

5 June 2012

23rd Meeting of the ICSU Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR)

19-20 March, 2012

5 rue Auguste Vacquerie
75016 Paris, France

Report

Present: I. Alcantara-Ayala, J. Asenjo, R. Balstad, D. Black (*ex officio*), L. Brito, C. Cesarsky, C. Smith (*ex-officio*), H. Gupta, C. Leaver, Y. Lu, K. Raivio (Chair), B. Salem, H. Vessuri, A. Whyte

Invited guests: M. Makgoba

Secretariat: P. Bates (Item. 7), V. Lee, R. Quadrelli (Item. 6)

Apologies: C. de la Rey, J. Rockström, H. Vessuri

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Kari Raivio. Professor Malegapuru William Makgoba, the new Vice President for Scientific Planning, was attending this meeting as a guest.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Committee agreed the draft agenda.

3. Decision of the 30th General Assembly

The draft Decisions from the 30th General Assembly (GA) had been circulated to ICSU Members in December 2011.

Decision

The committee noted the decisions of the 30th General Assembly.

4. Decisions of the 22nd CSPR Meeting, and 105th and 106th Executive Board Meeting

The draft decisions of the 22nd CSPR meeting had been circulated and agreed by members. The Report had been posted on the ICSU website.

The old Executive Board had met on 25 September 2011 prior to the 30th GA (26-30 September). The new Executive Board had met on 1 October. Meeting Decisions for these meetings had become available after the 22nd CSPR meeting, also on 1 October.

Decision

The committee noted the report of 22nd CSPR and the decisions of 105th and 106th EB meetings.

5. Update on implementation of the second Strategic Plan 2012-2017

The ICSU Strategic Plan II, 2012-2017 had been approved at the 30th General Assembly in Rome in September 2011. Immediately after the Assembly, CSPR had agreed on some initial priority actions – most of which were addressed in specific agenda items at this meeting.

As part of the process for taking forward individual items and actions, dedicated work-plans and timetables were routinely developed by the Secretariat. In addition, and in order to provide an overview and help monitor implementation of the overall strategy, a planning matrix was developed for the 1st strategic plan. This included all key actions and main milestones. A first draft of an equivalent planning matrix for the next 6 years was now provided for refinement by CSPR. Members were reminded that this is a ‘living’ document that will change over time.

One of the most significant decisions taken by the General Assembly was to conduct an **external review of ICSU**. The principle responsibility for ensuring this review resided in the Executive Board, although it was obviously of interest to CSPR. Preliminary discussions had taken place at an Officers meeting in February and the Board would be finalising the plans for the review at its meeting in early April. There was an opportunity now for CSPR to feed its thoughts into this process. A number of important issues were raised in discussion:

- the Terms of Reference and membership of the external review panel would be crucial to the review output,
- the number of the panel members should be 7-9, with a dedicated chairperson
- at least some of the panel need to understand ICSU
- all interests cannot be represented on the review panel and the credibility of the members should be the paramount consideration.
- the independence and outside perceptions of the review process would be very important
- an independent secretariat supporting the review would be important
- The review should consider ICSU in the light of its strategic plan and the longer-term foresight success scenario
- The major objective was to provide advice on strategic implementation, including science for policy aspects
- Structural issues, as discussed in the strategic plan, should be a major focus of the review
- the review should be used as a strategic tool and a mechanism for getting Members’ ‘buy in’
- the review output should also be useful for promoting ICSU in the Regions
- it needs to be recognised that the review cannot possibly solve all ICSU’s challenges
- a full-time manager is necessary to keep the timeline of review process going smoothly.

Decision

To provide input, as noted above, to the Executive Board on the external review of ICSU.

6. Future Earth

In September 2011, the 30th ICSU General Assembly had approved the establishment of a new 10-year interdisciplinary initiative on Earth system research for sustainability, as an interdisciplinary body, in cooperation with the partners of an Alliance comprising the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Belmont Forum of funding agencies, UNESCO, UNEP, UNU, and WMO as an observer. Since December 2011, “Future Earth – research for

global sustainability” was the permanent name of the former “Earth System Sustainability Initiative”.

