

29th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Maputo, Mozambique
21-24 October 2008

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Chair of the Assembly: Goverdhan Mehta (ICSU President)

Tuesday, 21 October 2008

18:30-19:45

**1. Welcome and Opening of the General Assembly
President**

- * Opening Statements
 - Goverdhan Mehta, President of ICSU
 - H.E. Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of Mozambique
 - Patricio Sande, President, AICIMO (ICSU National Member)
- * Brief Messages from key partners: UNESCO, UNEP, WMO, ISSC, CAETS, TWAS, IAC, IAP
- * Presidential address: Goverdhan Mehta

20:00 *Reception/Dinner offered by hosts*

Wednesday, 22 October 2008

09:00-09:10 **2. Adoption of the Agenda (President)**

09:10-09:20 **3. Appointment of Resolutions Committee and Tellers
(President)**

09:20-09:40 **4. Secretary General's Report (Secretary-General)**
09:40-09:50 Discussion and decisions

The Report of the 28th General Assembly was approved by Members in January 2006 and subsequently posted on the ICSU website. The Executive Board oversees follow-up actions to the Assembly.

- 09:50-10:10 **5. Reports from Union and National Members' Fora (Bryan Henry and Sergio Pastrana)**
 10:10-10:30 Discussion and decisions

Reports from the Unions and National Members Fora will be presented.

10:30-11:00 *Coffee/tea break*

- 11:00-11:20 **6. Implementation of the Strategic Plan, 2006-2011 (Thomas Rosswall)**
 11:20-11:45 Discussion and decisions

The first ever ICSU Strategic Plan was approved at the 28th General Assembly. This plan covers the 6-year period 2006-2011 and progress in addressing specific priorities during the first three years of this period is covered in the major agenda items at this General Assembly. Members have had access to an implementation matrix on the ICSU website which has been constantly updated to provide Members with information on the implementation of individual sections of the Strategic Plan.

- 11:45-12:05 **7. International Polar Year (IPY) (David Carlson)**
 12:05-12:30 Discussion and decisions

[Section 4.1.1, pp. 28-29, of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011]

The International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 (1 March 2007 to 1 March 2009) was the major new international programme established at the 28th ICSU General Assembly. The programme, which is cosponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), was launched in Paris on 1 March 2007. It is implemented with support from the International Programme Office (IPO) hosted by the British Antarctic Survey. The IPY planning and coordination is the responsibility of a Joint Committee, which was formed by ICSU and WMO in 2005 and is supported by them until 2009.

IPY is a resounding success. Tens of thousands of scientists from over 60 countries are engaged in an interdisciplinary research programme that spans the biological, social, and physical sciences. Approximately 120 projects are well funded within the IPY framework. These represent over \$400 million of “new” research funds over the two years, in addition to roughly \$800 million of existing polar research funding devoted to IPY. Engagement of early career scientists is strong. Over 1200 young scientists have organized themselves as the Association of Early Polar Career Scientists (APECS). A strong education, outreach and communication component has developed, and exciting science results are beginning to emerge. These results are being presented at three IPY conferences co-sponsored by ICSU—in Russia in 2008, Norway in 2010, and Canada in 2012.

IPY has stimulated tighter coordination among members of the ICSU family with polar interests. The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) have formalized their shared interests through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In July 2008 they jointly organized the first ever Antarctic-Arctic research conference to examine early results from IPY.

SCAR and IASC have further cemented relations through joint Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (an association within the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics), and with the Climate and Cryosphere Project of the World Climate Research Programme, which ICSU co-sponsors with WMO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. Such arrangements build the foundation for ICSU's organized and sustained attention to polar issues.

The IPY Joint Committee, reflecting the discussions within the polar community, is now focused on securing the legacy of IPY. Dramatic changes in the polar regions continue to display and promise global impacts, and it will be crucial to sustain networks for observation and data, education and outreach, and development of early career scientists established during IPY. This legacy will also require syntheses of the IPY science outcomes that will emerge in the next several years.

Lastly, the IPY Joint Committee is concerned about the condition of IPY data management. The lessons from IPY provide a motivation and case study that could inform and catalyze transformation of ICSU's data management components into an efficient, effective, and strategic World Data System (see Agenda Item 16).

