

**16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science CFRS**

Beijing North Star Continental Grand Hotel  
10-11 April 2014  
Beijing, China: CAST

**Meeting Report**

- Present** Leiv K. Sydnnes (Chair), Ashima Anand, Fatma Attia, David Black (*ex officio*), Merry Bullock, Carol Corillon, Hasan Dweik, Alexander Kaminskii, Alberto J. Núñez Sellés, Akilagpa Sawyerr, Silke Schick Tanz, Irene Villaseñor, Jiansheng Zhang
- Apologies** Edouard Brézin, Menahem Yaari
- ICSU Secretariat** Roger Pfister, Carthage Smith (*ex officio*)
- Guest** Johannes Mengel (ICSU Communications section)

**1 Welcoming remarks and introduction**

E Brézin and M Yaari sent their apologies, but they joined the meeting by Skype for agenda items 9 and 10.1 respectively. All other Committee members attended both days of the meeting. Johannes Mengel from the ICSU Communications section participated as a guest.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) for hosting both this meeting and the preceding workshop.

Committee members were reminded that travel arrangements to attend CFRS meetings should be made as early as possible and through the ICSU Secretariat for reasons of cost effectiveness and to facilitate the obtaining of visas, if necessary.

**Decision**

To thank CAST for hosting the meeting

**2 Adoption of agenda**

CFRS members adopted the meeting agenda. Invited by the Chair to indicate any issues for “Any other business”, the Committee’s membership beyond 2015 and the holding of ICSU meetings if a participant was not granted a visa to participate were raised for consideration under agenda item 18.

Members were reminded that while the meeting report would be made available publicly, the individual documents were strictly confidential.

**Decision**

To adopt the agenda  
To add two issues for consideration under “Any other business”

### **3 Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> CFRS meeting and implementation by the Secretariat**

After consent by all CFRS members, the report of the previous Committee meeting in October 2013 in Paris was made available on the ICSU website on 27 November. The Secretariat reported on the implementation of decisions taken that did not require specific additional action. All other matters would be considered at the relevant agenda items during the current meeting.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI; Montreal, Canada, May 2013)**

The final version of the “Montreal Statement on Research Integrity in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations” received some media attention upon its release in October 2013, and two of the four proposals put forward by CFRS were retained. The proceedings of the conference would be published and comprised a co-authored paper by the Chair, M Bullock and C Smith, among others, that summarised issues in on one of the sessions in which they were involved.

#### **Scientific publishing ethics**

Related to the Committee’s work on research integrity, consideration had been given since 2012 to the handling of two publications, written by a primatologist in Sri Lanka, by the Editor-in-Chief of an international scientific journal. In the course of attempting to facilitate a resolution of this case, CFRS approached the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). In February 2014, the COPE Chair informed the Secretariat that the process of handling complaints against members had been revised, now explicitly giving authors the possibility to address concerns to COPE and defining COPE’s role as one of providing advice and facilitating dialogue, rather than to investigate and decide. The Secretariat informed both parties involved in the present case accordingly and asked the COPE Secretariat for an update after the conclusion of the process, which the author initiated by submitting a case summary to COPE in March.

#### **Papers to scientific journals by authors from Iran**

Related to the US sanctions against Iran, the US National Academy of Sciences confirmed to CFRS that this did not prohibit US-based editors and reviewers from handling scientific manuscripts from authors based at Iranian academic research institutes, or in a clinical setting that was not government run. Although the situation was unproblematic according to the information from the ICSU National Member, the Secretariat was asked to contact relevant ICSU Union Members to establish possible implications for editors of journals in their field. After verification that the particular legislation was still applied to Iran, and because this potentially affected the discipline of physics, the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) was contacted, but no response was received to two queries. Not satisfied with this outcome, and against the background of political developments between Tehran and Washington since 2013, the Secretariat was asked to reconfirm the status of the legislation in contact with the US National Academy of Sciences and to ask for an update on the situation. In parallel, the Secretariat would write to the ICSU National Member in Iran to obtain its view on this situation. A Kaminskii agreed to approach IUPAP on behalf of CFRS to alert them about the situation and ascertain whether it was of any concern to them.

#### **UNESCO “Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers” (1974)**

The head of the UNESCO Division of Ethics and Global Change updated CFRS at its last meeting about the intended revision of the 1974 UNESCO “Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers” by an *ad hoc* expert group, including A Anand and I Villaseñor as members, of its World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST). In November 2013, the UNESCO General Conference decided in favour of revising the Recommendation that would include a redrafting by experts, followed by intergovernmental consultation. If successful, the new Recommendation would include issues that were not yet of particular concern in the early 1970s, without losing the main thrust of what was a very positive document regarding rights of scientists. C Smith confirmed to UNESCO

CFRS's interest in becoming involved in the revision process in March and suggested that the Chair should in the future represent ICSU in COMEST to facilitate interaction. While the implementation of the revision process was unclear due to recent structural changes at UNESCO, Committee members agreed on the Chair representing ICSU *ex officio* in COMEST and requested that this be formally approved by the ICSU Executive Board at its next meeting.

