

**13th Meeting of the
Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science CFRS**

ICSU Secretariat

Paris, France

9-10 October 2012

Meeting Report

Present Leiv K. Sydnes (Chair), Ashima Anand, Fatma Attia, Washington Bénitez-Ortiz, David Black (*ex officio*), Edouard Brézin, Merry Bullock, Carol Corillon, Hasan Dweik, Alexander Kaminskii, Akilagpa Sawyerr, Irene Villaseñor, Menahem Yaari, Jiansheng Zhang

Apologies Silke Schicktz

ICSU Secretariat Roger Pfister, Carthage Smith (*ex officio*), Steven Wilson (part of day 1)

1. Welcoming remarks and introduction

This was the first meeting of CFRS in its present composition with a new Chair and some two thirds of new members. The incoming Chair welcomed all Committee members, inviting them to contribute actively to CFRS's work in the coming three years. They were also informed about the practicalities of CFRS meetings, including the reimbursement rules for travel and other expenses.

The Chair also welcomed Steven Wilson, the new ICSU Executive Director since 1 April 2012, who joined the meeting for the first half of day one.

Faouzia Charfi, a physicist from Tunisia who held the post of Secretary of State in the country's Ministry of Higher Education post-2011, joined CFRS for lunch on day two.

Decision

To welcome the Chair and the new members of CFRS

To note the rules and process for reimbursement of travel and other expenses

2. Self-presentation of CFRS members

Given the Committee's largely new composition, all members were invited to present themselves, indicating their scientific background and possible areas of engagement in the context of their CFRS membership.

The Chair reminded all members that they were serving on the Committee in their personal capacities and did not represent the interests of the organisations that nominated them for CFRS.

Decision

To note the self-presentations

To note that members serve on the Committee in their personal capacities

3. Adoption of agenda

Committee members were reminded that, while the meeting report would be made public, the meeting documents were strictly confidential and must not be shared or discussed beyond CFRS.

It was decided that agenda item 17.2, relating to CFRS's engagement in a workshop on new modes of communication and the implications of valuing scientific results, would be considered together with agenda item 11.2 on open access matters.

The issue "Transit visas for scientists" was added as a new agenda item 16.5.

Decisions

To adopt the agenda

To note that meeting documents were strictly confidential

To note that agenda items 11.2 and 17.2 would be considered together

To note the addition of agenda item 16.5

4. Introduction to ICSU and CFRS

C Smith introduced the mission and key objectives of the International Council for Science (ICSU) to Committee members and described how CFRS's work fits into that context. He said that the Committee serves as the guardian of the Principle of the Universality of Science as enshrined in ICSU's Statute 5 and as a policy committee that advises the Executive Board. CFRS had come into being following a strategic ICSU review in 2006, resulting in the merger of two committees – one concerned primarily with the free circulation of scientists and the other dealing with issues of ethics and responsibility related to science. The newly formed CFRS Committee was now explicitly charged with also considering the responsibilities of scientists. This is reflected in the new wording of Statute 5, approved by the ICSU General Assembly in September 2011, together with CFRS's Terms of Reference and work plan for the period 2012-2014. These documents were critical because they laid down the Committee's commitments, its interaction with the ICSU Membership and the extent to which responsibilities were devolved from the Executive Board to CFRS.

The work plan was designed to specifically leave room for new activities to be developed by the incoming Committee, and the Chair therefore invited all members to make comments and suggestions for new topics to be considered at the next meeting.

Decision

To note the introduction and documents

To note the CFRS's Terms of Reference and work plan 2012-2014

To invite Committee members to propose new topics for the CFRS work plan for consideration at the next meeting

5. Report of the 12th CFRS meeting and matters arising

The Committee took note of the report of the previous CFRS meeting, also held in Paris. Most issues that arose would be dealt with during the current meeting.

In discussing the feedback by CFRS members at the last meeting on their experiences working with the Committee, it was noted that they suggested that Skype and teleconferences could be used more often. At the current meeting, it was clarified that this was a possibility if individuals could not attend a meeting in person or when sub-groups needed to communicate

between meetings. CFRS members had also suggested that guidelines for Committee members could be useful, but the current membership did not express strong views on this.

Decision

To note the meeting report

6. Advice to organisers of international scientific meetings

The predecessor committee of CFRS had developed guidelines for organisers of scientific meetings, but the change in the Committee's brief, in particular, necessitated a revision of the document, which began two meetings ago. Incorporating comments and contributions from a small group of members of the previous Committee, with A Sawyerr taking the lead, the guidelines were finalised following the March 2012 meeting. They were put online on the "Freedom & Responsibility Portal" in June, together with an e-mail notification to the ICSU Membership and a blog facility to collect their comments. Taking into account the responses received, Committee members decided that the advisory guidelines required further amendment. The Secretariat would further amend the document along the lines discussed at the current meeting, notably by reorganising it and splitting it into separate principles and management sections, by adapting the indicated deadlines, by adding mention of physical disability aspects and by including the issue of transit visas (agenda item 16.5).

The Secretariat would subsequently consult CFRS members for their comments on the revised version and put the finalised guidelines online, with written notification to the ICSU Membership.

Decision

To take into account the responses from ICSU Members on the guidelines
To ask the Secretariat to further amend the guidelines as discussed at the meeting
To ask the Secretariat to circulate the revised version among CFRS members for comments
To ask the Secretariat to make the finalised version available online and inform the ICSU Membership accordingly

7. The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications

Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights stipulates the right "to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications" and was therefore relevant to CFRS's work. To develop the scope, core contents and state obligations of this right, the United Nations "Independent Expert in the Field of Cultural Rights" organised a closed meeting of experts at the UN in Geneva in December 2011 to consult them on conceptual and practical issues. For CFRS, the Executive Secretary took part and provided the Committee's perspective and relevant documents.

