

Positioning of the ISC in global science-policy

Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue

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January 2025 | Muscat, Oman

Overview of ISC's science policy work

Represent the international scientific community

S&T Major Group (HLPF for the SDGs, Ocean conference, etc.), identify experts

Advocate for evidence-based decision-making

Group of Friends on Science for Action, S&T Major Group

Deliver scientific advice to multilateral organisations and diplomats

Intergovernmental fora (e.g. biological weapons convention), negotiations (plastic pollution)

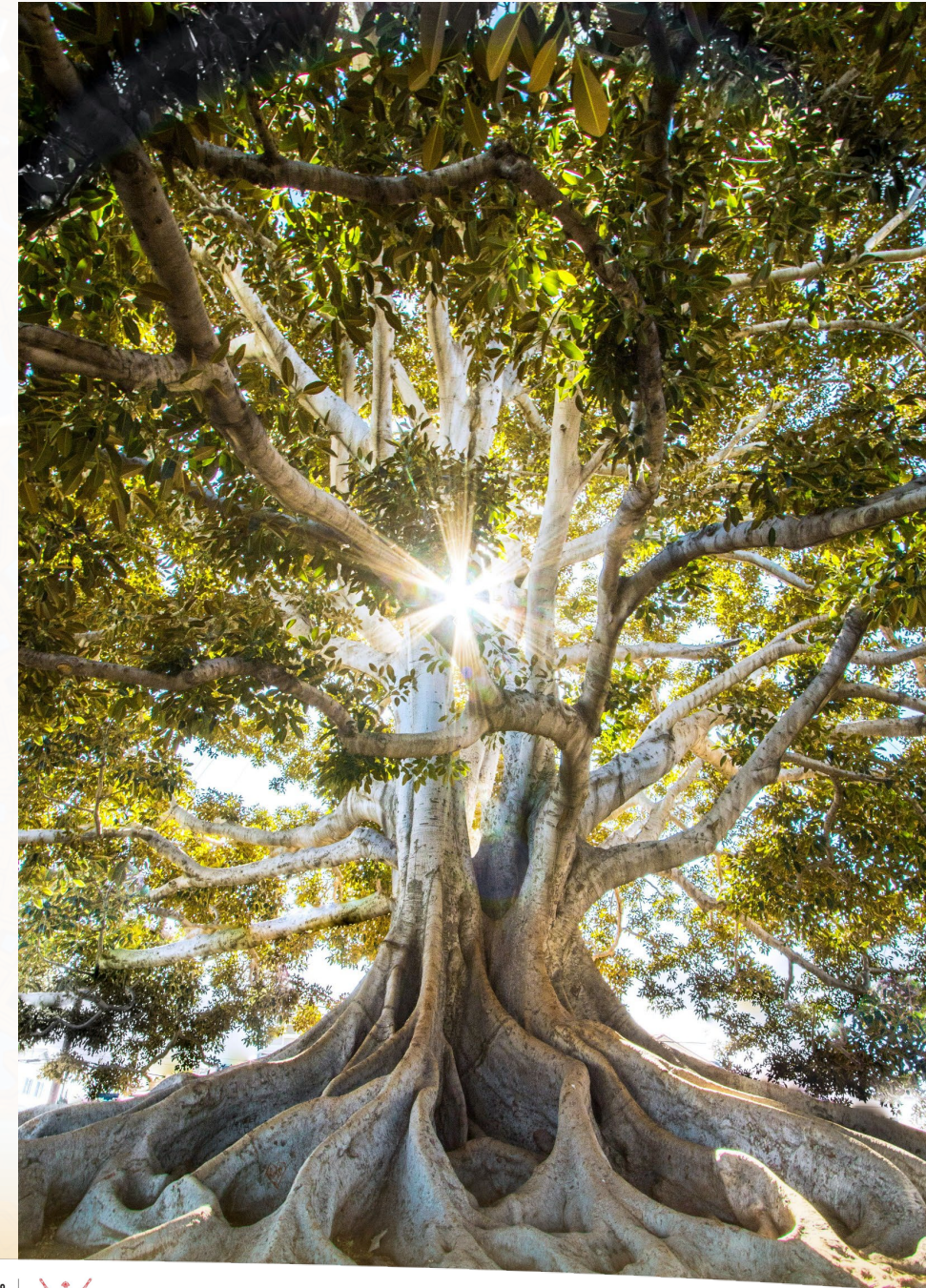
Advise on the creation and implementation of science advisory mechanisms

UN Scientific Advisory Board

Mobilizing ISC members' expertise...

- Identify subject matters experts across disciplines and regions (calls for nominations, roster, talent books)
- Leverage relationships with permanent missions, governments and other stakeholders
- Bringing members' expertise of relevance to international policy debates

...to act and be recognised as global scientific umbrella organization



Mapping the science advice capabilities of ISC Members

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Why a mapping exercise?

- ISC Members are a vast source of expertise, providing legitimacy and impact to the ISC's work.
- **Purpose of the mapping:**
 - To understand what members are already doing
 - To strengthen both Members' and the ISC's work
 - To advocate for the role of science advice
- **Key questions we want answers to:**
 - Who is providing science advice?
 - At what level(s) is this advice being provided?
 - What are the main barriers and opportunities?



What we learned

- **Participation scope:**
 - ~130 ISC Members responded to the survey (50% of membership).
 - ~70% declare to provide advice at the national level.
 - ~50% declare to engage at the international level.
- **Trends:**
 - Focus on national engagement.
 - Opportunities for more global involvement.
 - Ties to UN agencies like UNESCO, WHO, FAO, UNEP.



How Members contribute

- **National policies:** Shaping research funding, innovation strategies.
- **Global conferences:** Hosting or contributing to conference influencing global priorities.
- **Publishing reports and briefs:** Informing on topics like sustainability.
- **Facilitating dialogue:** Organizing or contributing to expert dialogues and seminars that connect scientists and policy-makers.



Challenges and way forward

- **Key challenges:**
 - **Limited resources**
 - Translating science into **actionable policy**.
 - Lack of **technical policy expertise**.
 - Navigating international organizations.
- **Moving forward in our workshop discussions:**
 - Keep these insights in mind and think about **how they apply to your own work**.
 - We invite you to share ideas on how the ISC can do more to support its Members.



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Ministry of Higher Education
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Thank you!

Contact us at secretariat@council.science