

**WORKING GROUP ON THE GOVERNANCE, PROCEDURES,
AND WORKING METHODS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF UNESCO**

RECOMMENDATIONS

PART 2. STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND METHODS OF WORK OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES (IIBS)

A. Vision and Principles

Nº	Recommendation	Implemented
54	Sub-Group 2 recommends endorsing the vision of a more integrated, harmonized, coherent, and adapted system of International and Intergovernmental Bodies (IIBs) working closely with Member States, relevant partners, and each other in support of the Organization's objectives, medium-term strategy (C/4), and programme and budget (C/5), taking into account the specificities and requirements of individual mandates.	<i>UNESCO is the only United Nations organization with a mandate for the basic sciences. The International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) was created as an international programme of the organization by a resolution of the General Conference in 2004 (32 C/Resolution 15), developed with the intent of strengthening national capacities in science, sharing scientific knowledge, promoting STEM and reducing the divide in the basic sciences between rich and poor nations. The IBSP has since become an overarching platform – a network of networks – set up to fulfill UNESCO's unique mandate in the basic sciences and science education within the United Nations system. It is the only international platform which puts forward recommendations to the UNESCO governing board on how to improve the status of basic sciences around the globe.</i>
55	While recognizing the immense value of experts to the work of UNESCO, the intergovernmental nature of the IIBs needs to be reinforced. Thus, transparency and awareness-raising measures should be strengthened across the board. The work of IIBs must be as inclusive as possible and seek to involve Member States for greater impact and visibility.	<i>The need for science-based sustainable development is today greater than it has ever been before. The basic sciences provide an indispensable platform for meeting these opportunities, and bringing about far-reaching innovations that will have the most profound impacts on society and result in radical improvements in the quality of life. Since its creation, the IBSP Scientific Board has been performing well. In accordance with its statutes it has been submitting reports to the Director-General and General Conference that describe the progress of IBSP and lessons learnt and present elaborate recommendations on IBSP activities to be undertaken.</i>

**B. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES (IIBs)
Efficiency (mandate, composition, structure, rules of procedure, methods of work)**

Nº	Recommendation	Implemented
56	IIBs are invited to update their mandates, as appropriate, including their objectives and programs to be more coherent with approved C/5 priorities	<i>The IBSP is well aligned to the current global developments such as Agenda 2030, and reinforced concentration on promoting science innovations for the attainment of the SDGs, notably as reflected in the new</i>

	and responsive to current global developments, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.	<i>strategy of IBSP scientific board in response to IOS evaluation</i>
57	To promote diversity and inclusivity, voluntary term-limits of two consecutive mandates are recommended for IIBs which currently do not have term limitations for membership.	<i>This applies already to IBSP. Members are appointed for three years and may be reappointed for a further three years, but shall not serve continuously for more than six years</i>
58	As a general rule, term-limits of two consecutive mandates for membership in all Bureaus are recommended.	<i>This is already the case since the bureau members are elected from among the members of the Scientific Board of IBSP and in line with the Statutes of the Scientific Board, members may not serve continuous for more than two terms</i>
59	For cost-saving, coherence and harmonization, it is recommended that IIBs and the General Conference consider “right-sizing” the composition of the IIBs.	<i>The statutory meeting of IBSP is covered by regular programme budget. Over the last 15 years of existence of the IBSP a number of restructuration of the board has taken place sizing it down from 30 members to 18 members. It is generally appreciated within the IBSP that with 18 Members it is possible to cover all the various disciplines of basic sciences and address various regions.</i>
60	There is a need to reduce and manage politicization of nominations and decisions.	<i>As stipulated in the Statutes of the IBSP Scientific Board, the members of the IBSP serve in a personal capacity, not as representatives of their respective states or any other affiliated entities. There is therefore no politicization in nominations and decisions. Members are required to ensure that they have no conflict of interest and that they will not seek or accept instructions from governments or other authorities.</i> <i>The IBSP secretariat strives to organize as broad a call for nominations as broad as possible, and in the process it consults many stakeholders, such as Member States, international scientific unions, etc.</i> <i>During the selection process of new members of the IBSP Scientific Board, an equitable geographical distribution and gender equality is ensured.</i>
61	To enhance visibility and the effectiveness of the work of the IIBs, more effective information-dissemination is recommended through updating and enhancement of websites and outreach to all involved actors, including Member States and their National Commissions.	<i>IBSP is part of the PCB website in UNESCO. This is updated. Part of the new strategy of IBSP is to improve communication of the work of the IBSP Scientific Board on the website and to Member States</i>