Future Earth would be a global platform to coordinate activities and projects on global environmental change for global sustainability, delivering interdisciplinary, integrated, solution-oriented research that societies need to effectively address global change while meeting economic and social goals. Key design criteria for Future Earth included engagement of a variety of stakeholders, such as research funders, research users, service providers, in the definition of research agendas.

A multi-stakeholder committee (Transition Team), appointed in June, 2011 by the ICSU EB, in cooperation with other partners of the Alliance and following recommendations of CSPR, was expected to deliver an initial plan for Future Earth by the end of 2012. The Team met in June 2011 (Paris) to define its tasks and working procedure, and in December 2011 (S. Francisco) to work on a framework for research and governance. Its third meeting was being planned for 30-31 March, and its goals were to consolidate the research strategy and the governance options for Future Earth, while defining an initial framework for the engagement of stakeholders.

Future Earth was being designed in close cooperation with the existing Global Environmental Programmes sponsored by ICSU, whose Directors were invited to join the Team as observers. Recently, DIVERSITAS, IGBP and IHDP had expressed their willingness to be merged under Future Earth, and WCRP was ready to strategically cooperate with Future Earth, by mobilizing its climate research community behind it.

Future Earth would receive feedback from the broader scientific community at the [Planet under Pressure Conference](#) (March 2012), and would be launched at the Science and Technology Forum associated with the ‘Rio +20’ UN Conference on Sustainable Development (June 2012) as a new mechanism proposed by the community for coordination of research and enhancement of science-policy linkages for sustainable development.

The governing bodies of Future Earth were expected to be appointed in early 2013, and the new Secretariat was expected to be operational in late 2013. ICSU was working with the Alliance to ensure a smooth transition between the existing GEC landscape and the new structure.

The CSPR members raised several issues for consideration as Future Earth moved forward:

- the timeline of the convergence of existing GEC projects
- the feasibility and efficiency of the structural design and the joint/distributed secretariat
- the balance the multi-stakeholder governing council
- the themes in the framework paper should be the platforms of cross-disciplinary research areas and include examples of exciting questions, e.g. from the visioning process, but avoid being too prescriptive
- Integration across themes and research questions was important but challenging.
- other donors –beyond the Belmont Group – including Foundations and charities would be important
- What can Unions contribute? How can Future Earth be used to help direct and focus Union activities?
- The process(es) for inclusion, e.g. between competing projects, needed careful consideration.

Decisions

To note progress of the Future Earth design, including the definition of a framework for the initiative and the engagement of the Global Environmental Change Programmes;
to endorse the framework paper for the new initiative;
to provide advice – see bullets above – on the future development of Future Earth..

7. Rio + 20

It was reported that ICSU's activities for Rio+20 had been proceeding well. Most attention was focused now on the Rio+20 outcome document. Alongside governments and many other stakeholder groups, ICSU had submitted written input that contributed to the creation of a 'zero draft' of the outcome document. In response to the zero draft ICSU had also produced a series of 'key messages' focusing on gaps in the document such as the importance of STI for sustainable development, the need for increased coordination of science, and funding for science. More 'thematic' input (on issues such as food, water and energy security) had been generated by reaching out to wider networks. Work was underway to encourage governments to insert ICSU's messages into the document, as only governments could submit such changes at this point (ICSU did not have this right as the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group).

The Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development was to be held just prior to the Rio+20 conference in Rio de Janeiro on 11-15 June 2012. Preparations were going well, co-convenors had been put in place for each session and speakers have been invited. The Forum was to be held in partnership with UNESCO, WFEO, ISSC, the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

Five ICSU-UNESCO Rio+20 regional science and technology workshops (for Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Arab States, and Europe and North America) had been held in 2011. The overall report from the workshops was available, and the results have been used to feed ICSU's input into the Rio+20 process.

