

# The International Council for Science

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Executive Director

WCRP  
8 April 2015

# Overview



- ICSU: Roles and activities
- Future Earth: Update
- Challenges (and shared opportunities)

## ICSU since 1931:

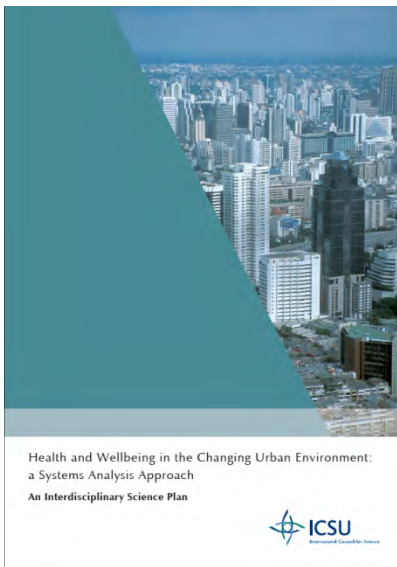
- 121 National Members
- 31 International Scientific Unions
- 22 International Scientific Associates
- 3 Regional Offices

# ICSU works to:



- Set global priority research agendas
- Foster excellent international, interdisciplinary research collaboration
- Develop global research capacities
- Shape national, regional and international policies for science
- Connect science, policy and practice
- Advocate the free and responsible practice of science
- Promote science as an open, public enterprise

# Co-sponsored international research programmes and platforms



(WMO, IOC and ICSU)

# International scientific committees and networks

- Thematic Committees
- Observing Systems
- Data and Information
- Science Advice

# Science for policy activities



Science, policy and economics meet here on our way to the 2015 climate conference in Paris.

**ROAD TO PARIS**  
*Science for Smart Policy*

The top 15 most influential people in climate change  
By Alice Bell. Read this now →

About Contact Twitter

Economics Alice Bell July 2, 2014

Divesting from fossil fuels, one university at a time

Science Leigh Phillips July 2, 2014

Shaking off the northern bias in temperature reconstructions

Politics Deborah Zabarenko July 2, 2014

From Kyoto To Hyogo: A Primer on the Global Disaster Resilience Framework



UN World Conference on  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan

# Policy for science initiatives

- International S&T Alliance for Global Sustainability
  - Belmont Forum
- Freedom and Responsibility of Science
- Science International (*proposal*)
  - Big data
  - Scientific careers
  - Science as a public enterprise, etc.



# Early career science activities

- Integrated research on global sustainability in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (*Sida proposal*)
  - 5 year programme for early career scientists
  - ICSU, ISSC, IAI, NASAC
  - Trans-disciplinarity training
  - Collaborative grants
  - Thematic framing by ICSU co-sponsored programmes

- Young Scientists' Networking Conferences (ICSU, ISSC, Future Earth)
- Early career science strategy (*in development*)

# Future Earth Governing Council

**BELMONT**  
FORUM



**ICCSU**

International Council for Science

**futureearth**  
research for global sustainability

**ISSC**  
international social science council



**UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY**



**United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization**



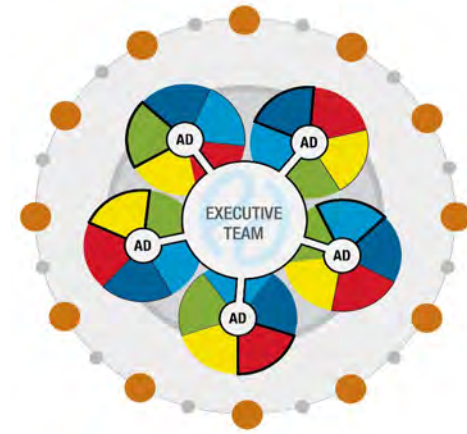
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
SOLUTIONS NETWORK**  
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS



**WMO**

**New member**

futureearth



February 2015

Paul Shrivastava  
Executive Director

April 2015

Interim Secretariat  
closes

Ongoing

Globally distributed  
secretariat  
appointments and  
regional hub  
development

# 2025 Vision



## 1. Challenges

- Inspired and created ground-breaking interdisciplinary science relevant to major global sustainability challenges

## 2. Outputs

- Delivered products and services that our societal partners need to achieve these challenges

