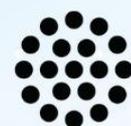


January 2026

**Call for nominations  
ISC Governing Board 2026–2030**



**International  
Science Council**

# Call for nominations

## ISC Governing Board 2026–2030

**To:** Members of the International Science Council (ISC)  
**From:** The ISC Nominations and Elections Committee  
**Date:** 27 January 2026

In accordance with the [Statutes and Rules of Procedure](#) (v.8 March 2024), the Nominations and Elections Committee is calling for nominations from ISC Members for seven Governing Board positions opening in 2026.

**Deadline for submission of nominations: 31 March 2026**

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# 1. Background

With the adoption of the revised [Statutes and Rules of Procedure](#) (RoP) on 8 March 2024 the terms of office of ISC Governing Board members are of four years' duration and are staggered, with half of the Board members rotating off every two years. In 2026 half of the Governing Board will rotate off and be replaced by newly elected members, while the members elected in December 2024 will continue until the General Assembly in 2028 (see Annex 1).

The revised Statutes and Rules of Procedure also established a [Nominations and Elections Committee](#) to advise on and direct the processes of nomination, election and appointment of members of the ISC Governing Board (Statute 38). The role of the Nominations and Elections Committee is to ensure the appropriateness, effectiveness, and inclusiveness of the composition of the ISC Governing Board. The composition of the committee can be found in Annex 2.

## 2. Scope of the call

Nominations are invited for the following seven positions:

- Vice-President for Finance, Compliance and Risk
- Vice-President for Science Programmes
- Five ordinary members

In accordance with RoP 5.2 and 6.2, Members eligible to nominate and vote are invited to nominate:

- **One candidate** for each of the offices of:
  - Vice-President for Finance, Compliance and Risk
  - Vice-President for Science Programmes
- **Up to three candidates** for ordinary member of the Governing Board.

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

Nominations for officer positions (vice-presidents) must be supported by at least three Members from at least two categories of membership (including the submitting organization).

## 3. Inclusivity and diversity

The Nominations and Elections Committee will be seeking to ensure the inclusivity, diversity and representativeness of the Governing Board with the incoming members, as per Statute 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. (ISC Statute 21)*

The Nominations and Elections Committee therefore encourages:

- nominations for officer and ordinary member roles;
- nominations from all scientific domains, world regions, genders and career stages.

## 4. Duties and commitment of Governing Board members

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

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

The Governing Board meets on average 6-7 times per year, including normally once in person. Virtual meetings are normally of 2.5 hours' duration.

In addition, the Executive Committee (the officers) meets on average 6-7 times per year, virtually, for 60-90 minutes.

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

**Newly appointed Governing Board members are expected to attend the Midterm Membership Meeting in Beijing on 19–24 October 2026, when they will take office.**

## 5. Profiles sought

All Governing Board members are expected to:

1. Be individuals of the highest caliber 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 science funding.

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

### **Vice-President for Finance, Compliance and Risk**

The Vice-President for Finance, Compliance and Risk chairs the Committee for Finance, Compliance and Risk, which has responsibility for 'issues of finance, compliance and risk management' and 'the dues scale, the dues schedule and related policies.'

The committee is mandated to:

- i. oversee and make recommendations on finance, budgeting and compliance;
- ii. oversee internal policy development (travel, procurement, etc.);
- iii. review the risk management approach of the Council and report to the Governing Board on the Council's risk profile;
- iv. monitor adherence to the code of conduct of Governing Board and advisory body members.

The incumbent should therefore bring the following:

- i. experience in overseeing the finances of an organization and in aligning organizational strategy and financial management.
- ii. experience in the development and implementation of organizational policies.
- iii. experience in risk management for an organization in a complex context.
- iv. knowledge of the science funding landscape and economic trends.
- v. familiarity with the ISC membership.
- vi. rigour, attention to detail and commitment to accountability.

### **Vice-President for Science Programmes**

The Vice-President for Science Programmes assumes duties related to science activities coordinated, jointly coordinated or sponsored by the Council, and other duties assigned by the Governing Board. The role requires an internationally distinguished scientist with a strong record of leadership and international collaboration.

The incumbent will be expected to:

- i. provide strategic advice to the ISC secretariat and Governing Board on the coordination of science programmes;
- ii. advise the Governing Board on managing the relationships with ISC Affiliated Bodies;
- iii. advise on the assessment and monitoring of membership-led projects.

## **6. The nomination and selection process**

The Nominations and Elections Committee will consider the nominations received from ISC Members and will make a selection of candidates, considering the profiles sought and diversity considerations.

If the nominees present insufficient diversity, a targeted call for additional nominations may be made. The Committee may also 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 appropriate.

The Committee will put forward to the membership, at least two months before the elections:

- One or two candidates for vice-president positions
- Double the number of candidates as positions for ordinary member

Candidates for officer positions may be considered for an ordinary member position, if they agree.

The elections will be held electronically in early September 2026. Information on voting procedures will be provided in good time.

## 7. How to submit nominations

Nominations should be submitted via the online form at [www.council.science/news/elections2026](http://www.council.science/news/elections2026) by 31 March 2026.

