

# The InterAcademy Partnership in 2024 Highlights for Policymakers

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) is a global network of some 150 academies of science, engineering and medicine working together to provide independent expert advice on scientific, technological and health issues.

## Science and the G7/G20

The IAP, in collaboration with CultureBase Consulting, undertook an analysis and produced a report on thematic overlaps and correlations between the S-Statements issued collaboratively by national science academies, and G-Statements, the declarations and communiqués from G7 and G20 summits. The conclusion from the analysis is clear: Science academies and G7 and G20 governments are well-aligned on priority issues, goals and global policy initiative needs. Furthermore, academies are well-positioned to provide reliable scientific expertise. The report also demonstrates that science academies can bring emerging issues to the forefront, for them to be recognized in policy initiatives by G7 and G20 governments. This forward-thinking approach by the science academies helps governments understand the scope, implications and potential solutions for emerging issues, and aids the setting of agendas for international collaboration. This IAP report is the first public report to systematically analyse the correlations between S-Statements and G-Statements. We hope it serves as a valuable resource for member academies, supporting their strategic planning within the G7 and G20 contexts. Beyond that, we aspire for this report to have a broader impact, reinforcing the role of science as a foundation for policy, empowering all science academies to strengthen engagement with their respective governments, and reaffirming their role as essential partners in science-informed policymaking. Read the report [here](#).

## Biosecurity

Since its establishment in 1975, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) has operated without inputs from a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Discussions to establish a SAB within the BWC have been ongoing for several years, and while no Member State objects to such an action, there are discussions on how such a mechanism would operate within the context of the BWC. A so-called 'hybrid mechanism' has been proposed. During 2023-2024 IAP, in collaboration with the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASSEM), tested the proposed hybrid mechanism. Open-ended discussions were held online in November 2023, followed by a more focused meeting of 38 invited technical experts from 32 countries who met in-person in Trieste, Italy, in March 2024.

Discussions revolved around the increasingly topical issue of the potential impact of 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) on global biosecurity and international cooperation within the framework of the BWC'. IAP produced two reports: the 'technical' report, based on the in depth discussions – '[Exploring the possible impact of AI on Biosecurity and International Cooperation in the BWC](#)' – and a 'procedural' report that examines how the mechanism worked in practice – '[Proof of Concept Meeting on a BWC Scientific Advisory Body Procedural Report](#)'. Project partners concluded that the proof-of-concept exercise affirmed that the proposed hybrid advisory mechanism is feasible and valuable, and would offer a robust framework for future BWC decision-making.

To disseminate the results to BWC States Parties, IAP collaborated with the BWC Friends of the Chair and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to present a [webinar](#) on 25 April 2024 and then, on 11 December 2024, presented a [side event](#) during the Fifth Session of the Working Group on Strengthening the BWC.



Group photo from the BWC proof-of-concept meeting in Trieste, Italy, on 27-28 February 2024. (Photo: Sofia Nitti/IAP)

## Climate and Health

IAP's influential regional-to-global project on **Climate Change and Health** was followed up with a collaboration between IAP and non-profit organisation Save the Children. Under this collaboration, case studies by scientists working with policymakers were identified and collated into a book: **'Climate and Health: Science-based policy solutions'**. The book was launched alongside an **infographic** at the **SRI Congress** in Helsinki, Finland, and also presented at the **World Science Forum (WSF)** in Budapest, Hungary, in November 2024. Further publicity was garnered via publication of a letter in **The Lancet Planetary Health** and by contributing the opening chapter to the Observer Research Foundation's (ORF) book **'Building Resilient Cities: Adapting to the Health Impacts of Climate Change'**. The book's publication coincided with meetings of the UNFCCC COP29 in November in Baku, Azerbaijan. Also at COP29, **GLOBE**, the international network of parliamentarians, invited IAP to present in the Parliamentary Pavilion, on our work related to 'Climate and education' and 'Climate and health'.

## World Science Forum

IAP is represented on the Steering Committee and Organising Committee of the World Science Forum (WSF), a key international event that fosters dialogue on the role of science in addressing global challenges and shaping policy. The 2024 WSF convened on 20-23 November in Budapest, Hungary, hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The event drew over 1,100 registered participants from more than 120 countries, who gathered to discuss issues relating to the central theme 'The Science and Policy Interface at the Time of Global Transformations'.



Speakers with IAP staff at the Thematic Session: Health Impacts of Climate Change, held by IAP on 21 November 2024 at the World Science Forum in Budapest, Hungary. (Photo: WSF2024)

IAP Co-president, Peggy Hamburg contributed as speaker in a session on 'Risk Assessment in Policymaking', while IAP hosted two thematic sessions: 'How Can Policy Address Health Impacts of Climate Change? Science, Uncertainty, and Risk' and 'Education for Sustainable Development', which was co-organised with TWAS and UNESCO. See [here](#) for an overview of IAP activities at the WSF, and [here](#) for the 2024 WSF Declaration.

