

**International
Science Council**

The global voice for science

**The importance of
international science
cooperation:
the evolving role of the
International Science Council**

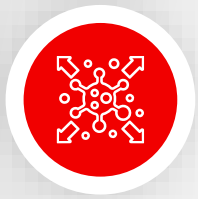
Sir Peter Gluckman

President, ISC

Beijing, October 2023



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
& a failure of
multilateralism



Humans
and
societies
coexisting
with
rapidly
evolving
technology



Loss of trust
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



PRIORITIES 2023/2024

- Building meaningful and sustained relationships with core components of the multilateral system
- Science diplomacy
- 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 international scientific collaboration
- Strengthening the ISC

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 diplomacy

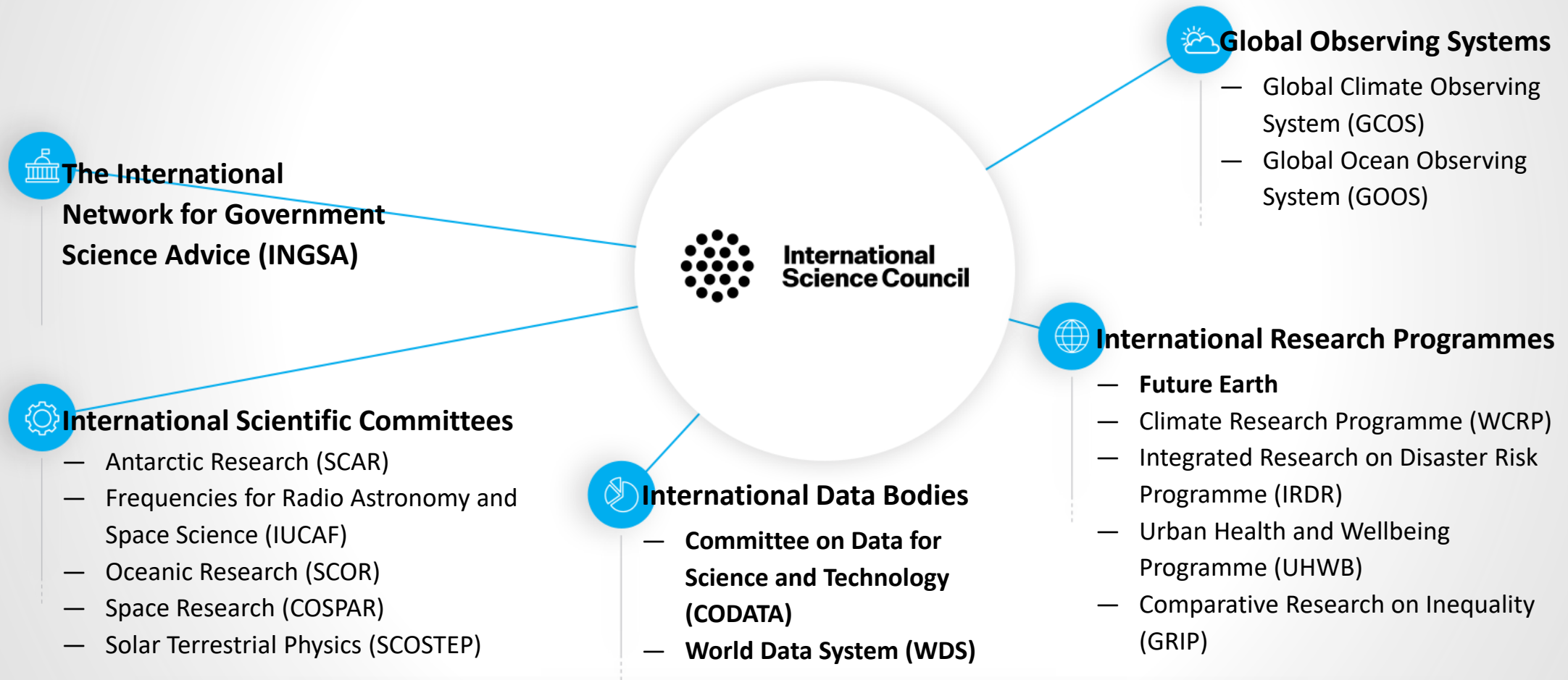
Freedom, responsibility and trust in science

- 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

ISC SPONSORED AND AFFILIATED INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC BODIES



The potential roles of a scholarly academy

- The peak intellectual voice
- The independent voice of science*
- Promote effective linkages and engagement with global scientific community
- Give voice to Pacific science in global and regional debates
- Enhance collaboration within and beyond region
- Enhance the voice of science to policy locally, regionally and globally (science advice)
- Science diplomacy
- Mentorship and retention of younger scientists in the Pacific
- Pacific scientists have a stronger voice in determining science done in the Pacific
- Funding too for Pacific driven and led research
- Promote evolution of science and actionable knowledge in the Pacific
- Promote public understanding and trust in science
- Give scientists greater recognition