The draft report on that meeting was considered at the last CFRS meeting and members noted that it supported the Committee's activities in that it covered not only negative rights, but also reflected the more contested positive rights, e.g. access to medicines or protection from climate change. It was pointed out that the report should bring out more adequately the tension between the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and human rights. These comments were provided in writing to the Independent Expert, together with mention of some of CFRS's documents to be referenced. In considering the final report, released in June 2012, by what now was the "Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights", the Committee was satisfied to see that CFRS's briefs were maintained and that its comments on TRIPS were taken into account.

At the current meeting it was decided to add this report to the "Freedom and Responsibility

Portal,” thereby making this resource available to the ICSU Membership, together with information on CFRS’s involvement in the consultation process.

Decision

To note CFRS’s comments on the draft report

To note the final report of the Special Rapporteur

To ask the Secretariat to link this report to the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal,” together with details on CFRS’s role

8. CFRS initiative on academic freedom

CFRS had previously noted with concern that academic freedom and scientific autonomy were increasingly being encroached upon around the globe due to the politicisation of science, calling into question the Principle of the Universality of Science. Committee members decided at the previous meeting to raise awareness among the ICSU Membership and to offer assistance in addressing specific national or disciplinary concerns. At this exploratory stage, the letter by the outgoing Chair focused on the “muzzling” of scientists and the protection of whistle-blowers. This prompted some responses from ICSU National and Union Members, giving information on the practice and experience in their specific framework or suggesting concrete areas for CFRS to take follow-up measures. Several measures were decided upon at the meeting to take the discussion further. A new menu item would be added on the ICSU website’s “Freedom and Responsibility Portal” for the provision of information on aspects of academic freedom. A first set of documents would be the responses of substance to the above letter, pending agreement by the sender. Furthermore, an attempt should be made to add the issue into the programme of the 3rd World Conference on Research Integrity in May 2013, which would be considered under agenda item 17.3.

In addition, at the previous meeting, the Secretariat had been asked to assemble legal texts that were guaranteeing academic freedom at the generic level in different national contexts. The documentation currently presented to Committee members for consideration was compiled by having gleaned information from different sources, notably the country reports fulfilling Article 15(3) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and websites with collections of constitutions. While the texts emanating from national constitutions were therefore rather comprehensive, the texts at a different level were incomplete. Welcoming this as a useful source of information, similar to the documentation of human rights texts compiled previously, CFRS members asked the Secretariat to make this available on the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal,” together with an introductory text.

Bringing together the above threads, the Secretariat would add a new blog on academic freedom and send out the information on the above actions to the ICSU Membership.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to establish a menu item “Academic freedom” in the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal”

To note the responses of the ICSU Membership to the CFRS letter on academic freedom and to ask the Secretariat to make those with substantial information available online, if possible

To note the collection of legal texts and to ask the Secretariat to add it under the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal”

To ask the Secretariat to add a blog on the above and send out information on all this to the ICSU Membership for consultation

9 Dual use technologies

In December 2011, the US National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) had asked that the results of a scientific study on a highly transmissible form of a deadly flu virus be published only with restrictions, arguing that the risk of abuse outweighed the freedom to publish. In discussing such publishing restrictions in scientific disciplines with potential dual use application, at the previous meeting the Committee asked the Secretariat to assemble key statements and guidelines that had already been produced over the past decade or so to help determine whether CFRS should become involved.

The documentation presented to the Committee at the current meeting entailed a wide range of activities by academic organisations and scientific bodies. It was therefore agreed that there was no need for CFRS to take any urgent action. However, the Secretariat was asked to further complement the list of primarily biological dual use issues, notably with material related to the chemical weapons conventions and the ICSU website's biosecurity section. Further noting that space science research could potentially also be concerned because of its proximity to defence-related matters, Committee members asked the Secretariat to ascertain the situation in co-operation with the relevant ICSU Interdisciplinary Body, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR).

Decision

To note the activities of other organisations and bodies on dual use research
To ask the Secretariat to complement the dual use list with chemical-related documents and information from the ICSU website's biosecurity section
To ask the Secretariat to establish COSPAR's position on dual use matters

10 CFRS communication

An entirely revised ICSU website with an updated and improved CFRS presence went online in March 2011. This included the newly established "Freedom and Responsibility Portal," documenting the freedom and responsibility aspects of the Principle of the Universality of Science. Despite these improvements and the Secretariat's initiatives to encourage comments, statistics indicate relatively weak access figures and only one blog entry had been received so far. In implementing a decision at the previous meeting to increase traffic on the website, indexing of the websites was reviewed and CFRS was added under the "ICSU" entry in Wikipedia. At the current meeting, Committee members asked the Secretariat to shorten the textual presentation of CFRS and the "Freedom and Responsibility Portal" as well as to update and further improve the Wikipedia entry. At the same time, the Chair invited all members to actively contribute to the blogs.

More generally, the previous Committee identified the need for CFRS to develop a strategy to communicate its work more effectively. For this purpose, members asked the Secretariat to put together a corporate PowerPoint presentation to be used by CFRS members at general assemblies of international scientific unions or other ICSU-sponsored meetings. In a related matter, it was agreed that the booklet *Freedom, Responsibility and Universality of Science*, produced by CFRS in 2008, two years after the Committee's establishment, should be revised and updated to reflect the new wording of Statute 5. In this regard, Committee members agreed to form a small group with M Bullock (lead), C Corillon and A Sawyerr, supported by the Secretariat, to assess the current version with a view to come up with a draft structure for a new brochure by the end of 2012. The remaining members would then be asked to add their comments on the contents. This process could also serve as an opportunity to engage the ICSU Membership. As a by-product of the booklet, the goal would be to produce an attractive flyer on CFRS's brief and activities for educational and awareness raising purposes, possibly as part of a general ICSU flyer.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to streamline the texts on CFRS and the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal” on the ICSU website

To ask the Secretariat to put together a corporate PowerPoint presentation on CFRS

To form a small group composed of M Bullock (lead), C Corillon and A Sawyerr to initiate the revision of the 2008 booklet, *Freedom, Responsibility and Universality of Science*, with support from the Secretariat

11 Scientific publishing issues

11.1 Publication ethics

As part of its brief to cater for aspects of responsibility in the conduct of science, CFRS was engaged in integrity matters related to scientific publishing, with considerable involvement in co-sponsoring the first two editions of the World Conference on Research Integrity (agenda item 17.3) and by having issued three relevant Advisory Notes in 2008 and 2011.

