



Letter from the President

10 July 2019

Dear ISC Members, Dear Colleagues,

One year after the launch of the International Science Council (ISC), it is worth taking stock of how far we have come in putting into operation the Council's ambitious vision and mission. The Governing Board (GB), which has met four times since its election in July 2018, has regularly communicated progress made and will continue to do so after each Board meeting; our latest Communiqué follows below.

In the past year, the Council has continued to roll out an impressive set of scientific activities, has generated new partnership opportunities, and has responded energetically to requests for new engagements, including within the UN system. Many of these activities, which I encourage you to follow via the ISC website and our regular newsletters, demonstrate the steadily growing visibility of the Council, and attest to the interest of the wider scientific, policy and practice communities in supporting our vision of science as a global public good, and our mission to be the global voice for science.

In addition, the ISC has interacted with members to develop an integrated ISC Action Plan, which will launch the Council on a new trajectory. This Action Plan, which members will receive shortly, integrates concrete strategies for the development and delivery of a largely new set of scientific activities in four domains of impact, as well as the Council's work on outreach and engagement, freedom and responsibility, its regional presence, and resource mobilization.

While maintaining and developing these efforts, the ISC achieved four additional milestones:

- The ISC governance system, including four new Standing Committees, and an Ad Hoc Committee on Dues is now in place
- The restructuring of the previous ISSC and ICSU Secretariats into a new Headquarters (HQ), as well as the integration of financial operations, has been completed
- The first two Patrons of the ISC have been appointed
- The role of a Special Envoy for Science in Global Policy has been created and is opening up new opportunities for the Council

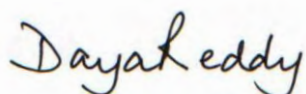
These achievements are all thanks to the intensity of effort and commitment of all my GB colleagues, of our CEO and her HQ team and the staff of our Regional Offices, as well as to the ongoing and, often, challenging reflections and feedback we receive from you, our members.

We now move into a phase of implementing new ideas and new modes of operating. As we do so we will seek to expand further our engagement with members, widen our partnership networks and streamline essential functions. It is an exciting work in progress, and for its success we continue to rely on your support.

The GB's July 2019 Communiqué provides important information on two primary items of business, namely: the appointment of ISC advisory bodies and the conclusion of current ISC action planning processes. With regard to the former item, I sincerely thank all members who responded to our April 2019 call for nominations for the Council's new Standing Committees, and all those who were willing to be considered for appointment. Faced with a substantial number of high-quality nominations and the need to ensure an appropriate balance, for example with regard to discipline, geographical area, and gender, there were some difficult choices that the GB had to make.

In addition to addressing these two important items, the GB set aside time during its June 2019 meeting for a first exchange with Ismail Serageldin, one of our two newly appointed Patrons. Our CEO and Science Director have subsequently met with Mary Robinson, our other Patron. Both meetings have been extremely encouraging, confirming the undeniable value for the ISC in gaining access to the substantive advice and outreach support of individuals of this calibre. We are very grateful to Ismail and Mary for their commitment and look forward to working with them and also to finding opportunities for our members to benefit from their engagement with the Council.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daya Reddy".

Daya Reddy
ISC President



Governing Board Communiqué

July 2019

The fourth meeting of the International Science Council (ISC) Governing Board (GB) was held in Paris on 18-19 June 2019. The main outcomes of the Board's deliberations are shared in this Communiqué. We invite ISC members and partners to note these and to send any questions or suggestions prompted by the Communiqué to secretariat@council.science.

A. The ISC Governance System

1. Standing Committees

The Council received a total of 85 nominations in response to the call issued on 1 April 2019 for the following Standing Committees:

- Committee for Science Planning (CSP)
- Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS)
- Committee for Outreach and Engagement (COE)
- Committee for Finance and Fundraising (CFF)

ISC members responded enthusiastically to the call for nominations with 33 Member Organizations and 20 Union Members nominating at least one candidate each. The tables below provide a breakdown of the full set of nominations by gender, region, age and field.

Total member nominations received n= 85

Gender	n	%
Female	25	29.4
Male	60	70.6
Total	85	100

Region (nationality)	n	%
N. America	18	21.2
Europe	26	30.6
Africa	7	8.2
Asia-Pacific	23	27.1
LAC	5	5.9
MENA	6	7
Total	85	100

Age (year of birth)	n	%
1940-1959	52	61.2
1960-1983	33	38.8
Total	85	100

Field of expertise	n	%
Natural and Health Sciences	57	67.1
Social Sciences and Humanities	28	32.9
Total	85	100

As indicated in the GB Communiqué of April 2019, the GB worked with four independent advisors in the process of reviewing nominations and selecting Committee members¹. Drawing on their recommendations, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each Committee proposed final slates of candidates for the consideration and agreement of the entire GB. In the case of three Committees, the GB agreed on the need to identify additional external expertise to complement the knowledge and skills represented by nominated candidates; this decision included agreement on the following appointments whereby the Chair and Vice-Chair of the respective committees have been invited to submit proposals for candidates, with a decision by the GB expected no later than October 2019:

- The appointment of two internationally acclaimed social scientists to the CSP, and the allocation of a third vacancy.
- The allocation of three vacancies on the COE to cover the following areas of expertise: journalism, social media influence, digital media communications.
- The allocation of two CFF vacancies to ensure stronger representation from Latin America, as well as engagement with the Council's hosting authorities in France. The appointments will be based on proposals from the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair and also on relevant consultation within the French system, including the French Academy of Sciences.

