

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) and the International Science Council

7 November 2019

Dear IAP members,

We are writing to you to update you on discussions between the IAP and ISC. Some of you (those academies which are also members of ISC) will already have had an update from ISC about this. This message is to ensure that ALL IAP members are updated.

The IAP and ISC leadership held a joint meeting in Paris in August. The meeting was prompted by concerns, including from some ISC and IAP member academies, about a lack of clarity regarding the distinctive roles and responsibilities of the two organizations. Both organizations recognize that confusion could inhibit our effectiveness and the benefits that we, as representatives of the scientific community, seek to contribute to national and global science systems and to our societies.

The August 2019 meeting facilitated a useful exchange of information about each organization's structure, governance, resourcing and current and emerging scientific programmes and projects. In addition, it allowed for an initial exploration of mutual interests, respective roles in advancing science at national, regional and global levels, and areas for future collaboration. The latter included recognition of IAP's role in:

- building new and strengthening existing merit-based academies as recognized institutions outside of, but complementary to, national governments. Academies can be active players in local, national, and regional efforts and IAP, together with its four regional networks in Africa (NASAC), the Americas (IANAS), Asia (AASSA), and Europe (EASAC), provides a platform for academies to collaborate and amplify their role in advising national and regional governments and international organizations.
- producing consensus studies and position statements in both the science-for-policy and policy-for-science domains, by drawing on the more than 30,000 individual researchers who are members of IAP academies around the world.
- running academy projects at the regional and interregional levels
- using science diplomacy to build bridges among communities and nations for closer collaboration in scientific research and policymaking.

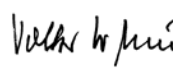
The ISC is a global scientific organization whose members comprise national academies, research councils, international scientific unions and associations and other associated scientific bodies and networks. The ISC's role as a conduit to the UN was recognised, (based on its formal position as co-organizer, together with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations, of the UN Major Group for Science and Technology), and it was agreed that ISC will engage the IAP in the Major Group's work.

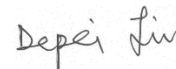
The leadership of both organisations welcomed an open and constructive engagement with each other and agreed on the need for continued discussion to clarify the respective roles of the two bodies.


There will be regular ISC-IAP meetings to ensure effective collaboration as well as a commitment to mutual awareness through more frequent communication between the ISC and IAP leadership and secretariats.


We will of course keep you informed.


Best regards,

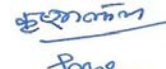

Volker ter
Meulen,
IAP
President

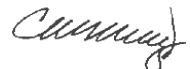

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