#### **Decision**

To note the meeting report

To note the follow-up actions by the Secretariat

*Scientific papers from Iran*: to ask the Secretariat to establish if the legislation was still applied and to obtain the views of the ICSU National Member in Iran if this was the case; to ask A Kaminskii to approach IUPAP on the matter

*UNESCO 1974 Recommendation*: to ask the ICSU Executive Board to confirm that the CFRS Chair would take ICSU's *ex officio* place in COMEST

## **4 CFRS initiative on academic freedom**

At the previous meeting, CFRS members welcomed a draft by E Brézin and S Schicktzan to frame the concept of academic freedom as it related to the Committee's remit and proposed several amendments to further enhance the document, above all to anchor it in the Universality of Science Principle. M Bullock, S Schicktzan and E Brézin, assisted by the Secretariat, were asked to review the document accordingly. Following consultation among them, all CFRS members were invited to comment on a revised version. Incorporating their feedback, the finalised document was reviewed at the current meeting, with the Chair thanking the aforementioned Committee members for their work.

After approving the document, consideration was given to how to best disseminate it beyond making it available on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal. Judging it to be of substantial relevance for ICSU's mission to promote the Universality of Science Principle, CFRS members agreed to seek the approval of the Executive Board, for it to be recognised as a formal ICSU policy statement that would subsequently be included in the documents for the General Assembly. Additionally, the Secretariat would explore further possibilities to propagate the document.

#### **Decision**

To thank M Bullock, S Schicktzan and E Brézin for their work

To adopt the document

To ask the Secretariat to make it available on the Freedom and Responsibility Portal

To ask the Executive Board to approve it as an ICSU policy statement and include it in the documentation to the General Assembly

To ask the Secretariat to explore additional possibilities for promoting the statement

## **5 CFRS communications**

### **5.1 Freedom & Responsibility Portal**

To increase the visibility and to improve the accessibility of CFRS's activities to the scientific community, a number of measures were agreed upon at the previous meeting and implemented as follows:

- Freedom & Responsibility Portal: the Secretariat reorganised it by clustering information around issues and products to position CFRS as a competent, useful and reliable source of information and assistance for the scientific community. The menu items were Academ-

ic Freedom, Freedom of Movement & Association, Science & Human Rights, Research Integrity, Advisory Documentation and Publications. The menu labelled Blog was removed because it was not used and because the required professional maintenance exceeded the available resources;

- ICSU Membership: ICSU Members would be engaged in CFRS activities whenever possible, as exemplified at the workshop just prior to the current meeting;
- ICSU Communications: the Secretariat would inform the ICSU Communications section about agendas of CFRS meetings, and Communications staff would participate at meetings in Paris. Given the pertinence of the workshop on 9 April in Beijing for CFRS and ICSU (agenda item 15.1), Johannes Mengel participated at that event and at the current meeting;
- News: as appropriate, news would be placed on the ICSU website for subsequent inclusion in its quarterly *Insight* newsletter (see agenda item 10.3 for an example);
- International days: the following international days assembled by the Secretariat could serve as opportunities to publicise CFRS's work:
  - 12 February: Academic Freedom Day ([www.academicfreedomday.com](http://www.academicfreedomday.com))
  - 5 October: International Academic Freedom Day ([teu.ac.nz/2011/10/academics-disagree-on-freedom-day](http://teu.ac.nz/2011/10/academics-disagree-on-freedom-day))
  - 10 November: World Science Day for Peace and Development ([www.un.org/en/events/scienceday](http://www.un.org/en/events/scienceday))
  - 10 December: Human Rights Day ([www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday](http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday))

Upon the online presentation at the current meeting, Committee members welcomed the significant improvement and made suggestions how the Secretariat should further amend the Freedom & Responsibility Portal.

#### **Decision**

To note the restructured Freedom & Responsibility Portal

To ask the Secretariat to further amend it in line with the suggestions at the current meeting

## **5.2 Brochure “Freedom and Responsibility in Science”**

The Secretariat worked on the brochure by taking into account the suggestions CFRS members had made at the last meeting, in particular by updating examples of the Committee's work. Suggestions from the ICSU Communications section as to the overall presentation were also incorporated. In subsequent consultation, M Bullock and S Schicktanz provided comments that were also included. All CFRS members were invited to comment on this further revised version in January.

The finalised version in draft layout form proposed by the ICSU Communications section was put to the Committee for final consideration and approval. C Corillon offered to proofread the document, amendments were suggested to the section on boycotts and it was proposed to include the Singapore Statement by citing its preamble and principles as well as adding a link to the online document. The Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section would complete the brochure for presentation to the ICSU General Assembly in September and explore possibilities of further publicising it.

#### **Decision**

To thank M Bullock and S Schicktanz for their work

To approve the brochure with the proposed amendments

To ask the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section to complete and publicise the brochure

## **6 Science exposed to public pressure**

At two previous meetings, CFRS expressed concern about several cases that involved physical violence against scientists, scientific institutions, experiments or experimental equipment. In view of possible future such cases, the Secretariat was asked to prepare an operating document based on ICSU Statute 5 that would condemn any such violence. After circulating a first draft among Committee members in February for comments, the revised document was adopted with minor textual changes at the current meeting and the Secretariat was asked to make it available on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal.

