

The InterAcademy Partnership

Strategic Plan (2024–2026)



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About the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP)

The IAP is the global network of some 150 merit-based academies of science, engineering and medicine, with direct access to more than 30,000 elected academy members who are scientists, engineers and health professionals recognized for their outstanding contributions. About half of the IAP's member academies also include social sciences and humanities expertise. With its four regional networks – in Africa (the Network of African Science Academies, NASAC), the Americas (the InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences, IANAS), Asia and Oceania (the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia, AASSA) and Europe (the European Academies Science Advisory Council, EASAC) – the IAP provides a platform for mobilizing regional and national expertise on wide-ranging issues of global importance, including in a timely manner during crises, and for facilitating cooperation with other key stakeholders and potential partners.

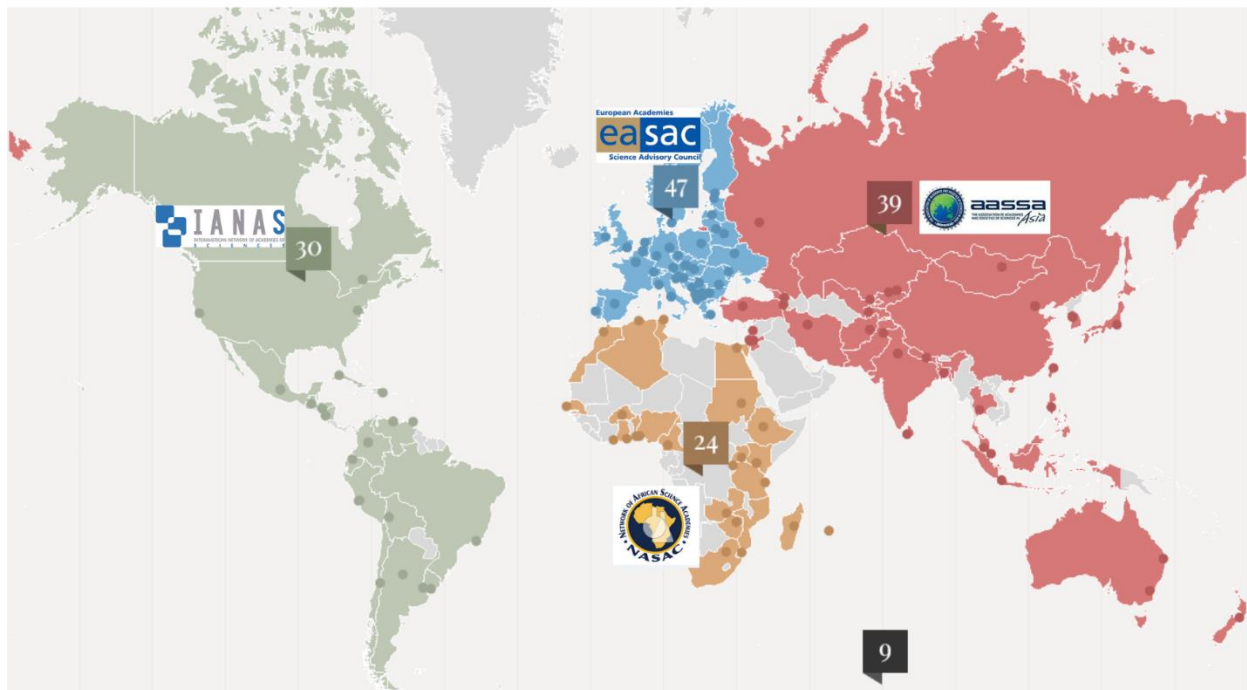


FIGURE 1 - THE FOUR IAP REGIONAL NETWORKS: IANAS IN THE AMERICAS, EASAC IN EUROPE, NASAC IN AFRICA AND AASSA IN ASIA AND OCEANIA.

The IAP's vision is for the world's academies to play a vital role in ensuring that advances in science, including social sciences and the humanities,¹ engineering and medicine, serve societies inclusively and equitably, and underpin global sustainable development. The IAP's dedication to equity, diversity and inclusivity is reflected in its leadership and the membership of its working groups and committees, and is embedded in the priorities of this Strategic Plan.



FIGURE 2 - THE IAP BOARD AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS MEETING IN ROME, ITALY, IN OCTOBER 2023. (PHOTO: SOFIA NITTI/IAP)

The IAP is a merit-based, membership fee-free organization; each member academy and network has equal voice in decision-making related to IAP activities and operations including elections, endorsement of statements and approval of new IAP members.

Mission

The IAP's mission is to convene and empower the world's academies of science, engineering and medicine to work collaboratively to help address issues of global, regional and national importance including in a timely manner during crises.

¹ Hereafter the term "science" is used to include all branches of science including social sciences and the humanities.

