



**International  
Science Council**

The global voice for science

# Call for nominations

to the ISC Nominations and Elections Committee





## Call for Members' nominations to the ISC Nominations and Elections Committee

[Deadline for submission of nominations: 16 April 2024](#)

**To: Members of the International Science Council (ISC)**  
**From: The Governing Board of the ISC**  
**Date: 12 March 2024**

The Governing Board of the ISC is calling for nominations to the Nominations and Elections Committee to serve for the period May 2024–March 2028.

Each ISC Member organization in Category 1, 2 or 3 in good standing may nominate a single candidate for the Nominations and Elections Committee. Members eligible to nominate may also endorse any number of nominees of other Members.

### Background to the call

In accordance with the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure adopted following the [extraordinary General Assembly](#) on 28–29 February 2024, a Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) shall be established to advise on and direct the process of nomination, election and appointment of members of the ISC Governing Board (Statute 38).

The NEC is established with the mandate to ensure the appropriateness, effectiveness, and inclusiveness of the composition of the ISC Governing Board; and equally to ensure greater representation of the ISC membership in processes related to the composition of the Governing Board.

### Key qualities and characteristics of members of the NEC

The main qualities sought in members of the NEC are:

- Significant familiarity with the ISC;
- Experience in governance and leadership of science organizations, especially in international or complex structures;
- Deep knowledge of the evolution of science systems and science policy internationally;
- Interest in promoting cooperation and integration in science for a strengthened international science agenda;
- Capacity to devote significant time to the role during election periods.

Nominations may come not only from the worlds of science and its ecosystem, but also from business and civil society.

**Note that members of the NEC may not seek to become a member of the Governing Board.**

Nominators should ensure that their candidates are fully informed of the responsibilities of NEC members, as outlined in the Terms of Reference appended.

The Governing Board will attempt to ensure geographical, disciplinary, gender, ethnicity, career stage and sectoral diversity on the NEC, and will propose a composition of the NEC for the approval of the General Assembly in an electronic vote, according to ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

Further details of the duties of the ISC NEC are provided in the Terms of Reference in Appendix B.

## The nomination process

Nominations may be submitted by ISC Members through the online form on the [ISC website](#).

Each nomination will require:

1. Contact information for the nominating organization
2. Contact information for the nominee, including a telephone number where they can be reached in April/May 2024
3. A justification of the nomination by the ISC Member, illustrating how the candidate satisfies the criteria for selection outlined above (maximum 800 words)
4. A short statement of the intention of the nominee to serve if appointed.

## Endorsing other Members' nominations

It is possible to endorse the nominations of other Members through a short online form, accessible through the [webpage for nominations](#). A short statement of 200 words supporting the endorsement can be provided.

**The deadline for submission of nominations and endorsements is 16 April 2024.**

**A detailed timeline is given in Appendix A**

**The terms of reference are given in Appendix B**

Should you have any questions regarding the nomination and appointment process, please do not hesitate to contact ISC Operations Director, Sarah Moore, [sarah.moore@council.science](mailto:sarah.moore@council.science)



## Appendix A: Provisional timeline for the nominations and appointment process and main dates beyond

<b>Date</b>	<b>Step</b>
12 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Call for Members' nominations for NEC</li><li>– Request to the Fellowship Council to make one or more nominations to the NEC</li></ul>
16 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Deadline for Members' nominations for the NEC</li><li>– Opening of registration for Members' voting delegates</li></ul>
7 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Notification to the selected candidates</li></ul>
10 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Proposed composition of the NEC is sent to Members</li><li>– Close of registration of Members' voting delegates</li></ul>
13 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Voting opens on the composition of the NEC</li></ul>
20 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Voting closes on the composition of the NEC</li></ul>
21 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Announcement of the composition of the NEC</li></ul>
27 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– NEC convenes, receives briefing from the President and CEO</li></ul>
30 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– NEC convenes to develop call for nominations for Governing Board positions</li></ul>
11 June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Announcement of which Governing Board members are confirmed for an extended mandate</li><li>– Call for nominations for Governing Board members (six months in advance of elections)</li><li>– Information meeting for ISC Members with the chair of the NEC and the ISC President</li></ul>
30 August 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Deadline for nominations for Governing Board members</li></ul>
15 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Circulation of lists of candidates for Governing Board positions to the Members (two month in advance of elections)</li></ul>
11–16 December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Governing Board elections (electronic)</li></ul>



## Appendix B: Terms of Reference 2024–2028

### **Nominations and Elections Committee Terms of Reference 2024–2028**

#### **I. Purpose and background**

The Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) is a statutory body of the International Science Council (ISC), having responsibility for advising on and directing the process of nomination, election and appointment of members of the ISC Governing Board.