After consideration, there was agreement that the document should remain a CFRS operating document, rather than proposing its adoption by the Executive Board as a formal ICSU policy statement. It would enable the Committee to respond rapidly, should relevant future cases come to its attention.

### **Decision**

To adopt the document

To ask the Secretariat to add the document to the Freedom & Responsibility Portal and to include it in the documentation for the General Assembly

## **7 Gender issue in field research**

During last year, CFRS learnt about cases of exposure of scientists, particularly women, to particular risks when doing fieldwork, for example in the form of sexual favours being requested by members of local communities in return for rendering assistance. To understand the situation, the Chair again contacted those ICSU Union Members with usual field expeditions, the International Geographical Union (IGU), International Sociological Association (ISA), International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) after the last meeting.

The President of the ISA Research Committee “Women in Society,” Professor Evangelia Tastsoglou, replied that she was intending to put it on the agenda of her committee’s business meeting at the ISA World Congress in July 2014, in addition to personally exploring the issues with individual committee members. She was also considering organising a roundtable to assess the expertise and interest available in the ISA Committee to pursue this issue as a new research project. While noting that her committee could provide a positive and intellectually enabling environment, Professor Tastsoglou indicated that funding or material resources were limited.

Welcoming this positive response, the Secretariat was asked to liaise with Professor Tastsoglou to consider next steps, including information to S Schicktanz who could feed this into the next “Gender Summit,” planned for 30 June – 1 July 2014 in Brussels.

### **Decision**

To note the interest of the ISA Research Committee “Women in Society” in the subject

To ask the Secretariat to obtain update information from the president of that committee and follow up as appropriate

## **8 The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications**

Related to its contribution to the consultation by the UN “Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights” on the implementation of Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CFRS had been provided with the AAAS report “Defining the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications: American scientists’ perspectives.”

In considering the report at the current meeting, it was noted that Article 15 reflected what was enshrined in ICSU Statute 5 and therefore did not require additional involvement from this Committee.

**Decision**

To note the AAAS report

## **9 Open access and evaluation by metrics**

E Brézin joined the Committee by Skype for this agenda item.

The ICSU Executive Board had formed a group on open access to scientific journals and evaluation by metrics of research output. Tasked to propose an ICSU policy on these issues to the General Assembly in August-September this year, consultation took place among the ICSU Membership and ICSU bodies. CFRS fed into the work of this group by co-sponsoring the international workshop “Revaluing science in the digital age” with the UK Royal Society in September 2012, by providing its comments on the “San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment” of May 2013 in November, and E Brézin served on this group on behalf of CFRS.

CFRS was now consulted on the group’s first draft that contained sections on open access and metrics as well as a number of recommendations. E Brézin introduced the document by reiterating its main points: open access was related to metrics and metrics affected the emergence of open access, metrics should not solely rely on the h-index or any other single system, a distinction between developed and developing countries was required, ICSU should not be concerned by publication business models, and that publicly funded data should always be made available.

CFRS considered that if the final report was to deal with both issues, it should more clearly explain and flesh out the link between open access and metrics and how they affected each other. It should also reflect the concern that open access journals were potentially endangering the evaluation and quality systems currently in place. C Smith was asked to relay the Committee’s feedback to the group.

**Decision**

To note the report of the group

To ask C Smith to report CFRS’s considerations to the group

## **10 Freedom of science: generic issues (update and new)**

### **10.1 Boycott calls against the Israeli science community**

M Yaari joined the Committee by Skype for this agenda item.

CFRS has on previous occasions taken a firm stance in favour of science co-operation between Palestine and Israel, thereby opposing any form of scientific boycotts. At the last meeting, this was reaffirmed following protests against the presence of an Israeli scholar at a scientific meeting organised by ICSU at the Cyprus Institute in June 2013. To help prevent such situations, the Secretariat was asked to produce a guidance document for organisers of scientific meetings in the Middle East or North Africa, or concerning that region, that would refer to the Universality of Science Principle and non-discrimination of scientists related to their country of residence or origin, or their political orientation. Incorporating comments from E Brézin, H Dweik and M Yaari on a first draft, the document was made available on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal and shared with the Directors of all ICSU Regional Offices in January.

Illustrating the need for such a paper, during 2013, two US-based organisations, i.e. the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) and the American Studies Association (ASA), called for an academic boycott of Israel. Expressing its concern about these resolutions, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, an ICSU National Member, addressed the Chair in December for support by opposing the boycott calls. With the advice of M Yaari and C Corillon, the Secretariat communicated the Committee's position against boycott calls to both organisations, referring to earlier CFRS position documents and the aforementioned guidance document. The two letters were despatched in January 2014, copied to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) because of their shared stance against boycott calls, with subsequent information to the Israel Academy.

