

**International
Science Council**

The global voice for science

The International Science Council's Principle of Freedom and Responsibility in Science

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THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

The International Science Council (ISC) is a global membership-based organization that was founded in July 2018 as the result of a merger of the International Council for Science (est. in 1931) and the International Social Science Council (est. in 1952).



A unique global membership that brings together over 250 international scientific unions and associations as well as national and regional scientific organizations including academies and research councils.

The Council is funded by contributions from its members, philanthropic donations and external grants for specific scientific activities. It is headquartered in Paris, France, with regional focal points in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America.

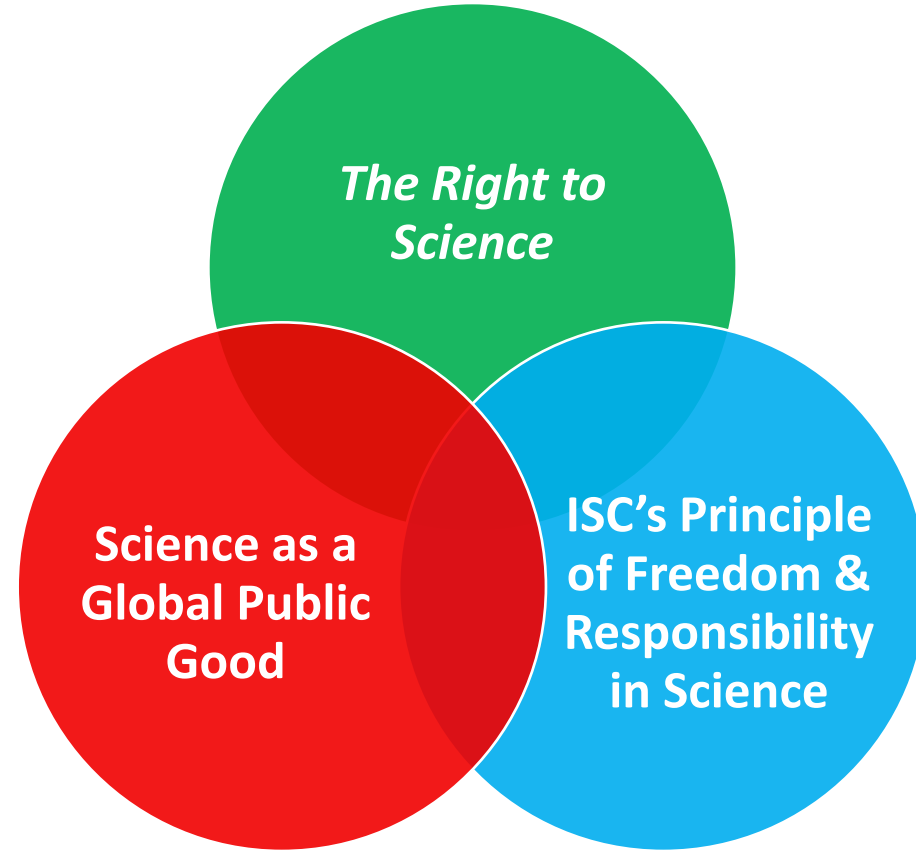


INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL



OUR VISION

The vision of the council is to advance science as a *global public good*



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Council is to be the *global voice for science*

