

22nd Meeting of the ICSU Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR)

1 October, 2011

Hotel Massimo D'Azeglio
Rome, Italy

MEETING REPORT

Present: I. Alcantara-Ayala, J. Asenjo, R. Balstad, D. Black (*ex officio*) C. Cesarsky, D. Chen (*ex-officio*), H. Gupta, C. Leaver, Y. Lü, K. Raivio (Chair), B. Salem, H. Vessuri

Invited guests: G. McBean,

Secretariat: C. Smith, V. Lee

Apologies: L. Brito, N. Nakicenovic, C. de la Rey, J. Rockström, A. Whyte

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Kari Raivio. The overarching theme of the meeting was the implementation of ICSU's 2nd Strategic Plan, in the light of the discussions at the General Assembly.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Committee agreed the draft agenda.

3. Assessment of the General Assembly and Identification of Immediate and/or New Priorities

This was a general brainstorming session. CSPR Members were invited to reflect on the GA discussion and identify any issues that required particular attention from CSPR over the next three years.

With respect to the GA itself CSPR discussed:

- The potential for media and Ministers who are responsible for the sciences to participate in identified parts of the GA, e.g. the scientific presentations, which could help increase visibility of ICSU
- The importance of the invited science speeches and the opportunities to solicit suggestions from ICSU members and committees
- The role and visibility of CSPR itself at the GA, e.g. CSPR members should not be discouraged from making interventions at the GA.

With respect to the items of GA agenda, CSPR discussed:

- The need for a priority list of next reviews of ICSU programmes (IPY, CODATA, Observing Programmes) and ICSU itself.

- The importance of CSPR's role in reviewing the nominations for other ICSU scientific and review committees .
- The importance of the unified framework for the future operations of the GEC programmes/ESSI
- The merits of participating in Rio+20 Conference and organizing side events, noting that the scientific community itself was an important audience for ICSU.
- The merits of interacting with ICSU National Members, e.g. attending the anniversary events of National Academies.
- The potential role for ICSU in promoting the sharing of big science facilities between countries, e.g. in relation to polar research
- The importance of strengthening interactions between regional offices and new global initiatives and research activities

Decisions

To develop a work plan for consideration at the next CSPR meeting, with a particular focus on the next 3 years;

to agree that the reviews of CODATA and the Observing systems, as well as the review of ICSU itself, should be launched in 2012;

to develop Terms of Reference for the Urban Health Scientific committee and solicit nominations from Members;

to note the strong support of the General Assembly for developing and implementing the ESSI initiative and the urgency expressed in this regard;

to note the overall success of 30th ICSU GA and points that could be improved for the next GA.

4. ICSU Foresight Analysis

A CSPR task team had been working with the Secretariat to develop scenarios to explore the future of international science in 2031 (ICSU's 100th anniversary). This longer-term view was a complement to the 6 year Strategic Planning exercise.

A Foresight Analysis Workshop had taken place following the previous CSPR meeting to develop a draft success scenario. This was presented in the National and Union Members Fora during the 30th GA.

It was noted that the differences and complementarity between the Foresight Analysis and the Strategic Plan should be clearly described in the various reports. The Strategic Plan is an action plan to be implemented for the coming 6 years; the Foresight Analysis is a longer time scaled and broader vision for the role of international science and ICSU 20 years ahead.

Decision

To ask the secretariat to rapidly solicit written inputs from Members on the 'success scenario', following up on the discussions in the GA forums.

5. Grants Programme

CSPR members were invited to discuss the aims and remit of the programme and the mechanism for reviewing proposals.

A statement of 2012 Grants Programme had been announced in July 2011, emphasizing the meaningful engagement of Regional Offices in proposal development from the outset. The deadline for submitting proposals was 1st December 2011.

The committee discussed the possibility of increasing the budget limit of each project, although the seed-funding nature of the funding was noted. It was emphasized that the eligibility of applicants should be clearly defined and communicated to potential applicants.

Decisions

To agree to continue with the current evaluation process;
to request the secretariat to check the eligibility of each proposal before sending out to CSPR members for review

6. Future CSPR membership

Some of the current Committee members would finish their 2nd 3-year term after the next meeting and would have to be replaced. Others could be considered for 2nd term although it was understood that there was no automatic renewal. This was an opportunity to discuss the profile of future CSPR membership before issuing a call for nominations

The Committee emphasized the importance of maintaining a balance between different areas of research and between natural and social sciences.

Decisions

To note the call for nominations for CSPR members will be announced in Oct 2011;
to note that CSPR members who wish to continue for a 2nd term should arrange to be re-nominated by their National Member or Union.

7. Date of next meeting

The final meeting for the current Committee was provisionally planned for 19-20 March 2012 in the last meeting.

Decision

To confirm the dates for next meeting of CSPR in 19-20 March 2012

Kari Raivio
Chair

Deliang Chen
Executive Director