

## **MEDIA ADVISORY — SAVE THE DATE: 5 JULY 2018, PARIS**

**To register or for more information, please contact:**

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### **Leading scientists to headline launch event in Paris for the first international organization representing both the social and natural sciences**

**On 5 July, the International Science Council will be launched, a new global non-governmental organization representing more than 180 scientific academies, unions and associations from around the globe. The new organization will be the only global body representing both the natural and social sciences and results from the historic merger of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) with the International Council for Science (ICSU).**

The founding of the International Science Council will be celebrated with a high-level inaugural event showcasing the significance of having a unified, global voice for science in today's world. Leading international scientists such as Cedric Villani, Ismail Serageldin and Esther Duflo will provide keynote addresses at the event, which will be moderated by Craig Calhoun and Nick Ishmael-Perkins. The programme is expected to include addresses by the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, and the UNESCO Director General, Audrey Azoulay, as well as by the first elected President of the new Council.

The International Science Council has set itself the mission to act as the global voice for science and the day's talks will showcase both the need for such a voice and how this voice can advance science as a global public good. The Council proposes an exciting portfolio of activities carried over from its predecessor organizations, such as its major interdisciplinary programmes and its landmark global reports, as well as new initiatives and campaigns. The Council will operate in three strategic areas: it will mobilize science for policy and public action on issues of major global public concern; shape policies and practices that enable scientific rigour, creativity and relevance in all parts of the world, and safeguard the free and responsible practice of science. Its activities will take full advantage of the Council's diverse membership base, its existing international programmes and extensive networks of partners in the scientific and policy arenas.

The inaugural event follows the founding General Assembly of the new Council, which will be held at the Maison des Océans on 3-4 July. At the Assembly, the Council will elect its first Governing Board, President and President-Elect.

The events will be hosted by the Académie des Sciences, the French national member of the new Council.

There will be an opportunity to join a press breakfast with the speakers at 8:00 am. There is also limited availability to join a special high-level dinner in the evening at the Musée de l'Histoire Naturelle. If you would like to join either of these events, please RSVP [denise@icsu.org](mailto:denise@icsu.org), [johannes@icsu.org](mailto:johannes@icsu.org) or [lizzie@worldsocialscience.org](mailto:lizzie@worldsocialscience.org) by June 15.

**WHAT:** Launch of the International Science Council

**WHO:** **Speakers include:**

- **Cedric Villani**, Fields Medal winner, Director of the Institut Henri Poincaré, CNRS, Professor at the University of Lyon, President of the French Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices, France
- **Esther Duflo**, Co-Founder and Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, and Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
- **Ismail Serageldin**, Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

**Moderators:** Craig Calhoun, President of the Berggruen Institute, and Nick Ishmael-Perkins, independent journalist and communications consultant

**WHERE:** Maison des Océans, 195 Rue Saint-Jacques, 75005 Paris, France

**WHEN:** 5 July 2018, 9:00-17:00.  
Press breakfast at 8:00 am in the Salle du Conseil.

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### **International Science Council (ISC)**

The International Science Council (ISC) is a non-governmental organization with a global membership of more than 180 organizations, including national and regional scientific organizations, International Scientific Unions and Associations, and Affiliated Members.

The ISC was created in 2018 as the result of a merger between the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). The new Council will combine the membership of the ISSC and ICSU, making it the unique international non-governmental organization representing both the natural and the social sciences.

### **International Social Science Council (ISSC)**

The ISSC was founded in Paris in 1952, reflecting post-war sentiments about the importance of increasing understanding in order to build bridges between people and nations. Its first Secretary General was Claude Lévi-Strauss, and over the years it has involved leading social scientists from around the world. Since its launch, the ISSC has been at the forefront of advancing knowledge and capacity in the social sciences in all parts of the world, through

the establishment of ground-breaking international activities and publications on topics such as poverty, urbanization and modernization, and more recently on transformations to sustainability, inequality and security.

### **International Council for Science (ICSU)**

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is one of the longest-running international science organizations, with a history that goes back to the 19th century. Research programmes and initiatives launched by ICSU contributed to key scientific advances in understanding the planet and its ecosystems. Landmark contributions include the International Geophysical Year in 1957-58, which saw the launch of the first artificial Earth satellite, a series of research programmes that put climate change on the international agenda in the 1980s, and the International Polar Year in 2007-08. In 2012, ICSU, together with ISSC and other partners, launched Future Earth, an ambitious new research programme on global sustainability.