The case currently put to the Committee for consideration concerned possible misconduct by the Editor-in-Chief of an international scientific journal regarding two publications by a primatologist in Sri Lanka. The case was brought to the attention of CFRS through the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka, an ICSU National Member, with which the author of the two publications had links. The Secretariat asked outgoing CFRS member and research integrity expert D Vaux for a first opinion, which raised concerns about the process, and obtained further details on this case. The extensive and intricate documentation introduced to the Committee was an illustration that CFRS could not routinely deal with such individual cases.

In response to this particular case, Committee members asked the Secretariat to write to both the author and the journal’s Editor-in-Chief to express CFRS’s disappointment that this case was not yet resolved. In parallel, the Secretariat would invite a representative from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), which has a clearer remit in this area, to the next CFRS meeting to discuss possibilities for interaction between the two bodies on matters such as this.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to write to the two parties involved and express disappointment that the case remains unresolved

To ask the Secretariat to invite a COPE representative to the next CFRS meeting

11.2 Open access

At the last meeting, the issue of open access to scientific journals was raised under “Any other business.” Since then, a number of important developments have taken place, adding to the momentum towards open access publishing. The subject was directly relevant to CFRS’s ambit since Statute 5 proclaimed equitable access to data and information. Related to this and on the invitation of the UK Royal Society, CFRS co-sponsored the workshop “Re-valuing science in the digital age,” which looked at new ways of sharing scientific information (agenda item 17.2). This CFRS initiative was part of a broader approach by the Executive Board to define ICSU’s overall policies with regard to open access to data and information.

The current agenda item was linked to the discussions on the follow-up of the September workshop. The decision on how to present the outcome of that scientific meeting to the Executive Board was taken later under agenda item 17.2.

Decision

To note the developments in the area of open access publishing

12. CFRS and the protection of the rights of scientists

Since its inception, CFRS and its predecessor Committees considered individual cases of scientists, whose human rights were infringed upon as a consequence of their scientific work. To provide this task with a clearer framework, a group of Committee members drafted a document to help clarify CFRS's role in addressing such cases. The final version, incorporating comments raised at the previous CFRS meeting, was published in early April on the ICSU website as part of the "Freedom and Responsibility Portal."

Decision

To note the document and its publication on the ICSU website

13. The UN sanctions system and the freedom of science

Related to the personal situation of the Iranian physicist J Rahighi (agenda item 15.4), whose name was on the UN sanctions list against Iran and who could consequently no longer attend scientific meetings in Europe or the United States, the Secretariat had collected additional information on the UN sanctions system. In further exploring the possibility of an appeal mechanism, C Corillon reported at the current meeting that the UN General Assembly could ask the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) for an advisory opinion on the legality of a Security Council resolution. Such an advisory opinion would be non-binding, but could potentially cause the Security Council to review its action.

The Committee therefore asked the Secretariat to write to the ICJ to express its concern about the missing due process regarding the UN sanctions lists.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to write to the ICJ to express the Committee's concern about the UN Security Council sanctions lists

14. Freedom of science: independence of academies (update)**14.1 Turkey**

The Turkish government's policy toward science organisations since 2011 was noted with concern at previous CFRS meetings. This included the withdrawal of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) from full ICSU membership and a decree whereby government would appoint two thirds of the members of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA). As a result of the latter, several dozen TÜBA members resigned and a group of them founded the "Science Academy-Istanbul" as an independent, self-governing organisation based on the principle of scientific merit. More recently, the President of TÜBA also resigned.

In following up a decision from the previous meeting, letters of support, co-signed by the ICSU President and the CFRS Chair, were sent to the outgoing TÜBA-President and the President of the Science Academy-Istanbul. At the current meeting, CFRS requested the Executive Board to continue its engagement, noting that there was perhaps potential to work with the ICSU Membership in this regard. It was noted, for example, that the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), an ICSU Union Member, was organising its

Decision

To request the Executive Board to remain engaged and to explore the potential, jointly with the ICSU Membership, to support Turkish scientists

14.2 Montenegro

CFRS considered the situation of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, an ICSU National Member, at its previous meeting, in response to information it had received indicating that restructuring attempts of the government posed a threat to the academy's independence. Such restructuring related to a regulation of March 2012, according to which the Montenegrin Academy had to incorporate all members of the Doclean Academy of Sciences and Arts. On 30 August, the central government, not satisfied with the progress so far, imposed financial restrictions on funding research projects and the monthly salaries for the Montenegrin Academy's staff. Against that background, the President of the Montenegrin Academy wrote to the CFRS Chair to again raise their case.

Concerned by the situation, the Committee decided to ask the Chair to write to this ICSU National Member, emphasising the importance of respecting the independence of academies and their selection processes based on scientific merit, free of any political interference.

