



**A message from the ISC President Sir Peter Gluckman
and the Chair of the Working Group on Constitutional Change Dame Julie Maxton**

Dear ISC Members and Affiliated Bodies,

On behalf of the ISC Governing Board and the Working Group on Constitutional Revision, we are very pleased to share with you two documents for your consideration and vote at the upcoming extraordinary General Assembly of the ISC on 28–29 February 2023:

- Revised Statutes and Rules of Procedure ('Draft #2')
- Proposal for the introduction of staggering Governing Board terms of office

As you know, it has been a long, serious and intensive process to produce these documents, involving several rounds of consultation, deliberation and iteration. It has also been a thoroughly collaborative and collegial process, with deep and dedicated involvement of the Working Group on Constitutional Change, the Governing Board, the Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science, the ISC Secretariat, and of course, you, the Members and Affiliated Bodies. We thank everyone involved for helping us to get so far. A summary of the process is available [here](#).

The revised Statutes and Rules of Procedure that are being put forward for your approval are designed to help the ISC to pursue its mission professionally and strategically in a rapidly changing world. The revisions aimed to solve certain critical challenges, including:

1. Adapting the nominations and elections processes for Governing Board members to ensure better fit of expertise with evolving needs of the organization, and that with better diversity and inclusivity.
2. Streamlining and rationalizing the structure of governing bodies and advisory committees for greater agility and responsiveness to needs and opportunities, including through the staggering of terms of office of members of the Governing Board and other advisory bodies.
3. Opening up membership opportunities and rights within appropriate limits, with due regard to the ISC's need for greater representativeness while avoiding fragmentation in science or domination by certain domains of science or parts of the world.

The Statutes and Rules of Procedure will be proof-read and reviewed by French legal experts during the month of January 2024, and the very final version shared by the beginning of February 2024.

The proposal for transition to staggered Governing Board terms of office is based on the preferences expressed by Members in the most recent round of consultation and will enable the Council to transition to the staggered arrangements without delay or loss of continuity.

We thank you again and urge all Members to [register a delegate to vote in the electronic extraordinary General Assembly](#) on 28–29 February 2024. Voting will open in mid-February and close on 29 February. A live presentation will take place at two moments on 28 February, for different time zones.

Warm regards,

Peter Gluckman
ISC President

Julie Maxton
Chair of the Working Group on Constitutional Revision

The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together 220 international scientific unions and associations as well as national and regional scientific organizations such as academies and research councils from the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities.