



**International
Science Council**

The global voice for science

Call for nominations

to the ISC Governing Board





Call for nominations for the ISC Governing Board

To: Members of the International Science Council (ISC)

From: The ISC Nominations and Elections Committee

Date: 11 June 2024

In accordance with the revised [Statutes and Rules of Procedure](#) adopted by the International Science Council on 8 March 2024, the Nominations and Elections Committee is calling for nominations for eight Governing Board positions opening at the end of the year.

Each [ISC Member](#) in Category 1, 2 or 3 in good standing may nominate candidates for the Governing Board.

Deadline for submission of nominations: 30 August 2024

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1. Background to the call

With the adoption of revised Statutes and Rules of Procedure on 8 March 2024 the terms of office of ISC Governing Board members have been lengthened from three to four years, and will be staggered, with half of the Board members rotating off every two years. The membership decided in a special vote, also concluding on 8 March 2024, to introduce the staggering through an extraordinary process whereby the current President and half the other members of the Governing Board (two vice-presidents and five ordinary members) would serve an extended mandate until October 2026, while half of the members of the Governing Board would be renewed before the end of 2024, applying the new election process established in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

In accordance with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the Nominations and Elections Committee includes two outgoing members of the Governing Board, who are not standing for re-election, namely Professor Salim Abdool Karim (Vice-President for Outreach and Engagement) and Professor Mei-Hung Chiu (ordinary member).

It was furthermore the decision of the membership that the Nominations and Elections Committee, which was itself established by a vote of the General Assembly concluding on 21 May, would decide which of the current Governing Board members who were willing to continue would be invited to serve an extended term of office, until October 2026.

The following current Governing Board members have accepted the invitation of the Nominations and Elections Committee to extend their term of office:

1. [Motoko Kotani](#), Vice-President Science Programmes (Japan, mathematics)
2. [Sawako Shirahase](#), Vice-President Finance, Compliance and Risk (Japan, sociology)
3. [Karina Batthyany](#), ordinary member (Chile, sociology)
4. [Francoise Baylis](#), ordinary member (Canada, philosophy, bioethics)
5. [Geoffrey Boulton](#), ordinary member (UK, geology)
6. [Walter Oyawa](#), ordinary member (Kenya, engineering sciences)
7. [Maria Paradiso](#), ordinary member (Italy, economic and political geography)

2. Scope of the call

In view of the above, the Nominations and Elections Committee is calling for nominations for the following eight positions:

- President-elect
- Vice-President for Membership
- Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science
- 5 ordinary members

In accordance with Rules of Procedure 5.2 and 6.2, Members eligible to vote are invited to nominate:

- One candidate for each of the offices of:
 - President-Elect
 - Vice-President for Membership
 - Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science
- Up to three candidates for ordinary member of the Governing Board.

The maximum number of nominations from each ISC Member is therefore six.

Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee are not eligible to be candidates for the Governing Board.

The Nominations and Elections Committee will be seeking to ensure the diversity and representativity of the Governing Board with the incoming members.

3. Duties and commitment of Governing Board members

Nominees must be aware of and willing to assume the responsibilities of Board membership and the significant time commitment involved. From Statute 18:

The main functions of the Governing Board are to provide scientific and strategic leadership, uphold the Council's principles and values, oversee the pursuit of the Council's vision and mission, and secure the financial and operational robustness of the Council.

Further details of specific duties of Governing Board officers and ordinary members are set out in the Statutes and Rules of Procedure appended.

In practical terms, all Governing Board members are expected to:

1. participate in all Board meetings and actively contribute to strategic and operational business
2. chair or serve on advisory bodies and task forces
3. represent the Council at events (virtual and in-person)
4. provide expert and strategic advice on ISC strategy, activities and fundraising
5. advocate actively for the Council and its mission and vision in appropriate arenas.

The workload is uneven over the year, but the average workload is estimated as follows:

- Ordinary members: 3-4 hours per week
- Vice-Presidents: 5-7 hours per week
- President-elect: 5-7 hours per week
- President: 10-14 hours per week, including significant travel

The Governing Board meets on average 6-7 times per year, including at least once in person.

In addition, the Executive Committee (comprising the officers) meets on average 6-7 times per year, generally virtually.

Members of the Governing Board serve the Council in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their institutions or organizations.

Governing Board members will be expected to adhere to the ISC Code of Conduct.

Newly appointed Governing Board members are expected to attend the third ISC General Assembly in Muscat, Oman, on 26–30 January 2025.

4. Profiles sought

All Governing Board members are expected to:

1. Be individuals of the highest calibre who have made significant and widely recognized contributions to science.
2. Have global or regional standing that will enhance the status and impact of the ISC.
3. Have deep knowledge and understanding of current and emerging issues in science and science systems and in the international policy and science policy arena.
4. Have experience in governance and leadership of scientific organizations, especially in international or complex structures;
5. Have a strong interest in promoting cooperation and integration in science for a strengthened international science agenda;
6. Be familiar with the ISC, its mission, membership, and portfolio of activities and the range of its stakeholders;
7. Be familiar with the international landscape of organizations working in science;
8. Have knowledge of the landscape of funders of science.

The officers have special responsibilities and are expected to have specific experience and expertise, as follows.



President-elect

The President, and by extension the President-elect, should exemplify the qualities mentioned above.

Candidates for the role of President-elect should:

- Be capable of strategic leadership of a prestigious, complex international scientific membership-based organization;
- Be able to devote a very significant amount of time and energy to the role (on average 10-14 hours per week) and have the capacity to travel;
- Have experience in science diplomacy;
- Have a wide network and be well established in the science and science policy worlds;
- Be able to work effectively with the Governing Board, the Executive Committee, the CEO and other members of management;
- Be capable of communicating effectively with UN agencies, government, the media and the scientific community.

The President-elect shall assist the President and prepare to assume the role of President, ensuring continuity and a smooth transition, and take a leading role in the consideration of strategic priorities.

The President-elect will take office as President around October 2026 and serve as President for four years.

Vice-President for Membership

The Vice-President for Membership is expected to have experience and expertise in relationship management with members and partners. It is a vital role on the Governing Board, dedicated to fostering strong relationships and acting as an ambassador of the ISC's current and future Members. This position focuses on enhancing Member engagement, building partnerships, and promoting the ISC's mission and values globally.

The Vice-President for Membership assists efforts to connect ISC Members with each other and with influential networks worldwide. The Vice-President for Membership may be called on to represent the ISC at international events. By building and maintaining strong relationships with existing Members and by fostering new Members, the Vice-President Membership encourages the ISC community to grow and thrive. The Vice-President for Membership works closely with the ISC Secretariat to promote and amplify Members' activities, driving initiatives like the ISC Knowledge Sharing Sessions and the ISC Knowledge Sharing Platform.

They also collaborate with the President and other Vice-Presidents to align membership strategies with the ISC's vision of science as a global public good.



Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science

The Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science is an individual with widely recognized achievements and contributions in defending scientific freedom and promoting the responsible conduct and practice of science. This Vice-President has demonstrated interest and understanding of issues concerning the value of science and how science operates with society, as well as knowledge of current global trends and issues in relation to freedom and responsibility in science. The Vice-President has strong diplomacy skills in light of the very delicate nature of the portfolio.

The Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science chairs the Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS). CFRS has two full committee meetings per year, normally virtual. The Vice-President also chairs a sub-committee to deal with urgent matters between meetings of the full committee.

5. The nomination and selection process

Nominations should be submitted using the [submission form](#).

Note that nominations for officer positions (President-elect and Vice-Presidents) must be supported by at least three Members from at least two categories of membership.

Candidates for officer positions may indicate that they are willing to be considered for an ordinary member position, should they not be selected by the NEC as candidates for an officer position.

The Nominations and Elections Committee will consider the nominations and make a selection of candidates, considering the qualities and characteristics sought but also that:

The membership of the Governing Board should reflect the diversity of the Council's membership base, with particular attention being paid to ensuring effective representation of the different branches of science. The membership of the Governing Board should also be inclusive of geography, gender, ethnicity and career stage. [Statute 21]

The Committee may search beyond the pool of nominations from the ISC membership for appropriate additional candidates, if needed.

The Committee will interview up to three candidates for each officer position and may interview candidates for ordinary member positions, if needed.

