

**International  
Science Council**

The global voice for science



## Knowledge Sharing on ISC's engagement in the UN

25 January and  
1 February 2024

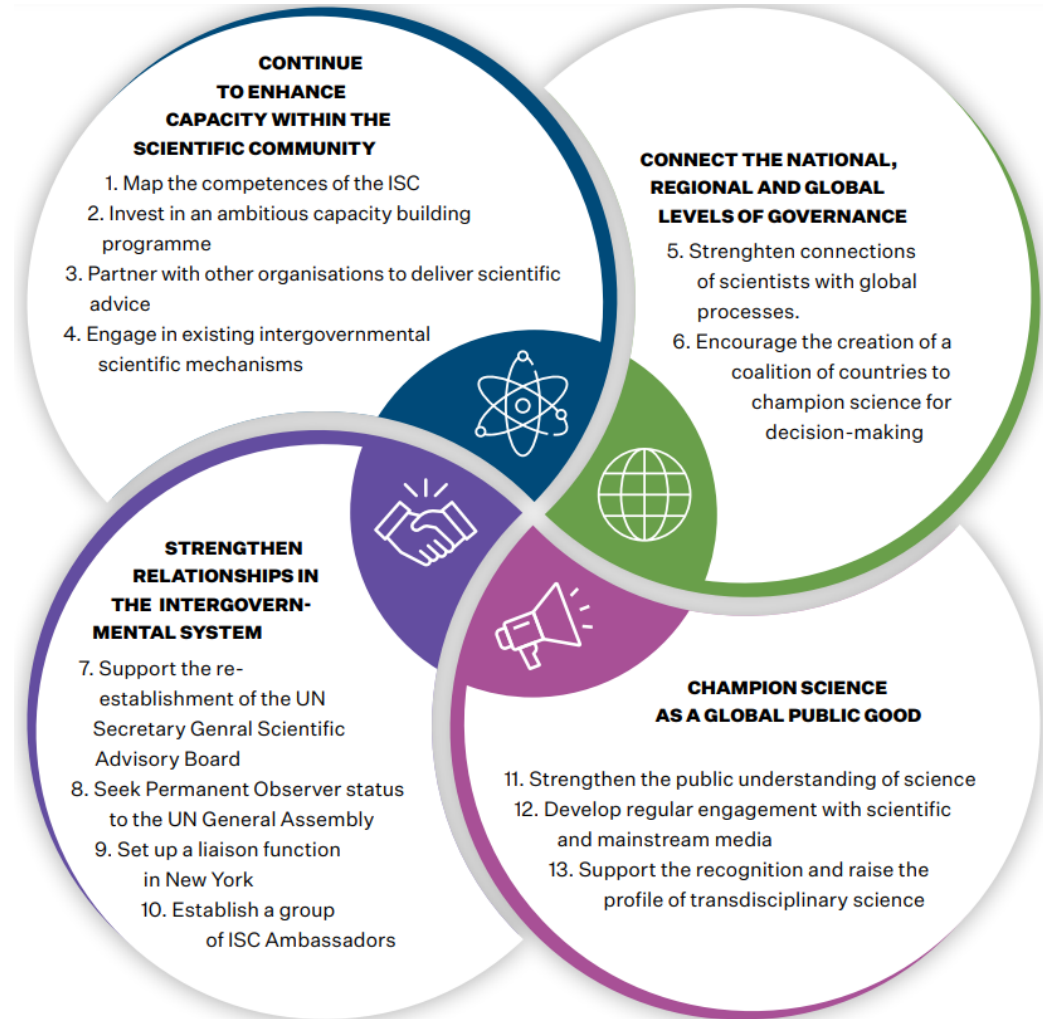


Final report of the Steering Group advising the ISC on its

# STRATEGY IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM

December 2021

# ISC strategy: key pillars





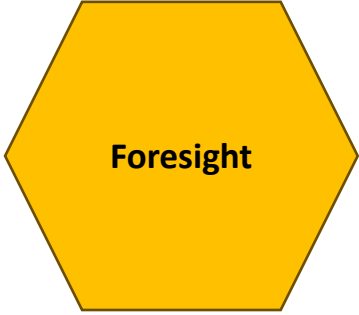
# ISC GA resolution (2021)



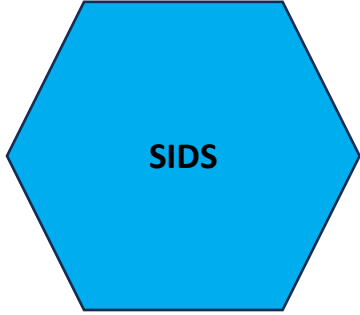
The General Assembly recognizes the urgent need for science to have greater influence and impact on policy making and programming at all levels of governance.