Decision

To note the developments in this case

To ask the Chair to write to the Montenegrin Academy to express concern and emphasise the key elements that constitute an independent academy

15 Freedom of science: individual cases (updates)

15.1 UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences / UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences

In 2010, Equatorial Guinea's President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, whose dictatorial regime's human rights' abuses the UN and other organisations repeatedly criticised, proposed that UNESCO award a prize bearing his name in the field of life sciences. This proposal attracted strong protest from the international scientific community, human rights organisations and academic networks. The outgoing Chair of CFRS asked the UNESCO Director-General in writing in 2010 not to agree to award the prize, confirming CFRS's stance in September 2011 when the UNESCO Executive Board reviewed its previous position to suspend the prize. At the last meeting, CFRS members considered the situation anew because UNESCO was to look into the case again shortly afterwards. On 9 March, UNESCO announced that it would award the prize, but under the name "UNESCO-Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences," accompanied by assurances that funds would come from Equatorial Guinea's state treasury. Asked by CFRS members to take action as appropriate, the outgoing Chair and C Smith decided that, as the prize was, in principle, no longer coupled to Obiang's funds or name, it would be difficult for CFRS or ICSU to take a public position against it. At the current meeting, CFRS nevertheless reiterated its concern about the process leading to this prize.

Decision

To note the developments in this case

To close this case

15.2 IUPAC 11th Eurasia Conference, Jordan, October 2010

At this conference, no Israeli scientist was among the more than 100 invited speakers. Since this situation could potentially relate to the application of ICSU's Statute 5, CFRS made enquiries with IUPAC. The central question, whether or not any Israeli scientists had actually been invited, was initially unclear. The Secretariat was therefore asked at the previous meeting to directly contact the conference organisers to clarify the situation. According to their response, although the meeting was open to all, they had "not received any nomination of Israeli scientists" nor had they "received from an Israeli scientist expressing interest to attend the meeting." This answered CFRS's initial concern.

Decision

To note the response from the conference organisers
To close this case

15.3 Jameel Zayed, Israel

This Cambridge PhD student was prevented from entering Israel in 2009. CFRS made several attempts to obtain information on the specificities for this denial on the grounds of security reasons. While no significant additional insights were gained, CFRS's actions led to two civic NGOs becoming aware of this case and their potential involvement in the event of future problems. Following a decision at the previous CFRS meeting, the Secretariat thanked in writing the UK Academies' Human Rights Committee, which was involved from the outset in this case, for their support and informed them about CFRS's undertakings. R Pfister also informed J Zayed, now a postdoctoral associate at the MIT's Department of Biological Engineering, about the situation. While this particular case could therefore be closed, H Dweik and M Yaari agreed to consider Palestine-Israeli scientific relations more broadly and report at the next meeting whether there was any role for CFRS to facilitate them.

Decision

To note the developments in this case
To close this case
To ask H Dweik and M Yaari to report at the next meeting on how CFRS might facilitate Palestine-Israeli scientific relations

15.4 Javad Rahighi, Iran

J Rahighi, an Iranian physicist, could no longer travel freely and attend scientific meetings in Europe or the United States because his name is on the sanctions lists of the European Union and the UN against Iran. He argued, with strong support from international colleagues, that his name was on the list in error. Based on the opinion of an international law expert, CFRS advised J Rahighi in October 2011 to write to the EU and UN authorities to directly challenge their allegations that his work was related or linked to the Iranian atomic programme. In response to further enquiries on this case by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), an ICSU Union Member, the Secretariat informed them about CFRS's actions. The Executive Secretary also contacted J Rahighi to personally inform him of the recommendations.

Further to the discussion on the UN sanctions system (agenda item 13), the existence of a "Focal Point for De-Listing" from sanctions lists in the Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General was mentioned, suggesting that CFRS should inform J Rahighi about this possibility.

Decision

To note the developments in this case
To ask the Secretariat to inform J Rahighi about the UN "Focal Point for De-Listing"
To close this case

15.5 Maksim Popov and Saidqul Ashurov, Uzbekistan

M Popov, a psychologist and Executive Director of an NGO involved in educating the public on HIV/AIDS, was arrested on charges of embezzlement of funds received from international donors and “involving underage persons in anti-social behaviour.” S Ashurov, the Chief Metallurgist for Oxus Gold plc., was accused of revealing state secrets. CFRS’s repeated queries with the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, an ICSU National Member with Observer status, to obtain more information were left with no response, but CFRS was pleased to learn at the previous meeting that M Popov had been released in the meantime.

Whereas the case of M Popov could thus be closed, H Dweik proposed that the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) could be a possible channel of information on S Ashurov. The Secretariat was therefore asked to write to ISESCO to enquire about this case.

Decision

To note the developments in the cases of S Ashurov and M Popov

To close the case of M Popov

To ask the Secretariat to write to ISESCO to obtain information on the case of S Ashurov

15.6 Valentin Danilov, Russia

This Russian physicist was charged with treason and fraud for allegedly having sold “state secrets” to a Chinese company, and for allegedly having embezzled project funds. Concerned that the judiciary’s handling of this case reportedly failed to meet international fair trial standards, the outgoing Chair wrote to the Russian Ministry of Education and Science in early March, asking that V Danilov be granted parole for having served two-thirds of his sentence, for his good conduct and for humanitarian and health reasons. Because the Minister changed within weeks thereafter, it was considered appropriate at the current meeting for the incoming Chair to renew the query in writing to the new Russian Minister.

Decision

To note the developments in this case

To ask the Chair to renew CFRS’s query by writing to the new Education and Science Minister

15.7 Massoud Ali Mohammadi, Fereydoon Abbasi, Majid Shahriari and Mostafa Ahmadi-Roshan, Iran

These cases concerned Iranian physicists. A remote-controlled bomb was used to assassinate MA Mohammadi, professor at Tehran University and Iran’s representative at the International Centre for Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science Applications in the Middle East (SESAME), in January 2010. On 29 November of that year, a car bomb injured F Abbasi, a nuclear physicist at Shahid Beheshti University and, since his recovery, Vice President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI). That same day, M Shahriari, a lecturer at the same university, was assassinated in a separate bomb attack. On 11 January 2012, a bomber on a motorcycle assassinated M Ahmadi-Roshan, a graduate of Sharif University of Technology and deputy director of marketing at the Natanz uranium enrichment facility. The assassinations drew international media coverage and the Iranian Government accused the US and Israel of having masterminded them.

