

International Science Council

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The International Science Council is a governmental organization with a unique global membership that brings together 250 organizations including international scientific Associations and Societies, national and regional scientific Academies and Research Councils, and Young Academies and Associations

## Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

### 1. Science is an essential tool for sustainable development

Science is essential to accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. It plays a key role in breaking deep-seated siloes in understanding and action, enabling decision-makers to address the root causes of challenges and identify synergies and trade-offs among solutions. Science also can help decision-makers assess vital transformation pathways and roadmaps while identifying key areas for sustainable investments that maximize development and sustainability co-benefits.

Therefore, Chapter I should:

- **Affirm the crucial importance of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary science to understanding and addressing interconnected obstacles to achieving the SDGs and related intergovernmental commitments.**

### 2. Evidence-informed sustainable development requires multilateral support

Among the most urgent challenges for the global scientific community is to support accelerated progress toward

economic challenges that exacerbate risk and instability, and for facilitating anticipatory action to meet emerging security challenges related to energy, climate, environment, health, technology, nuclear weapons, inequality, and more.

**Therefore, Chapter 1 should:**

- Highlight the value of open and responsible science



The following input has been coordinated with the Global Young Academy.

Chapter IV represents a critical opportunity for Member States to acknowledge and leverage science as an essential tool to support youth and future generations, and to facilitate the engagement of youth and early career scientists in advancing evidence-based policymaking for the benefit of all.

To successfully promote thinking and acting in the interests of youth and future generations, the Pact must acknowledge that science is essential to:

- x Creating an enabling environment that empowers young people to reach their development potential

## Chapter V. Transforming global governance

### 1. Scientific insights are key to effective transformation of global governance

The value of science extends to questions around reforming governance and renewing multilateralism. Transdisciplinary scientific insights illuminate the root causes of governance challenges, as well as synergies and trade-offs in interventions; and they are critical to understanding key dynamics, impediments and enabling conditions for a meaningful transformation to global governance, including as related to global commons such as Outer Space and ocean areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Therefore, Chapter V should:

- Reflect the central importance of science as a critical, cutting-edge tool to support an effective and equitable transformation of global governance.

### 2. Transforming global governance requires enhancing science-policy interface

Challenges on the multilateral agenda are complex, urgent, and interconnected. Reversing biodiversity loss, tackling deepening inequalities, addressing the climate emergency, governing technological change for the public good, and transforming to a sustainable, equitable and resilient world all require global cooperation and robust scientific information. The challenge for multilateral governance is to mobilize authoritative and integrated knowledge taking account of complex interactions across human and planetary systems to inform decision making at multiple levels and steer action towards desired outcomes.

This requires effective coordination between interface mechanisms operating within and between multilateral forums and agencies, and greater coordination between science-policy interfaces at national and international levels. In the context of the UN General Assembly, it requires an institutionalized science-policy interface through which actionable science can be integrated across all stages of decision-making and action. This will help ensure that the latest and best available science is made available on an equitable basis to all Member States; it will support consensus building through common understanding of the nature, scope, and scale of challenges, as well as the range of possible solutions and their implications; and it will support risk-informed (anticipatory) governance arrangements with a view to building whole-of-society resilience.

Experts have drawn on large bodies of evidence to highlight concrete options for enhancing the multilateral science-policy interface, including but not limited to:

- x Establishing a regular UNGA platform for science-policy exchange during the high-level segment, with parallel regional events;
- x Creating a set of principles or suggested mechanisms for national delegations to effectively consult with knowledge actors ahead of UNGA participation;
- x Further engaging the scientific community within UNGA and ECOSOC Proceedings to provide expert inputs and briefings, thus systematizing a practice of working with scientific knowledge in multilateral deliberations;

- x Establishing modalities for a clear set of policy priorities and challenges with a corresponding **call for scientific inputs to be issued ahead of each UNGA term**
- x Developing **science-policy-action networks** to draw from existing bodies and generate recommendations

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<sup>ix</sup> International Science Council. 2020. Conversations on Rethinking Human Development. International Science Council, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.24948/2020.09>.

<sup>x</sup> Stauffer et al. 2023.

<sup>xi</sup> Espey, J., and Casarin, C. 2023. Strengthening Science Advisory Processes within the UN General Assembly. Briefing for the Group of Friends on Science for Action. Prepared in partnership with On Think Tanks, The African Centre for Cities, the New South Institute, ACEA and with inputs from the ISC and the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

<sup>xii</sup> Espey and Casarin. 2023.

<sup>xiii</sup> Espey and Casarin. 2023.

<sup>xiv</sup> Espey and Casarin. 2023.

<sup>xv</sup> Climate Governance Commission. 2023. Governing Our Planetary Emergency. [https://www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Governing-Our-Planetary-Emergency-Report\\_WEB\\_11.27.23.pdf](https://www.stimson.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Governing-Our-Planetary-Emergency-Report_WEB_11.27.23.pdf)

<sup>xvi</sup> Scientific and Technological Community Major Group. 2020. Position paper on the theme of the 2020 High-Political Forum. <https://council.science/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Position-Paper-STC29-June.pdf>