We welcome the recommendations of the Council's international Steering Group on the role of the ISC in the intergovernmental system. We also welcome the United Nations Secretary General's intention to re-establish the Secretary General's Scientific Advisory Board and strongly endorse the ISC's intention to engage actively in supporting its development and effective operation in order to fully integrate scientific evidence into international policy making.

The General Assembly requests the new Governing Board to respond to the Steering Group's recommendations through the development of an action-oriented strategy that fully mobilizes the scientific and policy expertise of ISC members, partners and broader international networks.



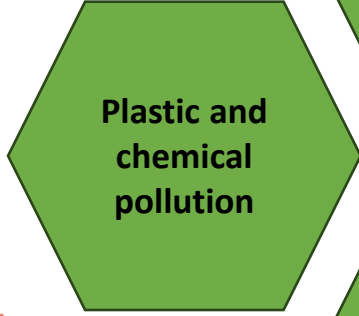
Foresight for decision-making  
Environmental Foresight



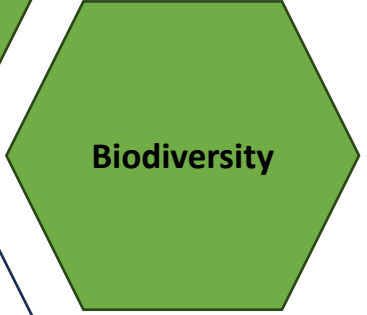
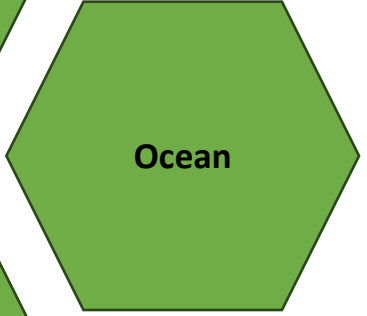
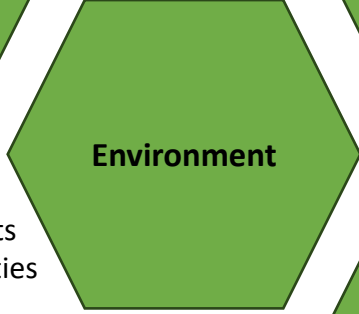
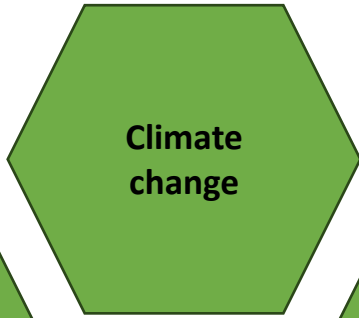
SIDS-4 conference



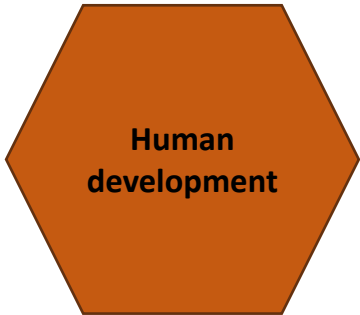
STI Forum  
High Level Political Forum  
Global Sustainable  
Development Report  
International Decade of  
Sciences for Sustainable  
Development



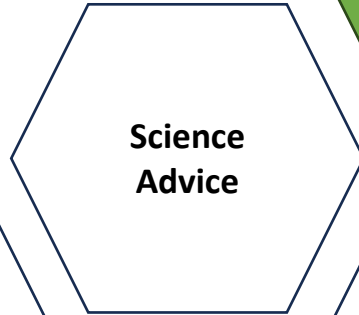
Global assessments  
Conventions, treaties