The outgoing Chair wrote to the relevant Iranian authorities and to the UN High Commission for Human Rights (UNHCHR) to express the Committee’s concern about these attacks and to support Tehran’s call for an international rapporteur to investigate them. As no response had been received, the incoming Chair was asked to renew the Committee’s call in writing.

Decision

To note the developments in this case

To ask the Chair to renew the call to the UNHCHR for an international rapporteur

15.8 Omid Kokabee, Iran

O Kokabee is also an Iranian physicist, but his case was distinct from those under agenda item 15.7 in that he was a doctoral student at the University of Texas at Austin. On one of his returns to his home country, he was arrested on charges of “communicating with a hostile government” and “illegitimate earnings.” On 13 May 2012, O Kokabee was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, following which the outgoing Chair addressed the Iranian authorities to express distress about this situation and asked for O Kokabee’s release from Tehran’s Evin Prison. Tehran’s Court of Appeal confirmed the sentence in mid-August, although it was reported that the trial had not been fair and that O Kokabee could not interact with his lawyer. In the absence of any response to the first letter, the incoming Chair was asked to write to the Iranian authorities again to enquire whether the case was going to be reviewed.

Decision

To note the developments in this case

To ask the Chair to write to the Iranian authorities to confirm CFRS’s concerns and ask for a review of the case

15.9 Bahá’í community leaders and Ramin Zibaei, Iran

In Iran, seven Bahá’í faith community leaders have been imprisoned since 2008. The four scientists among them taught young Bahá’í, which is illegal, but the primary motivation for their arrest appears to be their role as leaders of the Bahá’í. In May 2011, Ramin Zibaei, a psychologist and Dean of the Faculty of Social Science at the Bahá’í Institute of Higher Education, was detained and subsequently charged with “conspiracy against national security” and “conspiracy against the Islamic Republic of Iran.” Because ICSU Statute 5 opposes discrimination in science on grounds of religious beliefs, and following a decision at the last CFRS meeting, the outgoing Chair wrote to the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, making the case for the right of the five scientists to conduct their work freely and without discrimination.

At the current meeting, Committee members expressed concern about the continued arrest of these scientists and asked the Chair to again write to the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology to request that they be freed. To further complement the basis for CFRS’s action on these cases, E Brézin would help the Committee to obtain documentation on the Bahá’í for consideration at the next meeting.

Decision

To ask the Chair to renew the request to the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology to free the five Bahá’í scientists

To accept E Brézin’s offer to help obtain additional documentation on the Bahá’í cases for the next meeting

15.10 Adlène Hicheur, France

This French-Algerian physicist was put in preventive detention without trial in a French prison in October 2009, on suspicion of conspiring with an Algerian al-Qaeda branch. Seriously concerned about A Hicheur’s continued arrest without trial for two and a half years, CFRS was pleased to learn at the September 2011 meeting that his trial in court was set for March 2012. Nonetheless, C Smith was asked to communicate the Committee’s stance in writing to the French Minister of Justice and Freedom. In his response, the minister insisted that the country’s judicial system was independent and that his Ministry could therefore not interfere.

On 4 May, a French court sentenced A Hicheur to 4 years imprisonment for alleged collaboration with the al-Qaeda network. A Hicheur did not appeal the verdict, but taking into account the 2.5 years pre-trial detention and his good conduct, the physicist was released.

Decision

To note the developments in this case

To close this case

15.11 Health professionals, Bahrain

During the Arab Spring, health care professionals in several North African and Middle East countries were shot at, killed, threatened and arrested by security forces. This violated the concept of medical neutrality, aimed at ensuring that health care could be provided to patients regardless of their political, religious or ethnic affiliations. To clarify whether or not CFRS could be of assistance, the Executive Secretary took part in the symposium “Health Care in Danger,” co-organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the World Medical Association (WMA) in April 2012 in London for stakeholders, including academia. With the specific brief to protect health care workers’ human rights, the WMA’s current concern was the situation of 20 Bahraini health care professionals. They were convicted and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 5 to 15 years in September 2011, following a military trial that reportedly failed to meet international fair trial standards. The following month, the WMA General Assembly adopted a resolution, demanding that all states respect and honour the concept of medical neutrality and asking for a fair trial for the Bahraini health care workers. Although not central to its activities, but in order to add CFRS’s voice in support of the WMA endeavour, the outgoing Chair wrote to the King of Bahrain in June 2012, making reference to the WMA initiative.

Later that same month, Bahrain’s High Criminal Court of Appeal announced its verdict in these cases, upholding nine convictions, but reducing their sentences to between one month and five years imprisonment, and clearing nine other health professionals of all charges. The appeals of two other accused were rejected because the accused were absent during the appeal process – having fled the country – so their 15-year sentences stand until they challenge them. At the current meeting, Committee members decided in principle to close this case. At the same time, H Dweik’s proposal was welcomed to further investigate whether or not any scientists involved in scientific work had been arrested in Bahrain around the same and to report back to the Secretariat.