Planet under Pressure: New knowledge towards solutions was due to take place in London, 26-29 March 2012. ICSU would have a large presence at the conference and had been working with the organisers to ensure that consistent messages for Rio+20 come from ICSU and Planet under Pressure – in particular to highlight Future Earth.

A series of 9 Rio+20 policy briefs had been prepared by the scientific organisers of the Planet under Pressure conference (the final four were just being completed). They had been well received in the Rio+20 process.

ICSU has been making efforts to coordinate its National and Union Members in regional preparatory work and in national delegations at regional and global preparatory meetings. In particular, the aim was to encourage members to connect with their governments to help insert ICSU's messages into the Rio+20 outcome document. This had met with some success, with some Members showing interest in working with ICSU in this way.

Future Earth - research for global sustainability would be launched at ICSU's Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation at Rio+20. ICSU had been highlighting Future Earth as the scientific community's effort to address many of the requests from Rio+20 for increased scientific support for sustainable development and more effective science-policy links. A Future Earth side event was also planned in the main Rio+20 Conference venue.

In discussion, it was emphasised that establishing good links between Planet under Pressure, the Science Forum in Rio and the main intergovernmental conference in Rio was important. In this regard it was noted that good links had already been established with the High Level Advisory Panel. With regards to the policy briefs and the agenda for the science forum, it was noted that basic science and technology were largely absent.

Decision

To note the progress up to date and ongoing preparations for ICSU's activities for Rio+20.

8. Grants Programme

Nine grant proposals were under consideration (one of the nine original proposals was withdrawn by the applicant, IUBS, during the evaluation process). Each proposal had been reviewed in depth by subgroups of CSPR and was then discussed in committee, where a final grading and funding decision was reached.

The final reports from 2010 awardees offered CSPR a means to assess the quality of the work conducted under the auspices of the Programme and calibrate its judgements of proposal quality. CSPR members who had been involved in the original proposal assessments made brief presentations on their assessments of these reports, which overall were positively assessed.

Decision

To fund the proposals led by IMU, IRDR, IUPAP, SCAR, SCOSTEP, WCRP-CORDEX, WDS, and IUPHAR;
to not fund the proposal led by IUPS;
to emphasise the importance of (1) feedbacks from participants and (2) breakdown of expenses (ICSU's grants) in the final grant reports; and,
to announce the 2013 programme in May 2012.

9. ICSU Foresight Analysis

Part I of the ICSU Foresight analysis – the development of 4 exploratory scenarios – had been completed and the report was published in December 2012. This coincided with it being presented at the World Science Forum in Budapest, which led to it featuring in an editorial in Nature.

Part 2 of the Foresight analysis – the development of a success scenario - was initiated in a facilitated workshop at the 21st CSPR meeting in March 2011. A draft scenario was then presented to the Union and National Member forums at the General Assembly and all ICSU Members were invited to provide written input. In addition, a sub-group of the CSPR Foresight task team met in Paris for half a day in January to 'test' the success scenario against the four exploratory scenarios. The (limited) input from Members and output of the January meeting had not yet been incorporated into the draft scenario.

CSPR itself had not yet considered the draft success scenario in committee and input was invited at this meeting. The aim was to then quickly develop a revised draft, taking into account all the recent inputs and circulate this to CSPR electronically for final amendments and approval, prior to publication.

At the outset of the discussion it was clarified that the main audience for the 'success scenario' report was the ICSU Membership/community. A number of comments and suggestions were made then with a view to improving the success scenario:

- Communications technologies would completely change the World and the practice of science by 2031;
- Citizen science and the involvement of citizens in collecting (and analysing) data and observations could have a positive impact on public engagement, support and trust in science;
- We need to be open-minded in thinking ahead – what about trans-disciplinary Union activities?
- ICSU cannot be the 'go to' organisation for everything – need to focus on and develop strengths;
- The path from today to 2031 is the critical part for ICSU to focus on;

- The societal balance between rational and irrational approaches would be determinant and science communication was critical for the future;
- There are four key issues to consider: people, funding, trust in science, research outside traditional disciplines;
- Some reference to past successes, e.g. the green revolution, might be included;
- The role of ICSU and its Unions in science education was a real opportunity that could be expanded.

