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Dear member academies,

We are writing to you now to inform you about some important developments regarding our three organizations – IAP, IAC and IAMP.

Following a series of preliminary discussions, the executive committees of IAP and IAMP and the IAC board recently met together for the second time. The meeting was generously hosted by the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* in Rome, Italy, on 16 May.

Among the main reasons for the joint meeting was the need to address a common vision for our networks of member academies and how we can use our combined strengths to have a greater impact. To achieve this, it is clear that we would need additional funding. Indeed, following a review by a fundraising consultancy – that was presented to IAP members during the IAP General Assembly in Brazil in 2013 – a major recommendation was that we should present a united front and a united vision to potential donors, be they governments, foundations or other funding entities.

We are pleased to inform you that, following through discussions, an agreement was reached in Rome to work towards developing such a body – to be known as the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP – thus retaining a well recognized and respected acronym).

While it should be stressed that the three organizations will continue to operate under their own mandates for the time being, and with their own elected executive committee/board, it was also agreed that the organizations should consider a more unified identity. This is currently proposed by re-naming the existing IAP as 'IAP for Science', IAMP as 'IAP for Health' and IAC as 'IAP for Research' – although the precise names are still being discussed. The aim is to also begin working toward a unified legal structure, although no changes in the current legal entities are foreseen for the near future.

In Rome, it was agreed that the Board of the new InterAcademy Partnership will be composed of the co-chairs of the three founding organizations plus a nominated representative from each affiliated regional network (AASSA, EASAC, IANAS and NASAC), with the six co-chairs forming an executive committee. Of course, these changes will only take full effect after all the details have been worked out and we have received the endorsement from you, our members.

We believe the synergies of our three organizations – in tandem with the combined forces of our member academies and regional networks – will give this new InterAcademy Partnership a unique strength within the global science and medical communities. This, in turn, should enable our work to have an even greater impact as we seek to serve society and promote sustainable development.

We look forward to continuing to work with each and every one of you as we enter into this exciting new phase of inter-academy cooperation.

With our best regards,

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*To the Office of the President
IAP, IAC and IAMP Members*