



Dear ISC Member,

As you know, the Principle of Freedom and Responsibility in Science is enshrined in Statute 7 of the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure. However, the rapidly changing contexts within which scientific research is undertaken and applied have prompted the ISC to re-examine the meaning of this Principle in the 21st century.

An expert writing group, convened by the ISC's Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS), has prepared a draft Discussion Paper which examines the meanings of scientific freedom and responsibility in contemporary society. This Paper considers new challenges arising from social and technological developments of the last two decades, as well as changes to the ways in which science is used and disseminated. It suggests several key freedoms and responsibilities that must be upheld, to be consistent with the vision of science as a global public good. Finally, the Paper offers guidance to readers in a range of institutional and policy settings on the actions needed to uphold and protect these freedoms and responsibilities.

As valued Members of the ISC, CFRS now seeks your feedback on this Paper in order to inform the development of a final publication. As President of the ISC and Chair of CFRS, I am delighted to share the draft Paper with you today.

**We invite all staff members, office bearers and representatives of organizations that are part of the ISC membership to participate in a consultation process to provide comments on the draft Paper by 22 October 2021. Input from ISC Members is essential to ensure the global relevance of this publication. All comments received from Members will be considered by the expert writing group.**

Please access the draft Paper and a brief feedback questionnaire via this [LINK](#) (password: ISC2021GA) The Paper is intended for a broad readership, including researchers, research managers, policymakers, science diplomats, and those in the private sector. As such, we invite you to identify a range of readers affiliated with your organization who can review the content of the draft Paper from these diverse perspectives.

An opportunity to learn more about the development and the rationale of the Paper, to ask questions and to hear about the next stage of the project will be offered to all staff members, office bearers and representatives of ISC Member organizations during the upcoming General Assembly. Details of the agenda for the General Assembly are available at <https://council.science/about-us/governance/general-assembly/agenda/> (password: ISC2021GA).

I, the Governing Board, and the Secretariat are looking forward to receiving your feedback on this key project for the ISC.

Yours sincerely,

Daya Reddy  
President, International Science Council  
Chair, CFRS