Decisions

To provide advice (see bullets above) on the ‘success scenario’;
to agree that the next draft of the report should be circulated one more round to gather final inputs.

10. Regional Offices and SIDA Grant

One of the major cross-cutting challenges that had been identified in developing the Strategic Plan, 2012-2017, was to integrate regional and global activities and bridge the gap to the less developed countries. There was a need to fully adopt a ‘one ICSU’ approach, with the Regional Offices functioning as part of a single secretariat guided by the same strategic plan and priorities.

In this context, funding had recently been secured from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for an 18 month pilot programme that focuses on addressing the Grand Challenges for Global sustainability. This included funding for regional consultations on Future Earth, as well as integration and implementation workshops for disaster risk and sustainable energy. The role of CSPR in these activities, in particular the integration workshops, requires further consideration.

Depending on the outcome(s) of the 18 month pilot, SIDA had expressed interest in providing substantial funding over the next decade for ICSU activities at the regional level.

The Committee emphasised the importance of this grant as the first step in building a cooperative network between various aid agencies and ICSU programmes and activities at the regional level. The role of the grant coordinator would be very important and it was agreed that CSPR should be involved in representing the global strategy for specific topics and activities.

Decision

to agree that CSPR liaisons should be identified for the energy and hazards activities

11. Data and Information

11.1 SCCID report

The ad hoc Strategic Coordinating Committee for Information and Data (SCCID), set up to provide ICSU with broad expertise and advice on a strategic direction in the area of Scientific Data and Information, had produced an interim report which was submitted to CSPR at its 21st Meeting. The Report had made 14 recommendations to improve universal and equitable access to data and information for science.

After due consideration CSPR decided to recommend to the Executive Board that the Report be presented to the 30th General Assembly for endorsement by the ICSU membership. CSPR itself agreed to reconsider the Report’s recommendations at its next meeting, alongside the proposed review of CODATA.

At its 104th Meeting, the Executive Board endorsed the recommendations of CSPR, and since most of the SCCID recommendations were targeted to action by other bodies, the Executive Board decided that the term of the said Committee need not be renewed.

The final version of the SCCID Report was published electronically on the ICSU website, where it has been available since April 2011. It was also presented before the General Assembly in Rome, where a decision was made to: endorse the recommendations from the SCCID Report; request the Executive Board to consult with Members and to take forward the relevant recommendations from it; and review the ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) in 2012-2013.

The subsequent discussion focused on the recommendation from SCCID that “ICSU should establish a forum for the exploration and eventual agreement in relation to science of all the terms used under the broad umbrella of Open Access”. A number of issues were raised:

- Access is fundamental to the universality of science and so there is a strong imperative on ICSU to clarify and communicate its policy on open access;
- Open access does not equate to no cost and someone has to pay at some point;
- This is a topic with a lot of associated ideology that should be assessed;
- With regard to scientific publications a number of different ‘open access’ models exist and the practices vary considerably across disciplines;
- Publishing income is important for many professional societies, including many ICSU Members;
- The scope for an ICSU project should be broadly defined at the outset as data and information access issues are increasingly coming together, e.g. commercial publishers are increasingly interested in linking to data sets;
- An ICSU project is timely as many organisations are starting to make their data holdings public;
- This an ideal topic on which ICSU can engage the whole of its community;
- There is a need for a common understanding across ICSU but also for flexibility as ‘one size fits all’ will not work.
- ICSU’s existing data and information bodies – INASP, CODATA, WDS - and the observing systems and also CFRS have already done a considerable amount of work on open access from their different perspectives and this can be a starting point for a broader project.
- The meeting of the Unions in mid-2013, provides one forum which should be included in the design of a project to address open access

Decisions

To note that several of the recommendations in the SCCID Report were already being addressed by bodies within the ICSU family;
to recommend that ICSU develops a project which will enable it to arrive at a common position on the broad issue of Open Access.

