

- Whether your organization agrees with the overall statement of purpose proposed, namely, for a new Council to serve as a unified, global voice in advancing science as a global public good:
 - It is apparent that for ICSU and ISSC to deliver on their missions, to work “for the benefit of society” (ICSU) and to “help solve global problems” (ISSC), it is necessary for each to utilise those sciences which are in the domain of the other. One way to do this is by the proposed merger to create a new Council, and the document sets out a sensible purpose for that new Council.
 - However, at some stage it is necessary for either the SWG or the TTF to provide persuasive arguments that this purpose can be achieved more effectively by a new Council than by the ICSU and ISSC working collaboratively.
- The new Council would seek to build strong relationships with its members and alignment around a shared purpose. Please share your thoughts on how such engagement could best be accomplished:
 - Strong relationships are built by establishing and demonstrating respect and trust. It is possible to argue that the speed with which ICSU moved from the early document presented in April 2016 to the vote taken in October dissipated respect and trust of its members. I would recommend more meaningful conversation between the executives and members, even if this means the final merger vote is postponed.
- Please share your ideas about possible processes and mechanisms by which priority issues and activities of the new Council would be defined, and about what criteria should apply:
 - It is essential that the priority issues and activities are defined by the members, rather than imposed on the members by executive bodies. This takes time, but it is time well spent. The resulting priority activities may then be able to be successfully implemented
- Please use this space to provide any other comments on the draft strategy:
 - I was disappointed that this strategy document did not attempt to formulate a strategy for generating the financial and other resources required by the new Council. I believe that the resources question needs to be addressed on a “big picture” strategic basis before it is addressed at a tactical level.