

REGIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT





International Science Council

**Regional Focal Point for Latin
America and the Caribbean**



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THE ISC AND ITS FIRST NEW REGIONAL FOCAL POINT

BACKGROUND

With the formation of the ISC in July 2018, the three former regional offices of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) in (1) Africa, (2) Asia and the Pacific and (3) Latin America and the Caribbean automatically became regional offices of the ISC, and the self-organized European group of ICSU Members expanded its membership to include all European Members of the ISC.

Following a unilateral decision of the government of El Salvador, the regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean closed in December 2019. Similarly, the hosting arrangements provided by the South African Department of Science and Innovation and the Academy of Sciences of South Africa for the regional office in Africa, and by the Academy of Sciences Malaysia for the regional office in the Asia-Pacific region were concluded in 2021.

During its first three years of operation (2019 – 2021), the ISC Governing Board worked towards the development of concrete plans aimed at operationalizing the ISC's ambitious new vision and mission, including related actions for securing a strengthened regional presence, building on the valuable experiences and support networks of the former regional offices.

TOWARDS A NEW ISC REGIONAL PRESENCE

The vision for a continued regional presence for the ISC is one of a single, global ISC Secretariat, with Headquarters (HQ) in Paris and regional structures located in different parts of the world that are directly accountable to HQ.

Regional structures serve to increase the ISC's global reach and its global relevance. They ensure that regional needs and priorities are adequately represented in the ISC's global agenda, that regional voices are actively engaged in the governance and management of the ISC's work, and that regions benefit from the results of that work; they support and promote the effective integration of regional and global communities and capacities that comprise the ISC family.

Hosting organizations or regional structures harness opportunities associated with direct institutional engagement in the ISC's continued development, including exposure to its wider networks of influence in the global science and policy landscape.

REGIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Regional focal points are crucial to ensuring that the work of the ISC is representative of scientists from across the world, and of the concerns of different regions. Through supporting and promoting the integration of regional communities and capacities within the ISC network, this new regional focal point works to ensure that ISC activities can benefit the Latin America and Caribbean region.

The regional focal point works with ISC Members in Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that scientists and scientific institutions working in the region are actively engaged in the ISC's global activities and in the ISC's affiliated bodies and other networks.

The Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean of the ISC (ISC RFP-LAC) is based at the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences, convenes the scientific community in Latin America and the Caribbean and acts as a hub for ISC Members and activities in the region.

Message from the Chair of the Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean of the ISC

The Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences is extremely honored to have been chosen to become the Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Science Council, and the first Focal Point in the world, under the new administrative structure of the ISC.

The Focal Point was officially established on November 23, 2021 though an agreement signed between the ISC and the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences. The Academy provides logistic assistance to the Focal Point in various ways.

Early in 2022, after a search conducted in Colombia, Dr. Carolina Santacruz was appointed Science Officer of the Focal Point, as required by Headquarters. The next step was to launch a search covering Latin America and the Caribbean, aiming to form the Liaison Committee. Thirty candidates from numerous countries were received; after a careful analysis by people at Headquarters together with Carolina and myself, eleven individuals were selected representing ten countries.



All the members of the Committee are renowned scientists in their areas of expertise and have played a very active role in the dissemination of science in the region. The essential tasks and responsibilities of this group include mobilizing active and continuous regional engagement of ISC Members in the region, ensuring strong representation and participation of regional scientists and scientific institutions in the Council's activities and programs, widening the ISC community by increasing the ISC's membership base, and strengthening outreach efforts in the region.

After a number of on-line meetings held during the second half of the year 2022, it was agreed to hold a face-to-face meeting in early 2023. This meeting, being held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic March 30 and 31 and April 1, will allow the Regional Focal Point to set priorities within the framework of the ISC Action Plan and our own responsibilities as representatives in the region for the rest of 2023 and for the year 2024.

I look forward very much to meeting this important group in person for the first time, and to continue to work towards fulfilling the vision and the mission of the International Science Council to be the global voice of science.

Enrique Forero
Chair of the ISC Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean



VISION

Act as a reference for science in Latin America and the Caribbean, leading regional initiatives on issues related to sustainable development and contributing to decision-making at a regional and global level based on relevant scientific evidence.

MISION

The mission of the Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Council of Science is to be a consultative body and regional voice for science, promoting research and facilitating collaboration between the scientific community in the region and the world. Our goal is to support capacity building and promote inclusion and diversity in science and technology in the region.

We work closely with civil society, governments, international organizations and the private sector to identify regional needs and opportunities on key issues for our countries.