David Carlson, Director of the IPO, will provide an update.

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-14:20 **8. Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (Gordon McBean)**
14:20-15:00 Discussion and decisions

[Section 4.1.2, pp. 28-30, of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011]

In line with the actions outlined in the Strategic Plan 2006-2011, the Executive Board at its 90th Meeting established a group to recommend the scope of a possible ICSU initiative in the area of natural hazards and report to the General Assembly. This, the Scoping Group accordingly did, and at the 28th General Assembly it was decided that the CSPR should establish a Planning Group, in consultation with the ICSU membership, charged with the planning of a major new ICSU initiative on Natural and Human-induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters, it being understood that any such initiative should build on ongoing efforts in the geosciences and biological sciences, and must expand well beyond those fields.

The Planning Group held five meetings in all, and during the period covered by the work of the Group successive iterations of its report were sent to ICSU Members, Interdisciplinary Bodies, and partner organizations for comment and suggestion. In recognition of the complexity of the task of defining a new interdisciplinary programme in the area of natural hazards, and of the need for wider consultation and debate among potential partners and sponsors, the CSPR decided in June 2007 to extend the Planning Group's mandate until the General Assembly. The wider consultation process included a one-day Consultation Forum to which all relevant international organizations were invited.

It is the assessment of the ICSU Planning Group that, despite all the existing or already-planned activities on natural hazards, an integrated research programme on disaster risk

reduction, sustained for a decade or more and integrated across the hazards, disciplines and geographical regions, is an imperative. The value-added nature of such a programme would rest with the close coupling of the natural, socio-economic, health and engineering sciences.

The final version of the Planning Group's report was submitted for consideration by the CSPR at its 15th Meeting, and subsequently to the Executive Board at its 97th Meeting.

The Executive Board decided to approve for publication and wide distribution the report of the Planning Group that had been referred to it by the CSPR; it also agreed to recommend to the 29th General Assembly that ICSU establish a major new interdisciplinary programme of ten years' duration entitled Integrated Research on Disaster Risk – the challenge of natural and human-induced environmental hazards (acronym: IRDR), in collaboration with other international organizations.

Gordon McBean, Chair of the Planning Group, will present the conclusions as set out in the final report.

15:00-15:20 **9. Ecosystem Change and Human Well-being (Hal Mooney)**
 15:20-16:00 Discussion and decisions

[Section 4.2, p. 30, of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011]

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) was requested by the Conference of Parties of four biodiversity-related Conventions (Biodiversity, Wetlands, Desertification, and Migratory Species) and commissioned by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2000 to provide a synthesis of the state of knowledge concerning the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and actions that could be taken to respond to harmful changes. The final results were presented in 2005 to the Secretary General and the world's media. ICSU was one of the institutional partners and the results were also presented to the ICSU 28th General Assembly in 2005.

The MA reported for the first time that 66% of the ecosystem services it had assessed were in decline and downward trends can be expected to continue if immediate action is not taken. The MA had also for the first time explicitly made the link between ecosystem services and human well-being and warned the world's leaders that continued decline in ecosystem services will be a barrier for many developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, there were many areas where a quantitative assessment could not be made and the need for additional research was highlighted. Thus, the GA decided (Action 11.1) to "request the Executive Board to work with partners to develop follow-up mechanisms based on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in order to address additional research needs, to stimulate further sub-global assessments and promote methodological advances to link spatial and temporal scales".

The ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011 includes the following Specific Action:
ICSU will also work with partners to develop a follow-up mechanism based on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to address additional research needs, to stimulate further sub-global assessments and promote methodological developments to link spatial and temporal scales.

Together with UNESCO and the United Nations University (UNU), the CSPR established an *ad hoc* Group of experts with relevant natural and social science disciplinary competence representing experiences from the MA as well as the relevant sub-global assessments to produce a report on the priority research gaps that need to be filled in order to improve any future global or sub-global Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The *ad hoc* Group met three times and the final report is presented to the GA for consideration. The Report was sent to Members for review.

ICSU will be a central partner, on behalf of the international science community, in the future developments. DIVERSITAS is also central, since it has been intimately engaged in IMoSEB. The other global change research programmes and the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) have also important complementary roles to play.

Hal Mooney, Chair of the ICSU-UNESCO-UNU *ad hoc* Group, will present the conclusions as set out in the final report.

