



INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL
FOR SCIENCE



international social science council

Paris, 31 March 2017

To: ICSU National Scientific Members, International Scientific Unions and International Scientific Associates
ISSC Member Associations/Unions, Organisations and Institutions, and Associate Members

Cc: ICSU Executive Board
ISSC Executive Committee

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to submit for your review and feedback a **draft high-level strategy** for the new Council that would result from a possible merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and International Social Science Council (ISSC). The document proposes an overall statement of purpose for the new Council and sets out the key elements deemed necessary for its achievement.

The draft strategy has been prepared under the guidance of a Strategy Working Group (SWG) comprising representatives of ISSC and ICSU members. It has been reviewed by the ICSU Executive Board and ISSC Executive Committee. Further information about the process followed in preparing the draft is provided at the end of this letter.

We are now at the important stage of consultation with members to guide the further development of the strategy. For this purpose, **we invite you to review the attached document and submit your feedback by no later than Monday 15 May, using the following form:** <https://form.iotformeui.com/70862263695364>

We welcome any comments and questions you may have about any aspect of the draft strategy. The online form for feedback prompts responses to three important questions. It also allows you to submit any additional remarks or to upload a copy of the strategy document reflecting your track changes and comments.

As you consider your feedback, it is important to note that the task of proposing governance and decision-making arrangements for a new Council lies with the Transition Task Force

(TTF). This group's work will be informed by the draft strategy and, hence, by members' feedback to the attached document.

In addition to receiving feedback via the online form, ICSU and ISSC are open to other forms of engaging in discussion with members on the draft strategy document. We therefore invite you to indicate your interest in participating in a webinar, or to let us know if you would find it useful to have a telephone or skype conversation with one of us or the ICSU and ISSC Executive Directors. We also encourage members to consider organising debate amongst each other and to let us know how best we can support such initiatives.

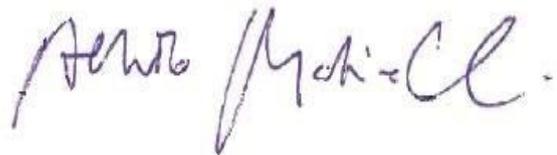
Based on the outcomes of this phase of membership consultation, the SWG will prepare a final version of the strategy document. This will be submitted to the ISSC and ICSU Executives for review and approval at the end of June and be presented, together with TTF outputs, to all members before the end of July this year.

Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



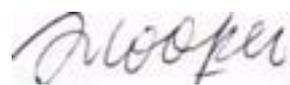
Gordon McBean
President, International Council for Science



Alberto Martinelli
President, International Social Science Council



Jinghai Li
ICSU Vice-President
Co-Chair, SWG



Saths Cooper
ISSC Vice-President
Co-Chair, SWG

Further information on the process of preparing the draft strategy

The idea of a new vision and mission that focuses on “advancing science as a global public good”, and on the need for a new Council to play the role of a convenor, catalyst, incubator and coordinator, emerged during the SWG brainstorming workshop held at the end of January 2017. For further information about the workshop, including a short report, see: <https://icsu-issc.gitbooks.io/documentation-on-the-icsu-issc-merger-process/content/meetings.html>

In addition to the SWG brainstorming workshop and SWG meeting held immediately afterwards, the process of developing the draft strategy included:

- A discussion about the outcomes of the SWG workshop and meeting with members of the TTF;
- Informal comments on a zero draft of the document from some of the external experts invited to the SWG workshop;
- An internal round of discussion with colleagues from the ICSU and ISSC Secretariats;
- Review by SWG members, and approval of a draft document for submission to the ICSU and ISSC Executives by the SWG co-chairs; and
- Review by the Executives, and approval of a revised draft for submission to ISSC and ICSU members by the organisations’ Presidents and the two Vice-Presidents who co-chair the SWG and are members of the TTF.

Information on the composition and mandates of the SWG and TTF are available at:

<https://icsu-issc.gitbooks.io/documentation-on-the-icsu-issc-merger-process/content/>