



Report of the ISC Nominations and Elections Committee to the ISC Members on the 2026 Governing Board nomination and election process

12 June 2026

Background

The revised Statutes and Rules of Procedure adopted by the ISC in an extraordinary General Assembly on 28–29 February 2024 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. See Annex A for the composition of the committee.

Mandate of the Nominations and Elections Committee in the election process

The Committee has the responsibility (1) to ensure that Governing Board members are individuals of the highest calibre with the appropriate experience and capacities, and (2) that the membership of the Governing Board reflects the range of disciplinary domains in the ISC's membership base, as well as diversity of geography, gender and career stage.

The Committee is required by the Statutes and Rules of Procedure to present to Members:

- Up to two candidates for vice-president positions
- Ten candidates for ordinary member positions

In arriving at these lists the Committee may interview up to three candidates for officer positions and has the authority to consider names beyond the nominations of the Members.

The positions to be filled

The membership of the Governing Board is staggered, with members rotating off every two years. In 2026 the following positions become vacant:

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

Procedure

At the deadline of 31 March too few nominations had been received for the position of Vice-President for Finance, Compliance and Risk and so the call was re-opened, with a deadline of 29 April. Additional nominations were received by this new deadline.

The Committee interviewed three candidates for each officer position and shortlisted two for each position.

The Committee shortlisted ten candidates for ordinary member positions (double the number of vacant positions).

The limitation on numbers and the diversity criteria to be respected, including with respect to the continuing Governing Board members (see Annex B), meant that many excellent and deserving candidates could not be shortlisted.

The Committee observed that the number of candidates from the social sciences and humanities and from Latin America and the Caribbean and from Africa was very low. In particular, the low number of nominations from the social sciences and humanities seems to be a structural challenge for the ISC. In future nomination processes, special attention should be given to encouraging nominations from the social sciences and humanities and from underrepresented parts of the world.

The Committee urges the ISC Members to take diversity factors into account when they cast their votes.

Finally, the Committee thanks the ISC Members and the nominees very warmly for their contribution to the life of the ISC, and the Secretariat for its support to their work.

Data on the nominations:

Total	58
Female	29
Male	29
Position	
Ordinary Member	40
Male	21
Female	19
Vice-President Science Programmes	14
Male	8
Female	6
Vice-President Finance, Compliance & Risk	4
Male	3
Female	1
World region	
Africa (Sub-Saharan)	7
Asia	18
Europe	11
Latin America/Caribbean	4
MENA	6
North America	7
Oceania	6
Primary domain of science	
Natural sciences	49
Social sciences & humanities	9

Data on continuing Governing Board members and shortlisted candidates

	Continuing Board members	Shortlisted candidates
Total	8	14
Female	5	7
Male	3	7
World region		
(Sub-Saharan) Africa	1	1
Asia	1	3
Europe	2	3
Latin America/Caribbean	2	1
MENA region	0	1
North America	1	3
Oceania	1	2
Primary domain of science		
Natural sciences	5	11
Social sciences & humanities	1	3
Policy, practice	2	

Annex A: Composition of the Nominations and Elections Committee (2024–2028)

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 B: Governing Board members continuing until 2028

Member	Gender	World region	Area of practice / expertise	Career stage*
<u>Dijkgraaf, Robbert</u> (President) Distinguished University Professor of Mathematical Physics, University of Amsterdam	M	Europe	Mathematical physics	AC
<u>Barbosa, Marcia</u> (Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science) Professor of Physics, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)	F	Latin America & Caribbean	Theoretical physics	AC
<u>Zhu Yongguan</u> (Vice-President for Membership) Director-General, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES) and Science Director, Institute of Urban Environment (IUE), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)	M	Asia	Environmental science/ biology	AC
<u>Colón, Frances</u> (Ordinary member) Senior Director for International Climate Policy at the Center for American Progress	F	North America	Science diplomacy, climate change (neuroscience)	AC
<u>Jami, Catherine</u> (Ordinary member) CNRS Director of Research, Exceptional Class	F	Europe	History of science, mathematics, Chinese culture	AC
<u>Jarquin Solis, Maria Esteli</u> (Ordinary member) International Relations Coordinator at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	F	Latin America & Caribbean / Europe	Science diplomacy, science–policy interface, political science	MC
<u>Joshi, Nalini</u> (Ordinary member) Payne-Scott Professor, University of Sydney	F	Oceania	Mathematics	AC
<u>Odubanjo, M. Oladoyin</u> (Ordinary member) Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Academy of Science	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/>