26. ISA TASK FORCE ON THE GLOBAL SOUTH – RESOLUTIONS (4:15-4:45PM)

The resolutions presented below result from the work of the ISA Global South Task Force over the past year and are put forth for the approval of the 2018 ISA Governing Council.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**ACTION ITEM #1: PROPOSAL TO CREATE PERMANENT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH**
Create a permanent standing Committee on the Status of Engagement with the Global South to be executed in line with the parameters stipulated in Article XV of the ISA Constitution.

- Resolution #1 (Pages 103-104)

**ACTION ITEM #2: PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE TRAVEL GRANT GUIDELINES**
Amend the current ISA Convention and Conferences Travel Grant Awarding/Eligibility Guidelines to include general norms and concrete selection criteria, in order to improve on the transparency and efficiency of the travel grant selection process.

- Resolution #2 (Pages 104-105)

**ACTION ITEM #3: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN EMERGING GLOBAL SOUTH SCHOLAR WORKSHOP**
Establish an Emerging Global South Scholar Workshop for every annual ISA convention to promote and support junior Global South scholarship and networking. This workshop would provide a forum for discussing research; writing academic journal articles; publication strategies; and networking skills and career development. This would be organized by the GSCIS and, implies a new budget line item of $2,500 per year.

- Resolution #3 (Pages 105-106)

**ACTION ITEM #4: PROPOSAL TO REVISE ISA’S RESEARCH WORKSHOP GRANT GUIDELINES**
ISA’s guidelines for its Research and Workshop Grants be revised to include specific provisions geared toward Global South scholars.

- Resolution #4 (Page 106)

**ACTION ITEM #5: PROPOSAL TO INSTITUTE SYSTEM FOR ANNUAL TRACKING OF GLOBAL SOUTH DATA**
Annual data tracking of Global South data, including publication submissions/responses/acceptances, conference participation, governance participation, and travel grant awards.

- Resolution #5 (Pages 106-107)
**ACTION ITEM #6: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH FUNDING STRUCTURES GEARED TOWARD GLOBAL SOUTH MEMBERS**

Establish fundraising and funding structures geared towards Global South members’ advancement within the ISA.

- Resolution #6 (Pages 107-108)

**BACKGROUND:**

The Global South Task Force (GSTF) was convened by past ISA President T.V. Paul (2016-17), under Article VIII.2.H of the International Studies Association (ISA) constitution, to “propose programs and policies designed to advance the best interests of the association.” Despite the ISA’s global nature and purpose, the majority of the association’s current membership, conference participation and publications rely heavily on Global North contributions (only about 10% of present ISA members are from the Global South). In an effort to make ISA a more inclusive and globally representative academic body, the Association’s leadership felt that an examination into the issues facing Global South (GS) scholars of international studies disciplines was warranted.

At its meeting in Atlanta in March 2016, the Governing Council (GC) of ISA unanimously approved the creation of a presidential Task Force on the Global South, in collaboration with the Global South Caucus (GSCIS), to complement and expand on the work of the GSCIS. At its meeting in Baltimore in February 2017, the GC approved the members of the GSTF; the issues for its consideration; proposed tasks; and scheduled timeframes (see Appendices 1 and 2).

Over the past year, the GSTF has worked through its three subcommittees on gathering and analyzing information. The GSTF used the following sources: internal ISA data and reports; insights gained from internal ISA stakeholders; two reports of the Global South Dialogues held in 2016 and 2017; notes on best practices gleaned from wider consultations with similar internationally-oriented professional academic associations; and, survey (administered in English, Spanish and French) results obtained from 358 current and potential ISA members in GS regions (see complete details in the appendices of full GSTF report available on ISA website). From these inputs, each sub-committee produced a report and a

---

13 According to the ISA website, [www.isanet.org](http://www.isanet.org), the ISA purpose is to promote international understanding and support the following goals:

- Provide opportunities for communications among educators, researchers, and practitioners in order to continually share intellectual interests and meet the challenges of a changing global environment
- Develop contacts among specialists from all parts of the world in order to facilitate scientific and cultural change
- Provide channels of communication between academics and policy makers to promote a successful link between the production of knowledge and its utilization
- Improve the teaching and dissemination of ideas, concepts, methods, and information in the field of International Studies
- Publication of knowledge through its six journals, compendium, and other publications
follow-up meeting was held in Montreal, Canada from September 15-16, 2017 with the following participants:

GSTF Co-Chairs: Navnita Chadha Behera (Delhi University) and Kristina Hinds (University of the West Indies)

- Subcommittee 2: Coordinator: Jayati Srivastava (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) Specific Regional/Country Challenges and Contributions for ISA Participation.
- Subcommittee 3: Coordinator: Amitav Acharya (American University) - Long-range Issues: Scholarship, Scholarly Engagement and Mutual Understanding of Scholars from Global South and Global North.
- Ex-Officio Members: Past/present Presidents, T.V. Paul (McGill University), Ashley Leeds (Rice University), Patrick James (University of Southern California) and; ISA Executive Director, Mark Boyer and staff members, Jennifer Fontanella, and Lembe Tiky.
- Rapporteurs of Final Report: T.V. Paul (McGill University) and Nanette Svenson (Tulane University)

The Montreal meeting produced an outline for the GSTF’s Final Report and a series of proposals on the following issues: membership; travel grants; conferences/workshops/events; scholarship and publishing; data tracking; and funding (endowments, donations and grants). The resolutions are presented for consideration below and are based on a combination of the GSTF subcommittee reports and the Montreal meeting discussions. These represent the policy recommendations for ISA on these issues.

**ACTION ITEM #1:**
Create a permanent standing Committee on the Status of Engagement with the Global South to be executed in line with the parameters stipulated in Article XV of the ISA Constitution.

a) The mission of this committee will be to pursue objectives designed to increase the participation, status and visibility of GS scholars in ISA, working jointly with the GSCIS, the Global Development section and pertinent other ISA sub-groups.

b) Seven committee members, nominated by the ISA president-elect, will serve two-year, staggered terms. The first term for the Chair and two of the other four members will extend a third year to promote institutionalization and allow for subsequent staggering of terms.

c) The chairs of the GSCIS and Global Development Section shall be ex-officio members of this committee. The committee members will contribute to the implementation and oversight of the other resolutions presented here.

d) The responsibilities of the committee will include continual review of the status of Global South scholars in ISA regarding membership, participation and publications, along with preparation of recommendations to the ISA Governing Council, President, Executive Director and the HQ on ways to track and improve the status and visibility of GS scholars in the profession.
e) The Committee shall help identify sources for the proposed Global South Scholars fund (See Resolution 6).

**Justification:** As noted in the background section above, ISA Global South Dialogue reports, and the rationale for forming the GSTF, ISA is a predominantly Global North oriented organization and stands to gain by adopting a broader and consistent outreach strategy to fulfil its mandate of “developing contacts among specialists from all parts of the world in order to facilitate scientific and cultural change.” Thus, the GSTF believes that creation of this committee is warranted as a means of: (1) continuing to focus the ISA’s attention on the GS scholars’ issues referred to here and in the GSTF final report; and (2) working towards making ISA a truly global academic body.

**ACTION ITEM #2:**
Amend the current ISA Convention and Conferences Travel Grant Awarding/Eligibility Guidelines as follows:

Travel grants are intended to supplement other sources of funding for individuals attending the convention/conference. They are not meant to cover all the expenses involved. Due to limited resources and large numbers of requests, awards made by the Association almost always are for less than the total cost of program participation.

a) Travel grants are only provided to individuals who are on the program for the convention/conference, however, please be aware that you will need to apply for a travel grant before you are notified of your acceptance to the program. Typically, the application deadline is prior to an applicant’s acceptance to the preliminary program; this is done so that notifications of acceptance to the program and notifications about grants can proceed quickly in order to allow potential participants time to assess whether or not they can fulfill their obligations to the program by coming to the convention/conference and presenting their work.

b) Final decisions regarding requests for funding are made by the executive office of ISA, acting under guidelines approved by the GC of the Association and based on information provided by the Program Chair.

c) You need to be a member of ISA at the time of the convention or conference to be awarded a travel grant.