Decision

To note the developments in these cases

To close these cases

To ask H Dweik to make inquiries whether any scientists in Bahrain were detained related to their scientific work

15.12 Büşra Ersanlı, Turkey

In October 2011, political scientist B Ersanlı, a faculty member in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Marmara University in Istanbul and a non-Kurdish member of the Assembly of the Peace and Democracy Party (Barış ve Demokrasi Partisi, BDP), was arrested in an on-going crackdown on Kurdish political parties. Although B Ersanlı reportedly never advocated violence, she was charged with suspected links to the violent Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK). Considering this case at the last meeting, CFRS saw this as a potential breach of the Principle of Universality of Science. The outgoing Chair subsequently wrote to the Turkish Ministry of Justice, asking for further information and for B Ersanlı’s unconditional release on bail. On 13 July, B Ersanlı and 15 other co-defendants were released from jail, pending the outcome of their trial. At the current meeting, it was decided that the Secretariat would follow developments and suggest taking action, if deemed appropriate, depending on the court’s verdict.

Decision

To note the developments in this case

To ask the Secretariat to follow this case and suggest future action as appropriate

16 Freedom of science: new cases (generic and individual)

16.1 Violation of right to education, Iran

This case came to CFRS through the International Human Rights Network (IHRN) during August and concerned a decision by the Iranian government whereby women were no longer allowed to take up studies at national universities in some 77 subjects related to scientific and non-scientific disciplines. This measure violated the Principle of Universality of Science, because it undermined the right of equitable access to science without discrimination related to sex. In consultation with the outgoing Chair, CFRS therefore endorsed the IHRN-statement, supporting the call to the Iranian authorities to review their policy for the sake of the country's development and for the benefit of its people. This endorsement was published on the ICSU website and produced several welcoming responses from the ICSU Membership.

Decision

To note the action taken in this case

16.2 Kemal Gürüz, Turkey

K Gürüz, a 65-year-old retired professor of chemical engineering and former university rector, who is internationally known for his efforts to raise Turkey's higher education standards and for his leadership in the Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council, TÜBİTAK, was summoned to appear at the Ankara Courthouse on 25 June. The Ankara 12th High Criminal Court, to which he was then referred, ruled in favour of his arrest, ordering him to be remanded to jail for his alleged role in the 1997 so-called "unarmed coup" against Turkey's first Islamic-led government. The arrest of K Gürüz was part of the present government's wider investigation into the downfall of the 1997 government and the latest crackdown against those with alleged involvement. K Gürüz had been detained in January 2009 for five days, on charges of "forming and leading an illegal armed terrorist organisation and obtaining secret documents related to state security," but little has happened in the process since then.

With the understanding that K Gürüz was unjustly detained for peacefully exercising his rights to freedom of opinion, expression and association related to his work in education, the outgoing CFRS Chair wrote a letter to *Nature*, which had previously publicised this case. The letter emphasised that Turkey's scientific contribution would depend on "continuing the reforms initiated by influential academics such as K Gürüz." At the current meeting, Committee members noted this correspondence and asked the Secretariat to continue following this case.

Decision

To note the letter written by the outgoing Chair

To ask the Secretariat to follow developments this case and report as appropriate

16.3 Mahmoud Badavam, Iran

M Bahavam, a 58-year old Iranian engineer with affiliations at Amirkabir University of Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was arrested in May 2011 during a raid against educators of the Bahá'í faith and sentenced to four years imprisonment later that year. His sentence was upheld in the appeal process in January 2012.

Committee members noted with concern this additional case of apparent discrimination against a scientist of the Bahá'í faith community in Iran and asked the Chair to include M Bahavam in the action decided upon with the other Baha'i cases (agenda item 15.9).

Decision

To note this case with concern

To include this case in the action taken under agenda item 15.9

16.4 Mohammad B. Arab, Syria

The 32-year-old pathologist, MB Arab, went missing in Aleppo, Syria, in November 2011 and is believed to be held in secret detention by government forces. Similar to the situation of the Bahraini health professionals, his case appears to relate to his taking part in anti-regime protests and providing first aid treatment to wounded protestors in his capacity as a health worker.

Expressing concern about the situation of MB Arab, no effective action was decided on in view of the state of collapse of Syria. As discussed under agenda item 15.11, the rights of health workers do not necessarily fall under the remit of CFRS, but are clearly within the remit of other international organisations.

Decision

To express concern

16.5 Transit visas for scientists

ICSU and CFRS occasionally learn of cases of scientists planning to attend a scientific meeting in a country for which the necessary entry documents had been obtained, but to get there required going through countries or regions for which it is increasingly difficult to obtain transit visas. Countries in question included the United States, the Schengen Area (covering 26 European countries) and the United Kingdom. This transit visa issue, in effect, resulted in scientists being curtailed from taking part in scientific meetings, which is contrary to the freedom of movement stipulated in Statute 5.

At the meeting, members mentioned with concern further cases with a similar scenario, but it remained unclear whether this was a systematic or new problem. Before considering taking action, it was decided that the Secretariat should first seek clarification by contacting relevant authorities and the International Visitors Office of the US National Academies. Depending on the outcome of these inquiries, the ICSU Membership might be consulted to obtain a clearer picture of the situation. The matter would be tabled at the next CFRS meeting.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to investigate the situation by contacting relevant authorities and the International Visitors Office of the US National Academies

To consult the ICSU Membership, if deemed appropriate and relevant, based on the enquiries

To take up the matter at the next CFRS meeting

17. Workshops

17.1 Private Sector – Academia Interactions (Sigtuna, Sweden, 2011)

CFRS organised this international workshop with The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in November 2011, drawing an audience of more than 50 participants. In line with ICSU's mission to strengthen international science for the benefit of society, the event served to gather information and a variety of views from a global perspective on how academia and industry could more effectively create productive partnerships. CFRS members C Corillon and P Mahaffy wrote a comprehensive and concise workshop report. While not attempting to be a consensus document, it presented issues on which general agreement emerged. Incorporating comments from all workshop participants and CFRS members, the two rapporteurs finalised the report following the last CFRS meeting. The Secretariat published it on the "Freedom and Responsibility Portal," together with a CFRS Advisory Note on the subject (agenda item 18.1), aiming to stimulate dialogue to further develop and strengthen industry-academia relations. The document would also feed into the broader process of science-business interaction discussed by the ICSU Executive Board.

