



Communication to ISC Members on a proposed revised dues structure

12 May 2026

Dear ISC Members,

The Governing Board, after an extensive period of work on a difficult and complex issue, is presenting a proposal for a revised dues structure for the International Science Council.

The development of a unified dues structure for the ISC has been on the agenda since the process of merging ICSU and the ISSC began more than ten years ago; a unified dues structure was not achieved before the merger, nor three years later at the second General Assembly in 2021, and Members requested that other sensitive statutory and membership matters be dealt with first. Following the revision of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure in 2023–2024, it was time to tackle this challenge again and with determination.

The Governing Board warmly thanks the [Working Group](#) of ISC Member representatives who accepted the challenge and whose painstaking work has led to the proposal before you, which has been endorsed by the Committee for Finance, Compliance and Risk and the Governing Board. The process and reflections of the Working Group are documented in the full report of the Working Group which is essential background reading to the proposal.

As you will note in the full report, the current membership dues system is unsustainable; it is imperative and urgent that it be revised. It is challenging because the ISC membership dues system has to strike a delicate balance between ideal measures of financial strength on one hand and practicability on the other, while ensuring the viability of the ISC, both in terms of core financial stability and inclusivity and affordability of membership.

We are very aware that the dues revision comes in a context of tight science budgets around the world. The consultation of the Members on the dues system in 2025 indicated that many Members experience some kind of difficulty paying the dues; several expressed concerns that the dues would rise; and many named ‘inclusiveness’ as a key desideratum of the dues system.

The proposed dues system therefore keeps change to a minimum; only a few Members will see significant increases in their dues, in accordance with the measures of their financial strength – the majority of Members will see only very small increases or even decreases in their dues. It does not change the net income to the Council.

We are confident that the proposed system is a reasonable and robust response to the ISC’s needs at this time and that it can serve the ISC well in the longer term, while efforts to diversify income streams for the ISC continue and intensify.

The Governing Board has noted that the proposal addresses the dues for Category 1 and 2 only – Category 3 will be dealt with subsequently, as the collective financial contribution of Category 3 Members currently represents less than 0.65% of the total dues.

We would like to invite Members to submit comments and questions on the proposal, in preparation for a Q&A session on 28 May. The proposal, as well as an online form for comments and questions, can be found [on this page](#).

We foresee opening a vote on the proposal on 22 June with a deadline for voting of 29 June.

Please contact Sarah Moore, Operations Director, with any technical questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Gluckman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Gluckman
ISC President