



**INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE**
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN

Strengthening International Science for the Benefit of Society

Oscar Reyes



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science for the benefit
of society



ICSU



Is a non-governmental organization with a global membership of international scientific bodies:

- 122 Members, representing 142 countries.
- International Scientific Unions, 31 Members.

Mission

To strengthen international science for the benefit of society. To do this, ICSU mobilizes the knowledge and resources of the international science community to:





- Identify and address major issues of importance to science and society.
- Facilitate interaction amongst scientists across all disciplines and from all countries.
- Promote the participation of all scientists—regardless of race, citizenship, language, political stance, or gender—in the international scientific endeavor.
- Provide independent, authoritative advice to stimulate constructive dialogue between the scientific community and governments, civil society, and the private sector.



ICSU PILLARS



In order to achieve this vision, ICSU identifies three pillars:

- International Research Collaboration
- Science for Policy
- Universality of Science



International Research Collaboration



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ICSU works with **strategic** partners to plan and coordinate international research programmes that address major issues of relevance to both science and society.

Interdisciplinary Bodies

- Antartic Research
- Climate Observation
- Climate Research
- Data for Science and Technology
 - Disaster Risk
- Ecosystem Change and Society
 - Future Earth
- Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment
- Ocean Observations
 - Ocean Research
- Radio Astronomy & Space Science
 - Solar-Terrestrial Physics
 - Space Research
- Terrestrial Observations
 - World Data System



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Science for Policy

ICSU promotes the creation of policies that benefit both science and society, in order to achieve that, ICSU facilitates interaction between scientists, for them to discuss problems within science and their solutions.



Universality of Science

ICSU works under the philosophy of Universality, which refers to the effort to promote the integration of all science and information without making any distinction.



ICSU REGIONAL OFFICES



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Africa, 2005.

Asia and the Pacific, 2006

Latin America and the Caribbean, 2007.



ICSU ROLAC

Mission

"To ensure that the Regional priorities are reflected in the ICSU strategic plan"



PRIORITY AREAS



ICSU ROLAC has established seven priority areas:

- Biodiversity
- Sustainable Energy
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Teaching of Mathematics
- Urban Health
- Open Data
- INGSA



Biodiversity



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Biodiversity is of major importance for Latin America and the Caribbean; six countries in the region are classified as megadiverse. ICSU-ROLAC acknowledges that and also the fact that the **loss** of biodiversity constitutes **a critical problem** for human existence. Therefore, the Secretariat has worked to raise **awareness** of the **importance** of biodiversity, its status in the region as well as its threats and their drivers.



Sustainable Energy



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The global and regional energy situation indicates the risks of maintaining the present structure of the world energy with high dependence on fossil fuels. Issues to face: Reduction on oil reserves, Environmental hazards associated to fossil fuels – specially the greenhouse gas emissions.



Disaster Risk Reduction



The LAC region is prone to disasters, whether natural or man-made. The Secretariat seeks to contribute to better and a more effective understanding of disaster risk and disaster risk management in the Latin American and, promoting research in an integrated interdisciplinary framework. Also, it seeks to promote better relations and understanding between the scientific and government policy institutions.



Teaching of Mathematics



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Our office has a unique priority area among the ICSU family: “Mathematics Education”. This important priority is widely recognized as **essential** to scientific capacity building in the region. We strongly believe that any **scientific development requires mathematical basis** and that the involvement of all citizens in the progress of their countries, requires knowledge and ways of thinking that mathematics provide.



Open Data



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The digital revolution we're now living is a world **historical** event and **unprecedented**. It has created an unparalleled explosion in the capacity to obtain, store, use and immediately transmit **complex data volumes**, having of course a deep impact in science. Having such scenario before us, it prompts **opportunities** and **challenges** we have to face, and ICSU ROLAC's response to that scenario is to push the Open Data agenda in the region as one of its priority areas.



Urban Health

It is estimated that more than half the world's population lives in urban areas and the urban population is increasing by 2% annually.

Urbanization presents **opportunities** and **risks**, as well as enormous **challenges** to maintain and improve the health and well-being of the inhabitants. The recognition of this imperative led the International Council for Science to promote research on the subject and to emphasize the need to study urban dynamics.



INGSA



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This priority has just been added to our region. The purpose of this priority is to gather emerging and established scientists, policy makers and key actors living or working in Latin America and the Caribbean to **enhance** their capacity to **provide scientific advice** for policy-making at all levels of government.

