



**International  
Science Council**

# **Update to European members**

## **ISC activities & challenges**

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# Outline

- 1 Governance and Strategic Planning**
- 2 Mid-term Members meeting**
- 3 Activity Update 2025**
- 4 Feedback**



## OUR VISION

The vision of the council is  
to advance science as a  
*global public good*



## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Council  
is to be the *global voice for  
science*

# Our Members



**142**

**National and Regional Scientific Organizations,** including Academies and Research Councils



**45**

**International Scientific Unions and Associations,** across the natural and social sciences



**70**

**International Affiliates,** including organizations like The World Academy of Sciences, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the Global Young Academy

We maintain **active partnerships** with:  
Other international scientific bodies, including the InterAcademy Partnership, the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and the Global Research Council

iap



GLOBAL  
RESEARCH  
COUNCIL

# 1. Governance and Strategic Planning

Governing Board meetings: 22 October & 15 December

Under consideration:

- Budget, 2026 – 2028
- Consolidation of the Strategic Planning process
- Process for election of new Board members
- Membership applications and membership eligibility
- Dues structure revision

Vote of membership in November (Strategic Framework & Implementation plan, budget 2026 – 2028).

# Strategic Priorities – a reminder

1. Freedom, responsibility and inclusivity in science

2. International science collaboration and agenda-setting

3. Evolution of science systems

4. Science for evidence-based policy-making

5. Science diplomacy

# Strategic Priorities – a reminder

## Core Activities

- Engaging in multilateral science-policy & science diplomacy
- International and interdisciplinary science cooperation
- Free and responsible practice of science
- Facilitating exchange, learning and collaboration between ISC Members
- Coordinating with partner bodies (IAP, UNESCO, WFEO)
- Ensuring a viable and effective organisation

## Flagship Activities

- Trust in science
- Science advice and brokerage
  - post 2030 agenda
  - in-country through INGSA
- International scientific collaboration
  - Horizon scanning with Members
  - Principles and values
- Evolution of science systems
  - Impact of emerging technologies on science systems
  - Research Assessment and publication
  - Science funding gaps

# 2. Mid-term Members meeting

19 – 24 October 2026, Beijing, China

Hosted by the China Association for Science & Technology

General outline (TBC):

1. Beijing Science Dialogue
2. ISC Midterm meeting
3. Science & Culture Tour

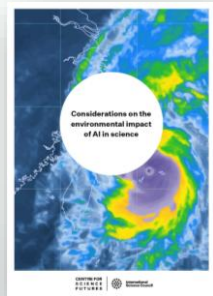
Next steps:

- Establishment of programme & logistics committees
- Consultation of Members on suggested themes

# 3. Activity Update 2025

## Highlights:

- Advancing gender equality in scientific organizations (2015, 2020, 2025) – to be released at the IAP meeting in December 2025
- 5<sup>th</sup> International Polar Year (2032/3) brings together many ISC Members and Affiliated Bodies: call for hosts of the secretariat now open
- Release of country case-studies and primers on AI in Science



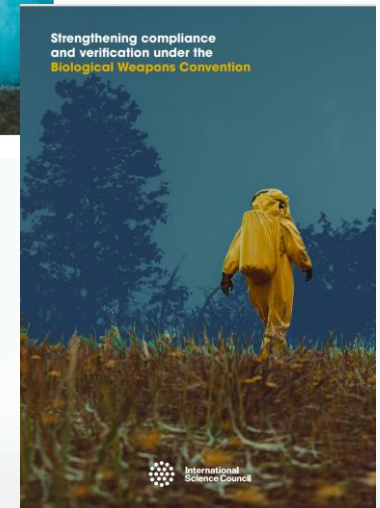
[council.science/AI-primers](https://council.science/AI-primers)



# 3. Activity Update 2025

## Highlights:

- Harnessing Digital for science organisations in lower-resource settings: report + toolkit
- Engagement in the scientific and policy processes at the United Nations Oceans Conference
- Strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention through science



# 3. Activity Update 2025

## Highlights:

- Relationship building with the UN community in NY – through member states, agencies and other groups
- Active role in the UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board meeting in Sep 2025 – statement on open science
- Statement on international scientific collaboration
- Launch of Science Missions for Sustainability (Oman)

### International scientific collaboration: Vital yet vulnerable

As global challenges grow more complex, the foundations of international scientific collaboration are increasingly under threat. In this statement, the International Science Council's Governing Board underscores the urgent need to protect and strengthen global cooperation in science - essential not only for advancing knowledge and innovation, but for safeguarding the wellbeing of people and planet alike.

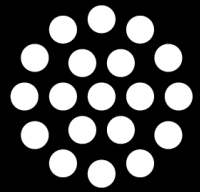


# 3. Activity Update 2025

## Challenges:

- Mobilising funding for transdisciplinary, mission-based science.
- Supporting member-led initiatives.
- Redistribution of workload with a reduced staff capacity.
- Uncertainty about the ISC premises in Paris.

# 4. Feedback



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**Thank you!**

Contact us at

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# Embedding the ISC at the UN

- The ISC is a Lead Coordinator of the UN Major Group for Science and Technology with WFE0
- The ISC is part of the network supporting the UN Secretary-General Scientific Advisory Board.
- The ISC supports the Group of Friends on Science for Action convened by South Africa, India and Belgium
- The ISC works closely with a number of UN Secretariats/Agencies:

