

Memorandum of Understanding

Preamble

Development challenges linked to health, energy, communications, water, food security and sustainability all require scientific and technological progress.

In order to have an impact on these issues, decision-makers at every level and in every nation – as well as the general public – must understand the science involved. Academies of science (including the health, engineering and social sciences) traditionally play a significant role in this process: analyzing and synthesizing research results and providing rigorous, independent recommendations, as well as promoting science education and science literacy.

Over the past two decades, these academies of science and medicine have aligned themselves into three major global networks – **IAP, the global network of science academies, the InterAcademy Council (IAC)** and the **InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP)** – in order to build on and amplify their individual strengths when tackling pressing global issues. These organizations have a related history and many cooperative relationships.

Now, however, these three ‘inter-academy’ networks have decided to form an umbrella organization – the InterAcademy Partnership.

The **InterAcademy Partnership** will focus on four priority areas:

- **Providing policy-relevant science advice:** Communicating to governments and decision-makers; translating knowledge to policy.
- **Global knowledge syntheses:** Evidence-based analyses and recommendations published in statements, reports, etc.
- **Increasing scientific literacy:** Including through science and health education, especially hands-on, enquiry-based learning and outreach to the public.
- **Strengthening the scientific enterprise:** Including capacity building, especially in low-income countries, supporting and strengthening young academies, providing policy advice to the scientific community, and promoting research integrity across the global scientific enterprise.

By empowering the scientific and health research communities – and boosting knowledge of science among policy-makers and the public – the InterAcademy Partnership aims to improve the lives of people everywhere, seeking to alleviate poverty and working towards developing a truly equitable and sustainable society.

To achieve these goals, the InterAcademy Partnership:

1. Will build on the individual strengths of its founding organizations, and synergies thereof, to present a uniform/united front, especially with respect to collaborative activities and fundraising;
2. Will work together, wherever possible, to achieve the following shared objectives:
 - Tap into the global scientific expertise for its work and the work of others;
 - Collaborate on major issues through such mechanisms as joint statements, reports, projects, etc;
 - Use the combined expertise to gather and synthesize scientific evidence on critical issues;
 - Give science advice for policy and policy advice for science;
 - Increase public awareness of science and its critical role in global development challenges;
 - Strengthen the scientific enterprise;

- Increase funding for InterAcademy Partnership activities through joint fundraising efforts.
- 3. Confirm that each participating organization will retain its autonomy with regard to its current legal status, administrative structure, executive committee, projects and activities etc;
- 4. However, the founding organizations will enter jointly into discussions with appropriate experts to determine how to consolidate the legal structure of the new organization.
- 5. With regard to presenting a united vision of the InterAcademy Partnership, the founding organizations will also make appropriate changes to the statutes/bylaws of their organization as soon as possible, including changing the names of the three organizations from IAP, the global network of science academies, the InterAcademy Council (IAC) and the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP), respectively, to:
 - a) IAP for Science;
 - b) IAP for Research; and
 - c) IAP for Health.
- 6. To this end, the parties will establish a Board to be led by a Steering Committee composed of the six co-chairs of the three organizations. One representative of each of IAP's four regional affiliated networks will make up the remainder of the new Board (= 10 people).
- 7. The Board will be led by two people (to be known as 'Presidents') selected by mutual agreement from among the six co-chairs of the three founding organizations – one representative from the low/middle income countries and one representative from the high income countries. As the term of office of an organization's co-chair ends, so that person will be replaced on the Board. Presidents should serve no more than two 2-year terms on the InterAcademy Partnership Board/Steering Committee.
- 8. During the interim period, day to day activities of the InterAcademy Partnership will be undertaken by the current IAP, IAMP and IAC secretariats.
- 9. Full details of the modus operandi of these and other rules of procedure are included in the annex (Terms of Reference) to this agreement.
- 10. The target for finalizing the above administrative processes is set as February 2016 when the IAP General Assembly will be hosted in South Africa by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

Signed:**IAP co-chairs:**

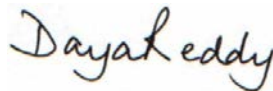

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Volker ter Meulen

IAC co-chairs:


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Robbert Dijkgraaf



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IAMP co-chairs:


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Date: 17 July 2014