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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

Abstract: In this presentation, I intend to do two things. The first is to develop a historical argument about the lack of engagement of the International Social Science Council with questions of technology and innovation in the recent years. I will show that this was not always the case and that during its first decades, the ISSC has commissioned some interesting research on the links between science and technology. Academies from all around the world have been active in this work. It would be important to renew with this tradition, as the current lack of reflections on the links between science and technology is probably limiting the outcomes of some of our advocacy action. As primary body representing the social sciences internationally the ISSC operates today on several global platforms calling upon „Science, Technology and Innovation” to provide solutions to priority challenges, like sustainable development. On those STI platforms, the ISSC is often promoting a „voice for science”, without however considering seriously enough the nature of these separate worlds that are science, technology and innovation, nor the level and nature of their interactions. I would like to expose this insufficient engagement and why I believe it impacts our action. The second thing that I would like to do is to outline a short history of the presence and involvement of social science academies in the ISSC (beyond the question of the links between science and technology), and show the steady decline of their active participation in the decade. The result of this disengagement is a lack of representation and voice of the social science research of certain regions at the global level. Perhaps „science and technology” offers a ground of common interest that can help rejuvenating those links.

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