## 3. Approaches

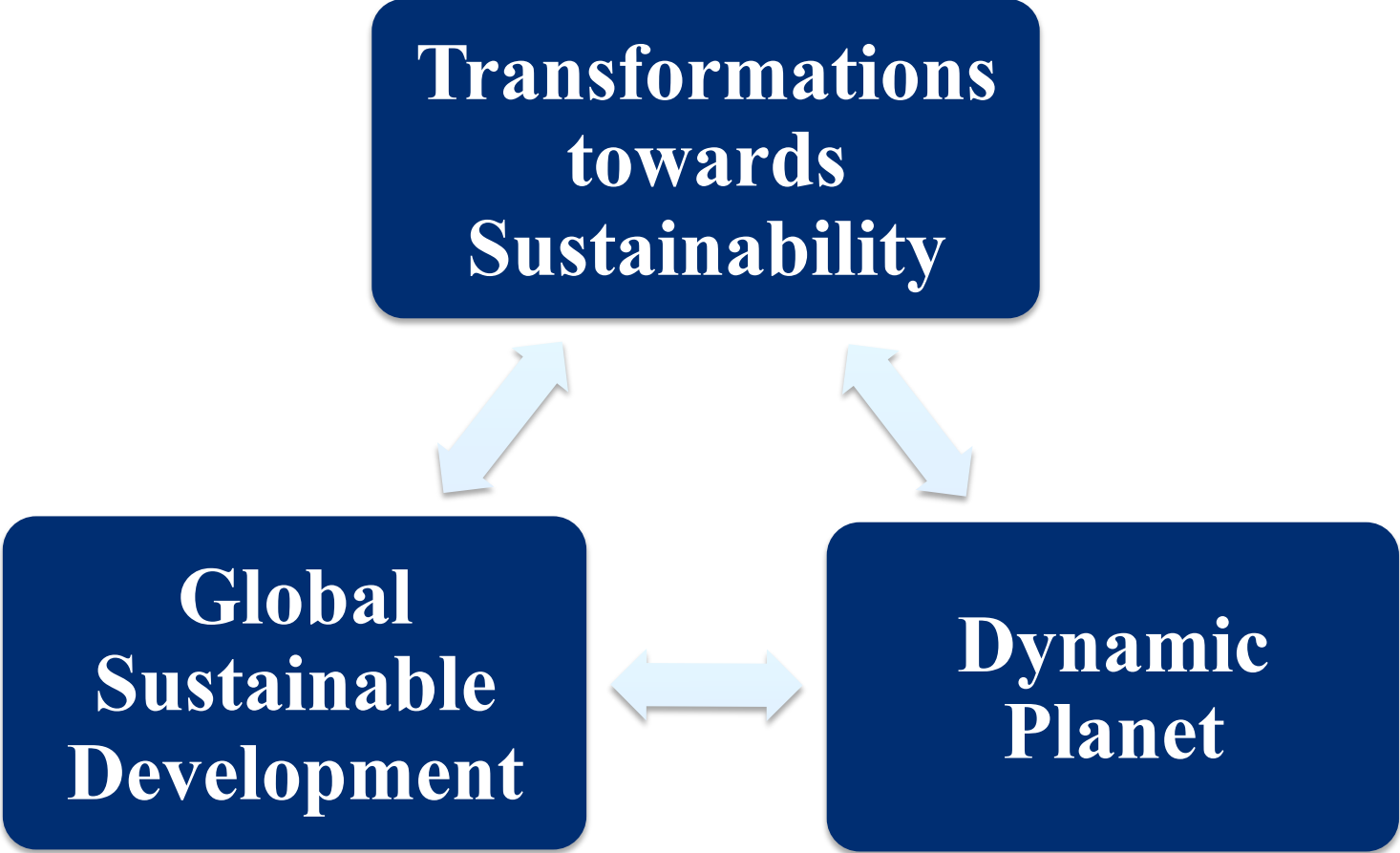
- Pioneered approaches to co-design and co-produce solutions-oriented science, knowledge and innovation for global sustainable development