Strategic Priorities

This Strategic Plan sets out the IAP's strategic priorities with an emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches to help solve today's complex challenges, with ethical conduct, equity, diversity and inclusion embedded in proposed solutions. The Strategic Plan is in alignment with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 that calls for strengthening the means of implementation and revitalization of global partnerships.

The IAP's Strategic Plan is guided by the following four strategic priorities:

- (1) Build the capacity of and empower academies, including young academies and global or regional networks of academies, to provide reliable, independent, authoritative advice on global, regional and national issues. Specific objectives under this strategic priority include to:
 - a. Support cooperation across regional networks of academies and their national members through grants and professional opportunities such as joint projects and networking events;
 - b. Promote the generation and strengthen sharing of good practices across regional networks, and with other international science, engineering and medicine networks;
 - c. Promote the contribution of integrated science, engineering and medicine to identify viable and sustainable evidence-based solutions to global challenges;
 - d. Provide support to recently established and insufficiently resourced academies to gain visibility and develop operational capacities, and support the formation of new academies in countries where they do not yet exist, including in low- and middle-income countries;
 - e. Support the independence and integrity of academies as fundamental components of national and international advisory systems for governments, policymakers and the public;
 - f. Facilitate the inclusion and engagement of scientists across geographies, economies, ethnicities, indigenous backgrounds, genders and generations, and build a cadre of ambassadors for IAP and the member academies in their efforts to serve society.

- (2) Promote education, research, science literacy, public discourse and engagement in science, engineering and medicine to support global sustainability. Specific objectives under this priority include to:
 - a. Promote reliable, independent, high-quality, ethical, open, transparent and inclusive research based on academic freedom;
 - b. Promote social justice in science, engineering and medicine;

- c. Support activities that foster the next generation of academics and research and policy leaders;
- d. Promote science literacy and science education in all its forms to improve the teaching and learning experience in national and local education systems;
- e. Promote appreciation of advances in science, engineering and medicine with policy makers at national, regional and international levels, members of the public and the media;
- f. Support women scientists in developing technical capacity and building careers in academics and research;
- g. Support efforts in science diplomacy and international scientific collaboration and the values that underpin the global scientific research enterprise;
- h. Promote recognition of the importance of evidence-informed advice and stakeholder engagement by policymakers at global, regional and national levels, and the importance of science, engineering and medicine in bilateral and multilateral international relations.

(3) Partner with international scientific and other organizations in addressing important global issues and to respond in a timely manner during crises. Specific objectives under this priority include to:

- a. Seek opportunities where IAP and its member academies can work collaboratively with other national and international scientific entities to address an issue or to amplify and unify the contributions of science, engineering and medicine;
- b. Engage in regular discussions and identify opportunities for collaboration with key national, regional and international partners that promote science, engineering and medicine as a societal and global public good;
- c. Maintain or gain access to databases and sources of expertise upon which IAP can draw;
- d. Participate in international, regional and national research and policy-focused cooperations, including those framed around the UN's SDGs and other relevant UN organizations.

(4) Expand visibility, accessibility, outreach and impact of reports, statements and other activities of the IAP, its regional networks, and its member academies. Specific objectives under this priority include to:

- a. Invest in most appropriate dissemination activities for reports, statements and other IAP products in innovative, creative, and accessible ways;
- b. Support academies to apply and leverage IAP outputs to their national and regional contexts;
- c. Increase accessibility of IAP reports, statements and other products and activities to those with visual, hearing and other physical or learning disabilities;

- d. Translate reports, statements and other products to (at least) the official UN languages and create products catered to policy makers, members of the public, special communities including indigenous peoples, media and other stakeholders;
- e. Develop methodology and assess the impact of IAP reports, statements, and other IAP products and activities and identify opportunities for improvement.



FIGURE 3 - THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE IAP AND THE WORLDWIDE MEETING OF THE YOUNG ACADEMIES IN ARIZONA, USA, IN NOVEMBER 2022. (PHOTO: G.ORTOLANI/IAP)

Implementing the Strategic Plan

The [IAP's governance](#) provides the supportive organizational structure to implement this Strategic Plan. Much of the work called for by the Strategic Plan will be implemented by the IAP's three Programmatic and Development Committees that oversee capacity building, policy advice, and communication, education and outreach activities. These committees, with representation of more than 30 IAP member academies around the world, will develop specific approaches to meet the objectives under each set of priority goals of the Strategic Plan, the means to advance the plan through the IAP membership and the metrics for measuring success of approaches and progress towards meeting the goals. Approaches will be adaptable to changing factors and local contexts and will be realistic relative to the mission and size of the IAP. The IAP Board and staff members will serve as liaisons to the three Programmatic and Development Committees and ensure adherence to tasks and timelines.