The NEC comes into being with the adoption of revised ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure by the extraordinary ISC General Assembly of 28–29 February 2024.

The NEC is established in the interest of giving adequate attention to the appropriateness, effectiveness and inclusiveness of the composition of the Governing Board; and equally to ensure greater representation of the ISC membership in processes related to the composition of the Governing Board.

#### **II. Responsibilities and tasks**

The NEC will, within the bounds of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, define the processes for nominating, selecting, electing and appointing the candidates for vacant Governing Board positions, ensuring that the membership of the Governing Board reflects the diversity of the Council's membership base as well as regional, gender and career stage diversity.

The four-year terms of office of members of the Governing Board being staggered, with half its members rotating off every two years, the NEC will serve for four years and have responsibility for two rounds of Governing Board elections, at two-year intervals, as well as for any unanticipated vacancies on the Board during that period.

The NEC's specific, main tasks are:

- Preparing the specific requirements ('job descriptions') for the positions to be filled, on the basis of discussion with the Governing Board and CEO.
- Assessing nominations from the ISC membership.
- Searching beyond the pool of nominations from the ISC membership for appropriate additional candidates, if needed.
- Considering whether any serving members of the Governing Board should be put forward to serve a second term.
- Interviewing shortlisted candidates.

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The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together more than 245 international scientific Unions and Associations, national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils, international Federations and Societies, and Young Academies and Associations.  
The vision of the ISC is to advance science as a global public good.

- Proposing lists of candidates to ISC Members, in accordance with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.
- Undertaking any other tasks necessary to ensure the nominations and elections processes are conducted with integrity and discretion.
- Advise on filling unanticipated vacancies on the Governing Board.
- Study and give its opinion on motions of no confidence in a Governing Board member brought before it.

### III. Composition of the NEC

Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee must have significant experience in governance and none may be seeking a nomination to be a member of the Governing Board.

It is composed as follows:

- i. An independent chair proposed by the Governing Board, being an individual who is not representing or active in any ISC Member or its advisory bodies
- ii. 2 Governing Board members not seeking re-election
- iii. 1 nominee from the Fellowship Council
- iv. 3 nominees from Category 1 Members
- v. 3 nominees from Category 2 Members
- vi. 1 nominee from Category 3 Members

### IV. Selection of NEC members

Normally at least one year before elections, the Governing Board will solicit nominations from Members for candidates for the Nominations and Elections Committee (see Statute 42 and Rule of Procedure 7.1).

The ISC Governing Board appoints the independent chair as well as two retiring members of the Governing Board to serve on the NEC. The Fellowship Council nominates a representative.

Other members are selected by the Governing Board from the nominations from the ISC membership. The Governing Board will attempt to ensure geographical, disciplinary, gender, ethnicity, and career stage diversity on the NEC.

The Governing Board will propose a composition of the Nominations and Elections Committee for the approval of the General Assembly in an electronic vote and by a simple majority vote, according to ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

### V. Term of office

Members of the NEC will serve for four years (two rounds of elections), beginning in May 2024.



## VI. Working modalities

The Nominations and Elections Committee shall meet as soon as possible after its establishment and receive briefings from the President and CEO on the strategy, priorities, principles and values of the ISC before they start their work.

The Nominations and Elections Committee may be assisted by an independent advisor.

NEC members will be expected to devote a significant amount of time to the assessment of nominations and, if necessary, searching for additional candidates. All members of the NEC will be required to be actively involved.

NEC members are expected to conduct most of their work virtually, with maximum one in-person meeting over the course of their mandate.

## VII. Calendar

Considering the transition from a static to a staggered Governing Board composition being implemented in 2024, the major moments in the period 2024–2027 are as follows:

- Election of President-elect, two Vice-Presidents and five ordinary members, before the General Assembly in 2025, involving:
  - Establishment of the NEC by **the second half of May 2024**
  - Assessment and decision from the NEC on which serving Governing Board members (two officers and five ordinary members) to put forward to stay on for a partial term of two years beyond their normal mandate (i.e. until October 2026).
  - Preparing a call for nominations for arising vacant positions (President-elect, two officer positions and five ordinary member positions) for the ISC membership by **mid-June 2024** (at least six months before elections), deadline 30 August.
  - Assessment, search and shortlisting process, **September–mid-October 2024**
  - Circulating the lists of candidates to ISC Members by **mid-October 2024** (at least two months before the vote).
  - Elections **11–16 December 2024**.
- Election of two vice-presidents and five ordinary members around **October 2026**, involving:
  - Preparing a call for nominations for arising vacant positions (two officer positions and five ordinary member positions) for the ISC membership by **March 2026** (at least six months before elections)
  - Assessment, search and shortlisting process **May–June 2026**
  - Circulating the lists of candidates to ISC Members by **July 2026** (at least two months before the vote).