Hazard Definition and classification  
Sendai Mid-term Review



Alternative definition and measures  
of development and well-being



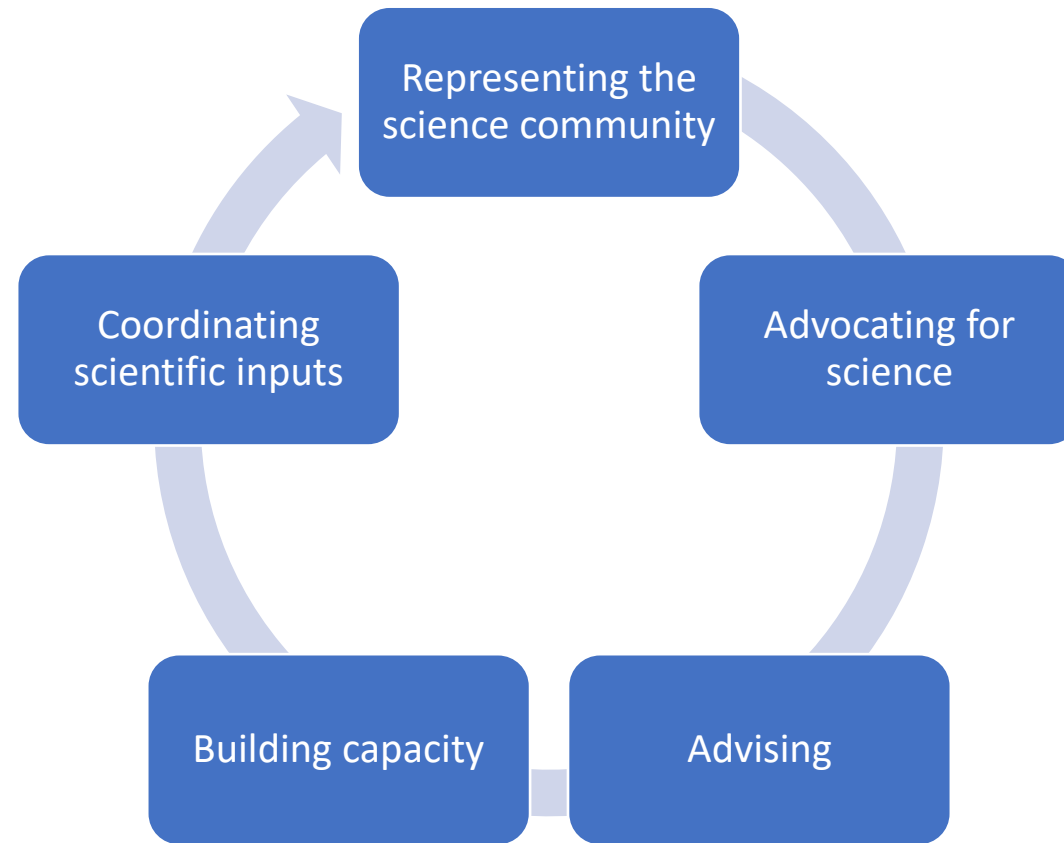
Group of Friends on  
Science for Action  
Office of the President  
of the UN General  
Assembly



Evidence-informed decision-making, STI systems, science diplomacy, trust in science



# ISC's roles



# ISC and the UN: avenues for cooperation

## UN bodies

- Partnership agreements including with ECOSOC, WHO, UNDP, UNEP, UNDRR, ITU
- Formal observer role including with ECOSOC, UNESCO, ITU, IPBES, IPCC, UNFCCC
- Co-sponsorship of research programmes on global environmental change e.g. WCRP, GOOS

## Member States

- Group of Friends on Science for Action convened by South Africa, India and Belgium and supported by ISC and UNESCO as joint Secretariat

## Civil society

- Co-convenor of the UN Science and Technology Major Group together with WFEO for Agenda 2030 policy processes and for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction



# Operations

## Global Science Policy Unit

*Mobilizing scientific and policy expertise in the UN and intergovernmental processes*



Anne-Sophie Stevance

Senior Science Officer



Anda Popovici

Science Officer



James Waddell

Science Officer, Political Affairs  
Liaison



Morgan Seag

Liaison to the UN system



H el ene Jacot des  
Combes

Project Manager



Olivia Tighe

Administrative Officer

- Dedicated unit within the ISC secretariat
- Full time ISC representation in NYC and regular delegations to Geneva
- Seconded-experts from members and partners on specific projects (eg. UNEP Foresight)

