

10 November 2017

From: Gordon McBean (ICSU President) and Alberto Martinelli (ISSC President)

To: Members of ICSU and ISSC

Cc: Associate Members of ISSC and ICSU Associates
Interdisciplinary Bodies of ICSU and ISSC Programmes
Members of the ICSU Executive Board and ISSC Executive Committee
Members of ICSU's Committee for Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) and Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science (CFRS)
Participants of the 32nd ICSU General Assembly and Joint Meeting with ISSC, 23-26 October 2017, Taipei

Legal Implementation of the ICSU-ISSC Merger Agreement: Notification of electronic General Assemblies for ISSC and ICSU, to be held on 11-16 May 2018

Dear Colleagues,

During a Joint Meeting, held in Taipei on 25-26 October 2017, members of the ISSC and ICSU agreed to merge the two organisations and to establish, in 2018, the International Science Council, a new unified council that will serve as a global voice for science. For the merger plan to go ahead, two-thirds of both councils' voting members needed to vote in favour. The final vote count in favour of the merger was an overwhelming 97,6% for ICSU and 90% for the ISSC.

The agreement to merge paves the way for the start of the legal merger implementation phase. As discussed in Taipei, this phase of the process will require ISSC and ICSU members to take decisions that will make the merger agreement legally binding. Those decisions will be taken during electronic General Assemblies (e-GAs) for ICSU and ISSC, both to be held on 11-16 May 2018. The decisions concern the following:

For ISSC members:

- 1) Formal approval of the Merger Treaty
- 2) Dissolution of the ISSC

For ICSU members:

- 1) Formal approval of the Merger Treaty
- 2) Change of the Council's Name, Statutes and Rules of Procedure

During the e-GAs, ISSC and ICSU members will be voting separately on the abovementioned decisions and in accordance with the terms and qualified majorities specified in the current ISSC Constitution and ICSU Statutes. Electronic voting ballots and submission instructions will be provided to all ICSU and ISSC members by the end of April 2018.

The Merger Treaty, which represents a formal agreement between ISSC and ICSU, is attached. It reflects three further agreements reached by ICSU and ISSC members during the October 2017 meeting in Taipei, namely:

- That the name of the new, merged Council will be the *International Science Council*.
- That the date on which the merger will come into effect will coincide with the date of the new Council's founding General Assembly (GA), which will be held in Paris, France, during the first half of July 2018. The exact date of this event will be agreed by the ISSC and ICSU Executives in consultation with the founding GA host, the French Académie des Sciences, and be announced as soon as possible and by no later than 1 December 2017. In line with this and for purposes of the Merger Treaty, the date of merger is specified as being 30 June 2018.
- That the legal mechanism of '*merger-absorption*' be used for purposes of accomplishing the agreed merger.

In addition to essential information about the merging entities, the Merger Treaty also includes the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the new Council. This document has been finalized by the ICSU and ISSC Executives on the basis of discussions and amendments agreed during the October 2017 Joint Meeting in Taipei. It is attached to this message, along with the Merger Treaty. These and the appendices to the Treaty are available for download from: <https://icsu.sharefile.com/d-s446580ebe484ac29>.

We will be writing to you again in the coming weeks about other important steps towards the implementation of the merger and launch of the new International Science Council, including processes for establishing an Elections Committee and electing, during the July 2018 founding GA, the new Council's first Governing Board. In the meantime, we invite you to refer to the ICSU-ISSC [Gitbook](#) and our [press release](#) for further information about the discussions and outcomes of the October 2017 Joint Meeting in Taipei. For specific questions about the information provided in this communiqué, please refer to [Document JM/10 on the legal mechanism to accomplish the merger](#), prepared for the October 2017 meeting in Taipei. Alternatively, please contact the Executive Director of ICSU (executive.director@icsu.org) or of ISSC (mathieu@worldsocialscience.org).

Yours sincerely,



Alberto Martinelli



Gordon McBean