
- III.II Elections Committee (Statute 32, RoP 10.6)
- III.IV Election procedure of Governing Board members (RoP 6.1–6.4 and 7.1–7.4)

The following comments/recommendations were made during the discussion:

- There were some reservations about the Elections Committee shortlisting candidates for the Governing Board (rather than admitting all eligible nominations). However, it was recognized that it was in the interest of all members for the ISC to have a well composed Governing Board (in terms of regional, disciplinary and general diversity) and that this would require careful preparatory work by the Elections Committee.
- Members were generally comfortable with the suggestion that the Governing Board should propose two or three names for each Governing Board Officer position.
- Two indicative polls were organized to get a sense of the members' views on the matter and showed that the Assembly overwhelmingly agreed with the proposed wording.
  - 91.5% supported the introduction of a non-iterative nomination process for Governing Board candidates.

- 92.5% supported the proposed wording of the Rules of Procedure (revised paragraphs 6.2 and 8.2).

## **9. Group IV: Other changes**

Concerning:

- IV.I Electronic means (Statutes 11j and 13)
- IV.II Modification of the Statutes (Statute 43)

There was no objection to the proposed changes in Group IV.

## **10. Presentation of final proposed changes (Group III and IV)**

It had been agreed earlier that the members would receive the consolidated final proposed changes by email.

## **11. Elections Committee and voting procedure**

The President reminded the Assembly that the revised statutes and rules of procedure, which made provision for an eight-person Elections Committee, if adopted, would come into effect after the close of the meeting. It was proposed that the members elect eight individuals, and that if the proposed revision of the relevant statute (raising the number of Elections Committee members from four to eight) was rejected, the top four candidates would constitute the committee.

No objection was raised.

## **12. Closing remarks**

The President thanked the members for their serious and constructive engagement with the issues treated at the General Assembly and the collegial nature of the discussions. He also thanked the secretariat for their support in the preparation and running of the Assembly. It was noted that a lot had been learned from this meeting about running a virtual General Assembly in pandemic times which would inform future virtual meetings.

## **Days 3–5 (3–5 February 2021)**

Final versions of the proposed changes to the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure, by Group, including in-session amendments, were published after Day 2 of the eGA (2 February 2021) (available here: <https://council.science/about-us/governance/general-assembly/ega-2021/>). Voting opened after the close of Day 2.

Voting on the changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure and on the candidates for the Elections Committee opened after the close of the meeting on Tuesday 2 February and closed on 5 February at 12 midday CET. Members submitted their votes through an online form on the ISC website. Results of the votes can be seen below.

## Results of voting on changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure

As the proposed changes to the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure were a procedural matter, Statute 15ii applied.

According to Statute 42, 'Any change to the Statutes shall require a vote of two thirds of all Members present and voting.' According to Rule of Procedure 11, '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.'

On 1 February 2021 the ISC had 38 Member Unions and Associations and 99 Member Organisations. The weighting of the vote of Member Unions and Associations was therefore (99 countries and regions)/(38 unions and associations) = 2.61.

The votes regarding the proposed changes to the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure were counted as follows:

### Changes to the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure

Total number of valid votes received by countries/regions per Group (Statutes 8.ii, 15.ii)	Group I - Agree	Group II - Agree	Group III - Agree	Group IV - Agree
	57	56.5	56.66	55.5
	Group I - Disagree	Group II - Disagree	Group III - Disagree	Group IV - Disagree
	0	0.5	0.33	0.5
Total number of valid votes received by Member Unions and Associations per Group (Statutes 8.i, 15.ii)	Group I - Abstain	Group II - Abstain	Group III - Abstain	Group IV - Abstain
	0	0	0	1
	Group I - Agree	Group II - Agree	Group III - Agree	Group IV - Agree
	30	29	29	30
Total number of weighted votes received by Member Unions and Associations per Group (Statutes 8.i, 15.ii)	Group I - Disagree	Group II - Disagree	Group III - Disagree	Group IV - Disagree
	0	1	0	0
	Group I - Abstain	Group II - Abstain	Group III - Abstain	Group IV - Abstain
	0	0	1	0
Total number of valid weighted votes per Group	Group I - Agree	Group II - Agree	Group III - Agree	Group IV - Agree
	78.16	75.55	75.56	78.16
	Group I - Disagree	Group II - Disagree	Group III - Disagree	Group IV - Disagree
	0	2.6	0	0
Total number of valid weighted votes per Group	Group I - Abstain	Group II - Abstain	Group III - Abstain	Group IV - Abstain
	0	0	2.6	0
	Group I - Agree	Group II - Agree	Group III - Agree	Group IV - Agree
	135.16	132.05	132.22	133.66
Total number of valid weighted votes per Group	Group I - Disagree	Group II - Disagree	Group III - Disagree	Group IV - Disagree
	0	3.11	0.33	0.5
	Group I - Abstain	Group II - Abstain	Group III - Abstain	Group IV - Abstain
	0	0	2.6	1

Therefore, all changes as proposed in Group I-IV were accepted and came into force as of 5 February 2021.

## Results of voting on Elections Committee candidates

In votes on elections, Statute 15ii applies.

The weighting of the vote of Member Unions and Associations was therefore (99 countries and regions)/(38 unions and associations) = 2.61.

The votes regarding the 2021 Elections Committee were counted as follows:

### 2021 Elections Committee

Candidate	Total number of valid votes received by			Total number of weighted votes
	Countries/regions	Unions/associations	Unions/associations (weighted)	
Yuko Harayama	41.00	23.00	59.92	<u>100.92</u>
Rémi Quirion	39.83	20.00	52.11	<u>91.94</u>
Flavia Schlegel	37.83	20.00	52.11	<u>89.94</u>
Ewine van Dishoeck	36.50	20.00	52.11	<u>88.61</u>
Vaughan Turekian	38.83	19.00	49.50	<u>88.33</u>
Cheryl de la Rey	31.17	19.00	49.50	<u>80.67</u>
Hebe Vessuri	26.33	16.00	41.68	<u>68.02</u>
Alice Abreu	25.00	16.00	41.68	<u>66.68</u>
Päivi Pahta	30.83	12.00	31.26	<u>62.10</u>
Brito Cruz	25.67	13.00	33.87	<u>59.54</u>
Jaime Urrutia-Fucugauchi	20.83	13.00	33.87	<u>54.70</u>
Mahouton Hounkonnou	23.17	12.00	31.26	<u>54.43</u>
Oladoyin Odubanjo	25.50	11.00	28.66	<u>54.16</u>
Ke Gong	21.67	11.00	28.66	<u>50.32</u>
Colin Tukuitonga	17.00	12.00	31.26	<u>48.26</u>
Adam Habib	13.50	11.00	28.66	<u>42.16</u>

Therefore, under the new ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedures dated 5 February 2021, the following eight people were elected as members of the 2021 Elections Committee:

1. Alice Abreu
2. Cheryl de la Rey
3. Yuko Harayama
4. Rémi Quirion
5. Flavia Schlegel
6. Vaughan Turekian
7. Ewine van Dishoeck
8. Hebe Vessuri