## POLICY BRIEF: Global Sea- Level Rise

**Author:** International Science Council (ISC)

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**Coordination:** Morgan Seag, ISC Liaison to the UN System

**Acknowledgments:** Special thanks to the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, Future Earth Coasts, Future Earth Ocean Knowledge Action Network, and IOC Global Sea Level Observing System

 [council.science](https://council.science)

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# Members' engagement

- Project-based expert groups (e.g. plastic pollution treaty)
- Event-based expert groups (e.g. 2023 UN Water Conference)
- Nominations of speakers, experts, reviewers (e.g. GSDR)
- Statements (e.g. HLPF)
- Training (2024 training on science advice with INGSA)

## Modalities

- Call for nominations of experts
- Roster of experts (pilot phase)
- Interface with UN missions (pilot phase)
- AI tool to search members' database of experts





# The ISC in New York



## What we're doing:

- Raising the ISC's profile at the UN
- Serving as trusted knowledge broker
- Advancing the science-policy interface

## How we're doing it:

- Group of Friends on Science for Action
- Summit of the Future
- Meetings, events, ad hoc requests
- Building on strengths of ISC members

# Science and the SDGs at the UN

- **Scientific and Technological Community Major Group**
  - Co-ordinated by the ISC together with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) since 1992
  - Roles: Representing the scientific community, facilitating participation, promoting science in multilateral policy-making, and capacity building
- **Science, Technology and Innovation Forum and the High-Level Political Forum: examples of engagements**
  - Expert nomination
  - Organization of official sessions, special events
  - Development of written inputs, e.g. HLPF position paper, contributions to intergovernmental meetings and negotiations (e.g. ECOSOC and HLPF review process, ministerial declarations), statements
  - Information sharing

Position paper for the 2023 High-Level Political Forum,  
prepared by the ISC Fellows

## RESCUING AND INTEGRATING THE GLOBAL AGENDA: HARNESSING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MORE EFFECTIVELY

### HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2023

*Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels*

Scientific and Technological Community Major Group is co-convened by the International Science Council (ISC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)



# Co-delivering evidence-based foresight with UNEP

## Our partnership with UNEP is aiming to

- Foster more anticipatory and future-oriented cultures to navigate unprecedented changes in the global environment
- Engage across scientific disciplines and knowledge systems to identify emerging issues
- Result in a megatrends and foresight report to be released mid-2024

## Key milestones thus far

- Establishment of a multidisciplinary Foresight Expert Panel
- A first global survey that identified over 1,000 emerging changes
- 6 regional workshops held at the end of 2023



