



INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (ISC) statement at the UN 2023 STI Forum

Session 5: Global research cooperation and funding- sharing knowledge through new partnerships

Thursday 4 May, 11.45 – 13.00, Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ, New York

Presenter: Anda Popovici

This statement is delivered on behalf of the International Science Council, which federates 230 national science academies and international unions in the field of natural, social and human sciences.

The International Science Council (ISC) wishes to stress that achieving the transformative vision of the SDGs by 2030 requires all countries and actors to urgently intensify the pace of progress and realign their priorities and resources towards more collaborative and drastically accelerated action underpinned by science.

It is increasingly obvious that the existential and other major threats facing society – be them climate change, environmental degradation, pandemics, wars and humanitarian crises – have no frontiers. More than that, these challenges are becoming more dynamic, complex and interconnected. The kind of solutions that are needed require more coordinated and collaborative efforts across different actors, sectors and scales along with increased investment.

To make impactful progress, the ISC stresses the need for a genuine approach to engaging science in service to society, by working with policy and societal actors to co-design, co-produce and co-implement interventions required to address sustainability challenges in different contexts.

In this regard, the ISC has set up a Global Commission on Science Mission for Sustainability that will present an institutional and funding model at the upcoming session of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) outlining how to operationalize the delivery of science missions to support SDG implementation.

In the past, the global community has supported big mission-led science approaches in basic science, such as human genome, nuclear research, the discovery of exoplanets. Now it is the time to do so for existential and urgent issues affecting humanity and the planet.

In this decisive decade, the ISC is committed to work with policymakers, science funders, the private sector, and civil society to promote and enable the kind of science that benefits society and contributes to a dignified future for all. This calls for courage and commitment, and hope to be able to count on your support moving forward.

The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together 40 international scientific Unions and Associations and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including Academies and Research Councils