16:00-16:30 *Coffee/tea break*

16:30-16:50 **10. Health and Well-being in the Changing Urban Environment
(Pierre Ritchie)**

16:50-17:30 Discussion and decisions

[Section 4.3, p. 32, of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011]

In line with the actions outlined in the Strategic Plan and agreed at the 28th General Assembly, the CSPR established an *ad hoc* Scoping Group in 2006 to define how ICSU might contribute to science for human health. This scoping exercise liaised with both the Science for Health and Well-being (SHWB) initiative of the Scientific Unions and the Global Environmental Change and Human Health project that was being developed by the ESSP. It concluded that there was potentially a unique niche for ICSU to build on these two ongoing activities and develop a new programme focussing on “a Systems Analysis Approach to Health and Well-being in the Changing Urban Environment”. The scoping report was sent out to Members for consultation and presented at meetings of the Unions and ICSU Executive Board in April 2007. It was positively received and the decision of the Board was to request the CSPR to establish a Planning Group, in consultation with the inter-union initiative and ICSU membership, to take forward the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Scoping Group.

A new Planning Group was established by the CSPR and met for the first time in January 2008. Pierre Ritchie, a member of the CSPR (and Secretary General of IUPsyS), who was on the Scoping Group and is also a member of the new programme Planning Group, will give a presentation on this initiative.

17:30-18:30 **Presentations by candidates for Officers**

19:00-20:00 *Consultation with National Members from the Arab Region*

Thursday 23 October 2008

- 08:30-09:15 **11. Reviews of Global Environmental Change Programmes**
Introduction (Thomas Rosswall)
Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) (Lidia Brito)
International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) (Margaret Leinen)
World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) (Catherine Cesarsky)
International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) (Leah Goldfarb)
- 09:15-09:45 Discussion and Decisions

[Section 4.1, pp. 27-28, of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011]

The ICSU Strategic Plan states: “*ICSU will conduct individual reviews of its global environmental change research programmes [DIVERSITAS, International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) and World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)]. Special attention will be given to the development of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP), which brings together the four programmes to address issues that are integral to sustainable development*”. This action follows from the recommendation from the Environment and its Relation to Sustainable Development report (2003), which reviewed ICSU’s entire environmental portfolio. The IHDP was reviewed in 2005, and the 28th General Assembly noted the plans of the CSPR to conduct a review of each of the remaining Global Change Research Programmes in 2006-2011.

All these reviews are overseen by the CSPR. The primary goal of each of the reviews is to determine the added-value, but they also examine the science, governance, engagement with the wider community, capacity building and resources of the particular organization. The ESSP review (2007-2008) was sponsored by ICSU and the International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA). The WCRP review (2008-2009) is sponsored by ICSU, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and IGFA; and the IGBP review (2008-2009) is sponsored by ICSU and IGFA. DIVERSITAS will be reviewed by co-sponsors and IGFA in 2010-2011.

ESSP

The ESSP Review Panel recommended a strengthened ESSP and outlined the actions necessary to achieve this. In response, the Partnership has started to draft a scientific strategy and plans incorporate a stakeholder dialogue, as recommended in the review. In the review report, several scenarios for development were suggested along with a timeline for implementation. The global environmental programmes which currently sponsor ESSP have already started to work more closely together, again as recommended by the Review Panel.

Over the coming months, the CSPR will continue to monitor how the Partnership has responded to the Panel’s recommendations. Once the IGBP and WCRP reviews are finished, the CSPR will consider organizing a high-level meeting to outline options for the needed framework for global environmental change research and its policy

relevance. As the Partnership has already made substantial progress addressing the Review Panel's recommendations, the General Assembly is being advised by the Board that the ESSP become an ICSU Interdisciplinary Body.

Lidia Brito, a member of the ESSP Review Panel, will present the committee's work, conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly.

IGBP and WCRP

The IGBP and WCRP Review Panels each met three times in 2008, most recently for a final, joint meeting on 10-12 September. Initial drafts of their reports are provided for information. The final versions will be available in early 2009.