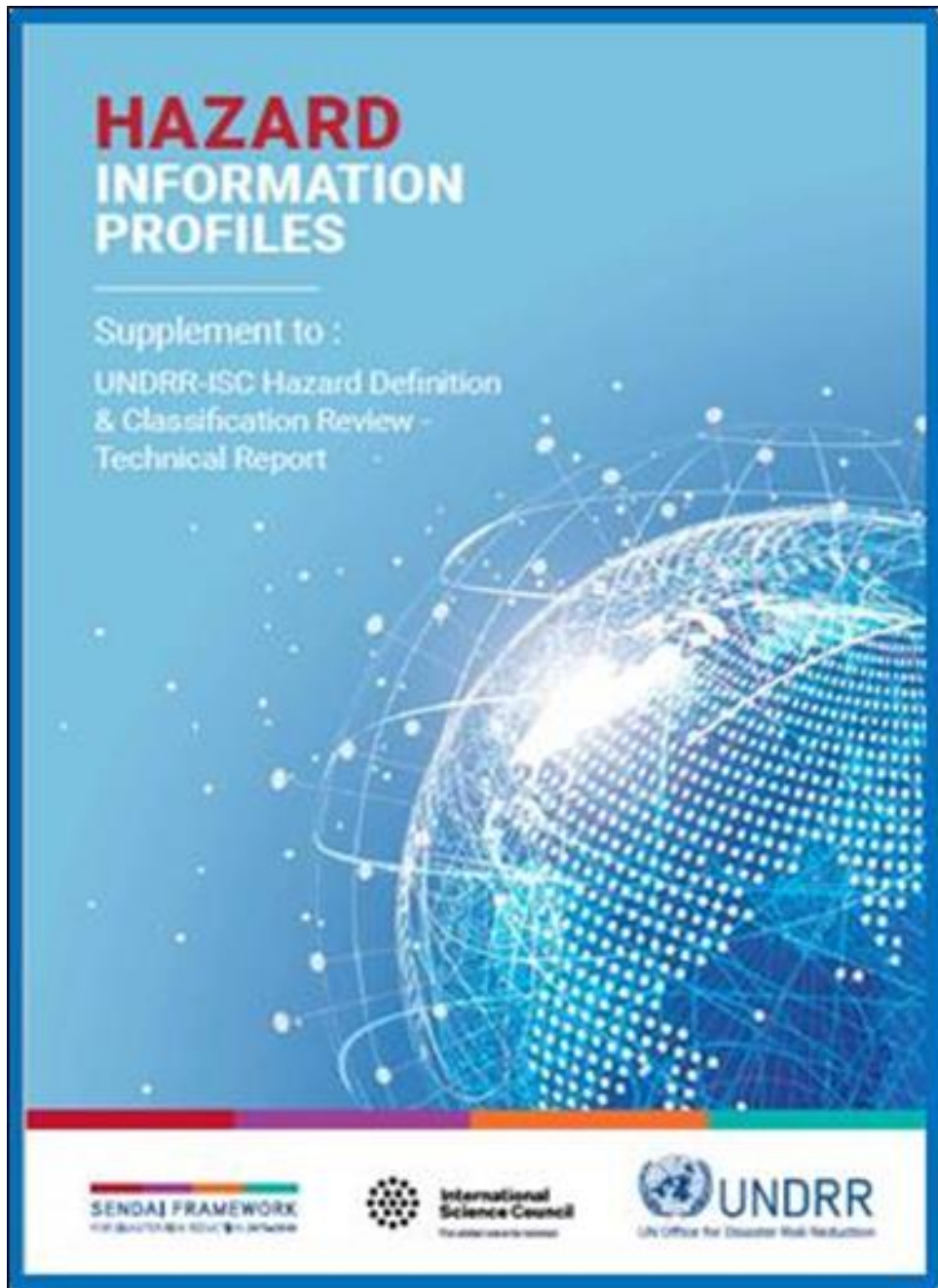


# Coordinating Scientific Inputs

- Project to review and update the Hazard Information Profiles (HIPs) published in 2020
- Implemented by Technical Teams (for each type of hazards: eg hydrological and meteorological, geological, chemical, technological, etc.)
- Associated expert groups on associated issues (eg compound events)
- Establishment of a User Group
- Participation of ISC members (IUPAC) and partners (ITU)

## Modalities

- Participation of ISC members in the Technical teams and User Group
- Call for identification of experts as authors and reviewers for the HIPs
- Partnership with UN bodies (UNDRR, UNEP, FAO, WMO, WHO)



# ISC Member's feedback in working with the ISC Secretariat: The example of the negotiations around a plastic Treaty

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**Margaret Spring**, Chief Conservation and Science  
Officer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Chair of  
US NAS Committee on the United States  
Contributions to Global Ocean Plastic Waste  
Chair of ISC expert group on plastic pollution





# Championing Science Diplomacy

## María Estelí Jarquín

- International Relations Coordinator - *UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology*
- Member of the Standing Committee for Outreach and Engagement 2022-2025



UN SDG Action Weekend 2023



# Strengthening capacities of ISC Members in scientific advice

## Kristiann Allen

- Executive Secretary of the International Network for Government Science Advice – INGSA





## HAVING IMPACT

### 1 **HELP SOURCE DIVERSE EXPERTISE**

Circulate the call for expressions of interest for the ISC Roster of experts and respond to call for nominations or inputs

### 2 **DISSEMINATE MESSAGES**

Help us disseminate knowledge products and statements to your stakeholders and governments

### 3 **IDENTIFY TRAINING NEEDS**

Let us know about your needs for capacity development in science advice to policy to tailor the training program with INGSA


### 4 **GET IN TOUCH WITH THE TEAM**


Contact point: [olivia.tighe@council.science](mailto:olivia.tighe@council.science)


# THANK YOU

We look forward to the next steps.


For any questions, email me at

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