Science Diplomacy to Confront Societal Challenges

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- WORLD SCIENCE FORUM,
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Science Diplomacy: Unity and Diversity

- Varieties:
  - Addressees: governments, specific policy actors, private sectors, citizens
  - Focus: single, plural
  - Scope: national, international, global
  - Composition: disciplinarian, multi disciplinarian, trans disciplinarian

- Commonality:
  - furthering instrumental and moral science goals
The Symbolic Capital of Science

- Sharing principles, values and protocols scientific initiatives constitute a community of ideals and interests
- Science Communitarian identity contributes to overcome ideological barriers and power disputes
- A word of caution: the persistence of hidden barriers inside science (North/South, gender, disciplines, etc.)
- Yet, science can be the very antidote to combat such barriers within itself and outside
Past Accomplishments and Future Advances

- 100 years of institutionalized scientific collaboration
- Persistent progress
- Examples of successful experiences: Unesco, international disciplinarian unions, ICSU, ISSC, TWAS, WSF, IAP, INGSA, Young Academies, ISC
- The diversity of objectives rather than an obstacle has been an asset for partnership between different scientific organizations.
Past Experiences and the Creation of The International Science Council

- Past experiences of partnership between ICSU and ISSC contributed to illuminate new possibilities to act through institutional innovation and expanding the horizon of science diplomacy.

- The merger of ICSU and ISSC into a new scientific organization reflects the realization that the major problems society faces today need to be approached from the joint perspective of the so-called hard sciences and the social sciences.
International Science Council

- 140 National and Regional Scientific Organizations
- 40 International Scientific Unions and Associations across the natural and social sciences
- Regional Offices and Social Science Councils in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Arab world
- 7 International Research / Funding Programmes focusing on global change and sustainability
- 11 International Committees and Networks on data, observing systems, science advice
- Partnerships with other International Scientific Organizations, incl. IAP, TWAS, WFEO
- Formal Relations with the UN, Coordinator of the UN Major Group for S&T
ISC Challenge Domains:

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The Digital Revolution
- Science in Policy and Public Discourse
- The Evolution of Science and Science Systems
Science Diplomacy and the Prospects for Progress

- Science and the social, economic, political and cultural progresses humanity experienced in the last 50 years:

- Examples:

- The International Panel of Progress: Current Risks, challenges and the prospects for positive actions ([www.ipsp.org](http://www.ipsp.org))

Looking Ahead
Structures, Processes and Choices

- How we see the present conforms our vision for the future
- Science as renewed enlightenment
- Science diplomacy as ethical commitment
- How we choose among alternatives shapes our future
Thanks!