The two reviews share a common approach. Following initial organizing meetings in January 2008, each Panel met for a second time once its representatives had participated in the Scientific Committee meeting of the relevant programme. Both Panels gathered information from published material and by sending questionnaires to programme scientists, sponsors, funders, and the broader stakeholder community including the ICSU family. In addition, the Panels conducted individual interviews with key people and held conversations with the leadership of each programme, both at the scientific committee meetings and at the secretariats in Stockholm (IGBP) and Geneva (WCRP).

Margaret Leinen, a member of the IGBP Panel, will present the committee's work and draft recommendations and conclusions to the General Assembly. Catherine Cesarsky, a member of the WCRP Panel, will make a parallel presentation on that Panel's behalf.

IHDP

The ICSU-ISSC Assessment of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) was conducted under the chairmanship of Leen Hordijk and published in 2006. The two main recommendations from the report were that IHDP's work should be guided by updated mission and vision statements and that the programme should develop a Strategic Plan to address how to make decisions among competing priorities. In response to the assessment, the programme's vision and mission were updated to focus more on societal responses to global environmental change and IHDP published its first Strategic Plan (2007-2015), which was favourably reviewed by the CSPR.

09:45-10:05 **12. Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment
(SCOPE) (Khotso Mokhele)**
10:05-10:45 Discussion and Decisions

In 2007, at the request of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), a review of this committee was undertaken and ICSU was its sole sponsor. This review was carried out by a consultant (Geoffrey Oldham) with advice from an independent expert Reference Group and support from the ICSU Secretariat. The review concluded that SCOPE had had an illustrious past and, particularly in its early days, made many contributions to knowledge and to policy. More recently, several environmental organizations have conducted their own scientific assessments and these

provided competition for SCOPE's assessments. They also provided competition for available financial and human resources. The assessment landscape is very complex including major intergovernmental exercises, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA). As part of an effort to strengthen the science base of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ICSU has been involved in discussions to map the assessment landscape. One of the conclusions from that exercise was that the scientific community is increasingly finding it difficult to devote the time necessary to conduct major assessments of the scientific understanding of key issues. In addition to such major international assessments, many other organizations, including ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies, conduct targeted assessments as part of their own evolving agendas. It is today difficult to make the case for having a separate ICSU Interdisciplinary Body on environmental assessments. In addition, the financial situation facing SCOPE is acute.

After careful consideration and following the CSPR's recommendation, the Executive Board decided to recommend to the General Assembly that SCOPE cease to be an Interdisciplinary Body of ICSU, after a suitable transition period. SCOPE is a membership organization including National Members and Scientific Unions and has independent legal status in France. Thus, it is up to the SCOPE governance structures to decide on the future of the organization.

The review report will be presented to the General Assembly by the CSPR Chair, Khotso Mokhele. SCOPE will make a brief presentation on an alternative proposal for its future.

10:45-11:15 *Coffee/tea break*

11:15-11:35 **13. Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS) (Bengt Gustafsson)**

11:35-12:15 Discussion and decisions

[Section 6.1, pp. 39-40, of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011]

As part of the development of the Strategic Plan, a strategic review, Science and Society: Rights and Responsibilities (ICSU 2005), was conducted. The key recommendation of this review with respect to the Principle of Universality was that ICSU should take on a broader remit than that previously entrusted to the Standing Committee on Freedom in the Conduct of Science (SCFCS). To this end the 28th General Assembly agreed to replace the SCFCS with a new Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS).

After solicitation of nominations from Members, the CFRS was established and met for the first time in November 2006. It is scheduled to hold its fifth meeting immediately prior to the General Assembly. Bengt Gustafsson, the Chair of CFRS, will present the committee's work to date and future priorities (see http://www.icsu.org/2_resourcecentre/RESOURCE_list_base.php4?rub=51 for CFRS meeting reports).

A major activity of the CFRS has been the development of a booklet on freedom and responsibilities to replace the previous SCFCS handbook (the 'blue book'). A draft of

this document was sent out to all Members for consultation and it has been revised extensively taking into account the comments received. The final version is expected to be published in time for distribution at the General Assembly. This document emphasises that all ICSU Members have a key role to play in promoting the Principle of Universality.

