



**STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE (ICSU)**

by

**M. Jarraud
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**M. BERTRAND DELANOË, MAIRE DE PARIS,
DR GOVERDHAN MEHTA, PRESIDENT OF ICSU,
DR THOMAS ROSSWALL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ICSU
DEAR COLLEAGUES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

On behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), its meteorological and hydrological communities and myself, I would like to thank Dr Thomas Rosswall, Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU), for the kind invitation to participate in the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of ICSU, which is being held today in Paris.

On this auspicious occasion, I wish to express WMO's appreciation to ICSU and its scientific community, through Dr Goverdhan Mehta, President of ICSU, for the long-standing collaboration with WMO in support of human wellbeing. I would therefore like to recall some significant landmarks of cooperation between the two organizations.

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I shall firstly recall that in the days of WMO's predecessor, the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), there was already very close collaboration with the International Association of Meteorology, which was established in Brussels in 1919 as one of the associations within the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). Today, this is of course the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS), one of the scientific associations within the realm of ICSU.

I could also evoke many other instances of vital cooperation between the two organizations, particularly since the time when the former International Council of Scientific Unions was established, in 1931, from the International Association of Academies (IAA) and the International Research Council (IRC). Moreover, WMO subscribed formal working arrangements with IUGG in 1954 and with ICSU in 1960.

WMO and ICSU were among the key partners to the implementation of the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year (IGY). IGY differed from earlier polar years in that the observational programme was not limited to polar regions. WMO subsequently provided support to IUGG/ICSU under the International Geophysical Co-operation (IGC) in 1959 and the International Years of the Quiet Sun (IQSY) during 1964-1965.

In the same context, WMO and ICSU are currently cosponsoring the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008, a new major international multidisciplinary initiative to promote scientific research and observations focused on the Earth's polar regions and their interaction with other regions. Like the IGY, I am confident that the IPY will also result in huge step forward in our

scientific understanding of the Arctic and the Antarctic, and of the fundamental influence that these have on climate, ecosystems and societies.

In 1967, a formal Agreement between WMO and ICSU laid down the basis for the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP). This was truly a world-scale enterprise, which consisted of both the design of theoretical models of relevant aspects of the atmosphere, and the observation and experimental studies for the design and testing of these models. Among these experiments we can recall the GARP Atlantic Tropical Experiment (GATE), the Monsoon Experiment (MONEX) and the 1978-1979 First GARP Global Experiment (FGGE), or Global Weather Experiment, all of which were undertaken jointly by WMO, ICSU and other partners.

Moreover, in 1979, the First World Climate Conference was organized upon recognition of the potential for climate change and, in 1980, the World Climate Programme (WCP) was established with the participation of both organizations. The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) was also established at that time, under the joint sponsorship of WMO and ICSU, to improve the understanding of climate processes for determining the predictability of climate, including its variability and change, identifying the extent of human influence on climate and developing the capability for climate prediction. In 1993, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO also joined the initiative. Since it was established, WCRP has made outstanding contributions to advancement of climate science.

Such common efforts by our organizations were truly fundamental in facilitating the assessments of climate change now being made by the WMO-UNEP cosponsored International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and to the establishment of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition, WMO and ICSU are also among the co-sponsors of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), which was established in 1992 to ensure that observations and information needed to address climate-related issues would be made available to all scientific users.

Especially significant collaboration between the two organizations also occurred in the context of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in Johannesburg. I could also recall how WMO and ICSU collaborated extensively after the United Nations General Assembly designated the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), along the road leading to the establishment of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction - ISDR.

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I could further go on to mention many more programmes and acronyms that were true landmarks of WMO's fruitful partnership with ICSU, but at risk of leaving some out, since they have been so many.

As the United Nations specialized agency with mandate in weather, climate and water, WMO is fully aware that ICSU's strength lies in its wide spectrum of multidisciplinary scientific expertise and its non-governmental nature. Consequently, WMO has long recognized ICSU as an important partner.

WMO therefore takes great pleasure in congratulating the International Council for Science and its community of scientific unions on this auspicious occasion, and is very pleased with the opportunity provided today to participate in the celebration of this 75th Anniversary.

Thank you.