



ISC CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION 2023

Consultation with Members

26 and 27 September 2023



GOVERNANCE

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1. VISION, MISSION, PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

- Slight expansion of mission (adding: ‘promote and assist in science diplomacy’ and ‘assist ... in the face of the evolution of science systems’) and principles (adding ‘reflexivity and adaptability’)
- Paragraphs on freedom and responsibility in science are being redrafted by the Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science

2. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- From three- to four-year intervals
- Establishment of most advisory bodies and committees delegated to Governing Board

3. ADVISORY BODIES

- Only two statutory standing committees:
 - Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science
 - Committee for Finance, Audit and Risk
- Others established as needed by Governing Board, covering at a minimum:
 - Science planning and programmes
 - Fundraising
- Four-year, staggered mandates

PAUSE FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

GOVERNING BOARD AND OFFICERS

- Four-year, staggered mandates
 - Options for the transition into a staggered system will be proposed for a vote of the General Assembly
- President-elect appointed midway between ordinary sessions of General Assembly
- Officers will function as an Executive Committee

ELECTIONS

- Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) formed from nominations from Members, outgoing Governing Board members, Fellowship Council member, independent chair
- Membership of Elections Committee approved by vote of General Assembly
- Four-year mandate
- Elections held every two years
- Officers selected by NEC from nominations, approved individually by a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly
- Ordinary members of Governing Board elected by a vote of the General Assembly from shortlist proposed by Governing Board
- **Question:** How to manage co-option of additional Board member for diversity?

PAUSE FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

FINANCES

- Introducing possibility to provide partial financial support to Officers' institutions, within limits of French law and with annual approval of amounts by Members.
- Charitable trust introduced.

PAUSE FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS



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**MEMBERSHIP,
VOTING, DUES**

ISSUES RELATED TO MEMBERSHIP, VOTING AND DUES

- a. Gaps in membership – need to be more inclusive and attractive – vital for legitimacy as the global voice for science
- b. Complex inherited voting systems – needs simplification
- c. Two parallel inherited dues structures (for former ICSU and ISSC members) – needs rationalization and recalibration

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES PROPOSAL

- Category 1: International disciplinary bodies
- Category 2: National members
- Category 3: Relevant scientific bodies that do not fall under Cat. 1 or 2, but which should have a vote and nominating rights and pay dues
- Category 4: Observers (foundations, private sector organizations, ...)

VOTING PROPOSAL

- Voting on financial matters: weighted according to dues
- Voting on scientific matters: one member, one vote
- Voting on elections and constitutional matters – weighted:
 - Category 1: 40%
 - Category 2: 40% (and one vote per country)
 - Category 3: 20%
 - Category 4: no vote

SPECIAL CASES OF POTENTIAL OVERLAPPING/MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP

- In the case of an application for membership in Category 1 or 2 where the membership might overlap or compete with existing members, the support of the relevant existing member would have to be sought.