The Committee will put forward to the membership:

- One candidate for President-elect
- One or two candidates for Vice-President positions
- 10 candidates for ordinary member positions

6. Timeline

The date for conclusion of the election process having been set by the Governing Board as 16 December 2024, in order to allow newly elected Board members to attend the General Assembly in Oman on 26-30 January 2025, the nominations and elections process timeline is as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 11 Jun 2024 | Call for nominations for Governing Board members |
| Dates to be confirmed | Information meeting(s) for ISC Members with the chair of the NEC and the ISC President |
| 30 Aug 2024 | Deadline for nominations for Governing Board members |
| Sep–15 Oct 2024 | Assessment, interviews and shortlisting of candidates |
| 15 Oct 2024 | Circulation of lists of candidates for Governing Board positions to the Members (two month in advance of elections) |
| 9–16 Dec 2024 | Governing Board elections (by electronic vote) |
| 26–30 Jan 2025 | General Assembly and Governing Board meeting, Muscat, Oman |

7. How to submit nominations

Each nomination will require:

1. Contact information for the nominating organization
2. Contact information for the nominee
3. A justification of the nomination by the ISC Member, illustrating how the candidate satisfies the requirements outlined above (maximum 800 words). The justification will be made available to the membership if shortlisted for election and should cover:
 - The nominee’s relevant experience
 - The nominee’s expertise and qualities
 - Why the person would be suitable for the role on the ISC Governing Board
4. For candidates for Officer positions, the contact details of the two supporting ISC Members must be stated.
5. Current and past positions of the nominee
6. A link to a personal webpage with a biography or to a short curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages)
7. A profile photo of the nominee

Nominations should be submitted via the [online submission form](#) by 30 August 2024.

8. Contact

Sarah Moore, Operations Director
sarah.moore@council.science



9. Extracts from the [Statutes and Rules of Procedure](#) (of 8 March 2024)

Statutes

VI. Governing Board

18. The main functions of the Governing Board are to provide scientific and strategic leadership, uphold the Council's principles and values, oversee the pursuit of the Council's vision and mission, and secure the financial and operational robustness of the Council. The Governing Board is accountable to the General Assembly.
19. The Governing Board consists of:
 - i. Officers: the President, four Vice-Presidents and the President-elect (for the two years in four when the office of President-elect exists), collectively constituting the Executive Committee;
 - ii. Ten ordinary members.

All members of the Governing Board serve the Council in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their institutions or organizations.

20. Each member of the Governing Board has one vote.
21. The membership of the Governing Board should reflect the diversity of the Council's membership base, with particular attention being paid to ensuring effective representation of the different branches of science. The membership of the Governing Board should also be inclusive of geography, gender, ethnicity and career stage.
22. Governing Board members should be individuals of the highest calibre who have widely recognized achievements and who have made significant contributions to science. They must meet the criteria for the International Science Council (ISC) Fellowship, as per Statute 46, as they become Fellows automatically on election to the Governing Board.
23. The Governing Board shall meet at least twice a year, and at least once per year in person.
24. Among its duties, the Governing Board shall:
 - i. provide strategic leadership and develop the strategic plan for approval by the General Assembly;
 - ii. review the implementation of the activity and business plans and monitor performance measures;
 - iii. review the activities and operations of the Council and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly;
 - iv. present to each General Assembly a report on the activities and operations of the Council since the previous ordinary session of the General Assembly;



- v. propose, for consideration by the General Assembly, a draft budgetary outline for the Council and the scale of annual dues to be paid by Members for the ensuing four-year period;
 - vi. decide on the annual budget and seek approval of the annual accounts by the General Assembly, as indicated in Statute 12.iii;
 - vii. admit new Members in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;
 - viii. prepare the agenda for the General Assembly;
 - ix. establish, and appoint members of, standing and ad hoc committees;
 - x. ensure appropriate review and quality assurance of the Council's outputs according to established processes;
 - xi. uphold the code of conduct for the Governing Board.
25. In the event of a vacancy among the ordinary members of the Governing Board, the officers shall have the power to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.
26. No person may serve on the Governing Board for more than eight consecutive years, except for a person who is appointed President-elect while serving on the Governing Board.

