



May 5, 2016

To: All ISSC Members
Cc: Co-sponsored programmes, ISSC Executive Committee

Follow-up to the May 2016 communiqué regarding future relations between the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the International Council for Science (ICSU)

Dear Colleagues,

I greet you on behalf of the ISSC Executive Committee.

You have received the communiqué from Gordon McBean (ICSU President) and myself recommending a future merger between ISSC and ICSU, and proposing a roadmap and associated work plan towards its successful realisation. I am writing now to draw your attention to an important implication of this recommendation and the proposed roadmap for the convening of our next General Assembly in October 2016, and nominations for an incoming Executive Committee. On 21 April 2016 I alerted you to such a communiqué, and I appreciate your forbearance in this regard.

Term of office of the current ISSC Executive Committee (ExCo)

The process sketched out in the roadmap that has been shared with you runs over three joint assemblies of the ISSC and ICSU membership, between October 2016 and October 2018 (at the latest). In order to carry through the process without having to pass on the responsibility to new teams, the ISSC ExCo and ICSU Executive Board (EB) have unanimously agreed to request from their members an extraordinary extension of their mandates, until October 2018 at the latest. This would mean an extension of up to two years for the current ISSC ExCo, and of up to one year for the ICSU EB. The reasons for this joint request are to avoid having executives that would serve only truncated mandates that would essentially deal with merger-related matters, and to ensure continuity of leadership until the final, implementation phase of the proposed merger process. Elections of the first executive committee of the new, single global science organisation would take place by no later than October 2018, when the mandates of the current ISSC ExCo and ICSU EB would end.¹

Please note that all but two (the Treasurer Michel Sabourin, and Ruth Fincher) elected members of the current ISSC ExCo are eligible for a new, three-year mandate in their current positions. The two members mentioned are also eligible for a new mandate, but would have to run for a new position.

¹ The Merger Work Group (whose work may end on 28 June 2016 when it reports to a joint meeting of the ISSC ExCo and ICSU EB) has already recommended that all the current members of both ISSC and ICSU would become members of the new entity, which would have a new name. This augurs well for the social sciences.

Electronic vote

The ISSC constitution does not foresee a procedure for such an exceptional and time-limited extension of the ExCo mandate, nor does it preclude it. Hence the ISSC ExCo decided to consult the membership on the following question:

Do you agree to extend the mandate of the current ExCo for a period that will not exceed two years (until October 2018), to lead and implement a merger with ICSU? Yes / No

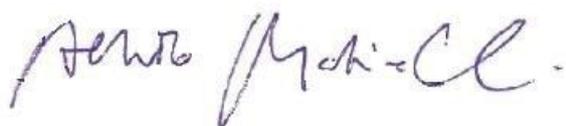
Please note that a vote in favour of the extension is not a vote in favour of the merger, or vice-versa. The deliberation and vote on pursuing the creation of a new science organisation, or not, will fully occur during the ISSC GA in October this year. Should the ISSC members refuse to extend the ExCo mandate, a nominations process will ensue and the General Assembly will be able to further consider the matter at the GA.

The voting procedures

The electronic voting procedure will take place between 1 and 3 June 2016. The procedure will be communicated to you shortly. All ISSC Member Associations, Organisations, Institutions having duly paid their fees in 2015 will be allowed to vote.

Thank you for your consideration of the extraordinary position in which the ISSC finds itself. Please do not hesitate to contact me or our Executive Director, Mathieu Denis, should you have specific questions or concerns.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alberto Martinelli'.

Alberto Martinelli, on behalf of the ISSC Executive Committee