**Only one nomination package per nominee should be received.**

Each nomination will require:

1. Contact information for the nominating organization
2. Information on the nominee, including current position(s) and institution of the nominee, domain of science, short CV and a link to a personal webpage (if available)
3. Justification of the nomination by the nominator(s), illustrating how the candidate satisfies the requirements outlined above (maximum 800 words). The justification will be made available to the ISC 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 For candidates.
4. For officer positions, the details of the (two or more) additional supporting ISC Members.
5. A short curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages).
6. For officer positions, an indication of whether the nominee is willing to be considered for an ordinary member position.
7. Agreement that the ISC may process the personal information of the nominators and nominee for the purposes of the nomination and election process.

**Note:** Shortlisted candidates will be invited at a later stage to provide a photo and a short video-statement of their motivation.

## 8. Indicative timeline

The indicative nominations and elections timeline in 2026 is as follows:

27 January	Call for nominations from ISC Members
February (tbc)	Information meeting(s) for ISC Members
31 March	Deadline for nominations for Governing Board members
April – mid-June	Assessment, interviews and shortlisting of candidates
Early to mid-May	Interviews of officer candidates
Mid-June	Circulation of lists of candidates for Governing Board positions
1–9 September	Elections (by electronic vote)
19–24 October	Midterm Membership Meeting, Beijing

## 9. Contact

Sarah Moore, Operations Director  
[sarah.moore@council.science](mailto:sarah.moore@council.science)

## Annex 1: Governing Board members continuing until 2028

Member	Gender	World region	Area of practice / expertise	Career stage*
<p><a href="#">Dijkgraaf, Robbert</a> (President)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Distinguished University Professor of Mathematical Physics, University of Amsterdam</li> </ul>	M	Europe	Mathematical physics	AC
<p><a href="#">Barbosa, Marcia</a> (Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Professor of Physics, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)</li> </ul>	F	Latin America & Caribbean	Theoretical physics	AC
<p><a href="#">Zhu Yongguan</a> (Vice-President for Membership)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Director-General, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES) and Science Director, Institute of Urban Environment (IUE), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)</li> </ul>	M	Asia	Environmental science/ biology	AC
<p><a href="#">Colón, Frances</a> (Ordinary member)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Senior Director for International Climate Policy at the Center for American Progress</li> </ul>	F	North America	Science diplomacy, climate change (neuroscience)	AC
<p><a href="#">Jami, Catherine</a> (Ordinary member)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– CNRS Director of Research, Exceptional Class</li> </ul>	F	Europe	History of science, mathematics, Chinese culture	AC
<p><a href="#">Jarquin Solis, Maria Esteli</a> (Ordinary member)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– International Relations Coordinator at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology</li> </ul>	F	Latin America & Caribbean / Europe	Science diplomacy, science–policy interface, political science	MC
<p><a href="#">Joshi, Nalini</a> (Ordinary member)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Payne-Scott Professor, University of Sydney</li> </ul>	F	Oceania	Mathematics	AC
<p><a href="#">Odubanjo, M. Oladoyin</a> (Ordinary member)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Academy of Science</li> </ul>	M	Africa	Public health, medicine	AC

\*Mid-career (MC): 8–15 years post-PhD or equivalent; Advanced career (AC): PhD+16

See also <https://council.science/about-us/governance/governing-board/>

## Annex 2: Nominations and Elections Committee (2024–2028)

<https://council.science/about-us/governance/committees/elections-committee/>

### [Irina Bokova](#) (Chair)

Former Director-General of UNESCO; ISC Patron and chair, ISC Global Commission on Science Missions for Sustainability

### [Mei-Hung Chiu](#)

Emeritus Professor at the Graduate Institute of Science Education, National Taiwan Normal University

### [Maria J. Esteban](#)

Emerita senior researcher at CNRS, University of Paris-Dauphine

### [Salim Abdool Karim](#)

Director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)

### [Nathalie Lemarchand](#)

Professor, University of Paris VIII; President, International Geographical Union

### [Narinder Mehra](#)

Vice President (International affairs), Indian National Science Academy

### [Elina Moustaira](#)

Professor of Comparative Law, School of Law, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

### [Cheryl Praeger](#)

Emeritus Professor, Centre for the Mathematics of Symmetry and Computation, University of Western Australia

### [Anderson Ho Cheung Shum](#)

Vice-President (Research), City University of Hong Kong; President, Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences

### [Vaughan Turekian](#)

Executive Director, Policy and Global Affairs Division, US National Academies

### [Albert van Jaarsveld](#)

Former Director General, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). Advisor: Special Projects to the Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University.

## **Annex 3: Extracts from the Statutes and Rules of Procedure**

<https://council.science/publications/statutes-and-rules-of-procedure/>

### **Rules of Procedure**

#### **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.
- 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).

## **7. Nominations and Elections Committee**

- 7.1. At least one year before elections, the Governing Board will solicit nominations from Members for candidates for the Nominations and Elections Committee, as per Statute 42. The Governing Board will propose a composition of the Nominations and Elections Committee for the approval of the General Assembly by electronic vote.
- 7.2. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall meet as soon as possible after its establishment and receive briefings from the President and the CEO on the strategy, priorities, principles and values of the Council before they start their work. The Nominations and Elections Committee will provide the specific requirements for each vacant position for each election round.
- 7.3. The Nominations and Elections Committee may be assisted by an independent advisor.