## IAP webinar series takes off

In late 2023, IAP launched a series of webinars on topical issues of relevance to its academy members. The webinars typically attract 50-60 attendees around the world. The following themes have been covered to date:

• **'Promoting Ethics and Integrity in Scientific Research and Practice'** on 23 October 2023, in partnership with the Australian Academy of Sciences;

• **'Removing Barriers that hinder Global Scientific Exchange and Collaboration'** on 19 March 2024, in partnership with the Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO) of NASEM;

• **'Navigating the Artificial Intelligence Landscape: Perspectives from National Academies'** on 4 September 2024 in partnership with the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS);

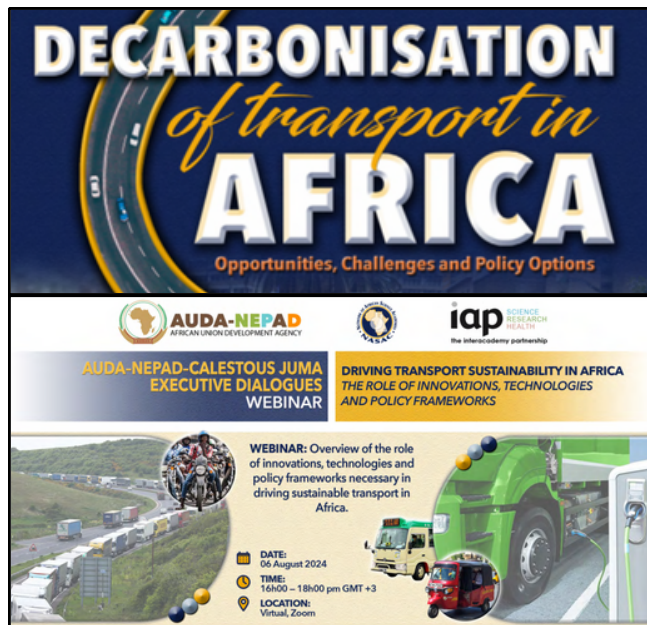
• **'Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences Collaboration'** on 4 November 2024, based on the outcomes of small grants provided by IAP;

• **'Unpacking the UN Pact for the Future and its implications for Science Academies Collaboration'** on 10 December 2024, in partnership with the International Science Council (ISC).

## Decarbonisation of Transport in Africa: report and webinar

IAP and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC, see page 5) have collaborated on a project aimed at promoting sustainable transport in Africa, supported financially by the ClimateWorks Foundation and the African Climate Foundation.

The resulting report, 'Decarbonisation of Transport in Africa: Opportunities, Challenges and Policy Options' was published in English and French. The report, following a regional report for Europe produced by EASAC, assesses the challenges and opportunities for decarbonising transport in Africa and provides policymakers with actionable recommendations. Specifically, it addresses cross-cutting issues such as policy development, institutional and technical capacity, strategy formulation, technology adoption, financing mechanisms and social considerations, as well as legal and regulatory frameworks.



The report was featured in several policy discussions, including a roundtable at the 2024 Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress in Durban, South Africa, a briefing to the AUDA-NEPAD's African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies in Nairobi, Kenya, a webinar with the NEPAD's Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue programme, presentations at the Climate Crossroads Summit and at the Workshop on Macroeconomic Implications of Decarbonization Policies and Actions in Washington DC, USA.

## YPL and the World Health Summit

In 2024, IAP selected a new cohort of 21 Young Physician Leaders (YPL). As in previous years, they were invited to a two-day leadership training workshop held just before the annual World Health Summit (WHS) in Berlin, Germany. The group of emerging health leaders from around the world followed a dynamic programme, presented in collaboration with the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT), designed to cultivate nascent leadership skills.

The 2024 WHS (13-15 October) brought together some 3,500 international leaders from academia, politics, the private sector and civil society to discuss global health challenges, thus providing the YPL participants with an unparalleled opportunity to showcase their leadership insights while engaging with global health leaders.

During the WHS, the YPL cohort prepared and presented a dedicated session, 'Challenges to Leadership in Healthcare', that was attended by more than 50 on-site participants and viewed by some 360 people online.

Established in 2011, the YPL alumni network has grown to include over 280 participants, many of whom are driving advancements in global healthcare. In 2024, the YPL section of the IAP website featured the accomplishments of four such alumni, from Australia, India, Nepal and the Palestinian Territories.