The composition of each Committee is as follows:

Committee for Science Planning

1. Chair: Peter Gluckman
2. Vice-Chair: Geoffrey Boulton
3. Ruba Al-Zubi
4. Craig Calhoun
5. Qiuming Cheng
6. Cristin Dorgelo
7. Armin Grunwald
8. John Hildebrand
9. Melissa Leach
10. Monthip Sriratana
11. Colin Tukuitonga
12. *To be confirmed.*

¹ The advisors were Gudmund Hernes (Norway), Julie Maxton (UK), Bruce Alberts (USA) and Zakri Abdul Hamid (Malaysia).

Committee for Freedom and Responsibility in Science

1. Chair: Daya Reddy
2. Vice-Chair: Saths Cooper
3. Richard Bedford
4. Craig Callender
5. Enrique Forero
6. Robin Grimes
7. Cheryl Praeger
8. Sawako Shirahase
9. Peter Strohschneider
10. Hans Thybo
11. Nadia Zakhary

Committee for Outreach and Engagement

1. Chair: Martin Visbeck
2. Vice-Chair: Melody Burkins
3. Pekka Aula
4. Bonnie Carroll
5. Catherine Middleton
6. LS Shashidhara
7. Sameh Soror
- 8, 9 & 10 *To be confirmed*

Committee for Finance and Fundraising

1. Chair: Renee van Kessel
2. Vice-Chair: Sirimali Fernando
3. Virginia Dominguez
4. Jisoon Lee
5. Heikki Lehtonen
6. Clifford Tagoe
- 7 & 8 *To be confirmed*

A breakdown of Committee membership (excluding vacancies) is as follows:

Gender	n	%
Female	13	37.1
Male	22	62.9
Total	35	100

Region (nationality)	n	%
N. America	8	22.857
Europe	10	28.571
Africa	3	8.571
Asia-Pacific	10	28.571
LAC	1	2.857
MENA	3	8.571
Total	35	100

Age (year of birth)	n	%
1940-1959	22	62.9
1960-1983	13	37.1
Total	35	100

Field of expertise	n	%
Natural and Health Sciences	20	55.6
Social Sciences and Humanities	16	44.4
Total	36*	100

* Grunwald = SSH+NS

The term of service for all Committee members is three years, starting on 1 July 2019. It is anticipated that Committees will hold one face-to-face meeting annually, and that they will otherwise conduct their work through virtual meetings. Biographies of Committee members will be available on the ISC website in due course.

2. Ad Hoc Dues Committee

The Ad Hoc Dues Committee that will be asked to propose a new ISC dues structure (for the General Assembly's discussion and approval in 2021), which will be chaired by the ISC Treasurer (who also chairs the Council's Committee on Finance and Fundraising), comprises the following GB-invited member representatives:

- Kathie Bailey (US National Academy of Sciences)
- Enrique Forero (Colombian Academy of Sciences)
- Daniel Buquet (International Political Science Association)
- Teresa Lago (International Astronomical Union)

B. ISC Action Planning

During its June 2019 meeting the GB considered revised action plans across the full range of ISC operations, namely science (including freedom and responsibility), outreach and engagement, finance and fundraising and regional presence (see Appendix B of the April 2019 GB Communiqué for the composition of the GB Working Groups leading the development of these plans).

In the case of the science action plan, revisions were based on members' feedback (received in response to the February/March 2019 consultation process), as well as requested reviews by the following external advisors:

- Phil Archer (GS1, Global Language of Business)
- Dominique Babini (Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO))
- Terrence Forrester (Solutions for Developing Countries (SODECO), University of the West Indies; Science Advisor to the Foreign Minister of Jamaica)
- Gong Ke (World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO))
- Mona Nemer (Chief Science Advisor, Canada)
- Ortwin Renn (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Germany)

Work is now underway to prepare an integrated summary of all the action plans, which will be published as an ISC Action Plan for the period 2019-2021 in July-August this year. This Plan will be used as a fundamental framework to guide the Council's activities and operations in the coming two and a half years. It will allow for flexibility, serving as a basis for further engagement with ISC members, the

strengthening of existing and/or development of new institutional partnerships, and discussion with prospective donors.

Each of the more detailed and operation-specific action plans will be used by the Council's new Standing Committees to guide the further planning and implementation of relevant activities under the overall direction of the GB. For the Council's scientific activities, this will include – in the coming 2-3 months – a round of further consultation and re-engagement with ISC members aimed at procuring their closer involvement in and support for the Council's work. Standing Committees will also be expected to work with the GB on developing a work plan for the preparation of an ISC Action Plan for the period 2022-2024, based on a review and update of the Plan for the period to the end of 2021.

C. Upcoming Meetings of the Board

The GB will meet again in Beijing on 14-15 October 2019, hosted by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). In the lead-up to that meeting, the ISC Officers will meet, in Paris, with the leadership of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) on 8 August, and with the hosts of the 2021 General Assembly on 9 August.