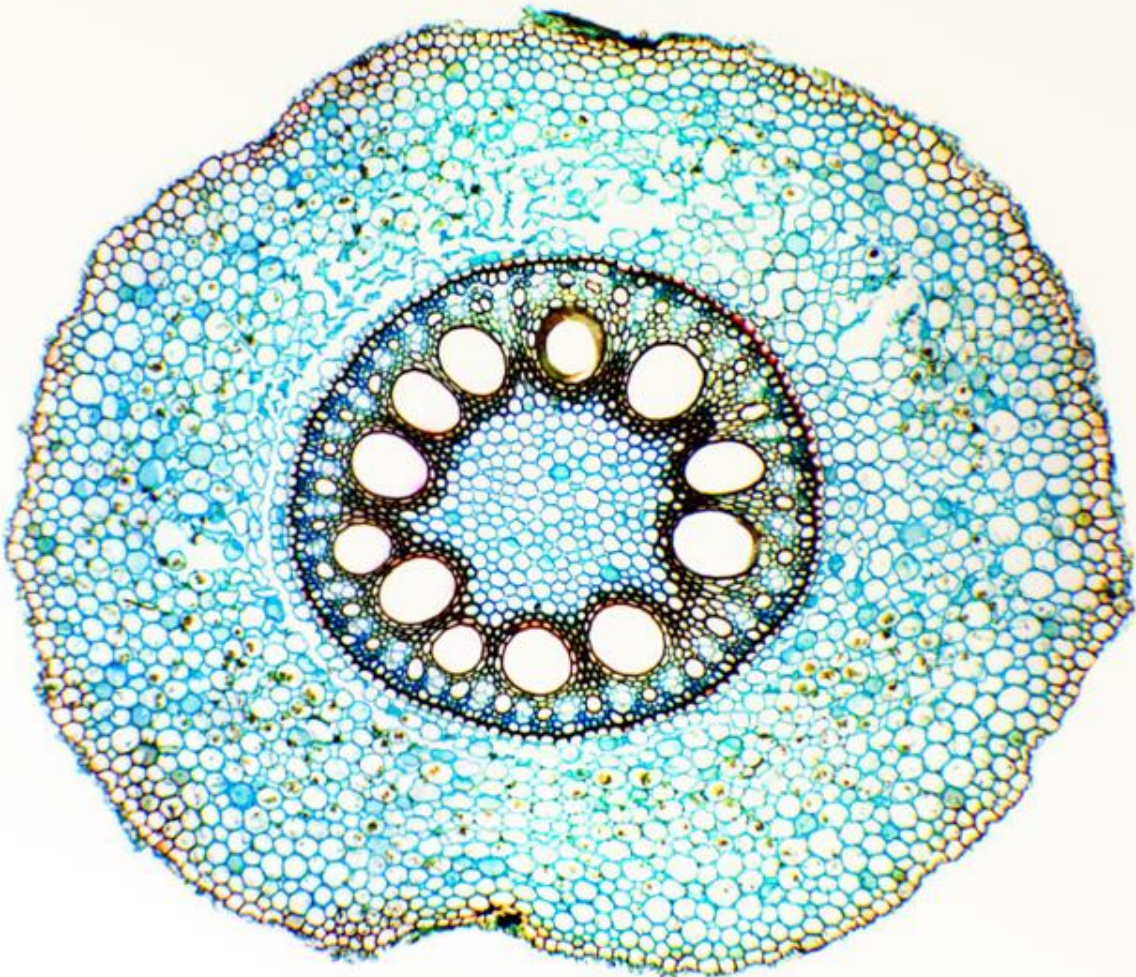
We are committed to the principles of freedom, responsibility and ethics in science; equity and inclusion; interdisciplinarity; regional and global integration.



**International
Science Council**
The global voice for science

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY IN TRANSITION

ISC ACTION PLAN: 2022–2024





LIAISON COMMITTEE

LIAISON COMMITTEE APPOINTED FOR THE ISC REGIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGION

The Liaison Committee for the Latin American and Caribbean Region (LAC LC) comprises the Committee Chair and **11** members, who were appointed by the ISC Governing Board following an open call for nominations.

The qualifications required to be a member of the LAC LC included being or having been involved with an ISC Member organization of any category and possessing experience in developing regional and/or national science networks, as well as science-policy and science-societal interactions, with outstanding networks and convening power in the scientific, policy, business or any other sector relevant to the ISC's mission and objectives.

The membership of the committee ensured effective representation of the different branches of science as well as gender diversity. Representatives from 10 different countries were appointed, and the committee includes eight women and three men.

