

Science Advisory Committee (SAC) Terms of Reference

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.

The Science Advisory Committee is an advisory structure constituted of independent scientists appointed by the IIASA Council with the task of providing scientific guidance and a research assurance function for IIASA. SAC has a dual reporting line. SAC directly reports to the IIASA Deputy Director General for Science and engages with the Director General, and indirectly to the Research and Engagement Committee of Council. The SAC Chair is invited to attend Council meetings as a guest.

Tasks

- To advise the Council and the IIASA Deputy Director General for Science on the general scientific quality of IIASA research.
- To provide independent assurance to the IIASA Deputy Director General, the Director General and Council on the execution of IIASA's research plan and make recommendations when persistent or critical problems are detected.
- To advise on future orientations of IIASA research in view of emerging trends.
- To recommend to the IIASA Deputy Director General for Science actions to ensure or strengthen the execution of the IIASA research plans.
- SAC should be consulted on the draft strategic plan and multiannual research plans.
- The SAC Chair is consulted on SAC membership and chairmanship.
- SAC will meet on a yearly basis at IIASA.

Membership

- SAC will consist of 12 eminent scientists with broad competence in fields related to IIASA's mission and goals.
- Nominations of members are made by NMOs and the IIASA Executive.
- Upon recommendation of the Council Executive Committee, the Council appoints members for a three-year period. Re-appointment for one more term is possible.
- SAC members elect the Chair of the SAC for a three-year period. Re-appointment for one more term is possible.
- The SAC 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 regards to scientific disciplines, world regions, gender, and representation on international global science programs.
- SAC members should:
 - Have outstanding scientific and professional credentials and experience.
 - Be well connected internationally.
 - Have demonstrated strong and independent judgement.
 - Have an appropriate understanding of the areas of research at IIASA.