Decision

To note the final report and its publication on the ICSU website

17.2 Revaluing science in the digital age (Chicheley Hall, UK, 2012)

In May 2012, the UK Royal Society released the results of its project “Science as a public enterprise” on the use of scientific information as it affects scientists and society. Related to a part of the findings, the Royal Society invited CFRS to co-sponsor a workshop on “Valuing science in the digital age: alternative metrics for future science”, aimed at developing advice to better manage the rapid changes in the dissemination of research results due to digital technologies, including aspects of open access. This topic was relevant to CFRS because digital developments provide opportunities and challenges that affect the Principle of Universality in Science. The Committee’s engagement included providing comments on the study’s draft report, participation of the outgoing Chair, outgoing member O Tzeng, C Smith and R Pfister at a preparatory meeting in June, in addition to proposing several speakers for the programme. At the actual workshop “Revaluing science in the digital age,” held in early September, CFRS took part, along with the outgoing and incoming Chairs, outgoing members O Tzeng and D Vaux, as well as C Smith and R Pfister for the Secretariat.

At the 2-day closed workshop, some 20 presentations were made and close to 30 participants from academia, the publishing industry and the university and library sectors took part. The wide range of issues covered included: reasserting ethical norms in conducting research and publishing results in the electronic age; open access to scientific information and the underlying data, and the use of leverage by funders and publishers to this effect; delineation of boundaries between openness, commercial use, respect of privacy and security; data storage and curation challenges and the responsibility of institutions in this regard; and attributing value to the importance of data stewardship.

It was planned to produce a CFRS Advisory Note as an outcome of the workshop. A document drafted by the Royal Society, with comments from the Secretariat, and a draft by D Vaux were submitted to the Committee’s current meeting for consideration. Judging their contents and orientation to be complementary, members were asked to provide comments on both notes to the Secretariat by 15 October. In following up the decision under agenda item 11.2, the revised versions would then be put to the Executive Board meeting in November to inform its policy on open access. Furthermore, the Secretariat was asked to write to the workshop organisers to thank them for having invited CFRS and to give them an update on the actions undertaken by the Committee since the meeting.

Decision

To note the draft Advisory Notes resulting from the workshop

To ask members to provide their comments on these two documents

To thank the UK Royal Society for inviting CFRS to this workshop and inform them of the Committee’s subsequent actions

17.3 3rd World Conference on Research Integrity (Montréal, Canada, 2013)

Two World Conferences on Research Integrity (WCRI) have so far taken place, 2007 in Lisbon and 2010 in Singapore, the latter resulting in the so-called “Singapore Statement” as a significant outcome. ICSU was engaged in both conferences through CFRS. In Singapore, outgoing CFRS member D Vaux gave the keynote address at the conference opening and several others members spoke in plenary or parallel sessions, highlighting CFRS’s work on critical aspects of the rights and responsibilities of science. CFRS will again be a co-organiser of the forthcoming WCRI, to be held in Montréal, Canada, on 5-8 May 2013, with C Smith as a member of the Planning Committee and D Vaux as a speaker. C Smith provided CFRS members with an update on the planning process.

The CFRS's concern that it was important to examine the systemic aspects of research integrity was fed into the early planning phase. The programme would be built around the crosscutting themes 'integrity in international co-operation,' 'issues at the interface between institutions and publishers' and 'social issues/considerations'. Work on a draft Montréal Statement had already started, building on the Singapore Statement but focusing on co-operation issues. Depending on the draft programme, an attempt would be made to integrate the topics of whistle-blowing and muzzling (agenda item 8). The Chair was suggested as a plenary speaker. In addition, C Smith invited all Committee members at the current meeting to be prepared to play an active role. It was noted that there might be an opportunity to highlight the CFRS Advisory Note "Science Communication," as this topic was specifically mentioned in the call for papers. To allow a maximum presence of Committee members, it was proposed to hold the next CFRS meeting immediately before or after the WCRI (agenda item 19). C Smith agreed to provide CFRS, as well as ICSU Members, with more details about the conference as soon as these were available.

Decision

To note the developments for the 3rd WCRI

To note that there would be opportunities for CFRS members to contribute actively in the conference

17.4 Science assessment (China: CAST)

The China Association of Science and Technology (CAST) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) were interested in hosting a workshop on science assessment. China's scientific enterprise is growing so fast that it faces particular challenges in the area of research integrity. The university ranking systems are an additional factor with the potential to distort science and affect research integrity. To develop incentives and measures to promote sound scientific practices is therefore important.

In Paris, J Zhang confirmed the offer to host such a workshop in China, with CAST and CAS serving as national partners for CFRS. To further develop the programme, the Secretariat was asked to synthesise the ideas and proposals already provided by CFRS members following the last meeting. This document would serve as a basis for a working group composed of the Chair, E Brézin, H Dweik and J Zhang to prepare a scoping paper and provisional agenda to circulate among CFRS members for comments. It was further decided to hold this workshop in April 2014 and link it with the first CFRS meeting that year (agenda item 19).

Decision

To thank CAST and CAS for their offer to host this workshop in China in April 2014

To ask the Secretariat to synthesise ideas and proposals provided by CFRS members to date

To establish a working group with the Chair, E Brézin, H Dweik and J Zhang and to ask its members to produce a scoping paper and provisional workshop agenda for the next Committee meeting

17.5 Science and Policy Advice (Denmark)

CFRS discussed involvement in this workshop at previous meetings and the outgoing Chair had contacted the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters as potential co-organiser. Because the example of climate change was foreseen as the topic, the participation of the EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard from Denmark, as a keynote speaker was critical, but she was not available until spring 2013. Following the previous meeting, the Secretariat re-confirmed CFRS's continued interest to Hans Thybo, Professor in Geography and Geology at the University of Copenhagen and chair of the Academy's working group that was planning this workshop.