The RFP-LAC operates under the advice and guidance of this RFP-LAC Liaison Committee who guides the activities of the Regional Focal Point in order to ensure that scientists and scientific institutions working in the region are actively engaged in the ISC's global activities and in the ISC's affiliated bodies and other networks. As per the agreement signed between the ISC and the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences on 23 November, 2021, the essential roles and responsibilities of the RFP-LAC, are as follows:

- Mobilize active and continuous regional engagement with the ISC by organizing and coordinating the involvement of ISC Members in the region in the ISC's global strategy development and action planning processes; and mobilizing the participation of ISC Members in the region in ISC global activities, including ISC programmes and affiliated bodies.
- Widen the ISC community by assisting the ISC to increase the ISC's membership base in the region; ensuring strong representation and participation of regional scientists and/or scientific institutions in ISC activities; and increasing the ISC's network of partners in the region.
- Amplify ISC representation, communications and outreach at the regional level by promoting the outcomes of the ISC's global activities amongst regional scientific and stakeholder communities; and ensuring effective ISC representation in events and fora of ISC members, partners and related stakeholder communities in the region.

The following additional roles and responsibilities of the RFP-LAC shall be undertaken on the basis of advice of the RFP-LAC Liaison Committee and on condition of the availability of adequate support capacities within the RFP:

- Develop regionally-specific priority activities by identifying priorities and developing related activities that are not part of the ISC's global action plan priorities but that serve the specific needs and interests of ISC Members, partners and/or stakeholder communities in the region. Such regionally specific agendas and actions would be dependent on resource availability (external funding and/or in-kind support of ISC Members in the region) and subject to ISC project development and management principles and procedures.
- Contribute to leading the integrated operations of the ISC secretariat by contributing to the management of specific ISC global science or communications projects, as well as the Council's engagement in regional UN policy processes; contributing support to ISC governance bodies and related strategic/action planning processes; supporting the planning and organization of ISC global events, including General Assemblies; and contributing to ISC fundraising efforts and organizational development projects.

MEMBERS OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE OF THE RFP-LAC- ISC

CARMEN SAMAYOA (GUATEMALA)

Graduated in Biological Chemistry with a Masters in Toxicology.

Occupied positions as President of the Academy of Medical, Physical and Natural Sciences of Guatemala and President of the Quality Commission of CONCYT.

Membership and titles: Board of Directors of the College of Pharmacists and Chemists of Guatemala, founding member of the Association of Women in Science, Board of Directors of the Caribbean Scientific Community, Executive Committee and Focal Point of the Women for Science Program of the Network of Academies of America and the Regional Committee of the International Commission for Science.



She was in charge of evaluating research projects of the General Directory of Investigation of the San Carlos University (DIGI) and the National Council of Science and Technology (CONCYT).

As a researcher at the Central American Institute for Research and Industrial Technology, she has written 85 publications, as author and as co-author in international scientific publications.

LUIS SOBREVIA (CHILE)

BSc in Biology and Natural Sciences, MSc in Physiological Sciences, PhD in Physiology and Medical Sciences, postdoctoral training in vascular physiology at King's College London, University of London (UK). Diploma in Teaching from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC).

Fellow of The Physiological Society (UK) (FTPS), a Fellow of the Academy of Physiology of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (FIUPS),

Member of the Academy of Sciences of Latin America (ACAL).



Professor of Molecular Physiology and Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine at PUC, Honorary Professor at University of Queensland (Australia), Universidad de Sevilla (Spain), and São Paulo

State University (UNESP, Brazil), Distinguished Research Professor at TecSalud, Tecnológico de

Monterrey (Mexico), Visiting Professor at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands).

Director of the Cellular and Molecular Physiology Laboratory (CMPL) at PUC, Executive Editor and member of the editorial board of several scientific/medical journals, IUPS Representative to Americas, immediate past-President of the Chilean Society of Physiological Sciences (2021-2023) and President of the Latin-American Association of Physiological Societies (ALACF) (until 2023).

GRACIELA DIAZ DE DELGADO (VENEZUELA)



Chemistry at Universidad de Los Andes (ULA) in Mérida, Ph.D. in Chemistry at Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA (1983-1988).

Full Professor since 2002 at the Crystallography Laboratory at ULA.

She has been Chair of the Crystallography Laboratory, Chair of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Applied Chemistry, and Director of Graduate Studies at the Faculty of Sciences.

She has more than 70 publications in peer-reviewed and indexed journals and numerous presentations in national and international congresses.

Member of the American Crystallographic Association (ACA), the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD), the American Chemical Society (ACS), a founding member of the Venezuelan Society of Crystallography and of the Latin American Crystallographic Association.

Serves in the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Sub-committee on the Union Calendar of the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr), the Board of Directors of ICDD, and is Section Editor of Acta Crystallographica E.

LUISA ECHEVERRIA-KING (COLOMBIA)

PhD in Education from Universidad de Murcia (Spain); researcher at Corporación Universitaria del Caribe (CECAR) in Colombia. She studied Translation, Linguistics and Cultural Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, Germany.

She is Vice-President of the Colombian National Chapter of the Organization for Women in Science in the Developing World from UNESCO (OWSD).

