

Strategy: Maximising benefits of Australian membership of the International Science Council and international scientific unions

Membership and active engagement in the International Science Council (ISC) and its international scientific unions yields considerable benefits across many sectors of Australian society. It is in the interests of Australian science and society to maximise engagement with these organisations.

The Australian Academy of Science's strategy aims to enhance participation in the ISC and international scientific unions to maximise the benefits for the nation.



Professor Nalini Joshi AO FAA, Professor Geordie Williamson FAA FRS, Professor Cheryl Praeger AM FAA celebrate Australian mathematics at the International Mathematical Union's general assembly in Rio de Janeiro, 2018

IMAGE: CHICO FERREIRA

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS FOR AUSTRALIA

1. Provides a value avenue to contribute to global science policy dialogue
2. Enhances Australia's international profile and scientific reputation
3. Contributes directly to all levels of the Australian economy through hosting international scientific union meetings
4. Accelerates delivery of the long-term economic benefits of scientific progress for Australia

For more information see www.science.org.au/isc-benefits

BOOSTING PARTICIPATION THROUGH FUNDING

Membership of the ISC and scientific unions yields demonstrable benefits for Australia. It is in the national interest to ensure adequate support and funding to maximise participation in these organisations.

Strategy 1: Work with government and other stakeholders to ensure, in the long term, sufficient resources and funding are available to increase Australian participation at the ISC and scientific unions.

This includes adequate funding to:

- cover subscription costs and ensure membership levels commensurate with the needs of Australian scientific communities can be sustained
- support individual participation in ISC and scientific union governance, activities and meetings to increase overall engagement of Australian scientists
- enable the Academy to provide necessary secretariat support to facilitate participation in and engagement with ISC and scientific union governance and activities.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The key role of the Academy, as the adhering organisation to the ISC and scientific unions, is to represent Australian science on the international stage. To do so effectively and efficiently, the Academy must work closely with stakeholders across the country.

Strategy 2: Develop and implement a program to increase the visibility and awareness of Australian engagement with ISC and scientific unions, with the aim of maximising appeal to stakeholders, including government and learned societies, by clearly demonstrating benefits of membership, especially as a platform for advancing Australian interests.

Strategy 3: Strengthen reporting procedures for scientific union activities and meetings, in collaboration with National Committees for Science and learned societies. To that end, the Academy will aim to make publicly available an annual digest of Australian engagement with ISC and scientific union activities.

Strategy 4: Work towards formally establishing dedicated liaisons to scientific unions within the National Committees for Science membership, ensuring these positions have well-defined expectations and rewards and are assigned to aid continued participation and strengthen future engagement.

EVENTS AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The ability to attract and successfully host ISC and scientific union meetings and events in Australia is tremendously beneficial in both the short and long term. Although the Academy is not directly involved in this process, there are steps it can take to support these activities for the benefit of Australian science and society.

Strategy 5: In conjunction with the National Committees for Science, develop a procedure for providing oversight to scientific union conference bids that require or seek

national adhering organisation endorsement. Where appropriate, the Academy may take steps to ensure adequate awareness of supporting services and opportunities that may assist.

Strategy 6: Seek reports from local organisers of all ISC- and scientific union-supported or endorsed events held in Australia, such as conferences, workshops and symposia, including available demographic information on event participants. This would enhance Strategy 3.