



# ISC EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

28 February 2024

# INTRODUCTION

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1. Long-standing need for revision of ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure
  - i. Issues around membership, voting and dues inherited from the merger of ICSU and ISSC.
  - ii. Ensuring governance appropriate for the new and engaged organization with a broader mandate.
  - iii. 2021 General Assembly requested that we move to a staggered board membership
2. Revision process (14 months) has been highly consultative, iterative and participative:
  - i. Working Group on Constitutional Revision chaired by Dame Julie Maxton led the work
  - ii. The CFRS, Governing Board and Secretariat engaged
  - iii. The Members have been extensively consulted:
    - Discussion paper debated at Membership Meeting in May 2023 in Paris
    - Zero draft consultation Aug-Sep 2023 (meetings of Members and written feedback)
    - Draft #1 and Governing Board transition options Oct, meetings by membership categories Nov 2023
    - Draft #2, Dec
    - Final draft, 2 Feb 2024
  - iv. Legal review for compliance with French law



# **1 STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

- A. VISION, MISSION, VALUES, PRINCIPLES**
- B. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING**
- C. GOVERNANCE**

# **2 GOVERNING BOARD TRANSITION**

# **3 NEXT STEPS**



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VISION,  
MISSION,  
VALUES,  
PRINCIPLES

# CONCERNING VISION AND MISSION

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1. Vision – no change: *Science as a global public good*
  
2. Mission – no change in the fundamental mission: *Global voice for science*
  - a. Some additional specification of the mission, to mention explicitly:
    - i. ISC's role in science diplomacy
    - ii. ISC's role in assisting the scientific community and stakeholders in their respective roles in the context of evolving science systems

# CONCERNING VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

## 1. Values updated to be concrete and appropriate

- i. Out: 'professionalism' and 'innovation'
- ii. In: 'respect' and 'collaborativeness'

### *Core values:*

- excellence
- inclusivity and diversity
- integrity, transparency and respect
- collaborativeness
- sustainability

## 2. Principles of freedom and responsibility in science updated by Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science

- i. An elaboration of the principles will be available in a CFRS memorandum

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# MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

# MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

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1. Anomalies in membership due to historical legacy
2. Gaps in membership (disciplinary, territorial)

Our mission is to be '*the global voice for science*':

- Need to attract all relevant members for legitimacy
- Need for more clarity, and coherence in the membership categories
- Need for fairness and equity in membership, voting and dues