Fellow of the Warsaw School of Science Diplomacy and the Brazilian School of Science of Science and Innovation Diplomacy. DAAD fellow for a course on Management of Internationalization, MASHAV fellow on a course on New Pedagogies for Higher Education. Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the World Academy of Sciences for a course on Science Diplomacy with a perspective on Southern countries.

Executive Director of Diplocientifica.

Researcher on issues related to international higher education, science diplomacy and the development of science, technology and innovation capacities in Latin America.

She undertakes consultancies and projects at the interface of science, diplomacy and public policy. Course on Science Diplomacy in India (2020).



DORA-LUZ FLOREZ (MEXICO)

Computer engineer and professor in the Department of Bioengineering at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC), Ensenada, Mexico.

MSc from Instituto Politécnico Nacional and her PhD from UABC.

Member of the Sistema Nacional de Investigadores and heads the Bionanoengineering research group.

She is editor-in-chief of the Mexican Journal of Biomedical Engineering 2022-2023.



In 2018, she received a Fulbright-García Robles scholarship to carry out a research project at the University of California Irvine.

She has served as an organizer in more than ten Mexican and international conferences, including CLAIB, MICAI, and CNIB.

30 peer-reviewed manuscripts and six book chapters. Her current research interest focuses on artificial intelligence applied to biological systems, simulation of complex systems, computational biology, and agent-based systems.

GERMAN GUTIERREZ (COLOMBIA)

Psychologist from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia (UNC).

Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Psychobiology and Behavioral Neurosciences from the University of Texas at Austin, USA.

President of the International Union of Psychological Science.



Professor and director of the Laboratory of Animal Learning and Behavior at UNC.

President of the Colombian Association of Psychology Departments and Faculties.

Vice-President of the Colombian College of Psychologists.

Associate Dean for Research.

Chair of the Department of Psychology at UNC.

President and Treasurer of the International Society for Comparative Psychology.

He has organized multiple capacity-building activities leading to the creation of the Observatory of Psychology in Latin America.

ELISA REIS (BRASIL)

Chair of the Interdisciplinary Research Network for the Study of Social Inequality (NIED).

She was Vice-President of the International Social Science Council (ISSC).

Ph.D. in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Fellow member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

Fellow member of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).

Professor of Political Sociology at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).

Scholarships from the Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq.), the Research Council of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FAPERJ), The Fulbright Commission, the Italian Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche.

Visiting professor at the University of California at San Diego, Columbia University, MIT, and the Ludwig Maximilians Universitat, Munich.

She was Vice-President of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Secretary of the Brazilian Sociological Society (SBS), and President of the National Association for the Social Sciences (ANPOCS).

ADELLE THOMAS (BAHAMAS)

Senior Fellow of the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Research Centre at University of The Bahamas and Caribbean Science Lead with Climate Analytics.

Human-environment geographer (research focused on adaptation, loss and damage and vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to climate change).

She has worked for over fifteen years on intersections between climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and sustainable development.

She has authored a variety of academic publications.

Served as a Lead Author on several Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports including the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5C, the Fifth Assessment Report and the Sixth Assessment Report, focusing on key risks across regions and sectors, limits to adaptation, loss and damage.



DANIEL PELUFFO (URUGUAY)

PhD in Biochemistry, Univ. of Buenos Aires, Argentina and a Postdoc in Biophysics/Electrophysiology, Univ. of Pennsylvania, USA.

Full Professor of Biophysics, Director of the Group of Biophysical Chemistry, and Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Neuroscience, Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, New Jersey Medical School, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, USA.



Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, Centro Universitario Regional Litoral Norte (CENUR North Riverside), Salto Campus, Universidad de la República (Uruguay).

President, Latin American Federation of Biophysical Societies (LAFéBS); Delegate on behalf of Uruguay, Asociación de Universidades del Grupo Montevideo (AUGM, International Association integrated by Universities of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay).

Councilor, Scientific Council for the Biology Area Program for the Development of the Basic Sciences (PEDECIBA, Ministry of Education and Culture, Uruguayan Government).

Member, National System of Investigators (SNI, Uruguay), US Biophysical Society.

ANA RADA (BOLIVIA)

Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry and Pharmacy (Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, UMSA. La Paz – Bolivia).

Masters Degree in Public Health with a major in Epidemiology. She works at the Cytogenetics Unit, Genetics Institute, Medicine School UMSA, professor, assistant professor and guest professor in several national and international courses.

Past-President of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Council of Science (RCLAC ISC).



Member of the National Academy of Sciences – Bolivia (ANC).

TWAS Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries, Focal Point for Bolivia in the Women for Science program of the InterAmerican association of Science Academies (IANAS),

Member of the Latin American Network of Biological Dosimetry.

Member of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World.

Member of the Bolivian Genetics Society.