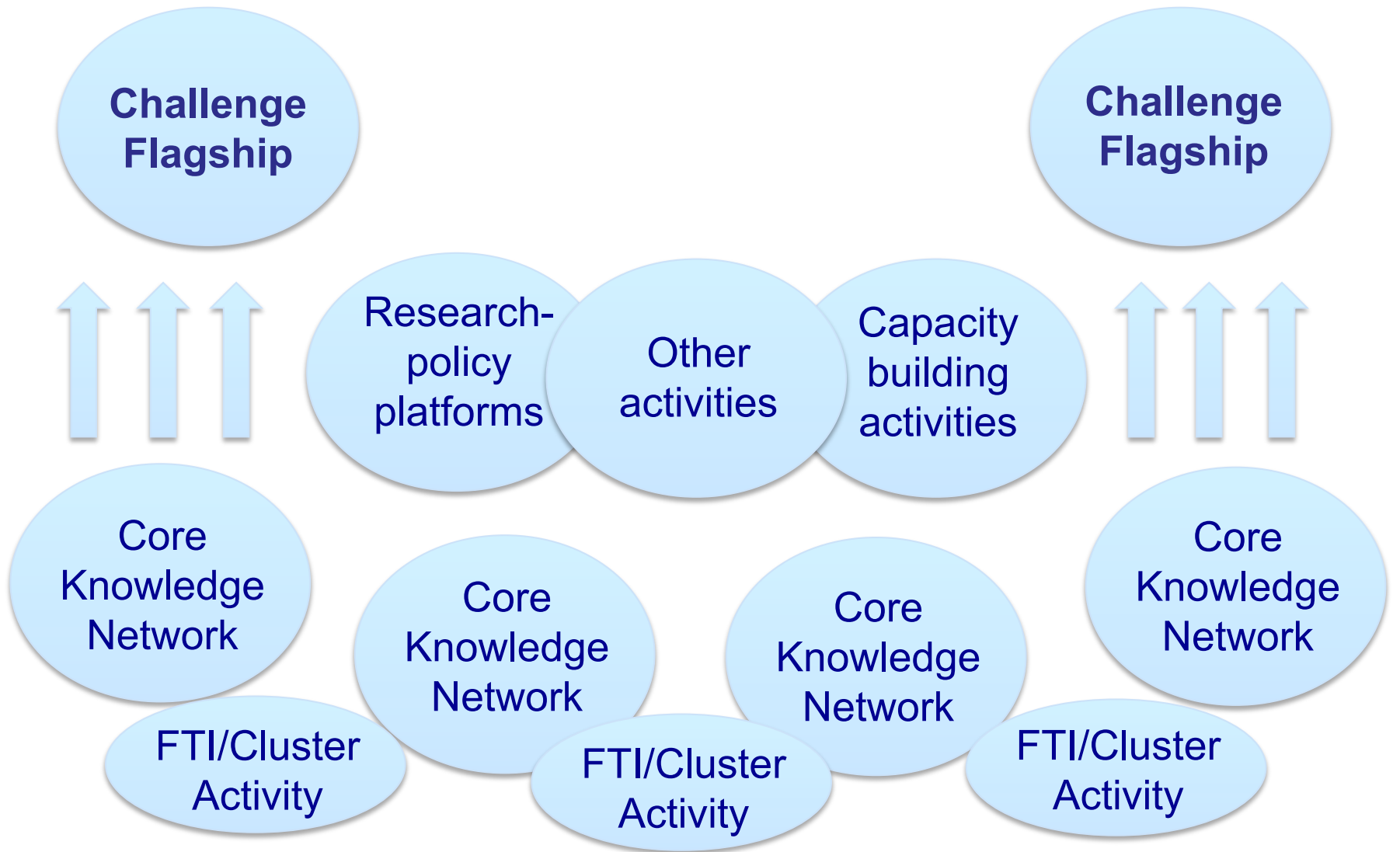
## 4. Capacities

- Enabled and mobilised capacities to co-produce knowledge, across cultural and social differences, geographies and generations

# Grand societal challenges

1. Deliver **water, energy, and food** for all, and manage the synergies and trade-offs among them.
2. **Decarbonise** socio-economic systems to stabilise the climate.
3. Safeguard the terrestrial, freshwater and marine **natural assets** underpinning human well-being.
4. Build healthy, resilient and productive **cities**.
5. Promote sustainable **rural futures** to feed rising and more affluent populations.
6. Improve human **health** in relation to GEC.
7. Encourage sustainable **consumption** and **production** patterns that are equitable.
8. Increase social **resilience** to future threats by building adaptive **governance** systems.







# Challenges (and shared opportunities)

- **Become the global voice of science**
  - Inclusive of all disciplines, regions, sectors
  - Emphasising early career science, gender and diversity agendas
  - Driving alliances (and synergies) between global science programmes, networks and organisations

- **(Understand and) promote transformative, solutions-oriented science to meet complex global challenges**
  - Uphold support for basic research
  - While driving the co-design and co-production of knowledge with societal stakeholders

- **Overcome global knowledge divides**
- **Be a trusted advisor, strengthening outreach and the public understanding of science**
- **Pursue a step-change in resource mobilisation for international science**

[www.icsu.org](http://www.icsu.org)