**Decision**

To note the CFRS guidance document  
To note the documentation

**10.2 Violence against academics in Iraq**

At the May 2013 meeting, CFRS considered a media report that seemed to suggest that academics and medical doctors were targeted in Iraq because of their privileged status. Asked to ascertain the situation, the Secretariat contacted organisations that were working in and/or on Iraq. The Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA), which has an Iraq programme, provided the most detailed response by sharing their knowledge of five confirmed assassinations of academics during 2013:

- 23 March: Saad Kamel, rheumatologist at Al-Karama Teaching Hospital
- 4 May: Khalel Mukhlef, Dean at the College of Administration and Economics, Al Anbar University
- 2 July: Ahmed Shakir Al-Janabi: Professor of Neurology, Baghdad University College of Medicine, and surgeon at the Neurology Hospital in Baghdad
- 26 October: Hussein Naser Aljuhashi, Professor of History at Al-Mustansiriyah University
- 28 December: Bashar Awad Al-Badrani, Professor at the College of Imam Adhaam, Mosul University

CARA also had reports of five confirmed assassinations of academics during 2012, but this did not provide evidence of a targeted campaign. Additionally, CARA was not currently receiving many new requests from Iraq for refugee assistance. This picture was confirmed by the Middle East and North Africa Division at Human Rights Watch, which was not aware of violence targeting academics, although they had registered a drastic increase in targeted assassinations against journalists, security personnel and communal or religious leaders.

Scholars at Risk had received reports of an increase in violence against academics in Iraq, but could not share any specific details. While reporting on attacks against journalists and lawyers, Amnesty International did not have details or reports on violence targeted against academics.

**Decision**

To note that although there were a number of individual cases, there was no clear evidence for a specific targeting of academics in Iraq

**10.3 Visa problems at ICSU Union Member meetings in the UK**

At the October 2013 meeting, CFRS considered documentation on problems encountered by numerous scientists in obtaining visas to attend the annual congresses of the ICSU Union Members of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) and of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) in the UK during 2013. Seriously concerned about these cases, Committee members agreed on consulting with the UK Royal Society, an ICSU National Member, regarding possible joint action, including potential letters to the UK Home Office, the Minister of

State for Universities and Science and to the Government Chief Scientific Adviser.

In thanking the two ICSU Unions for the detailed evidence, CFRS informed them about the intended action. Shortly thereafter, but without consultation with CFRS or ICSU, *The Guardian* reported on the matter and detailed CFRS's proposed actions. With the consent of the two Unions, the Secretariat then provided the UK Royal Society with the case details, suggesting that it give consideration to installing a clearinghouse mechanism for organisers of international scientific meetings vis-à-vis the UK authorities. After consideration of the proposal in November 2013, the Human Rights Committee of five UK academies, including the Royal Society, concluded that the volume of international scientific meetings in the UK was too high for such a task to be taken on. The Royal Society also reported to the Secretariat that it was intending to raise the matter with the UK Home Office in January 2014 and to then come back to CFRS.

The Royal Society's contact person for ICSU subsequently informed C Smith about a forthcoming contribution of their Foreign Secretary to *Science* on the subject. This piece appeared on 31 January 2014, but without any reference to either ICSU or CFRS's activities. *Nature* took up the issue a week later in an online article that included a citation from an IUPS representative. In the light of these developments, and because the ICSU Union Members were expecting action from CFRS, the Secretariat drafted a news piece to alert the ICSU Membership about visa issues in general, with specific reference to the two UK examples. This was circulated to both the ICSU Executive Board and CFRS for comment. Following their approval, the news was posted in the ICSU website on 13 February and included in the *ICSU Insight* newsletter on 28 March. As a further measure, the Secretariat reviewed the document with advice regarding the organisation of international scientific meetings and amended the "Freedom of Movement & Association" menu in the Freedom & Responsibility Portal.

#### **Decision**

To note the actions taken and associated documentation

## **11 Freedom of science: generic issues (update)**

### **11.1 Turkey**

At previous meetings, the Committee considered with concern the situation of individual scientists in Turkey, threats to the independence of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) and the withdrawal of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) from full ICSU Membership. In October 2013, taking into account the report of a fact-finding mission by the International Human Rights Network and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina to Turkey in February 2013, CFRS members agreed on writing a generic letter to the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice of Turkey to help ameliorate the situation of Turkish scientists and the science community. At the current meeting, CFRS noted the Chair's communication, dispatched in November, and an update by C Corillon on the situation of several Turkish scientists. Consideration was also given to a fact-finding report by a fact-finding delegation from the All European Academies (ALLEA) to Turkey in September 2013. The delegation was sent as an expression of ALLEA's concern and because they had received an application for membership from the newly established Science Academy Istanbul.

With the World Chemistry Congress in Istanbul in August 2013 in mind, CFRS asked to be provided with the list of all annual congresses of ICSU Union and Interdisciplinary Bodies through the end of 2014, considering them as potential opportunities to engage the scientific community in a dialogue on menaces to academic freedom in the respective national contexts. The Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) in Moscow

in August this year could serve as such an opportunity and to highlight the situation of the Russian Academy of Sciences as discussed at the October 2013 CFRS meeting. In the light of recent political developments in Ukraine, there might also be challenges for scientists from some countries to get permission and/or visas to attend. A Kaminskii was asked to monitor the situation and inform CFRS if any action should be considered. It was noted that the ICSU Executive Board was represented at most Member congresses and any CFRS actions should be co-ordinated with the ICSU Executive Board.

