



international social science council

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Dear Colleagues,

Re: Procedures for the vote on the extension of the ExCo mandate, 1 to 3 June 2016

As you were informed on May 5th through our joint communiqué, the ISSC and ICSU's executive bodies have agreed unanimously to recommend to their members to merge and form a single, new international organisation for the social and natural sciences. In his letter to members sent on the same day, ISSC President Alberto Martinelli announced that the current ISSC Executive Committee is requesting an extension of its mandate, for a period that will not exceed two years (until October 2018). The current Executive Committee was voted in with a three year mandate – from the 2013 General Assembly in Montreal until the 2016 General Assembly in Oslo. The request for such an extension is an extraordinary measure for an extraordinary process. It is suggested only to ensure continuity of leadership until the final implementation phase of the proposed merger process.

In order to ensure transparency and to follow due process, an electronic voting system will be set up for ISSC members to vote on the following question from 1 to 3 June 2016:

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.

The electronic voting procedure will take place between 1 and 3 June 2016 as follows:

- In the coming weeks, all voting members of the ISSC will receive an email from the official ISSC email address (issc@worldsocialscience.org) with a link leading to an online survey powered by SurveyMonkey.
- Only voting Member Associations, Organisations, and Institutions members having paid their 2015 fees will be allowed to vote (Associate Members are not voting members).

- The voting procedure will be overseen by the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS), who are an Associate Member (non-voting). SSEESS will be in charge of accepting or rejecting ballots, counting them, and announcing the results.
- Voting will open on June 1st 2016 at 12:00 am (midnight) CEST and close on June 3rd at 11:59 pm CEST.
- Respondents will be asked to indicate their name and organisation, and to confirm that they have duly received the authority by the highest governing body of their organisation to vote on its behalf.
- One vote per voting member is allowed.

Please may I stress that a vote in favour of the extension is not a vote in favour of the merger. The deliberation and vote on pursuing the creation of a new science organisation, or not, is entirely separate and will occur during the ISSC General Assembly in October 2016. Should ISSC members refuse to extend the ExCo mandate during the 1-3 June vote, a nominations process will ensue and the 2017 General Assembly will further consider the matter.

Please refer to the communiqué and letter of May 5th for more details about the proposed merger process (<http://www.worldsocialscience.org/road-2018/>). Should you have any questions for President Alberto Martinelli or me, regarding the proposed merger process, please do not hesitate to contact Shannon Jinadasa (roadto2018@worldsocialscience.org) so she may arrange for a phone or Skype conversation with either of us.

Sincerely,



Mathieu Denis
ISSC Executive Director