

Building the Foundations for Scientific Advice in the International Context

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This paper talks about what we need in the current world when there are all the problems like epidemic, climate change, food crisis and there is a need for conversation among scientists and policy makers. We must remember that having a conversation among all is not a simple task: there are global policy level differences and many issues are hard to handle. Also, there are differences within countries and geo political issues across different regions.

Political scientist Peter Haas proposed a term named *epistemic communities* where group of people worried about the same problem can work together. In a group, experts can share their knowledge within the group and work for a solution together.

Physicist Alvin M. Weinberg talked about *trans-science* issues that need to consider the political issues along with scientific concerns in the discussion.

Diversity of International Scientific Bodies

There are different scientific bodies that work closely with Governments in different regions. There are two terminologies used such as *as policy for science* and *science for policy* in the discussions.

- There are national scientific advisory bodies that deal mostly with local issues within the country but sometimes collaborate and contact international communities
- There are practices of having a Chief Scientific Officer in many regions that report to the President or Prime Minister of a country to provide scientific advice.
- In most countries there are Govt. Advisory Committees that are set up by communities who would provide scientific information and evidences
- Non-governmental Institutes are often contacted for scientific advice and information
- Academies and Associations are often contact for evidence based suggestions

Apart from that are other bodies that are discussed in the paper:

- Regional Bodies such as one developed at European Union for support about scientific decision making
- There are international organizations that support decision making based on science such as United Nations or Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development etc.
- Also at non-governmental level there are support from following organizations such as Associations and Academies such as International Council for Science (ICSU) that has taken various transformation and collaboration over time.

Emergence of Scientific Advice

The support from international advisory board has started mainly after World War II where ICSU has a long history of supporting this cause.

After the war, ICSU collaborated with UNESCO and expanded from *diplomacy for science* towards *Science for diplomacy* in the 1950s and 1960s.

As Climate change became a global concern, there were other bodies that also stepped forward. IPCC was established at around 1988.

Current Trend

The Climate Change problem was taken serious around the 2000s. There are continuous effort in different countries for change. However, some policies are hard to enforce across regional borders.

There is a need to create a system of systems that can hold all the scientific bodies.