d) Key principles guiding priority consideration for financial support include:
   i. Must be on the program for the annual meeting;
   ii. Support for junior scholars and senior graduate students;
   iii. Support for scholars from the Global South;
   iv. First-time attendee; (i.e., aimed at recruiting new scholars to ISA);
   v. Accepted for inclusion one of the ISA specialized programs, such as the Junior Scholar Symposium, Pay-It-Forward and Emerging Global South Scholars Workshop (subject to GC approval)

---

14 See the ISA website, www.isanet.org, About Us – Purpose.
vi. Support for applicants who have not received funding from ISA during the past two years (except for those falling under the above-mentioned category – see 2.d.v).

e) Following on is the more directly operational consideration for award selection: Candidates’ degree of need, to be determined by ISA HQ’s estimates for total cost of transport involved for conference attendance.

f) The Executive Director shall attempt to offer amounts for grant awards at different allocation levels as follows: Up to $500; Up to $1,000; Up to $2,000.

i. Larger grants (Up to $2,000) should be used to encourage the participation of scholars from Least Developed countries (LDCs) as defined by the UN (See UN definition: https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/ldc_list.pdf). However, larger grants are not reserved only for applicants coming from LDCs.

ii. Since there is wide variation in the applicant pool each year, these figures provide very broad guidance only. The numbers below reflect what the allocation might look like based on the current budget of $225,000:

iii. Up to $500 (more than 300 awards based on current budget)

iv. Up to $1,000 (about 40 awards based on current budget)

v. Up to $2,000 (about ten awards based on current budget)

g) In view of the desire for increasing participation from GS countries and the difficulties that scholars face in traveling to our conference sites, the ISA should aim towards devoting at least a third of available funds to scholars from these regions (understanding that the exact allocation varies significantly according to the size and composition of the applicant pool each year). As noted above (see 2.f.i), special emphasis should be placed on identifying and encouraging participation of scholars from LDCs.

Rationale: By including general norms and concrete selection criteria, as per sections 2.d and 2.e preceding, the GSTF seeks to improve on the transparency and efficiency of the travel grant selection process. By including the provision of a small number of larger awards, the guidelines aim to increase feasibility of conference attendance for ISA members from the GS with demonstrated need, on account of travelling greater distances and facing severe financial and other structural constraints (understanding that the exact allocation is determined significantly by the size and composition of the applicant pool each year). It is worth noting that those traveling from the GS to the USA have to incur high visa costs in addition to the cost of travel that range from $160 to $190. In some cases, those coming from the GS must incur the additional costs of traveling to another city within the same country (for instance, from Mizoram/Assam/Sikkim to Kolkata in India; Mombasa to Nairobi in Kenya; Barnaul to Vladivostok in Russia) or, to a neighboring country as is the case with some Caribbean states (e.g. from Grenada or St. Lucia to Barbados), to apply for a US visa.

ACTION ITEM #3:
Establish an annual Emerging Global South Scholar Workshop that would rotate between the annual ISA convention and at other co-sponsored/partnered ISA conferences in different regions on an alternate year basis. Designed broadly along the lines of ISA’s ‘Pay-it-Forward’ program and, to promote
and support junior Global South scholarship and networking, this workshop would provide a forum for discussing research; writing academic journal articles; publication strategies such as proposal writing for books; and networking skills and career development for early/mid-career scholars from the Global South. The **Committee on the Status of Engagement with the Global South, subject to the GC’s approval will be given the mandate for organizing such workshops** and, this implies a new budget line item of $2,500 per year.¹⁵

**Justification:** Consistent access to financial and technical support for developing professional skills in academic publishing, teaching and research methods tends to be limited in many GS academic institutions. Institutionalizing such a forum at the ISA’s Annual Convention and, at other co-sponsored/partnered ISA conferences in different regions, would provide sustained professional support to a particularly underserved segment of the ISA. Facilitators of these workshops should be drawn from North and South, should reflect the ISA’s emphasis on diversity and should have scholarly experience and in-depth understanding of academic/research environments in the GS locations.

