

The Global Research Council



Preamble

The worldwide growth of support for research has presented an opportunity for countries large and small to work in concert across national borders. Cooperation and collaboration can enhance the quality of science and research, avoid unnecessary duplication, provide economies of scale, and address issues that can only be solved by working together. Heads of national research councils (HORC's) have a responsibility to meet these objectives on behalf of the research community. It is with this in mind that we join together to establish the Global Research Council (GRC or Council) as an informal organization pledged to find mutually acceptable paths to greater international research collaboration.

Article 1

Purpose

The intended purposes of the GRC are:

1. To improve communication and cooperation between national research councils;
2. To promote the sharing of data and best practices for high-quality research cooperation;
3. To provide a forum for regular meetings of the heads of national research councils;
4. To respond to opportunities and to address issues of common concern in the support of research and higher education;
5. To be a resource for those institutions wishing to build and sustain a world-class research landscape;
6. To explore mechanisms that support the global science enterprise and the worldwide research community, and finally;
7. To remain focused and reach decisions based on scientific merit.

The GRC will act in accordance with the following core principles and understandings:

1. The GRC will remain a voluntary and "virtual" organization with no permanent secretariat and no membership dues or costs.
2. The participants are expected to pay all costs associated with their participation with GRC activities subject to the availability of funds.
3. The GRC is not a legal entity and this document does not create binding obligations under international law.
4. The participants are expected to respect each other's political frameworks.
5. The participants engaging in the GRC governance are expected to guarantee politically impartial procedures.

Article 2

Governing Board

It is anticipated that the Governing Board will consist of no more than twelve (12) heads of national research councils that are active participants in the GRC. GRC participants plan to confer on the Governing Board primary responsibility for:

1. Developing the appropriate processes and identifying procedures required for all GRC activities;
2. Identifying priority work areas for GRC activities.
3. Determining the host countries for GRC Annual and Regional Meetings as per Article 4.
4. Determining the roles and responsibilities of the Chair, Vice Chairs and Executive Secretary
5. Amending the terms of this foundational document by a two-thirds vote of the twelve (12) Governing Board members

The following is further expected regarding the composition and operation of the Governing Board:

6. It is expected that the Governing Board will consist of the heads of national research councils, along with *ex officio* members, as provided in paragraph 11.
7. Nomination and selection of Governing Board members is the responsibility of each of the five world regions according to the following numbers:
 - a. Three (3) from the Americas
 - b. Three (3) from Europe
 - c. Three (3) from the Asia-Pacific
 - d. Two (2) from Sub-Saharan Africa
 - e. One (1) from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)
8. Governing Board members should lead organizations active in both Regional and Annual Meetings. They are expected to be fully representative of their region's interests.
9. Membership is expected to be for three (3) year terms with one-third of the membership, rotating on an annual basis. Terms of service start immediately following the Annual Meeting. Members may serve consecutive terms.
10. In the case of a change in leadership, the new HRC succeeds his or her predecessor as a member of the Governing Board and as inheritor of all GRC duties (including any remaining mandate on the Governing Board).
11. Hosts of the next Annual Meeting, if not yet members of the Governing Board, shall be invited as additional, *ex officio* members with full voting rights, as soon as the decision for the Annual Meeting host is taken. Ex-officio membership is for the duration of one (1) year or until the Annual Meeting has taken place.
12. In exceptional cases and at its discretion, the Governing Board may invite additional, extraordinary members to the Governing Board, who may participate as observers to the proceedings.
13. The Governing Board is expected to meet in person on the day prior to the beginning of each Annual Meeting and by teleconference at least biannually.
14. The Governing Board is expected to reach decisions by a two-thirds vote.

Chair and Vice-Chairs

15. The Governing Board is expected to elect one Chair and two Vice-Chairs from among its ordinary members.
16. The Chair and Vice-Chairs are expected to serve a two (2) year term. Vice-Chair terms will be staggered to ensure consistency.
17. The Chair and Vice-Chairs will be appointed by secret ballot, to be held from within the Governing Board's members at its meeting preceding the Annual Meeting. A candidate will be deemed elected when they receive the highest number of votes in the first round. In the event of a tie, the current Chair will have the deciding vote.
18. The Chair and Vice-Chairs should be selected to reflect, over the years, the diversity of research councils worldwide.

Executive Secretary and Executive Support Group

19. It is expected that the Governing Board will appoint an Executive Secretary provided at no cost by a national research council. The Executive Secretary should serve for a five (5) year term and should not serve more than one consecutive term.
20. To meet the demands of continuity and transparency in its procedures, the Governing Board is expected to establish an Executive Support Group (ESG), consisting of experienced senior level officials from GRC participants. Membership shall be *ad personam* but should reflect, over the years, the diversity of research councils worldwide. The ESG shall be co-chaired by one of its members and by the Executive Secretary, who will be a full member of the ESG *ex officio*.

