

Report on 2nd General Assembly (online) of the International Science Council (ISC)

11th-15th October 2021

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The 2nd ISC General Assembly took place online on 11th-15th October and confirmed that the International Science Council (ISC) currently represents a truly new international organization with clear directions and firmly addressing its global membership, formed mainly by previous ICSU and ISSC members and by new members.

The five days of the General Assembly allowed a complete presentation of the initiatives, projects and actions brought forward by the various Boards and by the Working Groups in the last three years. The past President Daya Reddy and the New President Peter Gluckman chaired and participated to various relevant sessions.

The presentations made by panelists were open to live and written comments. Digital resources were efficiently exploited within the interactive GA platform. The scientific-technical secretariat greatly supported and oversighted effectively the overall event, confirming the high quality support during the difficult Covid-19 2020-21 period.

To get in depth information of ISC activities and procedures during this 2nd General Assembly a summary is available at <https://council.science/current/news/conclusion-ga2021/> providing access to all materials and recordings, available at the following link : <https://council.science/about-us/governance/general-assembly/ga-2021/>

Among the many relevant events of the GA, it can be worthwhile to put attention to the following three:

1. Election of the ISC Governing Board for the next three-year term of Officers and Ordinary Member.
2. Successful and detailed presentation and approval of the ISC 2022 – 2024 Action Plan “Science and Society in Transition”(https://council.science/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ISC-Action-Plan-2022-204.pdf)
3. Important presentations and adoption of two resolutions for the next directions of ISC regarding “the “ISC Strategy in the Intergovernmental System” and the resolution “Eight principles for reform of scientific publishing”

As regard the Elections of the Governing Board, among the 10 elected Ordinary Members , it is very important to mention the election of Maria Paradiso (Università degli Studi Federico II di Napoli), geographer, CNR Representative in IGU/UGI in IGU/UGI (International Geographical Union) For the first time, Italy holds an Italian Representative. The hope is that her high success in the scoring will pave the way to a closer collaboration of Italy in ISC activity in the coming years, enhancing our country visibility as well as the involvement of Italian scientists.

The complete list of newly elected ISC Governing Board is reported below:

4 Officers:

President-Elect: Motoko Kotani

Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science: Anne Husebekk

Vice-President for Outreach and Engagement: Salim Abdool Karim

Vice-President for Finance of the Council: Sawako Shirahase

10 Ordinary Members:

Karina Batthyany

Françoise Baylis

Geoffrey Boulton

Melody Burkins

Mei-Hung Chiu

Pamela Matson

Helena Nader

Walter Oyawa

Maria Paradiso

Martin Visbeck

In conclusion, it is also worth mentioning that the first ISC Award Ceremony took place on the 13th October. This first-ever edition of the International Science Council (ISC) Awards recognized excellence in the advancement of science as a global public good by honouring outstanding individuals and groups in 10 award categories. The video of this Ceremony is available <https://council.science/what-we-do/isc-awards-programme/>

The participation to this GA provided a comprehensive overview and discussion of the ISC activities carried on by many international experts from different backgrounds. What is even more important, it offered a great opportunity to reflect upon the different perceptions of science at globe level and on the need to build together, more open and articulated perspectives to approach and solve global needs. Working closer to ISC's global perspectives can be fruitful to CNR and Italy in order to converge and to enable to mobilize resources and scientific knowledge, to increase capacities and impacts of scientific activities.