FIGURE 4 - THE IAP CO-PRESIDENTS, STAFF AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS GATHERED IN ROME, ITALY, IN OCTOBER 2023. (PHOTO: SOFIA NITTI/IAP)

The three Programmatic and Development Committees will provide annual progress reports to the IAP Board and to the Advisory Committee for their review and feedback. The three Programmatic and Development Committees will also prepare a final progress report for review and feedback by the General Assembly. The final progress report is expected to inform the next Strategic Plan. For transparency, the annual progress reports and the final report will be posted on the IAP website.

Appendices

Process for Preparing the Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan was prepared by individuals with diverse expertise and geographic distribution representative of IAP membership. These individuals were nominated (including self-nominated) by IAP member academies and networks and were part of one or two Strategic Plan Working Groups that carried out their work from June 2022 to December 2022 (Group 1) and January 2023 to June 2023 (Group 2) to help draft the Plan. Members of the Strategic Plan Working Groups were:

[Stephanie Burton](#), [Academy of Science of South Africa](#) (Co-Chair, Group 2)
[Wolfgang Holzgreve](#), [German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina](#) (Chair, Group 1; Co-Chair, Group 2)
[Wejdan AbuAlhija](#), [Royal Scientific Society of Jordan](#) (Group 2)
[Rajae El Aouad](#), [Hassan II Academy of Science & Technology, Morocco](#) (Group 1)
[Encieh Erfani](#), [Global Young Academy](#), Iran (Group 2)
[Ranieri Guerra](#), [Accademia Nazionale di Medicina, Italy](#) (Group 2)
[Zhe Li](#), [Chinese Academy of Sciences](#) (Group 2)
[Priscilla Kolibea Mante](#), [Global Young Academy](#), Ghana (Group 2)
[Julian May](#), [Academy of Science of South Africa](#) (Group 2)
[Jorge Alberto Neira](#), [Academia Nacional de Medicina, Argentina](#) (Groups 1 and 2)
[Gianfranco Pacchioni](#), [Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Italy](#) (Group 1)
[Bilgin Pinar](#), [Turkish Academy of Sciences](#) (Group 2)
[Elaine Sadler](#), [Australian Academy of Science](#) (Group 1)

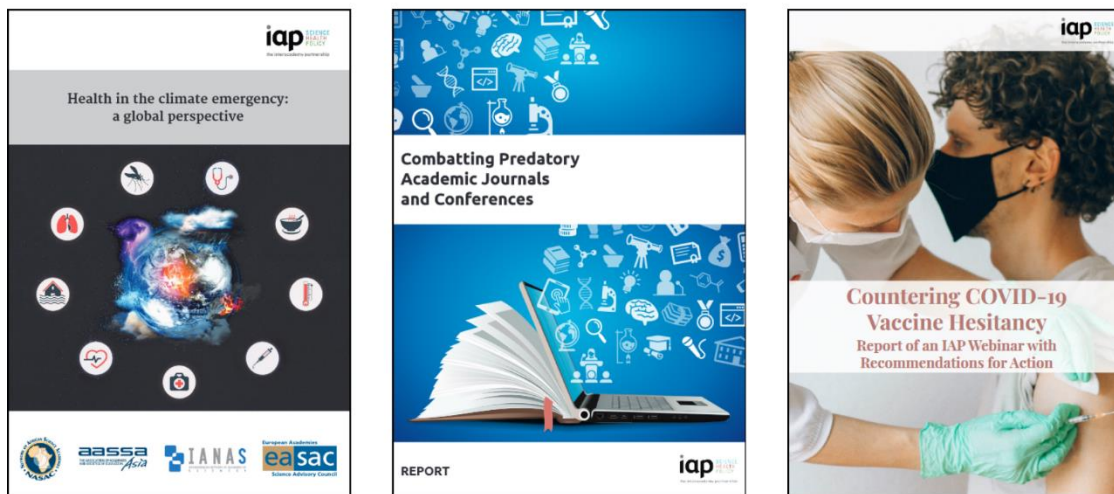
[Peter McGrath](#) (IAP Secretariat office in Trieste) and [Ourania Kosti](#) (IAP Secretariat office in Washington DC) provided support and intellectual input to the working groups.

The draft plan was presented to the IAP Board in May 2023 and to the IAP Advisory Committee and Programmatic and Development Committees in June 2023. After incorporating their input, the draft was shared with IAP member academies and networks for endorsement in July 2023.

