

## The ISI becomes an affiliate member of the International Science Council (ISC)

The ISI recently became an affiliate member of the International Science Council (ISC). The council, which in some form has been around since 1931, is an association of 40 international scientific unions, 30 affiliates, and over 140 national and regional scientific organizations including national academies and research councils. The Council is the foremost global voice for science, working at the intersection of science and policy, to ensure that science is integrated into international policy development and that relevant policies take into account both scientific knowledge and the needs of science, and defending free and responsible practice of science. ISC is an organizing partner for the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group at the United Nations, working on sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, climate change, urbanization and biodiversity.

Why did we apply for affiliate membership in ICS? The ISI strategic goal of enhancing the public voice of statistics requires participation in international science policy discussions, and this at least allows us into the room, even if we don't get a seat at the table in the sense of being a voting member. Statistics has an important role to play in evidence-informed understanding and decision making at all levels of public policy.

Among current member unions that may overlap with ISI interests are the International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, the International Mathematical Union, the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the Scientific Committee of Problems of the Environment and the World Association for Public Opinion Research.