62	Earlier preparation and dissemination of draft agendas and preliminary timetables, mainly by using the same template containing hyper-links to documents to be adopted/discussed in sessions.	<i>The Chairperson of the IBSP Scientific Board works closely with the UNESCO Secretariat to draft and disseminate the documents and agenda related to the Board meetings at least 1 month before the meeting date. These meetings usually take place in March at UNESCO HQ</i>
63	The Secretariat is invited to promote a harmonized virtual working environment for all IIBs and to revisit UNESCO's "Strategy on Knowledge Management and Information & Communication Technology". Simple, more user-friendly documentation (i.e. less fragmented reporting and easier document tracking; annotated agenda with hyper-links to reports and draft decisions).	<i>Same as item 62</i>
64	Open-ended informal consultations on draft decisions to promote inclusive and effective decision-making.	<i>Member States can attend the meetings of the IBSP Scientific Board as observers and they may intervene during any discussion at the Board meetings. The Scientific Board of IBSP is a Category V advisory committee and its prerogative it to make recommendations to the Director-General who decides what use is to be made of them.</i>
65	It is recommended that the Rules of Procedure of the IIBs be amended, when relevant, to advance the deadline for submission of candidatures to their subsidiary bodies from 48 hours to seven days before elections.	<i>IBSP is an international science programme and its Scientific Board does not have formal subsidiary bodies</i>

Harmonization (role of Bureaus, transparency)

N°	Recommendation	Implemented
66	The role, composition and procedures of Bureaus and their members should be clarified and harmonized through codification in rules of procedure/ statutes or development of general guidelines for all IIBs, in close cooperation with the Secretariat.	<i>Composition of the IBSP Scientific Board is laid down in the Statutes adopted by the Executive Board (169 EX/Decision 3.5.1) and in the Rules of Procedure</i>
67	It is suggested that Bureaus' composition be set, as much as compatible with individual IIBs' mandates, at a maximum of six members (Chair, Rapporteur, and four Vice-Presidents from the six Electoral Groups).	<i>The IBSP Scientific Board may consist of up to 30 members – it currently has 18. In line with the Statutes of the Scientific Board of IBSP, the Bureau consists of a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons and an Executive Secretary who is the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO.</i>
68	The intergovernmental nature of Bureaus should be reaffirmed while maintaining expert engagement. In this regard, the attached guidelines on responsibilities of Bureau members are recommended for dissemination to all Governing Bodies and IIBs (appendix 2).	<i>Although the IBSP is not an intergovernmental programme, but an international one, the IBSP Secretariat will draw the attention to these guidelines (appendix 2) whenever the composition of the IBSP is renewed.</i>

69	Documents related to Bureau meetings should appear online before meetings take place; outcomes, including reports of Bureau meetings, should be communicated to all members, and as appropriate, all Permanent Delegations, in a timely manner.	<i>When such meetings are required, the meetings of the bureau take place in the framework of the meetings of the IBSP Scientific Board. The members of the bureau take an active part in monitoring the work of the Scientific Board and in the preparation of its working documents. The status of category V Advisory Committees does not envisage the formal preparation and circulation of documents.</i>
70	Elections of Bureaus should be held, as much as possible, soon after elections for seats on the IIBs conducted at the General Conference, to avoid having Bureau members from Member States, which are no longer members of the IIBs concerned.	<i>IBSP is an international Programme and therefore its Board members are not related to the General Conference meetings.</i>
71	As much as feasible, Bureau meetings should be open to observers and working methods made more transparent.	<i>There are no formal bureau meetings and the members of the bureau may occasionally meet on an ad hoc basis if required.</i>
72	Strengthen information-sharing, communication and collaboration between Bureaus, Intergovernmental Councils and Committees and Member States.	<i>The Secretariat of the IBSP and that of other international scientific programmes have always strived to improve information sharing and cooperation between ISPs. A joint communication of the Chairs of the ISPs is presented to the General Conference at each of its sessions. The New Strategy of IBSP calls for stronger collaborations between International and intergovernmental bodies of UNESCO.</i>
73	Gender-neutral language be adopted throughout all UNESCO documents.	<i>The Secretariat of the IBSP is paying great attention to this point.</i>