**Decision**

To ask A Kaminskii to inform CFRS as appropriate whether the COSPAR meeting could serve to draw attention on the situation of the Russian Academy of Sciences  
To request the Secretariat to provide the list of annual congresses for 2015 at the next meeting

**12 Freedom of science: individual cases (updates)**

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

In two previous letters emailed to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and to the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran, CFRS supported the call for an international investigation into the unresolved attacks against these four Iranian physicists during 2010-2012. In the absence of any response, the Committee decided at the previous meeting to resend the letter. Despatched as registered mail in December 2013, it remained unanswered. Although this was not satisfactory, the Committee agreed not to continue to pursue this matter.

**Decision**

To note the letter

**12.2 Omid Kokabee, Iran**

This doctoral student in physics was arrested in January 2011 during a return trip to his home country from the US, where he was enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin. Letters from the former and the current Chair to the Iranian authorities requesting O Kokabee's early release had been left unanswered. Following the previous meeting, and against the background of changes in Iran's political landscape and the release of a prominent human rights lawyer in August 2013, the Chair renewed CFRS's appeal in a letter sent to Tehran as registered mail in November.

At the current meeting, Committee members noted the continued absence of a response as well as the continuing concern and attention of other scientific and human rights organisations to the case of O Kokabee. This included a query from the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics to the Secretariat in October 2013 about CFRS's actions and a request from Amnesty International in March 2014 for CFRS and ICSU to support an online petition they had jointly launched with the US-based Committee of Concerned Scientists and the American Physical Society. To continue adding CFRS's voice to this international movement in support of O Kokabee, Committee members asked the Chair to renew the appeal in writing to the Iranian authorities, this time asking the ICSU Executive Director and E Brézin to hand deliver a letter to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Paris.

**Decision**

To ask the Chair to renew the appeal for O Kokabee's release from prison and ask the ICSU Executive Director and E Brézin to hand deliver this letter to the Embassy of Iran in Paris  
Amnesty International will be informed about CFRS's activities relating to this case

### 12.3 Bahá'í community leaders, Iran

CFRS had previously considered the situation of six imprisoned scientists of the Bahá'í faith in Iran. Taking account of the political changes during 2013, at the previous meeting, the Chair renewed the Committee's appeal to the Iranian Minister of Science, Research and Technology to release these scientists, taking into account their time already spent in prison, because their imprisonment appeared to clearly contravene ICSU Statute 5 that opposes discrimination in science on grounds of religious beliefs. A copy of this letter, posted as registered mail in November 2013, was sent to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran and to the UNESCO Director General. Although no response was received from Tehran, CFRS decided no specific follow-up action at the current meeting, but it would continue to follow this case.

#### Decision

To continue following this case

### 12.4 Health professionals, Bahrain

Of 48 health professionals imprisoned in Bahrain following the 2011 protests, the two medical doctors 'Ali 'Esa Mansoor al-'Ekri and Ebrahim 'Abdullah Ebrahim al-Demistani were still in prison in October 2013. In addition, the nurse Hassan Salman Matoq had been jailed later for reasons unrelated to the 2011 protests. As asked by members at the previous meeting, the Chair had written to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to document CFRS's concerns and actions so far. At that stage it was understood that the Commissioner was intending to visit Bahrain towards the end of 2013. Concurrently, the Chair renewed a written appeal to the King of Bahrain, with a copy to the country's Minister of Justice, requesting the release of all unjustly imprisoned health professionals and application of the recommendations made in the 2011 "Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry." The letters were posted as registered mail in October and November 2013 respectively. In contact with the Office of the UN High Commissioner in March 2014, the Secretariat established that the High Commissioner did not visit Bahrain in 2013 and that it was unlikely that she would visit before her mandate ended in mid-2014.

According to updated information from C Corillon, the nurse Hassan Salman Matoq was released a few weeks before the current meeting, while of the two medics still in prison, Ebrahim 'Abdullah Ebrahim al-Demistani was suffering from health problems and the Minister of the Interior had asked for him to receive medical care. The Chair was therefore asked to write to the King of Bahrain to ask for the medical examination and treatment of this health professional. In addition to sending copies to the country's Ministers of Health and of Justice, the Secretariat should also explore writing to political leaders in Saudi Arabia, who had influence in Bahrain.

