Key developments and achievements since the publication, one year ago, of the ISC Action Plan:

- Starting with communications
- Focusing on the Council’s scientific activities
- Touching on issues related to the governance and management of the ISC
The **full portfolio** of activities includes:

- Evolving Action Plan projects and programmes
- Ongoing activities related to the ISC’s sponsorship of international research programmes and relationships with affiliated bodies such as INGSA, CODATA, WDS, etc.
- The work of the Major Group for International S&T, and the ISC’s engagement in UN policy processes
- The management of two funding programmes supported by Sida
- International scientific initiatives – including events – that are endorsed or supported by the Council, or in which the ISC is represented
Realities of a flexible Action Plan ... and of COVID-19

• **New projects**, including:
  • Rethinking Human Development, in partnership with UNDP
  • Systemic discrimination in science, in partnership with IAP, TWAS, GYA, WFEO, CIPSH, AAAS and IHRN
  • Pathways to a post-COVID world, with IIASA and in partnership with the Ban Ki-Moon Foundation, The Earth League, Future Earth and the Vienna Energy Forum
  • The conduct of scientists working in emergencies, with INGSA
  • The COVID-19 Global Science Portal

• **New project ideas** for discussion with the ISC Board, e.g.:
  • Evaluating trans-disciplinarity (raised by the TD Alliance)
  • Working towards a new global agreement or convention on scientific multilateralism (WEF article 04/09/20)
• **Revised projects**, e.g.:
  • SDG interactions: focusing now on ‘convening the interactions community of practice’, knowledge synthesis and regional engagements
  • Global data resources and governance: exploring concrete actions (including a 2021 conference) in the context of a developing partnership with UNDP, UNEP and Future Earth, led by UBA (Germany) on an initiative entitled ‘A Digital Planet for Sustainability’

• **Revised timeframes and work plans**, e.g.:
  • Postponed meetings, e.g., of the Global Forum of Funders and the Global Sustainability Leadership event, and plans for virtual events
  • Delayed start-up, e.g., of projects on science and the private sector, and on knowledge production and diffusion
Noteworthy publications produced by the ISC

• Open science for the 21st Century
  Draft Working Paper submitted to UNESCO in May 2020 as ISC’s contribution to UNESCO’s global consultation on open science

• Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development
  S&T Major Group Position Paper submitted to the UN HLPF in May 2020

• Opening the record of science: Making scholarly publishing work for science in the digital era
  Draft Discussion Paper published in June 2020

• Hazards Definition and Classification
  Technical Report co-published with UNDRR in July 2020

In addition to:
• Statements
• Blogs
• Op-Eds
• Science X HLPF Special Newsletter
• Expected before the end of 2020:
  • Position paper on Science as a Global Public Good
  • Policy brief on Open Science
  • Report on Rethinking Human Development
  • Draft Discussion Paper on Science in and for the UN
  • Draft Discussion Paper on Freedom and Responsibility in Science in the 21st Century
Other headline developments and achievements

- ISC sponsorship of a CODATA-led proposal for a decadal programme on data-driven interdisciplinarity approved by the Board
- SDG Interactions Toolkit developed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in collaboration with INGSA available for pilot testing
- UNDP requests the development of a second phase of the Human Development project, to focus on how we should measure human development and to be based on a formal, 2-year ISC-UNDP partnership agreement
- South Africa’s National Research Foundation (NRF) successfully bids to host the African Open Science Platform’s (AOSP) Coordinating Office, with support from the ISC and the SA Department of Science and Innovation
• MoU between the ISC and UNESCO-IOC signed in February 2020; framing collaboration on the development and implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

• ISC invited to become an international knowledge partner to the S20

• ISC to host the launch of the UN’s Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery during the September 2020 UN General Assembly

• External review of Future Earth completed; Governing Council responses to the review recommendations to be agreed by November 2020

• ISC Awards Programme to be launched with a first call in October 2020
Global Science for the Ocean Decade

• 12 February 2020, Paris - UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Science Council (ISC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

• Interview with Marie-Alexandrine Sicre: Towards the UN Ocean Decade
Global Science TV launched on 3 June 2020

- To date: 12 episodes covering topics from climate change to the internet of things, black holes, airborne transmission of the coronavirus, vitamin supplements, and poverty
- With almost 130 000 views on YouTube and approx 10 000 Facebook followers
- Subscribe and get involved via the ISC website
## GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Developments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structures</strong></td>
<td>More regular, virtual Governing Board meetings</td>
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<td>Vint Cerf appointed as the third Patron in February 2020; a fourth to be appointed before the end of the year</td>
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<td>SIDS Liaison Committee to meet for the first time in October 2020</td>
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<td>Dues Committee (chaired by the Treasurer)</td>
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<td>Statutes and Rules of Procedure Working Group (chaired by the President)</td>
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<td><strong>Strategy development</strong></td>
<td>Regional strategy and transition process agreed</td>
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<td>Process and timeframe for the development of the next ISC Action Plan agreed</td>
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<td><strong>2021 General Assembly</strong></td>
<td>Virtual GA in October 2021</td>
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<td>Global Knowledge to be held in 2022</td>
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<td>Issue</td>
<td>Developments</td>
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| Membership                  | • 11 New members (4 national organizations; 7 affiliates)  
• 5 Applications currently being processed (2 national organizations, 1 union, 2 affiliates) |
| Partnerships                | ISC-IAP Memorandum of Understanding (in development)                                                                                         |
| Internal policy development | Sustainability principles (published)  
Language policy (in development)  
Financial sponsorship policy (in development)  
Remote working policy (in development) |
| Fundraising                 | National Science Foundation 5-year grant approved  
5-year grant to support the CFRS secured  
Sida proposals in discussion (follow-up of the Transformations and LIRA funding programmes) |
Work with the ISC to advance science as a global public good

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