

# 2018 CALL FOR APPLICATION FUTURE EARTH GOVERNING COUNCIL

## Background Information

### 1. ABOUT FUTURE EARTH

At Future Earth, we believe that research, innovation, and collaboration is critical to transform the world towards sustainability. We harness the experience and reach of thousands of scientists and innovators from across the globe. Together, this global community facilitates research, mobilizes networks, sparks innovation, and turns knowledge into action. Learn more about us [here](#).

### 2. GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC)

The Governing Council (GC) is the decision-making body for Future Earth, setting its strategic direction, guiding strategic partnerships and approving budgets and key appointments. The GC supports and promotes Future Earth as an eminent global platform for research, innovation, and collaboration for sustainability and helps set the strategic direction, high-level architecture and core activities for Future Earth initiatives in ground-breaking and innovative practices.

The primary commitments of Governing Council (GC) members are:

- To provide independent, strategic advice to Future Earth based on your experience as a leader in your organization;
- To meet twice a year, with at least one of these meetings to be attended in person;
- To support their participation in GC activities through their organization's resources. This means that all travel/time costs, and support staff are to be provided by the GC member (when primary organizational representative is unable to participate at in-person meetings, a replacement who is also in a senior or leadership position must be identified); and
- To be ambassadors for Future Earth within their organization's events and networks.

Responsibilities of the Governing Council (GC) are the following:

- Support and promote Future Earth as an eminent global platform for research, innovation, and collaboration designed to support transformations towards sustainability;
- Approve the high-level architecture and core activities for Future Earth initiatives taking into account the objectives of more integrated science and the co-design and co-production of knowledge with societal partners;
- Provide Future Earth with an institutional framework and global legitimacy, by:
  - approving the establishment of new Global Hubs and Regional Entities;
  - appointing a selection committee to recommend the appointment of the Executive Director;

- appointing the Executive Director and members of the Advisory Committee; and endorsing the appointment of Global Hub Directors as selected by the relevant Global Hub’s Consortium of partners;
- Endorse practices and approaches to establish and maintain a sustainable financial basis for Future Earth;
- Approve Future Earth financial structures, consolidated budgets, and financial statements;
- Represent and promote Future Earth;
- Identify, review, and approve strategic partnerships;
- Develop a procedure for external review of the programme, oversee the process and respond to the results.

The appointment of international organizations is for a three-year term, renewable once. Two Governing Council members serve as co-chairs, in their individual capacities. They are selected internally by the Governing Council voting members and rotate every two years, out of phase to ensure continuity. A co-chair’s terms may be extended if unanimously agreed to by all GC voting members.

The current international organizations composing the Governing Council are:

- [International Council for Science \(ICSU\)](#)
- [International Social Science Council \(ISSC\)](#)
- [Belmont Forum](#)
- [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#)
- [United Nations Environment \(UNEP\)](#)
- [United Nations University \(UNU\)](#)
- [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\)](#)
- [The Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#)
- [STS forum](#)

### 3. OVERVIEW OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SELECTION PROCESS

#### I. Selection criteria

International organizations seeking to be a member of the GC will be selected with the following criteria:

- A central focus on the transition to global sustainability
- An international scope of work and/or representation
- A broad multidisciplinary or multi-sectoral scope

Future Earth is particularly seeking to achieve balance in the GC membership in terms of geography and sectors of activity of its international organizations, as well as gender, geography and expertise and/or disciplinary background of its representatives.

## II. Application and selection process

Future Earth is pleased to invite you to this open call for organizations interested in joining the GC. All international organizations that currently sit on the GC are asked to fill out the same [application form](#) as new organizations seeking a position. The Future Earth Advisory Committee (view full membership [here](#)) will review all applications and make a recommendation to the sitting GC. The sitting GC will make the final decision on which international organizations will be represented.