#### Decision

To ask the Chair to write to the King of Bahrain to ask for medical care for Ebrahim 'Abdullah Ebrahim al-Demistani, with copies to the Ministers of Health and of Justice  
To ask the Secretariat to explore the possibility of addressing Saudi Arabian political leaders with influence on Bahrain

### 12.5 Büşra Ersanlı, Turkey

This political scientist was imprisoned in October 2011 because of suspected links to the violent Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), although she reportedly never advocated or practiced violence. Pending the outcome of her trial, B Ersanlı was released in July 2012. Connected to his participation at the IUPAC conference in Turkey in August 2013, the Chair had the opportunity to discuss her situation with B Ersanlı personally. On that basis, Committee members welcomed at the previous meeting that the Chair would attend the court hearing as an international observer for CFRS. While initially scheduled for December 2013 or January 2014, her trial had been postponed until after the local elections that took place on 30 March.

At the current meeting, the Chair updated the Committee that B Ersanli could travel freely, that she would inform him when the date for her trial was fixed and that she had expressed her hope that he would attend the court hearing. As decided at the previous meeting, communication about the trial and its outcome would be considered as appropriate.

**Decision**

To ask the Chair to inform the Committee about developments in this case, as appropriate

**13 Freedom of science: individual cases (new)**

**13.1 Yevgeny Vitishko, Russia**

According to information provided by the IHRN Network, this geologist was long involved in professional efforts for environmental protection in the Northern Caucasus and had served as a council member of a regional environmental group, Environment Watch for North Caucasus. He took part in an expert group to prepare a report by Moscow State University about environmental concerns related to the construction for the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi. Because the report's recommendations were ignored, he and others started protesting against various projects that, in his professional judgment, were causing large-scale ecological damage. According to Amnesty International, he was subsequently subjected to a continuous campaign of harassment by the Russian authorities, including detentions and warnings to abstain from protesting during the Olympic Games. In February 2014, Y Vitishko was arrested. This related to him being sentenced in June 2012 to three years in prison, with a two-year probation period, for allegedly damaging an illegally erected fence in a protected forest area some 200 km from Sochi. According to Amnesty International, there were a number of substantial concerns about the merits of the case and procedural violations. In October 2013 the Russian Supreme Court ruled that the lower court should have considered the legality of the fence and the identity of its owner, but the lower court decided that there were no grounds for reviewing the case. In December 2013, Y Vitishko was brought to court, accused of having travelled outside his hometown without permission, thereby violating the travel restrictions imposed on him in 2012. His appeal being rejected on 12 February 2014, Y Vitishko, who was then in prison for 15 days for "petty hooliganism" on charges that he swore at a bus stop, went on a hunger strike until 12 March in protest. Due to be released on 28 February, police took him to a penal colony to serve his three-year sentence.

Although concerned about the circumstances of this case, it was not entirely clear whether it was a case of a scientist's human rights being violated as a consequence of scientific work, such as would normally be necessary for the Committee to take it on. CFRS members therefore asked C Corillon to obtain additional information through contacts at Moscow State University and report at the next meeting.

**Decision**

To ask C Corillon to obtain additional information on this case and report at the next meeting

**13.2 Victor Vassiliev, Russia**

On 21 February 2014, V Vassiliev, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and formerly of the Executive Committee of the International Mathematical Union (IMU), was arrested during a peaceful political protest in Moscow. He was detained for 5 hours and subsequently released to appear in court at a later date. On 4 March, IMU contacted C Smith and asked for advice in view of V Vassiliev's imminent trial. While A Kaminskii and C Corillon were contacted for their views, the IMU used its channels of communication with contacts in, or with ties to, Russia. On 5 March, the court found V Vassiliev guilty of shouting slogans and resisting police and fined him with 10.000 Russian Rouble, roughly 200 Euro. V Vassiliev did not appeal the verdict.

Whilst not requiring any action from CFRS, the case was included at the current meeting, because it had initially been raised by a Union Member. It did not directly concern the practice of science, but related to a scientist playing an active role in a social protest and thereby illustrated the necessity for careful consideration of the circumstances of each case in relation to CFRS's remit. An important part of this remit was to support and assist ICSU Members.

**Decision**

To note the information and agree that all cases from ICSU Members should be considered and reported to the full Committee, whether or not action is required

**14 Responsibilities of science: generic issue**

In February 2014, the President of Uganda signed legislation that included life sentences for homosexuals. The president justified signing the bill by arguing that homosexual orientation was not foreseen in nature, but that he invited scientists to come forth with evidence to the contrary. This case was put to CFRS at the current meeting, because it entailed the aspect of responsibility of scientists and the scientific community in situations where their expertise could be instrumentalised for political purposes. In considering this case, there was no question that scientific evidence was available to counter the justification for the signing of the bill, but that it was deliberately ignored for political reasons. CFRS members therefore agreed that it was not appropriate for the Committee to intervene and try to challenge the political decision by citing scientific evidence, since this would make it prone to being manipulated for political purposes. At the same time, the Committee would take action should the legislation infringe the human rights of scientists in Uganda in the future.

It was noted that IPsyNet, a global network of psychology associations that addresses LGBT issues, had provided a carefully crafted written response to President Museveni, opposing his bill. This letter was also signed by international and regional psychology organisations, including the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), an ICSU Union Member.