SILVINA PONCE (ARGENTINA)

PhD in Physics from the Universidad de Buenos Aires (1988). Full Professor, University of Buenos Aires (UBA). She is a Superior Researcher, Argentinian National Research Council (CONICET) and President Designate, International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP).

Faculty representative on the Executive Council of the School of Sciences of UBA; Senior Associate, International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) of Trieste, Italy. Associate Member, ICTP-SAIFR, Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Member of the Advisory Board of the National Program for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Science of Argentina.

She is Divisional Associate Editor for Physical Review Letters and Associate Editor, Editorial Board of Biophysics for Frontiers.

She was Chair (2005-2009) of the Physics Department, UBA and in charge of its outreach activities (2010-2016). She occupied positions on various advisory committees.

She was Chair (2011-2014) of the IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics, IUPAP Gender Champion (2017-2019) and member of the Executive Committee of the ICSU funded Gender Gap in Science Project.

ENRIQUE FORERO (COLOMBIA)

Chair of the RFP-LAC

Enrique Forero holds a botany degree from the National University of Colombia and a PhD from the City University of New York. He was professor at the Institute of Natural Sciences of the National University of Colombia where he also held the positions of Director of the Colombian National Herbarium, Head of the Botany Section, first director of the Graduate Program in Systematics and Director of the Institute, and Dean of the Faculty of Sciences of the University.



Forero also served as Director of Research at the Missouri Botanical Garden, International Consultant at the National Center for Genetic Resources (Brazil), Director of the Institute of Systematic Botany of the New York Botanical Garden, visiting and/or adjunct professor at universities and research centers in Brazil, Colombia, Denmark and the United States.

A firm believer in scientific cooperation, he laid the foundations for the creation of the Colombian Herbaria Association, founded the Latin American Botanical Association and was a founding member of the Scientific Committee of the Latin American Botanical Network.

For 20 years he was actively involved with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a member of the Species Survival Commission's Plant Specialists groups. Forero was also a Member of the joint IUCN-WWF Plants Advisory Group, and Colombian and South and Central American representative to the Convention on International Traffic of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES). He was President of the Colombian Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences from 2013 through 2022 (9 years).

Forero was a member of the following committees: Freedom and Responsibility in Science of the International Science Council, Membership Committee of the InterAcademy Partnership, Executive Board of the Inter American Network of the Academies of Science (IANAS), Strategic Committee of the Science Panel for the Amazon, and Technical Advisory Committee of the Commission of Science and Technology for the South (COMSATS, since Dec. 2022). He is member of the Council of the United Nations University (since May 2022).

He served as the President of the Colombian College of Academies from 2015 to 2017.

CAROLINA SANTACRUZ-PEREZ (COLOMBIA)

Science Officer RFP-LAC

Carolina Santacruz-Perez has developed projects as a scientist since 2002 in the only particle accelerator ring in Latin America (LNLS).

She is specialist in Nanotechnology, MSc in Biotechnology, PhD in Biophysics, 4 post-doctorates in multidisciplinary areas such as Microbiology, Protein Crystallography, Biochemistry, Molecular/Cellular/Structural Biology, Photochemistry and Bioinformatics.



Member of the Steering Committee of the Latin America and the Caribbean Chapter of INGSA (International Network for Government Science Advice). Member of the Tech4DRR Committee from the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR-LAC). Member of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD – Colombian chapter). Ambassador of the WEF network (Women Economic Forum – Colombia); Mentor in the “Leading Women in STEAM” program in Mexico; belongs to the International Network of SDG Promoters, and to the WAI Network – Women in Alternative Investments.

She received scholarships in Brazil from TWAS, CNPq, CAPES, FAPESP and from the Center for Bio-membrane Research at Stockholm University. Served as Scientific Advisor to the Research Support Foundation of the State of São Paulo (FAPESP) and to SENACYT in Panama.

She is the Founder of BRAINS, a company that developed a scientific and technological program for international schools in Brazil and Asia, focused on STEAM principles, the use of FabLabs and children’s entrepreneurship.



REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

SCIENTIFIC PRIORITIES

The RFP-LAC has been working during 2022 on the formulation of a regional Action Plan aligned with the global Action Plan of the ISC, and with the opportunities found in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean to support the entire scientific community of this region. Together with the LC, we have identified the Member Academies and a long list of partners including regional offices, International Scientific Unions with members from the LAC region, affiliated bodies of the ISC, and scientific organizations from various areas who have the greatest expertise in each of the areas of our 5 scientific priorities. These regional priorities are the equivalent to the global priorities described in the ISC Action Plan for the period 2022-2024 and have been translated into the regional context as follows: (i) LAC – The Lungs of the World; (ii) Intersectoral Collaboration in the Digital Era; (iii) Science in a new Politics; (iv) Academy & Private Sector & Public Sector interface; (v) Scientific Structure and Infrastructure.