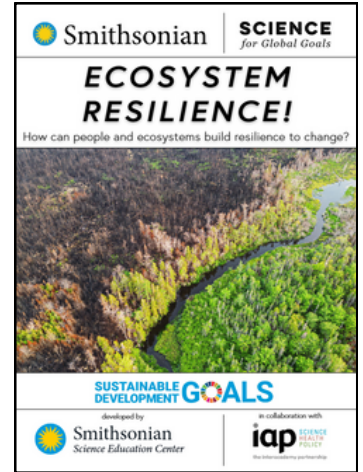


The IAP Young Physician Leaders 2024 in a group photo, after the leadership training workshop at ESMT Berlin, Germany, from 10 to 12 October 2024. (Photo: Sofia Nitti/IAP)

## Key publications

**Evaluation of Researchers:** Over recent years, the conversation around rethinking research evaluation has gained momentum, emphasizing the need to move beyond traditional metrics that prioritize quantity over quality. Continuing an ongoing collaboration on this topic, IAP, the Global Young Academy (GYA) and the International Science Council (ISC), published ‘Snapshots of Reform: Researcher Evaluation within Science Organizations’, which reflects the practices and aspirations of the participating organisations’ respective memberships and lays the groundwork for future actions.

**Science Education Programme:** During 2024, the Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC), in partnership with IAP, produced three additional teaching guides in the ‘Science for Global Goals’ series. These new guides, on ‘Ecosystem Resilience!’, ‘Climate Resilience!’ and ‘Ocean!’, bringing the total of such guides to 12. SSEC estimates that, since the first guide, ‘Mosquito!’ was released in 2018, more than 50,000 educators have been trained to use them, reaching some 6.7 million students in 108 countries.



## Grants provided

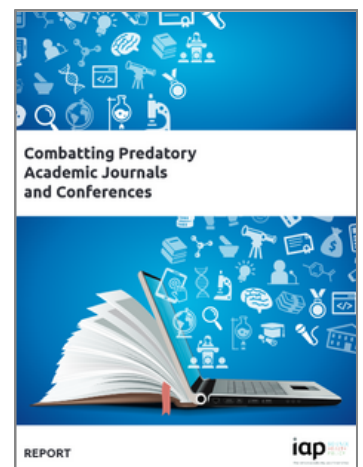
In 2023-2024, following a competitive application and selection process, IAP awarded small grants to three projects, each addressing a different, yet critical, science-policy issue:

- **Advancing Global Biosecurity Governance** through the Promotion of the Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines. Recipient: Global Young Academy;
- **Empowering the steps of the science players wearing science diplomacy shoes.** Recipient: Indian National Young Academy of Science
- **RESCUE Consortium**, tackling the issue of predatory journals and academic conferences. Recipients: Benin Young Academy of Science, Czech Academy of Sciences, Indian National Young Academy of Science;

For more details on each of these projects, see [here](#).

IAP also supported the ‘**Amazon Initiative**’ project being implemented by IANAS and the GYA, with a contribution towards its Annual General Meeting held in Washington DC, USA, and for organizing the workshop on ‘**Trust in Science**’ for 25 early-career researchers (ECRs) from around the globe at the WSF in Budapest (see page 2).

In addition, with IAP support, science centres/museums being established by the Benin National Academy of Sciences and Arts, the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences are now starting to open their doors to schoolchildren.



# IAP's Regional Networks

Four Regional Networks of academies – the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia/Oceania (AASSA), the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), the Inter-American Network of Academies of Science (IANAS) and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) – are integral to IAP's operations. 2024 highlights from the Regional Networks include:

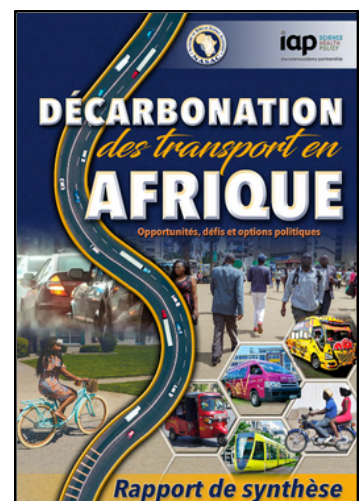
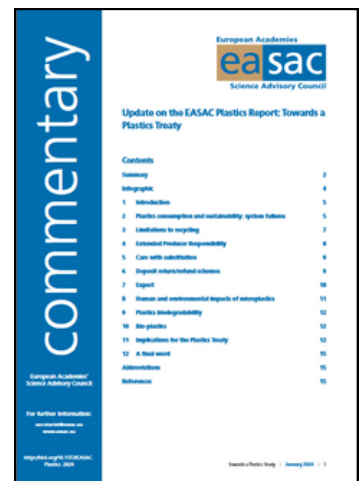
**AASSA** – With financial support from IAP, AASSA organized three meetings designed to engage policymakers, including government officials as speakers: AASSA-INSA (Indian National Science Academy) Hybrid Symposium on 'Science Policy Futures of Asia', 1-3 September (hosted by the Indian National Science Academy); AASSA-NASSL International Symposium on 'Resilience to High Impact Low Occurrence (HILO) disasters: A cross-sector comparison', 5-7 September (hosted by the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka); AASSA-NAST PHL International Symposium on 'Digital Transformation in Healthcare', 29-30 October, (hosted by the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines).

