

## THE COMPLEX ROAD AHEAD FOR SCIENCE



COVID 19 and future pandemics



Climate change and sustainability (food, water, energy, biodiversity loss)



Declining social cohesion and mental health



Conflict, nationalism, & a failure of multilateralism



Humans and societies coexisting with rapidly evolving technology



in elites including academia & science



A very complex science & policy ecosystem





## **INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL 2022 - 2024**

- The ISC was formed in 2018 by the merger of ICSU (natural sciences) and ISSC (social sciences)
- ISC was formed because the two legacy organizations had recognized that their impact could be strengthened with an integrated, stronger and more effective voice
- ISC's mission is to be the global voice for science
- But to be an effective voice, those whom you talk to must
   be willing to listen ISC's priority is to build the audience
- From 2018-2021 the focus was on merger
- ISC is now progressed beyond its merger phase and is focused on implementing its priorities and building a more effective role with multiple external and internal stakeholders





- Building meaningful and sustained relationships with core components of the multilateral system
- Promoting the use of evidence in policy making & actionable knowledge
- The Future of Science and Science Systems
- Using science well to address the major challenges
- Freedom, responsibility and trust in science
- Promoting scientific collaboration
- Strengthening the organisation



# Building meaningful and sustained relationships with core components of the multilateral system

- Established an office in New York
- Co-secretariat with UNESCO for Group of Friends on Science For Action
- Formal relationship to the Secretary General's science advisory mechanism
- MOU in development with DESA, GSDR 2023
- UNESCO multiple relationships in natural and social sciences
- UNDP human development report, affective polarisation
- WHO trust in science, social determinants of youth mental health
- UNEP anticipatory foresight
- WMO World climate research programme
- UNDRR extensive relationships on hazard reduction
- UNU MOU just signed
- Discussions underway with OECD, World Economic Forum, UNICEF, EU, etc.
- Participated in G7 and G20 science meetings





# Promoting the use of evidence in policy making & actionable knowledge

Activities with UN and UN agencies

**Group of Friends** 

UNSG's SAB

**Partnerships** 

Building members' capacities

working with INGSA



# The Future of Science and Science Systems

- Research assessment
- The future of science publishing
- Transdisciplinarity
- The role of AI in the production and reporting of science
- Centre of Science Futures



# Using science well to address the major challenges

- Sustainability
   The decade for science in sustainability
   Transdisciplinarity and actionable knowledge
   Future Earth
- Rapid technology developments
   AI, generative AI, quantum, synthetic biology etc
- Social Cohesion
   Affective polarisation
   Mental health
   Inequality
- Science diplomacywell

# Freedom, responsibility and trust in science

CFRS

Ethics and guidelines
Specific cases
Diversity
Conflict

Trust in science

Production of trustworthy knowledge

Addressing the challenges of perceptions of science, disinformation

Science education and the training of scientists



# **Promoting scientific collaboration**

- Transdisciplinarity
- Strengthening the affiliate bodies
- Advancing the concept of a global fund for sustainability/transdisciplinary research
- Academy of the Pacific
- World Science Forum
- Science diplomacy



## A COMPLEX ECOSYSTEM – A BIG CHALLENGE

- The international policy space is complex
- All science is 'political' in some respect and more so when looked at through an international framing.
- The international science ecosystem is duplicative, competitive and yet leaves gaps.
- There is competition for access, influence, and funds.
- There is an extraordinary number of scientific organisations, funders etc. acting in an uncoordinated manner.
- Multiple voices are often weaker than a singular strong voice when dealing with the policy community.
- The question is whether more effective integration/coordination is possible.
- In some areas ISC already has a role (e.g. through its affiliate bodies, linkage to GRC, GFF etc).
- Can the ISC play a greater role as a facilitator/broker/coordinator?