12:15-12:35 **14. Enhancing the Involvement of Social Sciences in ICSU**
(Michel Denis)
 12:35-13:00 Discussion and decisions

[Section 8.4.2, p. 55, of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011]

The Strategic Plan 2006-2011 includes the following specific action:
ICSU collaboration with the International Social Sciences Council as cosponsors of the International Human Dimensions Programme will continue. ICSU will increasingly seek productive collaboration in areas of social science, where it lacks expertise.

In addition, the 28th General Assembly passed a resolution requesting the Executive Board to explore and identify the most appropriate mechanisms for securing the interaction and added value of the social sciences in ICSU's scientific work. Three background documents, developed by the CSPR as input to its discussion, were sent to the ICSU Members for review and comments.

The CSPR had an in-depth discussion and approved a report with recommendations on how to strengthen social sciences in ICSU for consideration by the Executive Board. The CSPR noted with satisfaction the increased collaboration with the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the considerable involvement of many social scientists in the work of ICSU. The committees that developed the Ecosystem Change and Human Well-being and Integrated Research on Disaster Risk reports presented to the GA for approval included many social scientists. It is clear that a strong basis of both natural and social sciences is becoming increasingly important in programme development. The General Assembly resolution initiated a valuable reflection on how ICSU can continue to strengthen this vital involvement of relevant social science disciplines in its work.

The 28th General Assembly recognized the need for members of the Executive Board to come from different clusters of disciplines, including social sciences. It decided to change the ICSU Rules of Procedure so that voting for Union representatives on the Executive Board ensures that the following clusters are represented:

- Physical, chemical and mathematical sciences
- Biological sciences
- Earth and space sciences
- Social sciences.

Based on the discussion of the CSPR document, the Executive Board decided to *"include a discussion on the role of social sciences in the programme for the Union and National Members Fora at the General Assembly; and to submit the report to the General Assembly for discussion and approval"*.

13:00-14:15 *Lunch*

14:15-14:45 **15. Election of Officers (President)**

14:45-15:05 **16. Report from the Strategic Committee on Information and Data (SCID) (Ray Harris)**

15:05-15:45 Discussion and decisions

[Section 6.2, pp. 40-41, of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011]

Following the decision of the 28th General Assembly, an *ad hoc* Strategic Committee on Information and Data (SCID) was established by the CSPR in February 2007. It was charged with analysing and making recommendations on the future structure and directions of three Interdisciplinary Bodies - the World Data Centres (WDC), the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data analysis Services (FAGS), and the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) - and identifying any other actions that might be necessary to facilitate a coordinated global approach to scientific data and information. The Committee met three times and, after consultation with Members, produced a final report in June 2008.

The key recommendations in the SCID report have been considered and endorsed by both the CSPR and the Executive Board and are presented here to the General Assembly for approval. These include the establishment of a new ICSU-World Data System that would be overseen by a dedicated scientific committee. In addition it is proposed that a new *ad hoc* Strategic Coordinating Committee be established for a limited time period.

Ray Harris, who chaired the SCID, will present the committee's work and conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly.

15:45-16:15 *Coffee/tea break*

16:15-17:15 **17. Reports from Regional Offices**

Africa (Gabriel Ogunmola)

Asia and the Pacific (Anupam Varma)

Latin America and the Caribbean (José Antonio de la Peña)

17:15-17:45 Discussion and decisions

[Section 5.1, p. 34, of the Strategic Plan 2006-2011]

Based on recommendations of a review of the ICSU Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries (COSTED), the ICSU 27th General Assembly decided in 2002 to replace COSTED by a) a Policy Committee on Developing Countries (PCDC), to provide vision and advice to the ICSU Executive Board on its work relating to science and technology in developing countries; and b) ICSU Regional Offices in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, the Arab Region, and Latin America and the Caribbean. These would support the work of ICSU and its Scientific Unions and National Members, as well as partner organizations, in promoting science and technology.

The ICSU Regional Office for Africa was inaugurated in 2005 at the National Research Council of South Africa in Pretoria. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific was opened at the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, in 2006, and in early 2007 the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean was inaugurated at the Brazilian Academy of Sciences in Rio de Janeiro. Regional Committees have been established to guide the development of the programmes of the Regional Offices and Regional Consultations have been organized to ensure a full involvement of the ICSU family and key partners in the development of the identified priority areas for the initial programmes of the Regional Offices.

