

From the ISC Chief Executive Officer

13 February 2023

Call to ISC Members to support the ISC-UNEP partnership on horizon-scanning and foresight 2023-2024

Dear ISC Members,

As you know, the ISC has been proactive in seeking to strengthen collaboration with the multilateral system. This is manifest in the many [partnerships](#) that the ISC has entered into recently, and the high-profile policy-oriented outputs we have been producing to deliver on our mission of being the global voice for science. I am writing to update you on the actions we are taking to implement our recent Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and to request your support in delivering our first joint flagship activity.

UNEP and the ISC are partnering to advance science-based strategic foresight to support more anticipatory and future-oriented decision-making on global environmental challenges. This responds to the growing interest and demand for foresight that the UN Secretary-General has called for in his report '[Our Common Agenda](#)'. UNEP and the ISC are initiating a horizon-scanning and foresight process that will require a broad engagement and consultation with experts across disciplines, geographies and knowledge systems. It will deliver a megatrends and foresight report by September 2024 for the Summit of the Future, and initial insights and recommendations to inform the deliberations of the 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in February-March 2024.

To deliver on this major piece of work, we are inviting your engagement and support in this initiative in two ways:

- Firstly, we have issued a *call for nominations of experts* to constitute a distinguished Foresight Expert Panel to guide the process. Further information about the role of the Panel and the modalities to submit nominations is available [here](#). We depend and count on your kind support to share this opportunity widely with your members and wider network, and to nominate relevant experts to form part of the panel **by 3 March**.
- Secondly, we want to open up opportunities for Members to virtually *second experts to the ISC secretariat* to support the project team and the Expert Panel in delivering the report and the related activities.

The ISC has a unique global membership that brings together over 200 organizations, including international scientific unions and associations from the natural and social sciences, and national and regional scientific organizations such as academies and research councils.

Some Members have approached us about the possibility to second experts to the ISC to provide exposure to staff or scientists from your networks to international work, share knowledge and experience across our organizations, and in a time of rapid growth of our profile of activities, this will enable the ISC Secretariat to grow our capacity to deliver. For the purpose of this particular project, in light of the tight timeline, the secondment of experts shall be virtual. In the future, the ISC endeavors to put in place a scheme whereby ISC Members willing to do so may second experts to the ISC Secretariat to support the implementation of the ISC work programme while becoming acquainted with the operations of an international organization's secretariat.

Further information about the virtual secondments and the profiles we are seeking is available [here](#). Please feel encouraged to share this opportunity with your network. Interested candidates should apply **by 20 March 2023**.

As our work at the science-policy interface grows, we will seek to develop multiple avenues to support evidence-based decision-making and your engagement in this work to showcase the value of international scientific collaboration and the value of all disciplines coming together is and will continue to be essential. I am excited by what the organization has achieved since the merger and the opportunities ahead.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any ISC-related matters and I look forward to our continuous collaboration.

Yours sincerely,



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ISC Chief Executive Officer
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