Article 3

International Steering Committee

It is expected that the Governing Board will also establish, annually, an International Steering Committee (ISC). It is understood that the composition and operation of the International Steering Committee will be as follows:

1. Membership of the ISC is to include one nominee each from the host and co-host of the Annual Meeting and one nominee each from the host and co-host of the Regional Meetings.
2. The ISC will be chaired by the nominee from the host or co-host of the Annual Meeting.
3. The Executive Secretary of the Governing Board and the Chair of the Executive Support Group will be members of the ISC *ex officio* and with full voting rights.
4. The Chair of the Governing Board may also name any *ex officio* members to the ISC.
5. Responsibilities of the ISC include:
 - a. Developing the agenda for the Annual Meeting
 - b. Developing potential outputs for consideration at the Annual Meeting
 - c. Coordinating and hosting Regional Meetings
 - d. Consolidating and endorsing the work product from the Regional Meetings
 - e. Meeting at least once a year.

Article 4

Annual Meeting and Regional Meetings

The GRC should involve all interested key players in research support worldwide. Accordingly, it is expected that GRC participants will actively take part in Annual and Regional Meetings as set forth more fully below:

1. It is expected that there will be an Annual Meeting. This meeting is expected to adopt the statements and standards developed by the Regional Meetings, as well as to endorse recommendations for follow-up activities to be implemented by participants within GRC framework, as appropriate.
2. Participation in the Annual Meeting should be limited in number to allow for work to be performed, while still being sufficiently representative of the world's research potential.
3. Accordingly, the Annual Meeting should bring together research councils from around the world with the following considerations:
 - a. Each country should be represented by a maximum of two organizations.
 - b. Participants should be sufficiently representative of their national and subnational stakeholders, particularly those who cannot be accommodated at the Annual Meeting.
 - c. In order to assure adequate regional representation as well as transfer of knowledge, experiences and demands, organizations from developing research performing countries should also be invited and represented at the Annual Meeting.
 - d. The organizers may invite additional organizations for special purposes.
 - e. Only organizations which actively take part in the Regional Meetings should be invited to the Annual Meeting.
 - f. Participants should be publicly funded governmental organizations or similar publicly funded basic research organizations.
4. Regional Meetings may be attended by all interested publicly funded research organizations.
5. Any follow-up activities under the auspices of the GRC must be approved by the Governing Board.

Article 5

Host Country—Annual Meeting

It is expected that the Governing Board will decide which organization will host the GRC Annual Meeting, subject to the additional understandings:

1. The host and co-host of the Global Research Council Annual Meeting should be selected to reflect, over the years, the diversity of research councils worldwide.
2. The host and co-host of the GRC Annual Meeting should come from different parts of the world.
3. The host and the co-host of the Global Research Council Annual Meeting should be active participants in the past GRC Annual and Regional Meetings.
4. The hosts pay local costs associated with arranging the Annual Meeting.
5. The hosts should assume that HORCs and one staff member will represent each participating research council.

6. It is expected that participants will cover their own costs to attend the meeting.
7. The Annual Meeting should be held in May or June and last approximately 1 ½ days.

8. The expected schedule is as follows:

a. Announce the Call for Proposals to host Annual Meeting	September
i. On GRC Website, and	
ii. Via email to all organizations participating in Annual and Regional Meetings for two previous years	
b. Proposals to host Annual Meeting due	December
i. To be submitted via GRC Website link	
c. Governing Board Selects Annual Meeting Host	February
d. Annual Meeting	May +1 year

9. Applications should contain the following information:
 - a. The proposed host research council
 - b. The proposed co-host research council
 - c. The proposed location including the city and proposed facilities
 - d. Proposed dates
 - e. A short narrative on a maximum of five (5) pages, including potential discussion topics, in support of the application.

Article 6

Host Country—Regional Meetings

It is expected that the Governing Board will decide which organizations will host GRC Regional Meetings, subject to the additional understandings:

1. The hosts of the Global Research Council Regional Meetings should be selected to reflect, over the years, the diversity of research councils in the region.
2. The host and the co-host of the Global Research Council Regional Meetings should be active participants from past GRC Regional Meetings.
3. It is expected that the hosts will pay local costs associated with arranging the Regional Meetings.
4. The hosts should assume that at least one staff member will represent each participating research council.
5. It is expected that Participants will cover their own costs to attend the meeting.
6. The Regional Meetings should be held between October and early December.
7. The Regional Meetings should be coordinated so that they all occur on different dates.
8. The expected schedule is as follows:

a. Announce the Call for Proposals to host Regional Meetings	February
i. On GRC Website	
ii. Via email to all organizations participating in Annual and Regional Meetings for two previous years	
b. Proposals to host Regional Meetings due	March
i. To be submitted via GRC Website link	

- c. Governing Board Selects Regional Meeting hosts April
 - d. Regional Meeting Oct.-December
9. Applications to host Regional Meetings should include the same information as contemplated in Article 5, paragraph 11.