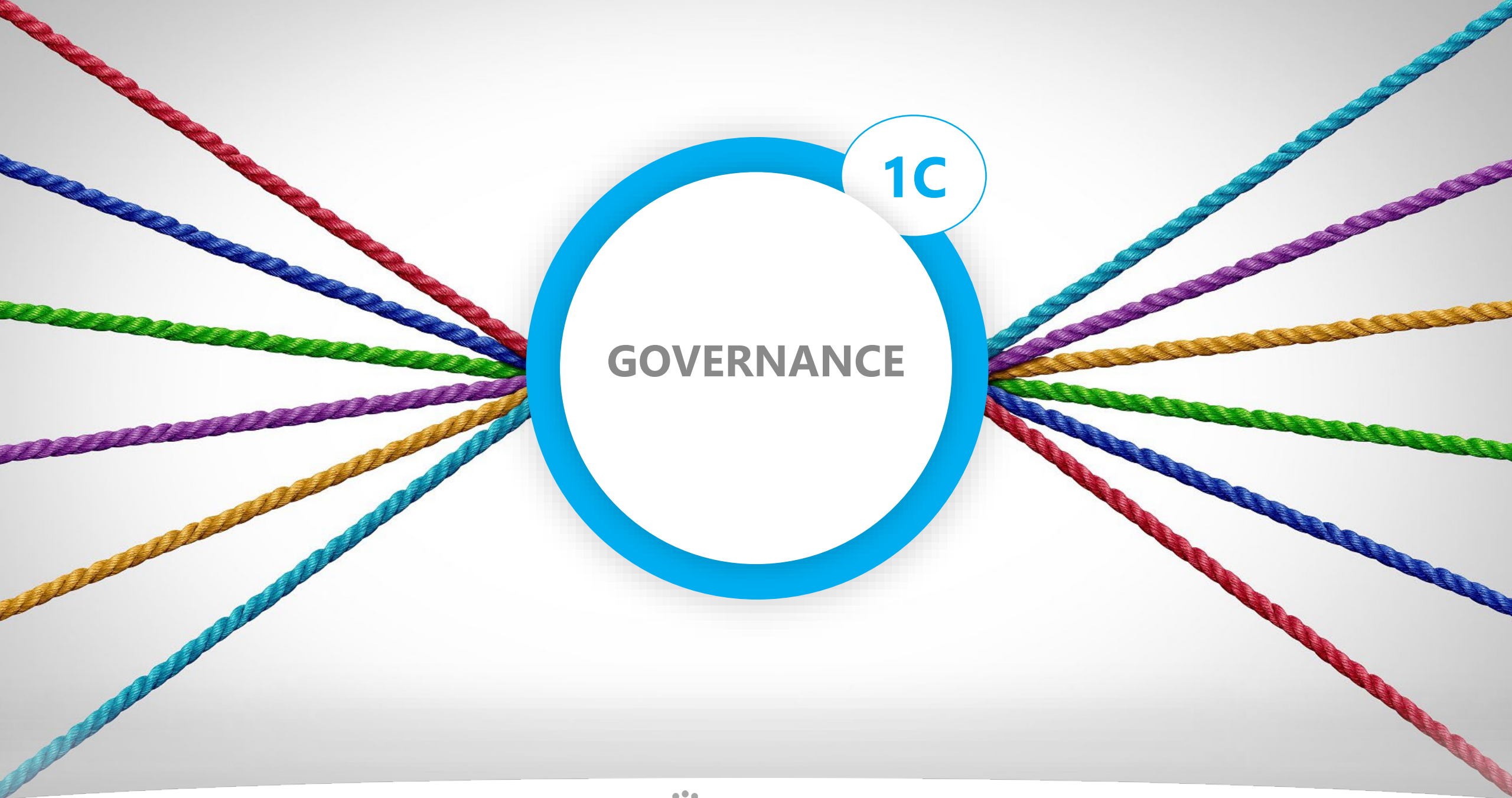
# CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP

1. From three categories of Member (disciplinary, national and affiliated) to four categories:
  - i. Category 1: Held together by disciplinary/scientific focus
  - ii. Category 2: Held together by national/regional/territorial boundaries
  - iii. Category 3: Other organizations primarily composed of active scientists that do not fit into categories 1 or 2, including young scientist organizations
  - iv. Category 4: Other organizations active in the scientific ecosystem, with observer status
2. Category 1, 2 and 3 Members may vote and present candidates for office
3. Protection against fragmentation
4. Where there is overlap between a prospective and existing Cat. 1 or 2 member(s) (disciplinary or territorial), the existing member(s) must be consulted on the application by the prospective member.

# CONCERNING VOTING

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1. New: Category 3 Members will have a vote.
2. On financial matters, voting rights will still be related to the dues paid by a Member.
3. On scientific matters and elections:
  - i. Cat. 1 members (currently ca. 43) collectively have 40% of the vote, Cat. 2 members (ca. 105) collectively have 40% of the vote, Cat. 3 members (ca. 60) collectively have 20% of the vote.
  - ii. Within Cat. 1 and Cat. 3, each member will have an equal vote.
  - iii. Within Cat. 2, each member will have one vote, with one consolidated vote for multiple members in the same country.
4. Cat. 4 members have no vote.



# GOVERNANCE

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# ISSUES RELATED TO GOVERNANCE

- a. Lack of continuity: currently the Governing Board can be completely new at every election (apart from the president-elect); a new Board takes a significant amount of time (ca. 12 months) to become fully operational.
- b. The current election process does not make it possible to ensure diversity and inclusivity on the Board.
- c. The workload of the Board members, particularly the officers and president, is significant.
- d. The standing committee structure is inscribed in the statutes and does not allow for any flexibility.
- e. The Members have infrequent opportunities to meet and network in person.



# PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING CHANGES

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To have governance arrangements that ensure:

1. Continuity, experience and trust in the Board
2. Strong governance and strategic leadership, necessary for significant donor support
3. Diversity and inclusivity in governing bodies
4. Commitment and expertise of individuals on the Board and advisory committees
5. Appropriateness and effectiveness of the advisory and support structures for the Board
6. Flexibility and agility in a digital, post-COVID, sustainability-oriented age
7. Need for ISC Members to meet, exchange and collaborate.

# **CONCERNING GOVERNING BOARD AND OFFICERS**

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1. Terms of office of four years, staggered (half the officers and half the ordinary members rotating off every two years)
2. President-elect position for two years prior to taking up office as President
3. Officers (president and vice-presidents) compose an Executive Committee
4. Duties of Governing Board now include holding up a code of conduct (under development)

# CONCERNING ELECTION PROCESSES

1. Shortlisting and appointment of Governing Board members are the responsibility of a Nominations and Elections Committee, made up of 7 Member nominees (3xCat.1, 3xCat.2, 1xCat.3), 2 outgoing Board members, 1 Fellow and an independent chair (= 11), composition to be approved by Members
2. The Nominations and Elections Committee will put forward for Members' approval/vote:
  - i. One candidate for president-elect
  - ii. Up to two candidates for vice-president positions
  - iii. Twice the number of candidates for ordinary member positions as vacancies

# **CONCERNING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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1. The General Assembly will meet in ordinary session at four-year intervals (rather than three-year).
2. Intention to hold intersessional scientific and networking meeting of the General Assembly at the mid-term between General Assemblies, with no voting business.



# CHANGES TO ADVISORY BODIES

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1. Only two statutory Standing Committees (for Finance, Compliance and Risk and for Freedom and Responsibility in Science)
2. But the Governing Board has the mandate to, and will establish other advisory bodies, long-term or ad hoc, appropriate to its needs, in areas such as science systems, science cooperation, science programmes, membership, and fundraising.
3. Membership of advisory bodies will be on the basis of nominations from the Members and will be staggered.

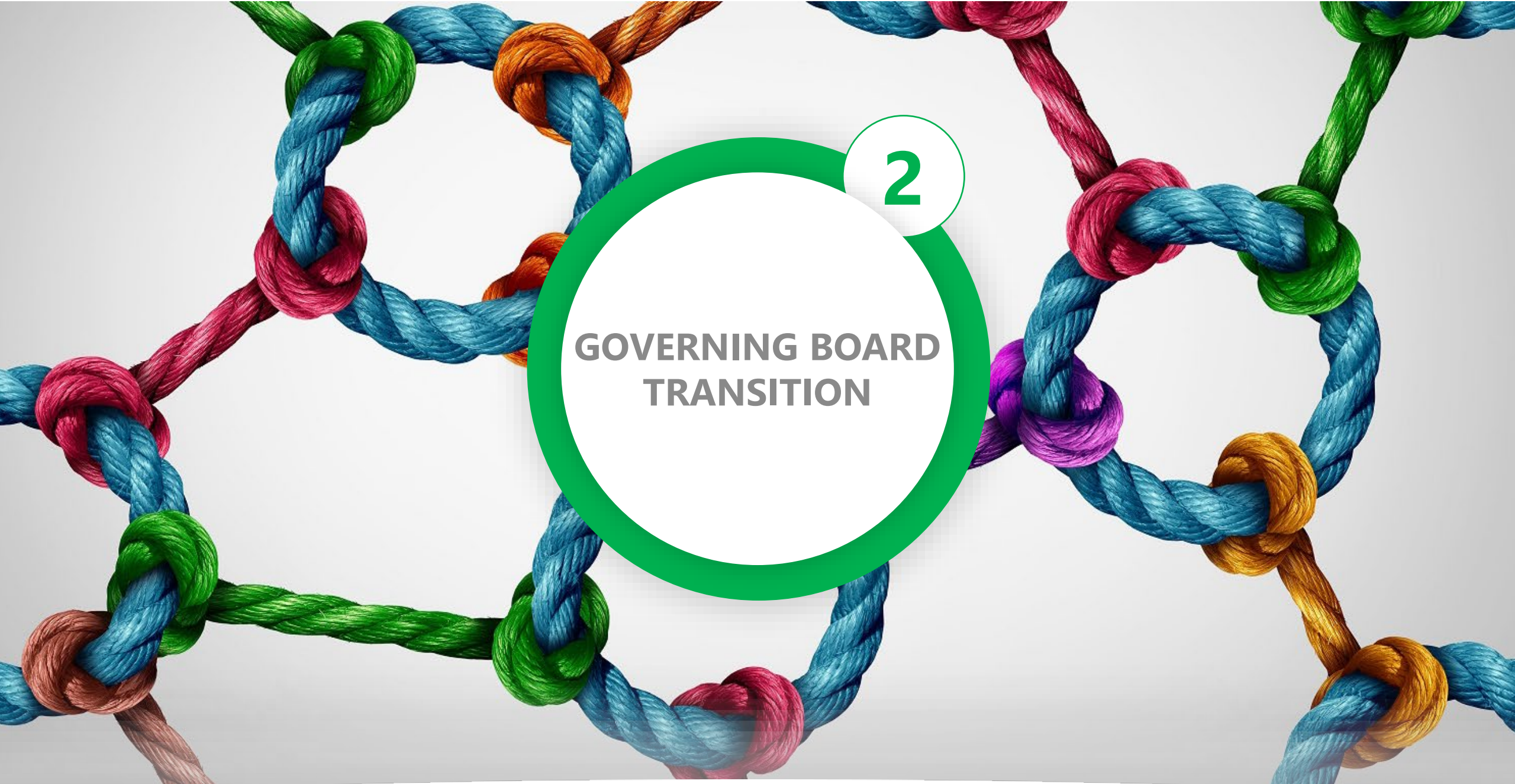
## OTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