The ICSU Secretariat made several efforts to organize a First Regional Consultation for the Arab Region and finally the Jordan Royal Scientific Society officially offered to host the meeting. The consultation was planned to take place in Amman on 16-17 March 2008. The meeting was designed to bring together all the ICSU National Members in the region, as well as representatives from institutions in countries that do not yet have National Members. Unfortunately, two weeks before the start of the meeting, only two National Members had registered to attend the Consultation. Thus, the Executive Director, after consultation with the host, the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan, decided to postpone the Regional Consultation. All National Members in the region have been invited to an informal consultation during the General Assembly.

17.1 Africa (Gabriel Ogunmola)

The ICSU Regional Office for Africa was the first ICSU Regional Office formally opened in Pretoria, South Africa in 2005 and it is housed at the National Research Foundation (NRF). The Office is directed by Sospeter Muhongo and receives strategic guidance from the Regional Committee for Africa, chaired by Gabriel Ogunmola. Taking the ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011 as a starting point, four priority areas were identified by the Regional Committee based on discussions at the First African Regional Consultative Forum (Harare, 2004): Health and Human Well-being, Sustainable Energy, Natural and Human-Induced Hazards and Disasters and Global Change. During 2006 four scoping groups, made up of leading African scientists, developed science plans for each of the priority areas. The draft plans were reviewed at the Second African Regional Consultative Forum (September, 2006) attended by over one hundred African scientists.

Three of the four plans were published in 2007 and the fourth plan (Global Environmental Change – including climate change and adaptation in Sub-Sahara Africa) was published in 2008. At the moment African experts, in collaboration with counterparts from outside Africa are preparing project proposals based on the science plans.

The Regional Office has been very active in increasing the ICSU membership in Africa. ICSU national membership in sub-Saharan Africa is now 25 (23 national Scientific Members and 2 Scientific Associate). Jointly with NRF, the Regional Office has initiated an African Diaspora project, the goal of which is to identify the best ways of engaging the African Diaspora in STI activities in Africa, including the implementation of the projects being prepared on the four priority areas.

The Annual Report 2007 for the ICSU Regional Office for Africa can be found at <http://www.icsu-africa.org>.

17.2 Asia and the Pacific (Anupam Varma)

The Asia and Pacific Office was inaugurated in September 2006 and is housed at the Academy of Science of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur). The Office is directed by Nordin Hasan and receives strategic guidance from the Regional Committee for Asia and Pacific, chaired by Anupam Varma. At its second meeting (2006) the Regional Committee decided *inter alia* to establish three strategic planning groups: natural and human-induced environmental hazards and disasters; energy sustainability; and ecosystem approach in water, food and health research. These were considered priority areas for a regional focus of activities that will be coordinated by the Regional Office. A final draft of the science plan for hazards and disasters and the work of the other two scoping groups were reviewed at the Second ICSU Regional Consultation in November 2007 (Chiang Mai). The Regional Consultation approved the hazards and disasters plan and provided guidance for the other two priority areas.

The hazards and disasters science plan was finalized in July 2008 and it is expected that the science plan on ecosystems will be ready by the end of 2008, while the sustainable energy one will be ready early in 2009.

The Office is actively collaborating with the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU IAS) Secretariat for Sub-global Assessments of Ecosystems; they hosted the First Meeting of Sub-global Assessments (SGAs) for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) Sub-global Follow-up Programme (April 2008). During the meeting a strategy for follow-up to the SGAs, and the draft of the MA SGA Methods Manual were reviewed.

The Office is also working on strengthening linkages with ICSU Unions, Interdisciplinary Bodies and Scientific Associates and with regional science organizations in Asia and the Pacific.

The Annual Report 2007 for the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific can be found at http://www.icsu-asia-pacific.org/resourcecentre_AR.htm.

17.3 Latin America and the Caribbean (José Antonio de la Peña)

The ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean was formally inaugurated in April 2007 and it is housed at the Brazilian Academy of Sciences in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). The Office is directed by Alice Abreu and receives strategic guidance from the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean chaired by José Antonio de la Peña. During the First ICSU Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean (October, 2006) four priority areas were identified: Mathematics Education, Biodiversity, Sustainable Energy and Natural Disasters. Four Scientific Planning Groups have been created to prepare the science plans for the priority areas.