**Action Item #4:**

ISA’s guidelines for its **Research and Workshop Grants** be revised to include a specific provision: “Submission of proposals led by and/or comprising of Global South scholars are specially encouraged.” The ISA’s “Workshop Proposal Evaluation Scheme” should also be amended, under the section entitled “Contribution to ISA’s mission (10 percent)” to include weightage for “projects led by and/or comprising of Global South scholars and, those having a good mix of Global South and Global North participants.” (See: https://www.isanet.org/Help/Knowledge-Base/ID/75/WorkshopProposal-Evaluation-Scheme)

**Justification:** ISA workshops offer an excellent platform with great potential for fostering scholarly engagement and collaborative work between scholars of Global North and Global South. However, currently few workshop proposals come from GS scholars. There is a need to rectify this situation. The suggested changes will help to send a clear and promising signal to GS scholars to apply for these grants. Further, according extra weightage to those proposals that help to create and sustain such networks and research partnerships between scholars from the Global South and the Global North will help to achieve the aforementioned objective.

**Action Item #5:**

**Institute a system for annual data tracking** of the following:

a) The number of GS scholar publication submissions/responses/acceptances and the number of GS peer reviewers/editors by ISA journal; and

b) Figures on GS scholars’ ISA conference attendance; ISA governance participation; and receipt of ISA travel grant awards. This data should capture information for the GS in general and by region.

---

¹⁵ The figure of $2,500 per year is the estimate obtained from ISA headquarters for allocations for similar events in the ISA annual conference programming.
i. These figures are to be included in the Executive Director’s Annual Report as a means of archiving and tracking historical data.

ii. The Committee on the Status of Engagement with the Global South (subject to the approval of the Governing Council) may work out the feasibility, purview and modalities of this exercise with the Publications Committee and the ISA Headquarters.

**Note:** While acknowledging the deep pluralities and diversities that characterise debates on defining ‘Global South, for the purposes of data collection, the GSTF suggests using the parameters of ‘developing economies’ and ‘economies in transition’ as specified by the United Nations. (Please see: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_current/2014wesp_country_classification.pdf). The current institutional location of scholars/ISA members may be used for this purpose.

**Justification:** Tracking data will be vital for monitoring GS scholars’ publication and participation trends over time and can be used by ISA to design strategies for addressing some of the gaps in the involvement and representation of GS participants in its activities.

**Action Item #6:**
Establish **fundraising and funding structures** geared towards Global South members’ advancement within the ISA. Two different, albeit parallel, measures may be taken in this regard.

a) A Global South Fund to which ISA members can make donations. The option for members to donate to this fund should be facilitated via the ISA members’ portal (for example: when members join ISA, renew ISA membership, or register for ISA conferences/conventions). The current provision may be revised to specify the purpose or program for which donations are being sought along with an additional note on tax exemptions, if any, on such donations. As a first effort toward this, ISA could establish a specific donation category for GS travel grants; its specialized mentoring programs including Junior Scholar Symposium, Pay-it-Forward and Emerging Global South Scholars Workshop (subject to GC approval); and Research and Workshop Grants among others.

b) Establish a Global South Endowment with a corpus fund to allow for ongoing and sustainable funding for Global South involvement in the ISA. This is a longer-term strategy that would require that adequate funding be sourced. The Committee on the Status of Engagement with the Global South (subject to the approval of the GC) may be asked to explore avenues for generating corpus grants for the specific purpose of setting up this endowment. If ISA decides to establish a larger endowment for **all** of its programs at a later stage, then the GS fund may be incorporated within this broader program provided that a stipulated portion is explicitly allocated for the GS initiatives.

**Justification:** Additional funding is required for the promotion of GS related activity within ISA, particularly as GS scholars often must travel greater distances to participate; typically have access to fewer funding sources in their home countries; and may face other structural barriers to participation in ISA activities. Establishing sustainable fund-raising designated for promoting GS involvement in the
association will help the ISA cover some of the associated costs and will ensure that resources are dedicated specifically to GS oriented initiatives.

**Advisory:** The Task Force calls upon all components of ISA, governing bodies, president, incoming president, program chairs, journal editors, section, caucus, and region governing bodies to consider initiatives on GS participation and representation as presented in the full GSTF Report along with the three subcommittee reports attached in its appendices. This is available on the ISA website.