ADVANCING SCIENCE AS A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD

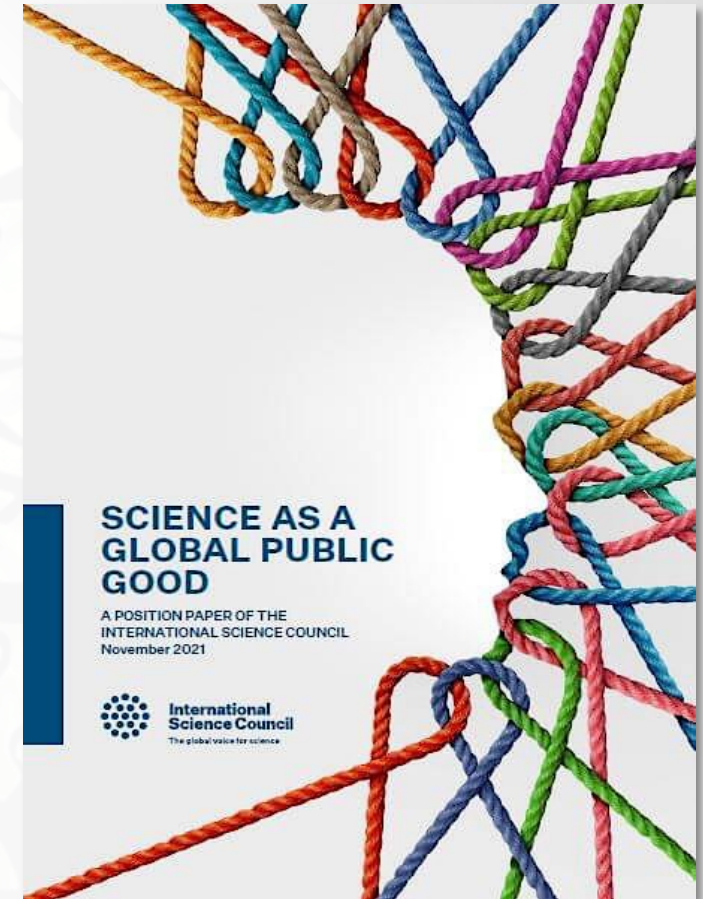
The practice of science must be inclusive and equitable, also in opportunities for scientific education and capacity development.

Scientific knowledge, data and expertise must be universally accessible and its benefits universally shared.

Science has two fundamental attributes which are the source of its value as a global public good:

1. That knowledge claims and the evidence on which they may be based are made openly available to be tested against carefully developed, trustworthy methods, and their evaluation by a community of peers.
2. That the results of scientific inquiry are communicated promptly into the public sphere and circulated efficiently to maximise their availability to all who may wish or need to access them.

Science has to navigate how it protects the integrity of its core modes of production while acknowledging that there exist diverse forms of organised knowledge in this world that are part of, intersect with and exist alongside science.



THE ISC PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY IN SCIENCE

The right to share in and to benefit from advances in science and technology is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as is the right to engage in scientific enquiry, to pursue and communicate knowledge, and to associate freely in such activities.

The free and responsible practice of science is fundamental to scientific advancement for the well-being of humans, other life forms, ecosystems, the planet, and beyond.

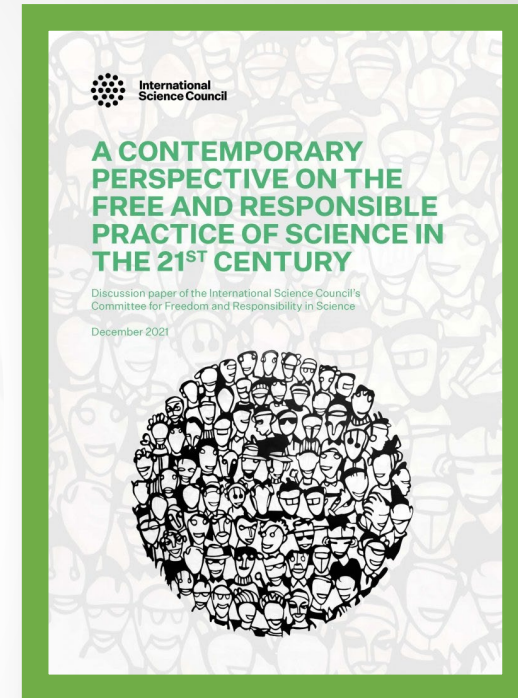
The Principles of Freedom and Responsibility in Science set out the freedoms that scientists should enjoy, as well as the responsibilities they must shoulder.