11.2 Review of CODATA

The Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) had been engaged in recent years in addressing issues of high priority to ICSU, and had a central role to play over the coming six years in addressing the recommendations from the ad-hoc Strategic Coordinating Committee on Information and Data (SCCID), and the earlier ICSU Priority Area Assessment of Scientific Data and Information. In this context, the ICSU Strategic Plan II, 2012-2017 approved by the

30th General Assembly had foreseen a dedicated review of the performance and future strategic remit of CODATA during 2012-2013.

It was planned that a call would go out to all National and International Scientific Union Members, Interdisciplinary Bodies and Associates inviting nominations of experienced individuals to serve on a small, ad-hoc panel to carry out the review of CODATA. Consultation on the make-up of the Review Panel would then be made among members of CSPR using electronic means, with a view to setting up the team in May 2012. Work on the review was expected to begin in late June 2012, and the final report of the Review Panel would be presented to CSPR at its 26th Meeting in September 2013.

CSPR was invited to approve the overall timetable proposed for a review of CODATA, examine the draft Terms of Reference for the Review (Document 11.2.1) and express its views thereon.

It was suggested that the ToR should be more focused on the future and explicitly refer to the link between ICSU's strategic priorities and CODATA activities. A panel of 6 members was considered optimal and it would be good if at least some of these could attend the CODATA Conference and General Assembly (Taipei, October, 2012).

Decisions

To approve the draft Terms of Reference for the Review, after inclusion of the suggested modifications;

to agree the process and timetable for the review, including the establishment of a review panel with 6 members.

12. Nomination of WDS Scientific Committee

The current term of office of all members of the World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) was to come to an end on 1 June 2012. In the interests of continuity and renewal, it was proposed that some members be invited to serve for a further three years, while others would be replaced. In addition to names that might be suggested by the Scientific Committee, it was proposed to invite all National and Scientific Union Members of the ICSU family to nominate potential new members. A letter of invitation would go out seeking nominations during the course of March. The WDS-SC would be expected to carry out a preliminary evaluation of nominees, and its rankings would be first examined by CSPR, whose recommendations would then be passed to the Executive Board for final decision. Since there had not been time enough for nominations to be gathered and evaluated, it was proposed that CSPR be consulted electronically during the course of April/May.

In addition to seeking the agreement of CSPR to this electronic procedure, it was proposed to slightly modify the Constitution of WDS and the Terms of Reference of its Scientific Committee so as to take account of suggested changes to the make-up of the WDS-SC.

Decisions

To agree to evaluate by electronic means the proposed new membership of the WDS Scientific Committee;

to recommend to the Executive Board that it approve the modification to the Constitution of the WDS and the Terms of Reference of its Scientific Committee as indicated in document CSPR23/12.2.

13. Nomination of IRDR Scientific Committee

In accordance with the Constitution of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme, the IRDR Scientific Committee wished to present to ICSU and its fellow IRDR sponsors – the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) – nominations for the filling of seats on the Committee caused by the terms of office of nine members coming to an end on 30 April 2012.

A call for nominations had been sent out on 12 January 2012 to, among other institutions and bodies, all National and International Union Members of ICSU plus Interdisciplinary Bodies, and the response had been very positive. A total of 30 nominations had been received by the IRDR IPO, and all had been evaluated, with consideration given not only to the experience and expertise of the nominees in their respective fields, but also to geographical, demographic and gender balance. All candidates were listed in document CSPR23/13.2, with an indication of the Committee's own 12 preferred candidates. Curricula vitae for these candidates were provided in document CSPR23/13.3. Two current CSPR members (Alcantara-Ayala and Gupta) had been nominated for this Committee and they left the room during the discussion. It was noted that they could not serve simultaneously on both CSPR and the IRDR-SC.