# Strengthening the organisation

- Theory of change
- Constitutional change governance membership the gaps category 3 young academies and scientific organisations
- The ISC fellowship
- Relationship to host country host liaison committee
- Rebuilding the regional footprints
- Establishing the ISC Foundation (Charitable trust)
- Strengthening the relationship to affiliate bodies



#### Vision/goal: Science is used effectively to advance the global public and common good.

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Mission and our

core strategic

objective is to

be the leading

effective global

voice for and of

and most

science

#### **Objectives**

- Raising ISC profile and building relationships with key audiences and institutions
- 2.Coordinating and channelling science and expertise to provide high quality input and thought leadership

3. Building relationships with ISC Members, partners and global scientific community; expanding membership base.

4. Building the requisite internal (operational) capacity

#### **Priority activities**

- Cultivating relationships & partnerships with key intl stakeholders
- Developing brokerage for UN and other multilateral agencies/bodies
- Acting as an agent of science diplomacy
- Producing high quality input on critical science systems issues through a Centre for Science Future
- Producing high quality input on global existential issues, including through projects and coordination of intl scientific endeavours
- Supporting freedom and responsibility in science
- Coordinating intl. scientific endeavours
- Membership engagement & outreach (incl. host country)
- Addressing membership gaps
- Strengthening regional presence
- Building members' capacities
- Developing ISC Fellowship and patronage
- Constitutional reform
- Organizational redesign, resourcing and policy development
- Resource mobilization

#### **Short-term outputs/results**

- MoUs and partnerships with intl bodies
- Brokerage capacities
- High quality reports and recommendations, customized for audience
- Pilot projects launched
- Plan for establishment of a Pacific Island Academy
- Improved relationships with and use of ISC Affiliated Bodies
- ISC–France liaison committee established
- ISC regional focal point structure in place
- Membership gaps being filled and membership engagement increased
- Members and Fellows involved in ISC activities and supporting the ISC
- Targeted services to members
- Revised constitution and governance
- New, appropriate organizational structure, staffing and policies in place
- Charitable trusts established in the UK and donations being received

#### **Midterm outcomes**

- More effective scientific input into multilateral policy development
- Intl. scientific endeavours are better coordinated
- Enhanced ISC profile and legitimacy
- ISC is an established actor in the science diplomacy aren
- Closer and more effective relationship with host country & members
- More (and more diverse) members and membership engagement
- More effective regional presence
- ISC is operating smoothly & financially healthy
- Management & governance is appropriate for a professional body

# Longer-term outcomes

ISC provides the authoritative and legitimate global voice for and of science

Science is used more effectively in policy making at scales from local to global, including in LMICs

Principles: Excellence and professionalism, inclusivity and diversity, transparency and integrity, innovation and sustainability

Partners: ISC members, Affiliated Bodies, UN and agencies, development banks, funders, etc.



## **ISC MEMBERSHIP**

- Our legitimacy as a global voice depends on being comprehensive in our membership.
- We have geographical and disciplinary gaps.
- There are a large number of potential disciplinary bodies that are not yet members. Many do not fit the 'union' model.
- But we also have a very complicated constitution regarding membership and the rights and obligations (voting, dues, nominations etc.) associated with it. The merger deferred resolution on a number of related issues
- The scope of membership merits reflection.
- The range of members does not easily fit into two categories plus affiliates.

# ISC SPONSORED AND AFFILIATED INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC BODIES





### International Scientific Committees

- Antarctic Research (SCAR)
- Frequencies for Radio Astronomy and Space Science (IUCAF)
- Oceanic Research (SCOR)
- Space Research (COSPAR)
- Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP)

## International Data Bodies

- Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)
- World Data System (WDS)

## **6** Global Observing Systems

- Global Climate Observing
   System (GCOS)
- Global Ocean Observing
   System (GOOS)

### International Research Programmes

- Future Earth
- Climate Research Programme (WCRP)
- Integrated Research on Disaster Risk
   Programme (IRDR)
- Urban Health and Wellbeing Programme (UHWB)
- Comparative Research on Inequality (GRIP)