The freedoms necessary for science to flourish are:

1. Freedom to access science education, training, and mentoring.
2. Freedom to participate in knowledge production.
3. Freedom to promote and communicate science for the good of humanity, other life forms, ecosystems, the planet and beyond.

These freedoms are constrained by certain responsibilities, including:

1. Responsibility to promote science in ways that are equitable and inclusive and engage with human diversity.
2. Responsibility to ensure that research designs meet the standards of scientific validity and satisfy established ethical norms.
3. Responsibility to share accurate scientific information generated through theoretical, observational, experimental and analytical approaches.
4. Responsibility to contribute to the effective and ethical governance of science.



THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM SCIENCE

Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

“Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to **share in scientific advancement and its benefits.**”

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:

“Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to **seek, receive and impart information** and ideas of all kinds.”

FRAMEWORKS

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers
- UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science

THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM SCIENCE

The ISC believes that there should be a universal human right to participate in and enjoy the benefits of science, and that it should be a responsibility of governments to create and sustain the opportunities of citizens to use these rights.

A right to participate in science - presumes a right to basic scientific literacy, and a right to scientific education, training and mentoring.

1. A right to participate in generating diverse forms of knowledge through the study of natural and social phenomena using theoretical, observational, experimental, and analytical approaches to introduce and test existing and new models, conjectures, hypotheses and ideas unconstrained by political agendas or belief systems.
2. A right to challenge established knowledge about natural and social phenomena when generating and communicating new models, conjectures, hypotheses and ideas, and the uses to which this knowledge has been or may be put.
3. A right to collaborate and engage in scientific dialogue and research across national, political, regional and other boundaries.
4. A right to communicate both positive and negative findings.
5. A right to form professional societies and associations.
6. A right to advocate for the responsible use of science.

THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT FROM SCIENCE

A right to enjoy the benefits of science

1. A right not to be excluded from the benefits of science on the basis of unjust discrimination based on race, nationality, ethnic origin, language, sex, gender identity, reproductive ability, sexual orientation, age, disability, political opinion, or religious belief.
2. A right to equitably access information, data, and other resources necessary to enhance scientific knowledge, teaching and research.
3. A right to apply scientific knowledge for technological developments for the good of humanity and the planet.



EXAMPLES OF RECENT AND CURRENT ACTIONS

- CFRS deals with multiple individual and collective cases of scientists at risk.
- Joint initiatives with ISC members to develop guidance notes following on from the FRS Principles, eg Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment - Ethics and Research Integrity Policy in Responsible Research Assessment for Data and Artificial Intelligence.
- ISC representation on COMEST, UNESCO's committee on the ethics of science and technology.
- Commentaries and position statements on issues where scientists and science systems are under threat (recent examples Sudan, Nicaragua, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Argentina).
- Joint ISC and the Inter-Academy Partnership statement on the importance of independent scientific academies.
- ISC's Science in Times of Crisis programme coordinates with the UN agencies and NGOs with a mandate to work with scholars at risk to assist on issues of refugee, exiled, displaced scientists, and develop associated policies and co-ordinated action frameworks.
- The ISC is organizing efforts of multiple organizations, including the UN, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and the OECD, to enhance trust in science, understanding the science of trust and how to protect the perception of science as trustworthy in the face of disinformation.
- Engagement campaign with ISC members on the Right to Science and the new FRS Principles. Begin to develop a new definition of science that acknowledges historically diverse forms of organised knowledge (including traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems) that are part of, intersect with and exist alongside science. SOCRATES Centre workshop bringing together CFRS and indigenous scholars and practitioners from around the world to explore knowledge-making within and across different communities.

Work with the ISC to advance the free and responsible practice of science



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The Council is funded by contributions from its members, philanthropic donations and external grants for specific scientific activities.

It is headquartered in Paris, France.



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