In parallel, the ICSU Executive Board was also looking more closely at the interface between science and policy, intending to hold a meeting with chief science policy advisors. Because the results would be of mutual interest, the Committee members asked to be kept informed about developments at the Executive Board in this regard.

Decision

To note the developments with this workshop

To ask the ICSU Executive Board to keep CFRS informed about its science-policy activities

17.6 Science in contemporary wars (Sweden)

The outgoing Chair held a strong interest in this CFRS workshop, planned to be co-organised with the Swedish Pugwash Group, the International Pugwash and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation. Outgoing CFRS member O Tzeng indicated a possibility for funding, if the workshop were to be held in Taiwan. The initial focus was on new types of wars, but ideas for the workshop contents changed over time. In the absence of a clarified agenda, it was decided at the current meeting not to pursue the plan for this workshop at the moment.

Decision

To note the developments with this workshop

17.7 Bioethics (Italy)

Taking the opportunity of a CFRS meeting in Rome in September 2011, the Commission on Research Ethics and Bioethics of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), the ICSU National Member for Italy, together with the Research Unit on Bioethics, Research Ethics and Law at the Institute for International Legal Studies (ISGI) invited Committee members to exchange ideas on issues of mutual interest. On that occasion, the possibility of a joint workshop on bioethics was considered. Since the last meeting in Paris, the Secretariat confirmed CFRS's interest in pursuing such a joint workshop with the CNR's contact person, but there had been no response.

Decision

To note the developments with this workshop

18. CFRS Advisory Notes**18.1 Advisory Note "Academia-Industry Partnerships"**

This Advisory Note was related to the international workshop "Private Sector – Academia Interaction" in November 2011, co-sponsored by CFRS and The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (agenda item 17.1). A first draft Advisory Note, reflecting the outcome of that workshop, was circulated among all workshop participants and CFRS members for comments. The document was further discussed at the previous CFRS meeting. Incorporating the issues raised, the outgoing Chair, in collaboration with C Corillon, outgoing member P Mahaffy and C Smith revised the Advisory Note. Following the circulation of the finalised version among all CFRS members during July, the Secretariat put the Advisory Note online on the "Freedom and Responsibility Portal."

Decision

To note the Advisory Note and its publication on the ICSU website

18.2 Status of CFRS Advisory Notes

CFRS has a responsibility to promote dialogue with ICSU Members on issues relating to freedom and responsibility. One of the mechanisms that it has been using during the last few years to achieve this has been the production and circulation of Advisory Notes, containing principles and ideas at the normative level, to be considered and developed in more detail by specific groups and according to disciplines and countries. Some of these were produced as the outcome of workshops, others were generated by the Committee itself.

At the current meeting, the Committee took stock of the documents produced to date and considered how they related to the work of and policy statements issued by the ICSU Executive Board. With reference to CFRS's Terms of Reference, approved by the ICSU General Assembly, discussions emphasised again a strong feeling among CFRS's members that CFRS must be able to communicate directly with the ICSU Membership if it is to fulfil its functions. One suggestion therefore was that, in the future, the Advisory Notes be renamed "Discussion Notes," making it clearer that they are not formal ICSU policy.

Partly in relation to the Advisory Notes, but also on a more general level, CFRS expressed a need to optimise communication with the Executive Board and to build better mutual understanding and respect. For this purpose, and taking up a previous agreement with the Executive Board whereby the CFRS Chair would report to the Board once a year, it was suggested that he be invited to contribute to the next Board meeting.

Decision

To note the CFRS Advisory Notes produced to date

To suggest to the Executive Board to rename the "Advisory Notes" as "Discussion Notes"

To renew the suggestion to the Executive Board that the CFRS Chair be invited to contribute to a Board meeting once a year

19. Future CFRS meetings

The two annual CFRS meetings normally rotate, between the ICSU Secretariat in Paris and elsewhere. Those outside Paris are usually linked to a conference of relevance to the Committee's work, and, if possible, also involving the ICSU Regional Offices and/or ICSU Members. Since the current meeting took place in Paris, it was decided to hold the next one in Montréal immediately after the 3rd WCRI (agenda item 17.3). Depending on the conference programme, it would begin on 8 May mid-day or 9 May. The Secretariat would contact the ICSU National Member, the National Research Council of Canada, for local support.

The CFRS meeting thereafter would again be held in Paris, with the date agreed on being 7-8 October.

Further ahead, there was a long-standing offer from the China Association for Science and Technology to host a CFRS meeting. At the current meeting, it was agreed to hold this in conjunction with the proposed workshop on science assessment (agenda item 17.4). The week of 7-13 April 2014 was fixed, leaving the finalisation of the date to the hosting institution, also depending on the planning of the workshop.

Decision

To note places and dates for the next three CFRS meetings

To thank the China Association for Science and Technology for their offer to host the first CFRS meeting in 2014

20. Any other business

There was no other business.

Annex

Discussion with Faouzia Charfi

Faouzia Charfi, a Professor of Physics from Tunisia, joined CFRS at lunch on the second day of its meeting to talk about her experiences as Secretary of State for Higher Education in Tunisia's transitional government during 2011. She was invited to talk about the latest developments in science and higher education in her home country. This was of interest to ICSU, which was not very present in the Arab and North African region so far, and to the Committee, because of the nature of Ms Charfi's engagement.

Speaking about the implications of the new political system on science and education in Tunisia, Ms Charfi expressed concerns about the potential threats to academic freedom in the country and the role of religion in that context. She therefore asked CFRS and ICSU to monitor the future developments and consider taking action if deemed appropriate.