InterAcademy Partnership

Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

1. Vision

Our vision is for the world's academies to play a vital role in ensuring that science[1] serves society inclusively and equitably and underpins global sustainable development.

2. Mission

Our mission is to convene and empower the world's academies of science, engineering and medicine to work collaboratively to address issues of global, regional, and national importance.

3. The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP)

The current landscape of international science is complex, and continues to evolve, with an increasing number of new, established and reconfigured organizations and networks providing science advice for policy. In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 17[2], this Strategic Plan sets out IAP's niche in this complexity, with a renewed emphasis on partnership and collaboration with other like-minded partners.

IAP is uniquely placed to:

(1) **Build the capacity** of, and empower, regional networks of academies and their national members, who represent excellence in science, engineering and medicine in their countries;
(2) **Empower academies and regional academy networks to provide independent, authoritative advice** on global, regional and national issues through synthesis reports, consensus statements, foresight studies, critiquing public policy processes and outputs, and convening key stakeholders;
(3) **Communicate the importance of science, engineering and medicine** in terms of research, education, literacy, public discourse, and outreach;
(4) **Build IAP as a progressive and more resilient global academies network** by strengthening governance, empowering the secretariat, and designing and implementing cohesive policies.

IAP is the global network of over 140 academies of science, engineering and medicine. With its four regional networks – in Africa (the Network of African Science Academies, NASAC), the Americas (the InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences, IANAS), Asia (the Association of Academies

[1] Throughout IAP's Strategic Plan and accompanying implementation plan, "**science"** refers to the pursuit and application of knowledge and understanding of the natural, social, engineering and medical worlds following a systematic methodology based on evidence, with experiment and/or observation as benchmarks for testing hypotheses. We use the term "**scientists**" in the most inclusive sense, to include those who apply these methods within the natural, social, and physical sciences, engineering and health fields.

[2] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17

and Societies of Sciences in Asia, AASSA) and Europe (the European Academies Science Advisory Council, EASAC) – IAP provides a platform for mobilizing regional and national expertise on wide-ranging issues of global importance, and for facilitating cooperation with other key stakeholders and potential partners.

IAP's member academies constitute more than 30,000 of the best scientists in over 100 countries across Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe. Although many organizations provide scientific advice, the academies are unique in that they represent the most respected scientists, engineers and health professionals in their countries and IAP represents their collective experience, expertise and credibility around the world. Building the capacity of these academies, and drawing on the diverse expertise within their membership, is important not only to IAP and its regional networks, but also to key partners such as (i) the International Science Council (ISC) – c.60% of whose members are national academies; (ii) The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) – the majority of whose (over 1,250) members are also national academicians; and (iii) the Global Young Academy and national young academies, many of whose members will go on to become senior academicians.

IAP has compiled an extensive track record of delivering evidence-based advice and performing other services for the global scientific and policy communities. Examples of IAP's recent work, illustrating the diversity and breadth of its output, include the inaugural global synthesis study on Food and Nutrition Security and Agriculture (2018) based on its regional reports for Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe that highlight the most pressing challenges in each region; reports on Assessing the Security Implications of Genome Editing Technology (2018) and Exploring Traditional Medicine (2017); a Statement on Climate Change and Education (2017); Doing Global Science: a guide to responsible conduct in the global research enterprise (2016); and Climate change assessments: a review of the processes and procedures of the IPCC (2010).

The four regional networks have also built their track records and enhanced their visibility and credibility over the duration of the previous IAP Strategic Plan (2016-2018). Notably, in 2018, EASAC was recognized as the Think Tank of the Year in Europe and received wide media coverage for its policy reports. IANAS generated three important publications: Guide Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for the Americas (2016); Inquiry-Based Science Education: Promoting changes in science teaching in the Americas (2017); and Urban Water Challenges in the Americas (2018). NASAC increased its membership from 21 to 28 African academies, the highest number since its inception. Finally, AASSA enhanced the stature and capabilities of many member academies in lower- and middle-income countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region through its workshops and reports.