These RFP-LAC scientific priorities will soon be discussed at the first face-to-face meeting of the RFP-LAC Liaison Committee to be held in the Dominican Republic from March 28 to April 1, 2023.

1. LAC SCIENCES IN THE PURSUE OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

Last year, the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) published the first two installments of a trilogy of gigantic scientific assessments. Thousands of pages describe the greenhouse effect, and what it means for life and fauna on the planet. The increase in heat waves, droughts and floods has

already exceeded the tolerance thresholds of plants and animals, and has caused the mass mortality of various species, such as trees and corals. Due to these phenomena, millions of people have been exposed to acute food and water insecurity, especially in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, as well as on small islands and the Arctic. In the third report, the UN climate experts present a guide with firm proposals to curb global warming. But that response has broad political ramifications, as climate solutions touch virtually every aspect of modern life and require previously unseen investment. The report explains that with the current commitments, the objective of controlling the increase in the average temperature of the planet to +1.5° is “out of reach”. The planet has already reached +1.1 °C, which according to IPCC experts, has caused extreme weather events in the world. Even +2°C would not be achieved, but rather the world is headed for a “catastrophic” warming of 3.2°C. In a context of rising energy prices, IPCC experts believe that the abandonment of coal is necessary by 2050, and that the world must give up at least 60% of oil and 70% of gas. CO2 emissions have to be stopped by 2025 so that the future of Humanity is “viable”. According to the Ember analysis center, at the moment solar and wind energy only represented 10% of the total world electricity production in 2021. The most radical proposals advocate drastically reducing air transport, forcing users to abandon vehicles with traditional fuels in favor of electric ones, refund the food chain, reduce meat consumption, rethink the way houses are built, among other alternatives.

According to the International Affairs Forum, the solutions that have been proposed to rapidly phase out fossil fuels are technologically and politically unfeasible on a global scale. Climatologists say that the world must accelerate the implementation of technologies to absorb CO2 from the atmosphere, which have hardly been explored, and which have never been used on a massive scale. Have public

policies, infrastructure and technology to be able to change our lifestyle and our behaviors.

Many organizations around the LAC region have been working for several years in the hard work of educating the population in Sustainability and conserving our natural resources. However, these are not integrated with each other or included in government systems, which makes the work an endless mission with diluted results and separated from the great masses of rural and urban inhabitants.

As far as this domain is concerned, it opens opportunities to open the discussion on scientific advice strategies in specific concerns as urban waste management (see, Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (BaC) and the world-wide waste web: net exporters (China) and importers (Mexico) of waste and the countries (28) with the highest risk of congestion (Martínez, J.H., Romero, S., Ramasco, J.J. et al. The world-wide waste web. *Nat Commun* 13, 1615 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-28810-x> /The two faces of ozone. *Nat. Clim. Chang.* 10, 97 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0704-5>); greater preservation of oceans; water sanitization; and deforestation.

Living in the most biodiverse region of the planet, considered as “the lungs of the world”, must represent a global concern and responsibility.

Scientific Advice represents gains at environmental and economical level. The Inter-American Development Bank calculates that applying policies to prevent the Amazon from reaching the tipping point that would turn it into a savannah (i.e., curbing deforestation, investing in sustainable agriculture and improving fire management) could generate 340,000 million dollars and additional wealth.

Points for discussion:

1. Robust platforms: increase the integration of early warning systems in the LAC region and anticipate the occurrence of disasters. Those systems need to be in public domain and serve as a tool to help the implementation of public policies where governments work in collaboration with the scientific community.

2. Databases: they serve to integrate the scientific groups that are working with Sustainability in the LAC region. In the future, platforms and databases may serve to map scientist who can offer scientific advice to governments and to private sector.

- water governance.
- reforestation.
- loss of biodiversity.
- waste management.

2. INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Countries of the LAC region have very unequal digital capabilities. But we have countries that are well connected to the private sector that can help smaller countries to build capacity.

Points for discussion:

1. Become part of the platforms developed by the ISC, scientific repositories, cloud for global open science, and developing collaborations with digital spin-offs to develop regional platforms.
2. Database with expert scientists in material sciences, AI-enabled neurosciences in health, agriculture solutions, water sanitation, mobility and energy solutions; connected to the private sector and governments.

3. SCIENCE FOR POLICY, AND SCIENCE ADVICE

Points for discussion:

1. Establish a new relationship with regional governments after the pandemic, achieve better communication channels and offer support from the regional presence of the ISC in the region.
2. Use science diplomacy channels as a tool to increase integration between countries in the region and give visibility to the scientific capacities of each country in their areas of greatest power.
3. Achieve synergy between the various International Scientific Committees and Scientific Advisory Councils that operate in the Region, and build specialized Scientific Offices of Legislative Advice in each of the subregions into which the region is divided, in order to encourage greater participation and representation of those countries that are not yet part of the Committee of Global Scientific Advisors (CSA).