**EASAC** – Early in 2024, EASAC launched a commentary 'Update on the EASAC Plastics Report: Towards a Plastics Treaty'. It was covered in 32 European media outlets, including daily newspapers and the National Geographic. In addition, EASAC's 'Statement on Deep-Sea Mining' was cited by media outlets such as CNN and Le Monde as well as in a letter by 50 MEPs to the Norwegian government, highlighting the relevance of this output to ongoing policy and decision-making processes.

**IANAS** – IANAS continued working on the Amazon Initiative, including inviting the Foundation for the Advancement of Scientific Research in Suriname to participate as an observer in IANAS meetings, and to the Guyana Chapter of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences to host a conference in their country to contribute to this initiative.

**NASAC** – The NASAC General Assembly and the Annual Meeting of African Science Academies (AMASA 2024) took place on 26-28 November 2024 in Algiers, Algeria, hosted by the Algerian Academy of Science and Technology (AAST). AMASA 2024 was held under the theme 'Resources, Science and Technology for Development in Africa.'

In February 2024, IAP adopted a Code of Conduct (CoC) that applies to all its in-person, hybrid and on-line meetings. As a follow-on, regarding IAP's regional networks, AASSA, EASAC and NASAC have either adopted the IAP text or slightly modified versions.



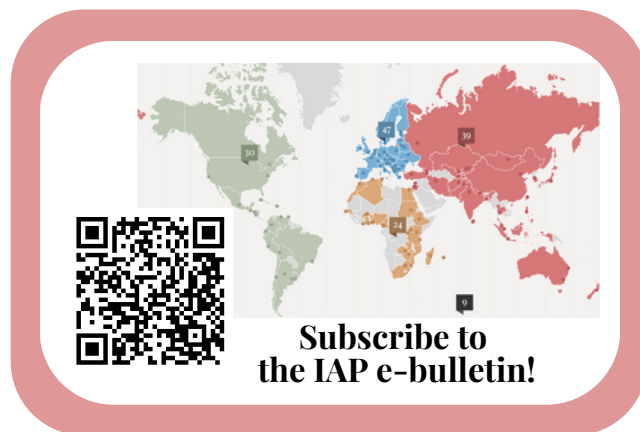
The IAP Co-President Prof. Masresha Fetene providing opening remarks at AMASA 2024 in Algeria. (Photo: Moses Ogutu/IAP)

## Announcing the IAP 2025 Triennial Conference and General Assembly

The next IAP Triennial Conference and General Assembly will take place in Cairo, Egypt, on 8-11 December 2025 and will be hosted by the Academy of Science, Research and Technology (ASRT). The theme of the Conference will be ‘Bridging Science, Policy and Society in an Era of Transformation’.

### Impact

IAP continues to contribute to discussions and dialogue with the UN Secretary General’s Scientific Advisory Board (UN SAB). During 2024, for example, IAP provided specific input into the UN SAB Statement on ‘Trust in Science’.



### Social media numbers/growth:

IAP’s communications strategy centres on its website and social media interactions.

In 2024, 154 news items were published on the IAP website. Both the number of views and the number of new users were in the 240,000 to 300,000 range for the 2024 calendar year.

IAP continued to expand its social media presence: the IAP LinkedIn page saw its number of followers grow by 36% to 4,334. Followers of IAP’s X profile (@IAPartnership) remained stable, now totaling 5,761. IAP launched two new social media profiles, on Mastodon and Bluesky, both under the same @IAPartnership handle, further enhancing engagement opportunities.

IAP’s YouTube channel now hosts 119 videos (with 51 added in 2024), which have totaled more than 80,000 views. The number of subscribers also more than doubled during 2024 up to 585 subscribers.

The IAP e-bulletin (five issues in 2024) and the IAP Young Physician Leaders (YPL) newsletter also remain vital elements of IAP’s communication activities, with a combined total of 3,053 subscribers (an increase of 577 from the previous year).

The IAP Secretariat in Trieste is hosted by:  
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