VII. Executive Committee

27. The Executive Committee comprises the officers, who are:
- i. the President;
 - ii. the President-elect (for the two years in four when the office of President-elect exists);
 - iii. the Vice-President for Finance, Compliance and Risk;
 - iv. the Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science;
 - v. the Vice-President for Membership;
 - vi. the Vice-President for Science Programmes.
28. The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the affairs of the Council between regular meetings of the Governing Board and for ensuring the implementation of strategies approved by the Governing Board and General Assembly. The Executive Committee shall meet bimonthly, normally virtually.
29. The Executive Committee will work actively with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on fundraising and relationship development and management.
30. The Executive Committee should refer to the Governing Board on matters where reputational, financial, diplomatic or relationship risk to the Council are significant possibilities.
31. The President and Vice-Presidents shall normally hold office for one term of four years, considering Rule of Procedure 5.6.
32. Inability of officers to fulfil duties:
- i. In the event that the President is unable to fulfil their duties, the President-elect assumes the position of the President. If the position of President-elect is at that time



- vacant, one of the other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Governing Board to fill the role of acting President until a President can be elected.
- ii. In the event that the President-elect is unable to fulfil their duties on the Governing Board or to take up the position of President, the election of a new President-elect shall be brought forward and a nomination and selection process completed within six months.
 - iii. In the event that any Vice-President is unable to fulfil their duties, the Governing Board shall recommend who should undertake such duties from within or outside the Governing Board.

Rules of Procedure

4. Governance

- 4.1. The President shall chair the Executive Committee, the Governing Board and the General Assembly.
- 4.2. The President-elect shall assist the President and prepare to assume the role of President, ensuring continuity and a smooth transition, and take a leading role in the consideration of strategic priorities.
- 4.3. The Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science shall chair the Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science and assume other duties assigned by the Governing Board.
- 4.4. The Vice-President for Finance, Compliance and Risk shall chair the Committee for Finance, Compliance and Risk and assume other duties assigned by the Governing Board.
- 4.5. The Vice-President for Membership will assume responsibilities related to supporting current and potential Members and other duties assigned by the Governing Board.
- 4.6. The Vice-President for Science Programmes shall assume duties related to science activities coordinated, jointly coordinated or sponsored by the Council, and other duties assigned by the Governing Board.
- [...]
- 4.11. A member of the Governing Board is deemed to have resigned if they do not participate in at least half of the board meetings in an 18-month period without reasonable cause.
- 4.12. The Governing Board may pass a motion of no confidence and request the resignation of any member of the Governing Board, including an officer, for good cause and in particular for significant lack of compliance with the Governing Board code of conduct. Such a motion will need a 75 percent vote by the other members of the Governing Board and agreement of 75 percent of the Nominations and Elections Committee.



5. Election of officers of the Governing Board

- 5.1. The election of officers will be staggered. Two Vice-Presidents will be elected every two years. The President-elect will be elected at the time of the ordinary session of the General Assembly, two years before assuming office as President.
- 5.2. At least six months in advance of elections, each Member of the Council eligible to vote shall be invited by the Nominations and Elections Committee to nominate a single candidate for each vacant officer's position. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall provide the terms of reference for each role concerned, appropriate to the current needs of the Council. The Nominations and Elections Committee may also search beyond the Members' nominations.
- 5.3. Nominations for officers' positions must be supported by at least three Members from at least two categories of membership.
- 5.4. The Nominations and Elections Committee will interview up to three candidates for each officer's position and recommend up to two candidates for each position, other than for the President-elect. Only one candidate will be offered for the position of President-elect. The list of candidates will be circulated at least two months before the vote.
- 5.5. When a single candidate is offered for any position, at least two thirds of the valid votes shall be required for the candidate to be confirmed. If that is not achieved, the Nominations and Elections Committee will offer an alternative candidate. When two candidates are offered for any position, election will be by established voting procedure (see Statute 17 and Rule of Procedure 2).
- 5.6. In the case the Nominations and Elections Committee believes that an officer should have their term extended by two years or to a full second term, it must justify this in a recommendation to the General Assembly.

6. Election of ordinary members of the Governing Board

- 6.1. The election of ordinary members will be staggered. Every two years five ordinary members of the Governing Board will be elected by the General Assembly.
- 6.2. At least six months before elections, each Member of the Council eligible to vote shall be invited by the Nominations and Elections Committee to nominate up to three candidates for ordinary membership. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall provide the terms of reference for the role. All nominees are expected to have had an active role in scientific organizations related to the work of the Council and familiarity with the Council. The Nominations and Elections Committee may also search beyond the Members' nominations.
- 6.3. The Nominations and Elections Committee will assess the nominations for ordinary members, including by means of interview if appropriate, and put forward for election a shortlist of candidates numbering no more than twice the number of vacant positions. The shortlist will be circulated at least two months before the vote.



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- 6.4. Election of the ordinary members of the Governing Board by the General Assembly shall take place according to established voting procedures (see Statute 17 and Rule of Procedure 2).