4. COLLABORATION BETWEEN ACADEMIA, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Points for discussion:

1. Mapping the current situation of this intersectoral relationship within the countries of the region.
2. Identify success stories and capitalize on the results obtained to develop a concept of good practices.
3. Developing best communication channels to connect cross-sector projects, using identity factors within the subregions, covering needs and showing statistics of the positive impact that the collaborative examples have in times of crisis.

5. SCIENCE EDUCATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENTIFIC

AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE LAC REGION

Points for discussion:

1. New global models of resource mobilization;
2. New forms of collaboration between international funding agencies and science systems in low- and middle-income countries.
3. Generate transformative knowledge required to achieve the SDGs.
4. Use innovative foresight methods to gather and articulate different visions about sustainable and equitable futures, types of knowledge and in turn science, technology and innovation systems required.
5. New forms of organization, priority setting, resource mobilization and collaboration can help science systems contribute to transformative pathways of development.
6. Diverse stakeholders, including those who make little demands on science technology and innovation systems.

PERSPECTIVES OF ACTION RFP-LAC

For our period until 2024, the established RFP-LAC priorities focus on:

1. Developing databases and digital platforms to map the regional scientific community;
2. Work on good practices for regional Funding Agencies to improve management of science resources in LAC countries;
3. Promote the formulation of Regional Research Centers;
4. Capacity building in Science Advice in the region.



RFP - LAC ACTIVITIES

RFP-LAC PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

RFP-LAC in events and activities:

- Participation in the IANAS General Assembly.



- The Young Academy of Colombia recently became Member of the ISC.
- The Academy of Science of Ecuador is in the process to become Member of the ISC, together with the Young Academies from Peru and Cuba.

- Dr. Enrique Forero (Chair of the RFP-LAC) participated on the Governing Board meeting held in Paris, October 2022.
- The Science Officer of the RFP-LAC is now member of the Tech4DRR Committee of UNDRR-LAC office, and member of the Steering Committee of INGSA-LAC.
- The Chair and the Science Officer of the RFP-LAC were speakers at the “Disciplinary integration to build the global voice of science” conference, as part of the IYBSSD celebration in Colombia. Integración Disciplinar para construir la voz global de la ciencia – YouTube.



- The Science Officer of the RFP-LAC is now member of the OWSD board of the Colombian chapter and participated on the Women Economic Forum held in Cali, October 2022.



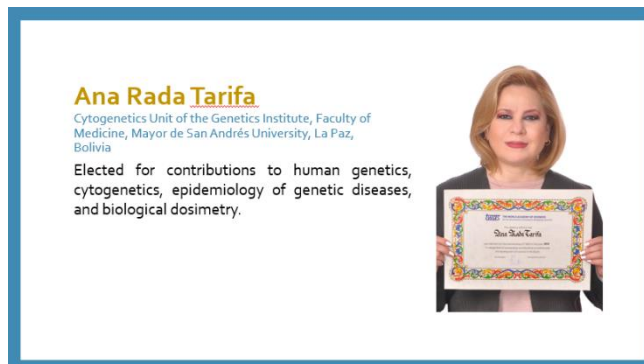
- The RFP-LAC collaborated on the Knowledge Translation in the Global South research, conducted by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS).
- The RFP-LAC established collaboration with IUPHAR, OWSD, OEI, WDS, ACAL.
- The RFP-LAC and its liaison committee held several virtual meetings with our headquarters in Paris.



ATTENDED CONFERENCES

- Participation of **Ana Rada**, Member of the Liaison Committee of the RFP-LAC of the ISC.

TWAS Sixteenth General Conference: The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) for the advancement of science in developing countries Secretariat in Trieste, Italy, organized its general conference in China.



Ana is TWAS fellow since 1 January 2022, her induction ceremony was on November 24 in the TWAS Sixteenth General Conference hosted online by Zhejiang University. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, TWAS were not able to hold a physical meeting. This important event was convened in a hybrid format from 21 to 24 November 2022, and coordinated by Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, and TWAS in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the China (CAS) and the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). The theme was "Basic sciences for evidence-based decision-making and sustainable development in the global South". TWAS elected 58 new Fellows, bringing the total TWAS membership to 1343. The President of the ISC Governing Board Officers, Peter Gluckman, belongs to the new class as well.