- a. Affiliated Bodies are explicitly mentioned in the statutes and will be Category 4 Members (observers).
- b. The [ISC Fellowship](#) and the role of the Fellowship Council as a consultative body for the Governing Board are explicitly mentioned in the statutes.
- c. An ISC-host country liaison committee will be established.
- d. The ISC Trust is introduced.
- e. Possibility for partial compensation of an officer's institution is introduced, subject to General Assembly approval of amounts, and within limits of French law.

# **REVIEW OF TEXT MODIFICATIONS**

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- Statutes and Rules of Procedure will be shared on-screen



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# GOVERNING BOARD TRANSITION



# GOVERNING BOARD TRANSITION PROPOSAL

Half of the officers and half of the ordinary members of the current Governing Board will step down in January 2025, with the other half, including the current president, continuing until October 2026.

A president-elect will be elected in January 2025 and take office as president in October 2026.

Two officers (vice-presidents) and five ordinary Board members will be elected in January 2025 and remain in office until October 2028.

Two vice-presidents and five ordinary members will be elected *and* take office in October 2026.

Furthermore:

- The Nominations and Elections Committee will decide which Governing Board members should be invited to stay on until October 2026.
- Under these exceptional circumstances and respecting the clause above, Governing Board members already in their second term (and therefore not eligible for a third term) may be considered eligible for an additional two years.



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# WHAT'S NEXT

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# VOTING

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1. 29 Feb (morning UTC): Final consolidated text of Statutes and Rules of Procedure will be circulated (two versions, one with tracked changes and one clean)
2. 29 Feb: Voting opens – an email will be sent to registered voting delegates
3. 6 March (midnight UTC): Voting closes
4. 8 March: Announcement of results



# **GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS PROCESS IN 2024**

1. Call for Member nominations to the Nominations and Elections Committee immediately after eGA.
2. Nominations deadline mid-April.
3. Committee composition proposed to Members early May.
4. Electronic General Assembly approval of composition of committee by mid-May.
5. Call for nominations of Governing Board members (with information on which current Board members will have been invited by the NEC to stay on until October 2026) by mid-June.



# STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

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1. High-level consultation on the outline of the strategic plan 2025-27 to start soon after eGA – with Members and key stakeholders.
2. Feedback to the Governing Board by mid-April.
3. Q3 – first draft of strategic plan will be distributed for discussion.
4. Q4 – strategic plan refined, for consideration at General Assembly Jan 2025.



# THANK YOU!

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We look forward to the next steps.

<https://council.science/events/isc-extraordinary-general-assembly/>

For any questions, email Sarah Moore at [sarah.moore@council.science](mailto:sarah.moore@council.science)