Alignment with overarching priorities of UNESCO

N°	Recommendation Text	Implemented
74	All IIBs should have the opportunity to submit formal inputs to the mid-term strategy C/4 and the draft Programme and Budget C/5 documents of UNESCO.	<i>The Chairperson of the Scientific Board of IBSP submits the Board's report and recommendations to the Director-General who takes these recommendations into consideration. The Chairperson also submits the Board's views for the consideration of each session of the General Conference in the framework of an Information Document.</i>
75	A feedback mechanism can be envisaged for substantive dialogue between Member States and IIBs, beyond the limited reporting to the General Conference. This could be through information meetings or briefings. Reporting to the General Conference should be enhanced through a new more strategic and results-oriented reporting format to be followed by debate and General Conference resolutions to provide feedback to IIBs.	<i>The IBSP Scientific Board reported that there is a need for more regular information meetings with Member States.</i>

76	Orientation sessions for new members of all IIBs, especially for Chairpersons and Bureau members, should be institutionalized and include introduction to the C/4 and C/5 frameworks. To that end, a short user-friendly guidebook including good practices and acronyms could be produced to familiarize members with working methods and C/4 and C/5 mechanisms.	<i>The IBSP Secretariat provides relevant documents and information to newly elected members of the Scientific Board.</i>
----	--	---

Coherence, coordination and synergies

N°	Recommendation	Implemented
77	Balanced resource allocation is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of all IIBs.	<i>The Scientific Board of IBSP submits its recommendations on the balanced resource allocation in the Information Document it submits to each session of the General Conference. It is hoped that due consideration may be given to the recommendations it elaborates.</i>
78	Use of languages for inclusivity and effectiveness remains an important objective.	<i>The IBSP Secretariat fully shares this view and seeks to promote this objective throughout its operations and communications.</i>
79	IBs and their Secretariats are requested to enhance coordination in scheduling of meetings to avoid overlap.	<i>Efforts are being made to coordinate the meetings of the various IIBs so as to avoid overlap, but the opportunity for interaction between members of the various IIBs should not be missed</i>

Best practices

N°	Recommendation	Implemented
80	Best practices should be shared and replicated or, if necessary, adjusted to reflect specificities with the aim to promote governance mechanisms that facilitate strategies and action plans anchored on the C/4 and C/5. Attached, in this regard, is a non-exhaustive list of best practices identified by the Working Group (Appendix 3).	<i>Noted There is a wide range of partnerships triggered by IBSP (for example within International years of science). They proved to be a practical and cost-efficient means to develop international cooperation in the basic sciences and its service to national institutions</i>

F. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL FUND, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES, AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERT BODIES

N°	Recommendation	Implemented
109	Expert bodies and programmes need to strengthen transparency and information-dissemination measures, especially on appointment procedures and criteria, qualifications of members, methods of work, terms of reference, key programmes, results/ deliverables, and follow-up	<i>Since its creation, the IBSP Scientific Board has been performing well. In accordance with its statutes it has been submitting reports to the Director-General and General Conference that describe the progress of IBSP and lessons learnt and present elaborate recommendations on IBSP activities</i>

	of recommendations.	<i>to be undertaken. The last of these reports was submitted at the 39th session of the General Conference in 2017. Despite the financial and human resource limitation that had affected the Organization in 2013 and 2014, and IBSP in particular, IBSP has continued UNESCO's longstanding and international recognized work in the basic sciences that is <u>unique in the United Nations system</u>.</i>
110	In general, visibility and relations with the General Conference and Member States need to be improved. In this regard, an appropriate feedback mechanism for Member States to provide inputs/ suggestions to these bodies, beyond limited reporting to the General Conference, should be considered. Information meetings or placing dialogue with these bodies on the agenda of the Executive Board could be options.	<i>The last report of the IBSP Scientific Board was submitted to the 39th session of the General Conference as laid down in its Statutes. The report to be submitted to the Executive Board in the Spring of 2020 will take into consideration the IOS evaluation and the new strategy of IBSP in response to the IOS evaluation of 2017.</i>

International Basic Science Programme (IBSP)

Nº	Recommendation	Implemented	Ongoing (delivery date)	Not Implemented
112	a. Enhance and update website. b. Enhance outreach to Member States, including dissemination of reports on work of Scientific Board.	<i>The IBSP web site is regularly up dated in the framework of that of PCB.</i>	<i>A proposal on a new presentation of the IBSP activity on the web site is under consideration and will be completed at the forthcoming meeting of the IBSP Scientific Board.</i>	