IAP continues to support the **Global Young Academy (GYA**) and, in turn, its support of **existing and new national young academies (NYAs),** as well as better integrate these academies into IAP initiatives at global, regional and national levels.

4. Strategic Objectives and Priorities (2019-2021)

IAP and its regional networks provide a platform for member academies to

- share good practice, learn from each other and build their capacity and visibility;
- develop common positions and agree to actions/interventions on regional and global issues of shared interest;
- build collaborations among academies and with key stakeholders in other sectors (detailed in implementation plan);
- promote the importance of inclusive science for generating new knowledge, informing robust decision-making for good governance, and building the science literacy of global citizens; and
- facilitate science serving society as a global public good

The strategic objectives and priorities of the **InterAcademy Partnership** are to:

(1) Build the capacity of, and empower, regional networks of academies and their national members, by

a. supporting cooperation and capacity building of its four regional networks of academies and their national members through **grants and professional opportunities**;
b. **strengthening cooperation and sharing good practice** between regional networks, and with other influential international science networks;
c. in partnership with the respective regional networks, **strengthening the capacity of existing merit-based academies** and – where there is a critical mass of excellence - **supporting the formation of new ones**;
d. facilitating the **inclusion and engagement of scientists** across geographies, ethnicities, genders and generations, and building a cadre of ambassadors for the academies in their efforts to serve society;
e. promoting responsible, open, transparent, efficient, impactful and more environmentally friendly **ways of working together**;
f. encouraging member academies to **serve their respective societies** as relevant, proactive, accessible and visible institutions, so that they become vital parts of their respective national science, engineering and medical systems.

(2) Empower academies and regional academy networks to provide provide independent, evidence-based, authoritative advice on global, regional and national issues by

a. developing high-quality, timely synthesis reports, consensus statements, foresight (futures) studies and other **interventions on issues of regional and global importance**, framed around the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, among other international research and policy frameworks;
b. building and maintaining **relationships with policymakers** in global policymaking bodies, including the UN, and through its regional networks, with its agencies and Regional Commissions; regional organisations such as the European Union, African Union; the

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the World Bank and regional development banks, and with national policymakers through its national member academies;

c. **convening experts, practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders** to discuss topical issues, scope (co-design) shared challenges and devise practicable solutions;
d. critiquing public policy processes and outputs constructively, and helping to **assess policy impact;**
e. **collaborating with, – and complementing - other leading international science organizations/networks**, such the International Science Council (supporting its role as the co-convenor of the UN Science and Technology Community Major Group);
f. **encouraging academies to apply and leverage IAP outputs** to their national contexts;
g. addressing important **policy for science issues** (e.g. ethics, evaluation of research, etc.)

(3) Promote the importance of science in research, education, and literacy by

a. promoting high-quality, responsible, open, **transparent and inclusive research**;
b. **communicating and disseminating** academy initiatives and outputs in innovative, creative, and accessible ways;
c. supporting activities that **foster the next generation** of research and science policy leaders, including through collaborations with the Global Young Academy and national young academies;
d. promoting **science education** in all its forms, to improve the teaching and learning experience in national and local education systems;
e. supporting efforts in **"science diplomacy"**; harnessing the diplomatic benefits of international scientific collaborations in creating a more peaceful and rational world;
f. promoting **public engagement in** and appreciation of science, medicine and engineering.

(4) Build IAP as a progressive and more resilient global academies network by

a. strengthening IAP's **governance and increasing the engagement** of IAP leadership and members;
b. empowering the IAP and regional network **secretariats**;
c. designing and implementing **cohesive, coherent and efficient IAP policies** for project management, fundraising, internal and external communications, and monitoring and evaluation based on a careful assessment of what has worked well and what needs improvement;
d. prioritizing **diversity** considerations within IAP leadership, its working groups/committees and members.
e. gaining **greater impact and visibility** for the work of IAP and its component academies

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