Decisions

To recommend to the Executive Board that it appoint Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Ann Bostrom, Omar Darío Cardona, Susan Cutter, Harsh Gupta, David Johnston, Ortwin Renn, Kuniyoshi Takeuchi and Angelika Wirtz to the Scientific Committee of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme for a period of three years until 30 June 2015;
to recommend that another nomination be sought from Africa;
to note that the final membership was subject to the agreement of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR).

14. Nomination of Urban Health & Wellbeing Scientific Committee Members

The plans for a new programme – Health and Wellbeing in the changing Urban Environment: a Systems Analysis Approach – had been endorsed by the 30th General Assembly in Rome. This followed presentations of both the global plan and the more specific plan for the Asia and Pacific region – the latter was developed within the broader global framework. Following the Assembly, a letter was sent to all ICSU Members soliciting nominations for a Scientific Committee to oversee implementation of the science plan. Over 40 nominations had been received and CSPR was now invited to make recommendations to the Executive Board on the SC composition.

This programme presented an opportunity to integrate global and regional activities from the outset, and CSPR was asked to consider how this could be best achieved. In this context, it was noted that the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) had recently confirmed that it no longer can take a leading role in this important area of work because of other priorities, whereas there was strong interest from a number of countries in the Asia and Pacific Region.

The high quality of the nominations was noted. Several of the persons selected by CSPR on the basis of merit were from the Asia and Pacific and an additional person was proposed from the Arab Region. It was suggested that there should be no more than 15 members, with the Board making the final selection.

Decision

To recommend to the Executive Board 17 potential members from the nominations for the Urban Health & Wellbeing Scientific Committee.

15. Review of roles of ICSU in Earth Observation System

A proposal for a review of ICSU's role in the Earth Observing Systems had been endorsed at the 30th General Assembly, when WMO had also invited ICSU to participate in its review of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). In subsequent discussion at the 22nd CSPR meeting, it has been noted that the observing systems are critical for addressing the Grand Challenges for sustainability and so ICSU should participate in the GCOS review and the broader ICSU review that also covers ocean and terrestrial systems should be conducted with some urgency.

In January, ICSU had been formally contacted by WMO to propose names for the GCOS review panel and Individuals associated with Future Earth and The World Data System had been proposed. The final selection was expected to take place soon.

In the light of the urgency expressed after the General Assembly, it was proposed that draft ToR for the overarching ICSU review be prepared and nominations sought. These could then be considered at the next CSPR meeting so that the review could commence early in 2013. However, CSPR agreed now that it was wiser to wait until after the CODATA and GCOS reviews had been completed.

Decisions

To note that the WMO review of GCOS could be an important reference to the broader ICSU review of earth observation system;
to postpone the review of the observing systems until after the GCOS and CODATA reviews.

16. Review of IPY Research

The Strategic Plan, 2012-2017 commits ICSU to carry out a review of the future international coordination of polar research and ICSU's role, including legacy issues arising from the International Polar Year (IPY).

The third and final international polar conference that directly links to IPY was scheduled to take place in Montreal in April (<http://www.ipy2012montreal.ca/program/overview.php>). The agenda for this conference, which was being co-sponsored by ICSU, was provided to CSPR for information. In preparation for the Conference, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) have started a review of bi-polar research coordination needs. This potentially has considerable overlap with the proposed ICSU review of IPY research. It was therefore proposed that the ICSU IPY review be delayed until the SCAR-IASC report was available, when the need and remit for a further review could be assessed.

Members agreed that the review should be postponed and that one of the important issues that it might eventually cover was the IPY data legacy. This should also be partly covered in the CODATA review, which would look at the Polar Information Commons (PIC) initiative.

Decisions

To request SCAR and IASC to keep ICSU informed on progress with their review and to make their final review report available for consideration by CSPR;
to re-consider the need for an ICSU IPY review, in the light of this report.

