



Report of the 2021 ISC Elections Committee

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For noting

Background

The three-year term of the current [Governing Board](#) of the International Science Council (ISC) concludes at the upcoming [2nd ISC General Assembly](#) in October 2021, and ISC Members will elect a new Governing Board at this Assembly.

According to Statute 32 of the [ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure](#) “An Elections Committee, chaired by the President and including eight additional members [...] will be responsible for advising on and managing the Governing Board nomination and election processes.”

The [list of candidates](#) for the 2021 Elections Committee was first communicated to all ISC Members on 13 January 2021, and Members elected the 2021 Elections Committee during the [2021 ISC Extraordinary General Assembly](#), held online from 1–5 February.

On 12 March 2021 the Elections Committee opened the [call for nominations](#) and invited all ISC Members in good standing to nominate candidates for the Governing Board by 15 May 2021. Every ISC Member was invited to nominate a single candidate for each of the offices of

- President-elect,
- Vice-President for Outreach and Engagement,
- Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science, and
- Vice-President for Finance,

and multiple candidates for the 10 Ordinary Member positions.

On 6 and 9 April, ISC Members had the opportunity to participate in two [online consultations](#) with ISC President Daya Reddy and ISC President-elect Sir Peter Gluckman to pose questions related to the call for nominations and to the roles and responsibilities of Governing Board members.

Elections Committee

The 2021 [Elections Committee](#) comprises the following members:

- Daya Reddy, ISC President and Committee Chair

- Alice Abreu, Brazil
- Cheryl de la Rey, New Zealand
- Yuko Harayama, Japan
- Rémi Quirion, Canada
- Flavia Schlegel, Switzerland
- Vaughan Turekian, USA
- Ewine van Dishoeck, the Netherlands
- Hebe Vessuri, Argentina

Nominations

The Elections Committee received, in total, 59 nominations:

Breakdown	Number of nominations received
Officer positions	10
Ordinary Member positions	49
Female	21
Male	38
Africa	5
Asia/Pacific	12
Europe	24
Latin America/Caribbean	5
Middle East	3
North America	10
Natural sciences	46
Social sciences	13

Modalities

The Elections Committee met online on five occasions (8 March, 8 June, 14 June, 13 July, 28 July), in addition to which committee members engaged between meetings via a secure communication channel.

The Committee was required, in terms of the Statutes, to present to Members a shortlist of candidates: in particular, 2–3 candidates for each Officer position, and 20–30 candidates for Ordinary Board Member positions. In arriving at this shortlist the Elections Committee has the authority to place on the shortlist individuals other than those nominated by Members, if it deems the pool to be inadequate in any respect.

ISC Members will have the opportunity, at the October General Assembly, to cast their votes for candidates on the shortlist, as follows: 1 vote in each of the Officer categories; and up to 10 votes in the category of Ordinary Board Member.

Shortlist

The task of arriving at a short list of candidates was, unsurprisingly, a complex one. The committee was required to consider the qualities, standing and expertise of candidates in relation to the requirements as set out in the call

for nominations; and to ensure that an appropriate balance was achieved, in the shortlist, with respect to regional, gender and generational diversity, and disciplinary and multi-disciplinary representation.

A significant proportion of the original set of candidates nominated was found to be of high quality and to meet the key criteria. This had two consequences: first, the committee did not find it necessary to exercise its right to seek candidates from outside the set of nominees; and secondly, the existence of a large group of candidates of high quality, together with considerations of diversity, had the unfortunate but inevitable consequence that a number of outstanding nominees could not be included in the shortlist.

The final shortlist of candidates <https://council.science/about-us/governance/general-assembly/shorlist-gb-candidates-2021/> (password: ISC2021GA) for the ISC Governing Board standing for election at the 2nd ISC General Assembly is communicated to ISC Members with this report.

Breakdown	Number of candidates
Officer positions	9
President-elect	2
Vice-President for Finance	3
Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science	2
Vice-President for Outreach and Engagement	2
Ordinary Member positions	25
Female	16
Male	18
Africa	3
Asia/Pacific	8
Europe	14
Latin America/Caribbean	4
Middle East	0
North America	5
Natural sciences	25
Social sciences	9

All 9 candidates for Officer positions indicated their willingness to stand for Ordinary Member positions if not elected to an Officer position. This being the case, exactly 5 of the Officer candidates will become candidates for Ordinary positions. As a result, the committee selected a shortlist of 25 Ordinary candidates, to stay within the upper limit of 30 as prescribed by the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

It is difficult to achieve an ideal balance in a set of 34 candidates, in respect of every one of the categories of diversity. What comprises an ideal balance is, in addition, subject to debate in some categories, and depends on the degree of refinement adopted with regard to disciplines, for example. Nevertheless, the committee has given full consideration to this aspect of the shortlisting procedure, and is pleased to present a list of candidates, all of whom are well worthy of consideration as candidates for the ISC Governing Board.

Concluding remark

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Elections Committee for their dedication to the task at hand, their wisdom, and for many collegial and constructive interventions. I am extremely grateful to colleagues at ISC

HQ – Mathieu Denis, Charles Erkelens, Sarah Moore and Anne Thieme – and thank them for their excellent support and guidance through the entire process.

Daya Reddy
ISC President and Chair, Elections Committee