Strategic Achievements 2019–2023

Over the duration of the previous Strategic Plan (2019–2023), the IAP delivered evidence-based science for policy advice and policy for science advice and performed other services for the global scientific and policy communities. Examples of the IAP’s work, illustrating the diversity and breadth of its output, include the [global synthesis study on Climate Change and Health](#) (2022) and reports on [Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences](#) (2022) and

[Countering COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy](#) (2022), with additional [Statements](#) during this period on other aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and on other priority topics, such as [Regenerative Medicine](#). During the preparation of study outputs and for an extended period following publication, IAP and its regional networks are actively engaged in outreach to discuss recommendations and support action. For example, emerging messages from the Climate Change and Health project were discussed with policy makers and other stakeholders as part of successive United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change events and with successive G20 Presidencies; with health decision-makers including at World Health Summit and the scientific community more broadly including at the World Science Forum and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



The IAP strengthened and expanded relationships with several partners. For example, through its [Science Education Programme](#), IAP collaborated with the Smithsonian Science Education Center to produce curriculum resources for teachers based on the SDGs and almost doubled the number of [Young Physician Leaders \(YPL\)](#)—to more than 200—and helped establish a YPL alumni network for peer-to-peer mentorship and support. IAP also contributed expertise and information for the development of the WHO report titled ‘Global guidance framework for the responsible use of the life sciences’ and partnered with the International Science Council (ISC) to analyse the inclusion and participation of women in global science organizations, and with The World Academy of Sciences and the ISC to launch an [advocacy campaign](#) in support of at-risk, displaced and refugee scientists.



FIGURE 5 (LEFT) – THE 2022 YPL COHORT DISCUSSING LEADERSHIP STYLES IN ROME, ITALY, IN JUNE 2022. (PHOTO: G. ORTOLANI/IAP)

FIGURE 5 (RIGHT) – THE 2022 REGIONAL WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT AT LA SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY IN ROME, ITALY, IN JUNE 2022. (PHOTO: G. ORTOLANI/IAP)

The IAP expanded its support for national young academies in several ways. For example, it helped the Global Young Academy (GYA) to expand its leadership training activities in Latin America and welcomed submissions from national young academies to the IAP competitive grants programme. The GYA helped to co-organize the [IAP triannual conference](#) in November 2022, which for the first time included a significant number of early career speakers.

The IAP’s regional networks also enhanced their visibility and credibility over the duration of the previous IAP Strategic Plan.

- [EASAC](#) published a series of reports, including ‘[Regenerative Agriculture in Europe](#)’, ‘[A sea of change: Europe’s future in the Atlantic realm](#)’ and ‘[Decarbonisation of buildings: for climate, health and jobs](#)’.
- [IANAS](#) published eight reports on [water](#)- and energy-related issues in the Americas, [climate change](#), and [STEM education](#); and organized six [webinars](#) on COVID-19, water quality, health, climate change and the future of cities. IANAS also hosted two [General Assemblies](#) over the duration of the previous strategic plan, and an online [Nobel Prize Dialogue for young scientists](#). IANAS held three [editions](#) of the Anneke Levelt-Sengers Prize, two Young Scientist Research Award contests, and two “Let’s discover Latin American female Scientists” video contests.
- [NASAC](#) provided science advice during the COVID-19 pandemic by facilitating [shared experiences and lessons learnt](#) and published a [joint statement](#) by science academies in Africa. NASAC also developed a [policymakers’ booklet](#) on the use and effects of neonicotinoid insecticides in agriculture (a follow-on from an original EASAC study) and launched a [regional study on decarbonization of transport](#) in partnership with IAP. [NASAC partnered with the UN Technology](#)

[Bank](#) to help establish science academies in four African countries. Early career researchers were engaged in transdisciplinary research under the [Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030](#) in Africa initiative.

- [AASSA](#) carried out a [risk-assessment](#) of the use of neonicotinoid insecticides in Asian countries and held a total of 16 regional workshops and other projects that examined issues [related to SDGs](#) such as [digital scholarly communication](#), plastic pollution, [STEM education](#) and urbanization. AASSA also launched a web platform to highlight the work of women scientists in the region, which was subsequently globalized (<https://stemwomen.global/>).



FIGURE 6 - THE WORKING GROUP OF THE IAP-NASAC PROJECT ON DECARBONISATION OF TRANSPORT IN AFRICA MET IN NAIROBI, KENYA, IN JUNE 2023. (PHOTO: NASAC)

The IAP took several steps over the duration of the previous Strategic Plan to become a more progressive and cohesive global academies network. Specifically, it revised its statutes and completed the merger process of its three constituent networks (IAP Science, IAP Health, and IAP Policy) to a single network that allows collaboration across multiple areas of expertise. IAP also strengthened its governance by establishing an Advisory Committee and three Programmatic and Development Committees that oversee capacity building, policy advice, and communication, education and outreach activities. Finally, the IAP improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the [Secretariat](#) operations and diversified its core resources.