17. ICSU-CODATA Workshop on Nano-materials

The theme of New Horizons and Future Directions has been highlighted in the development of the 2nd Strategic Plan as being of continuing importance and interest for ICSU, despite the difficulty in defining a clear role. One of the agreed actions was to convene an exploratory workshop on the description of nano-materials, which took place in Paris on 23 -24 February. The workshop was organised jointly with CODATA. Ten ICSU Unions sent representatives and the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and OECD Working Group on nanotechnology had also been represented. A brief summary report on the workshop and potential for follow-up activities were presented at the CSPR meeting.

Members agreed that there was considerable potential for useful follow-up in this area and noted that CODATA was working to define a specific proposal based around the development of a 'common description'. It was suggested that this type of thematic workshop might be a productive way to engage the unions in the future.

Decision

To note the workshop report and encourage the secretariat and CODATA to develop focused follow-up activity.

18. Evaluation of the work of CSPR and messages to the next Committee

The terms of the current CSPR members were due to expire at the end of June 2012 and this was the final meeting of the current CSPR. Looking to the future, it was useful to consider how the committee had functioned over the past 3-6 years. A self evaluation template had been sent to all members before the meeting and they had been asked to submit their individual assessments. All contributions were distilled by A. Whyte and K. Raivio, who presented the main outcomes for discussion.

In general, the members were positive on the following points:

- the composition and balance of CSPR
- the current functions of CSPR were appropriate and responded to the needs of ICSU
- CSPR had a clear and appropriate demarcation with the ICSU Executive Director and secretariat and respected the decisions of the Executive Director
- the recommendations of CSPR were in line with ICSU's strategy and fitted the effective allocation of limited resources
- the meetings were efficiently run and productive for the time involved
- there were frank exchanges of views and enough opportunities to discuss issues and ask questions during the meetings

There were also issues listed below that most members only partly agreed. The CSPR:

- had not a clear vision of how ICSU should evolve over the next five years
- was not able to adequately monitor ongoing activities between its formal meetings
- had not adequately reviewed its own mode of operation and performance
- had not been adequately solicited for feedback on meetings to make them more productive in the future

Members raised a number of observations on their experiences over the last three or more years. Their suggestions included:

- increase interactions with members of Executive Board, CFRS, and even ICSU National members and Union members
- invite CSPR members to participate in the Unions meetings between GAs
- translate Foresight Exercise into a practical action plan to guide ICSU work
- set up sub-groups of members with specific expertise to pre-review reports and nomination lists and report to other members in the meeting to shorten the time and deepen the involvement
- arrange a pre-meeting to give new members some orientation, especially for the members who are not very familiar with ICSU
- enhance the website functions to give more information and interaction for members between meetings
- hold some CSPR meetings outside ICSU-Paris
- include private sector, policy and decision makers on CSPR

19. Date of Next Meeting

The next CSPR meeting had to take place in late September or early October 2012, before the 108th Executive Board meeting which was scheduled to take place in November 2012. This would be the first meeting for the new CSPR members.

Decision

To agree that the next meeting of CSPR would be in Paris in the first week of October 2012

Acronym	Full name
CFRS	Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science
CODATA	Committee on Data for Science and Technology
CORDEX	A Coordinated Regional climate Downscaling Experiment
CSPR	Committee on Scientific Planning and Review
DIVERSITAS	An international programme of biodiversity science
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
GEC	Global Environmental Change
IASC	International Arctic Science Committee
ICSU	International Council for Science
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
IHDP	International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change
IIASA	International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis
IMU	International Mathematical Union
INASP	International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications
IPY	International Polar Year
IRDR	Integrated Research on Disaster Risk
ISO	International Standards Organization
ISSC	International Social Science Council
IUPAP	International Union of Pure and Applied Physics
IUPHAR	International Union of Pharmacology
IUPS	International Union of Physiological Sciences
PIC	Polar Information Commons
SCAR	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
SCCID	Strategic Coordinating Committee for Information and Data
SCOSTEP	The Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-ISDR	UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNU	United Nations University
WCRP	World Climate Research Programme
WDS	World Data System
WMO	World Meteorological Organization