**Decision**

To note the information

**15 Conferences and workshops****15.1 Science assessment and research integrity (China: CAST, April 2014)**

On the day before the current meeting, the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) hosted this workshop that CFRS co-sponsored and co-organised. As discussed at the previous meeting, the programme was further developed and speakers were included whose name were provided by CAST for China, by M Bullock for Brazil and by A Sawyerr for South Africa.

After welcome notes by the workshop organisers and keynote addresses by different stakeholders in China, presentations were given on experiences with research assessments in Brazil, China and South Africa, all considered to be rapidly growing science systems. The second session comprised a paper on the Academic Ranking of World Universities by Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and, on behalf of CFRS, A Anand talked about how science assessments influence research integrity. Some 50 representatives from China from different scientific disciplines and two journalists from *Nature* attended the workshop.

At the current meeting, CFRS agreed that the established science systems could learn from the examples and experiences in China and Brazil. Beyond this, the presentations and subsequent discussions provided informative and clarifying details on the modus operandi and value of different science assessment models and metrics systems. A distinction needed to be made between assessment as a management tool and the use or application of its results. It was therefore considered crucial that evaluation parameters be defined clearly according to the intended purpose. At the moment, there was a mix of assessment methods and metrics being used at different levels (e.g. countries, research institutions, individual scientists) and for different kinds of purposes (e.g. attributing funding, university rankings). It was equally noted that beyond taking into account hard output measures, assessments should also give value to soft factors, such as the relevance of research to society. The role of the science community, as opposed to science managers, in assessment processes required particular attention.

While one presentation argued that pressure from science assessments impacted on research integrity by favouring misconduct, the workshop collectively fell somewhat short of addressing how specifically science assessments affected research integrity. At the same time, it appeared that current assessment processes did not help to ensure quality in the scientific enterprise. In an attempt to take the discussion forward, the Chair now invited Committee members to provide the Secretariat with 4-5 conclusive points from the workshop. In addition, the proposal from the Chair was adopted to form a group of Committee members that, with the input from the Secretariat, would develop a paper to synthesise the issues brought forward as the basis for a session to be organised at the next World Conference on Research Integrity (agenda item 15.2). In the interim, the Secretariat would ask for the permission of all speakers to make their presentations available online on the ICSU website.

#### **Decision**

To thank CAST for having hosted the workshop

To agree on forming a group of CFRS members to develop a paper with the main points at stake, with input and support provided by the Secretariat (see 15.2 ahead)

To ask the Secretariat to make the presentations of those speakers who agreed available on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal

#### **15.2 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity (Brazil, May/June 2015)**

The next WCRI was to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 31 May to 3 June 2015. In confirming their stance at the previous meeting, Committee members agreed that CFRS should increase its involvement and presence on that occasion in comparison to the previous World Conferences, because the promotion of research integrity was central to the CFRS remit. Engagement should go beyond the contribution to the three previous WCRI in the form of identifying speakers, helping shape the programme and active CFRS participation. The option considered to best achieve this for ICSU and CFRS was to organise a session, such as already discussed at the previous meeting. The organisers of the 4<sup>th</sup> WCRI had confirmed their interest in ICSU being well represented and visible as well as actively engaged, and C Smith had already suggested the possibility of organising a session, referring to the CFRS-CAST-CAS workshop in Beijing to serve as input.

To effectively pursue the goal of a session, Committee members agreed that the topic needed to be well defined, that a CFRS member should serve on the WCRI organising committee and that funding to invite pertinent speakers was necessary. In addressing these issues, the decision was for the session to focus on the link between science assessment and research integrity, because this nexus at the systemic level had not been part of previous WCRI's. To put together a programme, a working group would draft a synopsis document to bring together the issues proposed by CFRS members under agenda item 15.1, and its members would take part in WCRI4. With support from the Secretariat, this paper, a possible "Statement of Principles," should be ready for the next CFRS meeting. The Chair, A Anand, A

Sawyerr, S Schicktanz were asked to serve on this group, together with D Black who would maintain the link with the ICSU Executive Board and M Bullock who was asked to join the Organising Committee of the 4<sup>th</sup> WCRI, at whose virtual meetings the Executive Secretary should take part as well, if possible. As for funding, CAST agreed, in principle, to fund the participation of speakers from China, whilst the Chair proposed that ICSU should also provide funds for CFRS members in the working group to attend.

#### **Decision**

To ask the Chair, A Anand, D Black A Sawyerr and S Schicktanz to serve on the working group

To ask M Bullock to join the WCRI Organising Committee

To ask the Secretariat to ensure co-ordination and development of a draft paper for a session at the 4<sup>th</sup> WCRI for the next meeting

### **15.3 Third World Congress for Freedom of Scientific Research (Rome, April 2014)**

A group of Italian scientists and the Luca Coscioni Association initiated this congress. Luca Coscioni, a Professor of Environmental Economics engaged in the social and political spheres in Italy, suffered from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, which claimed his life in 2006. With the conviction that freedom was necessary in research, he ran in the 2001 Italian parliamentary elections. Although not elected, he received large support from Nobel laureates, scientists, physicians, patients and politicians. With that experience, he founded the Luca Coscioni Association with the motto “From the body to the body politic.” The World Congress it has been organising since 2004 serves as a forum for scientists, politicians and sick or disabled people to reflect on the importance of freedom in research for human rights and on the defence of research from all kinds of fundamentalism.