During the Fifth Regional Committee meeting (August, 2008) the Chairs of the Scientific Planning Groups were invited to present and discuss the first draft of their Science Plans with the Regional Committee members. The final drafts of the Science Plans will be presented to the Second ICSU Regional Consultation scheduled for November 2008, possibly concurrently with the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology to be held in Mexico City.

The Annual Report 2007 for the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean can be found at <http://www.icsu-lac.org/>.

- 17:45-18:00 **18. Policy Committee on Developing Countries (PCDC) (Hernan Chaimovich)**
 18:00-18:30 Discussion and decisions

[Section 5.1, p. 34, of the Strategic Plan]

The PCDC was established by the 27th General Assembly of ICSU in 2002 based on the recommendations from the COSTED Review Panel, which had proposed that the organizational structure of COSTED be replaced by a Policy Committee on Science and Technology for Development (name changed by the Assembly to Policy Committee on Developing Countries) and four ICSU Regional Offices.

In the light of the impressive progress made by the Regional Offices and the new experience of how they operate in practice, the policy role and ‘added value’ of PCDC is less clear than when it was originally conceived. The Executive Board and Officers have carried out a preliminary consultation with the PCDC itself and with the regional committees to define the immediate needs. This process identified a clear need for a platform for exchange of experiences among the Regional Offices and for mechanisms to ensure better communication and shared understanding between ICSU global and its Regional Offices and Regional Committees.

It is therefore proposed that an annual meeting of the ICSU Officers and Regional Committee Chairs and Directors be convened with a focus on strategic coordination. The primary goals of the annual meeting would be:

1. To provide a stronger link and platform for discussion between ICSU global (EB, CSPR and Secretariat) and ICSU regional (Regional Offices and Regional Committees);
2. to ensure integration of regional and global priorities in developing and implementing ICSU Strategic Plans; and
3. to provide a platform for exchange of experiences among Regional Offices.

Further to this, it is proposed that a forward looking review of ICSU’s role in relation to science and technology in developing countries be conducted. This review is envisaged as providing essential input to the next ICSU Strategic Plan and would consider the roles of the Regional Offices and the PCDC in a broader strategic context. A decision on the longer term future of PCDC would be dependent on the outcome of the strategic review and it is proposed that, in the meantime, this committee be put on hold.

19:30

Dinner offered by ICSU

11:45-12:15 **21. Reports of the Treasurer (Roger Elliott) and Chairman of the Committee on Finance (Bryan Henry)**

12:15-13:00 Discussion and decisions

14:30-15:00 **22. Election of Ordinary Members of Executive Board (President)**

15:00-15:30 **23. Proposals for new ICSU Members (President)**

23.1 Scientific Union Member

One application for Scientific Union membership in ICSU is presented to the Assembly for consideration from the following organization:

- International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS)

23.2 Scientific Associate

One application for Scientific Associate status had been received from the Society for Social Studies for Science (4S).

15:30-16:00 **24. Incoming Presidential Address (Catherine Bréchnac)**

16:00-16:30 *Coffee/tea break*

16:30-17:00 **25. Adoption of Resolutions of the General Assembly (Chair, Resolutions Committee)**

17:00-17:30 **26. Date and Place of 30th and 31st General Assemblies (President)**

The 28th General Assembly of ICSU held in Suzhou, China, in October 2005, recognized "the need to meet in different regions of the world"; and agreed that a six-year planning horizon for General Assemblies was desirable. The Assembly authorized the Executive Board to decide on the locations of the 29th and 30th General Assemblies in 2008 and 2011. The Board agreed that the 29th General Assembly should be held in Mozambique and, at its 96th meeting in October 2007, accepted the invitation from the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, to host the 30th General Assembly in Rome, Italy.

Since 1990 ICSU has held, or will hold, General Assemblies in the following locations:

30 th GA	Rome, Italy	2011
29 th GA	Maputo, Mozambique	October 2008
28th GA	Suzhou/Shanghai, China	October 2005

27th GA	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	September 2002
26th GA	Cairo, Egypt	September 1999
25th GA	Washington DC, USA	September 1996
24th GA	Santiago, Chile	October 1993
23rd GA	Sofia, Bulgaria	October 1990

17:30-17:45 **27. Any Other Authorized Business (President)**