

Science Diplomacy to Confront Societal Challenges

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Science Diplomacy: Unity and Diversity

- ▶ Varieties:
 - ▶ Addressees: governments, specific policy actors, private sectors, citizens
 - ▶ Focus: single, plural
 - ▶ Scope: national, international, global
 - ▶ Composition: disciplinarian, multi disciplinarian, trans disciplinarian
- ▶ Commonality:
 - ▶ furthering instrumental and moral science goals

The Symbolic Capital of Science

- ▶ Sharing principles, values and protocols scientific initiatives constitute a community of ideals and interests
- ▶ Science Communitarian identity contributes to overcome ideological, barriers and power disputes
- ▶ A word of caution: the persistence of hidden barriers inside science (North/South, gender, disciplines, etc.)
- ▶ Yet, science can be the very antidote to combat such barriers within itself and outside

Past Accomplishments and Future Advances

- ▶ 100 years of institutionalized scientific collaboration
- ▶ Persistent progress
- ▶ Examples of successful experiences: Unesco, international disciplinarian unions, ICSU, ISSC, TWAS, WSF, IAP, INGSA, Young Academies, ISC
- ▶ The diversity of objectives rather than an obstacle has been an asset for partnership between different scientific organizations.

Past Experiences and the Creation of The International Science Council

- ▶ Past experiences of partnership between ICSU and ISSC contributed to illuminate new possibilities to act through institutional innovation and expanding the horizon of science diplomacy.
- ▶ The merger of ICSU and ISSC into a new scientific organization reflects the realization that the major problems society faces today need to be approached from the joint perspective of the so-called hard sciences and the social sciences.

International Science Council

- ▶ 140 National and Regional Scientific Organizations
- ▶ 40 International Scientific Unions and Associations across the natural and social sciences
- ▶ Regional Offices and Social Science Councils in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Arab world
- ▶ 7 International Research / Funding Programmes focusing on global change and sustainability
- ▶ 11 International Committees and Networks on data, observing systems, science advice
- ▶ Partnerships with other International Scientific Organizations, incl. IAP, TWAS, WFEO
- ▶ Formal Relations with the UN, Coordinator of the UN Major Group for S&T

ISC Challenge Domains:

- ▶ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- ▶ The Digital Revolution
- ▶ Science in Policy and Public Discourse
- ▶ The Evolution of Science and Science Systems

Science Diplomacy and the Prospects for Progress

- ▶ Science and the social, economic, political and cultural progresses humanity experienced in the last 50 years:
- ▶ Examples:
- ▶ The International Panel of Progress: Current Risks, challenges and the prospects for positive actions (www.ipsp.org)
- ▶ INGSA: International Network for Science Government Science Advice: Connecting Evidence and Policy (<https://www.ingsa.org>)

Looking Ahead

Structures, Processes and Choices

- ▶ How we see the present conforms our vision for the future
- ▶ Science as renewed enlightenment
- ▶ Science diplomacy as ethical commitment
- ▶ How we choose among alternatives shapes our future

Thanks!