The focus of this year’s congress “Bridging the gap between science and politics,” scheduled just days before the current meeting, was on defending scientific research from fundamentalist threats, promoting the scientific foundation of decision-making in politics, defending basic research and the scientific method as well as on promoting scientific education and culture. These topics were directly relevant to CFRS’s brief and ICSU’s focus area “Science for Policy,” but the timeframe was too constrained to propose speakers. In communication with the Congress organisers, the Secretariat indicated CFRS’s and ICSU’s interest in being involved in future meetings and asked for information at an early stage.

#### **Decision**

To ask the Secretariat to maintain contact with the Congress organisers

### **16 CFRS progress report (2011-2014) and work plan (2014-2017)**

To prepare the Committee’s next work plan for approval by the ICSU General Assembly in August-September this year, the Secretariat had included the workshop topics proposed at the previous meeting and further amended the document in terms of structure and presentation. CFRS’s activities since the previous General Assembly in 2011 were also updated as an annex to the work plan. Reviewed by A Sawyerr and AJ Núñez Sellés, the work plan had been submitted to all Committee members for comment. Further worked by the Secretariat, the work plan and progress report were now put to the Committee for final consideration. Both documents were approved with minor amendments at the current meeting. Having offered to do a final proofreading after the current meeting, C Corillon’s comments would still be incorporated. The Secretariat would submit the final texts, together with the advisory documents developed during the last three years, to the ICSU Secretariat by the end of May at the latest, for inclusion in the ICSU General Assembly documents. The revised brochure “Freedom and Responsibility in Science” would be made available, in hard copy, to all Assembly participants.

Regarding the contents of the Chair's presentation at the General Assembly, it was proposed to highlight 3-4 main messages to the ICSU Membership, including the revised brochure and the regional workshops. Committee members were invited to submit any further suggestions after the current meeting to the Secretariat and the Chair.

**Decision**

To approve the work plan and progress report with minor amendments  
To ask the Secretariat to submit both documents to the ICSU Secretariat for inclusion in the documentation for the ICSU General Assembly  
To invite Committee members to send suggestions for the General Assembly presentation to the Secretariat and the Chair

**17 Future CFRS meetings**

The second CFRS meeting in 2014 had been fixed at the previous meeting to take place at the ICSU Secretariat in Paris on 13-14 October. In considering the place and date of the first meeting next year, several factors were taken into consideration at the current meeting, namely that the biannual meetings normally rotated between the ICSU Secretariat and elsewhere, the newly composed Committee membership, CFRS's possible role in the 4<sup>th</sup> WCRI in May-June (agenda item 15.2) and an invitation from the Mexican Academy of Sciences to host a CFRS meeting and a joint workshop.

In balancing these elements, and noting that the Committee would still meet twice in its current composition, members decided to hold the first meeting in 2015 in Paris on 26-27 March. Since part of the Committee would participate at the WCRI in Rio de Janeiro in May-June, the Mexican Academy of Sciences would be thanked for their offer while proposing to postpone that meeting to early 2016.

**Decision**

To note that the second meeting this year and the first meeting in 2015 would take place in Paris, on 13-14 October and 26-27 March respectively  
To accept the offer from the Mexican Academy of Sciences to host a CFRS meeting and workshop provided that this could take place in 2016

**18 Any other business**

*CFRS membership:* the terms of A Anand, F Attia, A Kaminskii, A Sawyerr and J Zhang would end after the Committee meeting in March 2015, and I Villasenor informed C Smith that she would not serve a second term. C Corillon would be invited to stay with CFRS because of her role in the International Human Rights Network, and the Chair thanked the US National Academy of Sciences for this important contribution. The Chair and all other members could be considered for renewal, but it was emphasised that this was not automatic. The ICSU Executive Board would make the final decision by considering the Committee as a whole. All members, who could potentially serve a second term, were therefore invited to speak to C Smith or the Chair about their personal situation, should they wish to do so.

Members were invited to share their thoughts and reflections on the future functioning of the Committee. A Sawyerr suggested creating working groups and/or breakout groups more often to increase the effectiveness of teamwork among Committee members. C Corillon emphasised that a Nobel Laureate would add particular prestige and stature to the Committee.

*Denied visas for participants to attend ICSU sponsored meetings:* C Corillon enquired whether it was still policy to cancel ICSU sponsored meetings if one or several participants could not attend because visas were not granted on political grounds. As detailed in the

CFRS advisory document regarding international scientific meetings and visa issues, ICSU asked its Members to ensure in advance that the hosting country would facilitate visas. However, once the host had been agreed and plans made, any decision to cancel would depend on the nature and extent of the problems encountered.

**Decision**

*CFRS membership*: to note that the terms of A Anand, F Attia, A Kaminskii, A Sawyerr and J Zhang would end after the first Committee meeting in 2015

*Visa refusals for international scientific meetings*: to note the information