Enrique Forero, Chair, Latin American and Caribbean Region, International Science Council:

- Sept. 19-23, Córdoba, Argentina, Asamblea General de la Red Interamericana de Academias de

Ciencias, IANAS y Taller sobre educación STEM. General Assembly, Inter American Network of Academies of Science - IANAS and STEM education Workshop

- Oct. 10-12, Paris, Reunión del ISC Governing Board, Invitado como Chair del Punto Focal, Presentación del PFR-LAC-ISC, ISC Governing Board meeting, Invited as Chair of Focal Point, slide presentation on the RFP-LAC-ISC

- Oct. 21 -24, Magangué, Bolívar, Colombia. Simposio internacional Colombia-Argentina sobre Justicia ambiental. Conferencia inaugural "Tendiendo puentes entre las ciencias y la sociedad" International Symposium Colombia - Argentina on Environmental Justice. Opening lecture: "Building bridges between science and society"

- III Congress of Science and Education for peace and development, Bogotá, Colombia. Invited speaker on Education issues and to present the RFP-LAC-ISC during the symposium on regional integration.



- Nov. 6-10, Villavicencio, Meta, Colombia, Congreso Colombiano de Botánica, Invitado especial de la Asociación Colombiana de Botánica y la Universidad de los Llanos, y conferencista en simposio sobre Etnobiología. La Universidad le otorgó su máxima condecoración, la medalla "Corocora", gold category. Colombian Botanical Congress, Special guest of the Colombian Botanical Association and the

University of los Llanos, and speaker at Ethnobiology Symposium. The University presented him with its most important recognition, the golden "Corocora" medal.



- Nov. 29 - Dic. 2, Paris, reunión del Consejo de la Universidad de las Naciones Unidas Meeting of the Council, United Nations University.

- "II International Congress of Women Leaders for Sustainability", organized by the International Network of SDG Promoters on March 8 and 9, 2022.

- "Sustainable Development in Latin America & Caribbean Summit", Bridging Science, Policy and Societal Impact organized by Springer Nature on September 6th 2022.

- Workshop on Scientific Diplomacy organized by the OWSD, Colombian chapter of UNESCO, on September 7, 14 and 21, 2022.

- "Encuentro virtual sobre Ciencia Abierta en el Caribe" organized by CLACSO and FOLEC on November 15th 2022

- The 2022 Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI2022) in June 2022.

- The Paris Peace Forum, Paris November 11-12 2022

- VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, Punta del Este, Uruguay, from February 28 to March 2, 2023.



- Participation in events by **Elisa Reis**, member of the RFP-LAC Liaison Committee:

- February 22nd: she gave a lecture in a Series organized by the Institute of Higher Studies of Federal University of Minas Gerais. The topic was social inequality, but she has adopted as a rule, whenever possible, to use the opportunities she has to interact with students, colleagues, and other relevant actors, to introduce Science related issues.

- May 6th and 8th: Participating in the annual meeting of the Latin America Studies Association, although virtually, she had the opportunity to chat with students and colleagues on the value of science.

- July 27th: she was interviewed for YouTube transmission, on issues discussed in the Annual Conference of the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC).

- August 19th : In the context at a full day event on “Working Together to Advance Science and Education” that celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Harvard Brazil Office, she chaired a panel on “Values for a Sustainable Society” with participants from science, education, public policy, and civil society. The all day celebration provided her also the opportunity to talk with guests from several parts of the country.
- August 22nd to 24th: she was one of the four scientists invited to lecture in an event organized by FAPESP for a large group of post-docs, both people who are FAPESP fellows, and post-docs from outside the state of São Paulo. They were lodged for the three days in a countryside hotel, and the context allowed space for both formal lectures and informal conversations with the group members. Career development, science value and organization, how to search for integration in the larger scientific community, were some of the most popular topics.
- October 12th and 13th: she was involved in two panels organized by ANPOCS, the Brazilian organization that congregates all national graduate programs in social science disciplines.
- The first under the title “The Future of Science and Technology in Brazil” approached the topic from various angles that were lively discussed among the panel members as well as between them and the public. For the second one she was the organizer and the topic she chose was “The relevance of interdisciplinary collaboration to advance SDGs”. The panel counted with an engineer, a health scientist, and a social scientist with active participation in government policies.

Communication



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The RFP-LAC has concentrated its efforts during this first year to establish its presence in the region, foster collaboration between organizations in the natural sciences and the social sciences, and for this we have been building a growing database with key contacts from the scientific organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as making ourselves known through social networks with permanent publications about the ISC, updates, opportunities, news and interesting content for our scientific audience. This has allowed us to significantly grow the audience that follows us, and the contact with scientific organizations that want to collaborate with us. Soon we will have the launch of our own website and a regional newsletter with activities of interest and possibilities to join our projects.

OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS

[ISC Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

[Liaison Committee](#)

-  Facebook: ISC LAC [Meta Business Suite \(facebook.com\)](#)
-  Twitter: @ISC_LAC [ISC RFP - LAC \(@ISC_LAC\) / Twitter](#)
-  Flickr: ISC_LAC
-  LinkedIn: ISC ROLAC [ISC Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean: administrador de la página de empresa | LinkedIn](#)



**International
Science Council**

Regional Office for Latin
America and the Caribbean

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