

Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Revised 17 June 2014

Background

In November 2002, the IIASA Council decided to establish a high-level external Science Advisory Committee (SAC), with the main task to ensure that IIASA's work continues to meet highest standards in both scientific merit and policy relevance.

Tasks

- To advise the Council and the Directorate on the general scientific quality of the research and to advise on the strategy for IIASA to fulfil its mission and goals.
- In consultation with the Internal Research Committee (composed of IIASA project leaders), to provide recommendations on the scientific activities of IIASA; under special circumstances, the Committee may respond to requests for advice to individual National Member Organizations (NMOs).
- To assist in linking IIASA's research to relevant international research programs and the international research community.
- The SAC itself does not have an explicit evaluation function of ongoing research, but will be asked to advise the Council on scientists to be involved in periodical reviews of IIASA research projects. Such external evaluation teams will work independently of the SAC and report to the Council and the Directorate.
- The SAC will meet at IIASA at regular intervals. Approximately three meetings in a 2-year period are anticipated.

Membership

- The SAC will consist of maximum 18 eminent scientists with broad competence in fields related to IIASA's mission and goals.
- Nominations of members are made by NMOs and the Directorate.
- Upon recommendation of the Directorate and a Council nominating Committee, the Council appoints members for a term of three years. Re-appointment for one more term is possible.
- Upon recommendation of the Directorate and a Council nominating Committee, the Council will appoint the Chair of the SAC for a three-year period. Re-appointment for one more term is possible. The Chair will represent the SAC at Council meetings as a permanent guest.
- Membership will be on an honorary basis, except for travel and living expenses in connection with meetings, which will be covered by IIASA.

Criteria for selection of members:

- Within the SAC, there should be a good balance with regard to scientific disciplines; world regions; gender; and representation on international global science programs.
- SAC members should
 - Have outstanding scientific credentials;
 - Be well connected internationally;
 - Have demonstrated strong, independent judgment based on experience related to the goals of the SAC;
 - Have a broad understanding of the areas of research at IIASA;
 - Have extensive professional experience.

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