

6 February 2013

## **108th Meeting of Executive Board**

13-15 November 2012

### **DECISIONS**

**Present:** Orhan Altan, John Ball, David Black, Maria Carla Galavotti, Dov Jaron, Yuan Tseh Lee, Malegapuru W. Makgoba, Nicole Moreau (Agenda items 1-13 and 21-29), Hans Rudolf Ott, Sergio Pastrana, Kennedy Reed, Guoxiong Wu and Steven Wilson (*ex officio*)

**Invited:** Ameenah Gurib-Fakim (Agenda items 1-9), Nordin Hasan (Agenda items 1-9), Hong Kum Lee (Agenda items 1-9), Manuel Limonta (Agenda items 1-9), Gordon McBean and Edith Madela-Mntla (Agenda items 1-9)

**Apologies for absence:** Catherine Bréchignac and Luiz Davidovich

**Secretariat:** Tish Bahmani Fard, Peter Bates (Agenda items 8-9 and 11), Gisbert Glaser (Agenda items 7-9 and 11-12), Howard Moore (Agenda items 1-6, 16-20), Roberta Quadrelli (Agenda item 7), Carthage Smith, Anne-Sophie Stevance (Agenda item 7), Clare Thirlway (Agenda item 21) and Denise Young

#### **1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting**

All Members of the Board attended the meeting with the exception of Catherine Bréchignac and Luiz Davidovich from whom apologies for absence were received.

The Regional Chairs and Directors joined the EB for the afternoon of 13 November.

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

Two additional items were proposed for inclusion in the Agenda.

##### **Decision**

To **ADOPT** the Agenda with the addition of Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013 under Agenda item 23 and a letter from the Academy of Sciences of Moldova under Agenda item 27.

### 3. **Report of 107<sup>th</sup> EB Meeting and Matters Arising** (not treated elsewhere)

Other than the items below, all other matters arising were treated elsewhere on the agenda.

#### 3.1 Responsibilities of Vice-President for External Relations

As requested at the 107<sup>th</sup> EB meeting, the Executive Director had prepared, in consultation with Sergio Pastrana, the following note on the portfolio of responsibilities for the Vice-President for External Relations:

*The Vice-President for External Relations shall provide the Executive Board leadership on matters relating to External Relations. In particular, he/she will focus on maintaining constructive relationships and, where appropriate, partnerships, with ICSU's peer organizations, which currently include IAP, IAC and TWAS. The Vice-President for External Relations may also support the development of other strategic partnerships and externally facing activities, responding to Executive Board priorities.*

#### 3.2 Proposed resolution from IUGG

At the 30th ICSU General Assembly (September 2011) the delegation of the International Union for Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) had submitted a resolution calling for ICSU's involvement, through the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme, in the setting up of an intergovernmental platform akin to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the assessment of disaster risk. While the draft resolution had been declared non-receivable from a procedural standpoint, the Assembly had agreed that the substance of the resolution be referred to the Executive Board for consideration. At its 107th session, the Board decided to invite the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme to give its advice on the matter.

The IUGG resolution text was duly presented to the IRDR Scientific Committee at its Seventh Meeting in Ravello, Italy, on 9-11 May 2012, and the views of the Committee sought.

Several members of the Committee felt that an intergovernmental panel/platform of the sort proposed would serve as an important interface between the scientific community and policymakers. It was recognized, however, that its establishment would be, of necessity, long and complicated, require one or more UN Member States as active champion(s), and an appropriate UN specialized organization or body as a channel. It would also be a costly endeavour, and one that may not enjoy wide political support at a time of economic stringency. There would be need for some kind of scoping exercise.

It was also underlined that IRDR was already developing its own assessment initiative entitled 'Assessment of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk' (AIRDR), although not at the intergovernmental level.

During the discussion that followed, the need for consultation amongst ICSU family members on the subject was emphasized, and it was proposed that the ICSU GeoUnions be informed of the Board's decision with immediate effect.

**Decision**

To **NOTE** the 107EB Decisions;  
 to **AGREE** the responsibilities of the Vice-President for External Relations as given in the note prepared by the Executive Director; and  
 to **INVITE** the IRDR-SC, working with the GeoUnions, to discuss with concerned ICSU Members and relevant UN bodies the need for an intergovernmental platform for the assessment of disaster risk and prepare a scoping report for the Board at its 110<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

**4. Decisions taken electronically since last meeting**

Two decisions had been taken electronically since the last meeting of the Board.

**Decision**

To **NOTE** that the following decisions had been taken electronically since the last meeting:

*To **AGREE** that the following individuals be appointed as Members of the WDS Scientific Committee until 30 June 2015: Michael Diepenbroek, Kim Finney, Françoise Genova, Wim Hugo, Jane Hunter, Vasily Kopylov, Guoqing Li, Jean-Bernard Minster, Ruth E. Neilan, Lesley Rickards, Ryosuke Shibasaki and Ariel Troisi and that Jean-Bernard Minster be reappointed Chair of WDS-SC.;*  
*to further **AGREE** that the Chair WDS-SC, Chair CSPR and the ICSU Executive Director would together identify an additional committee member representing the life or health sciences.*  
*To **INVITE** Roger Elliott and Hal Mooney to serve on the Selection Committee for the External Review in addition to Goverdhan Mehta and Hiroyuki Yoshikawa.*

**5. Report of Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) and Matters Arising**  
 (not treated elsewhere)

The 24<sup>th</sup> CSPR meeting took place on 1-2 October at the ICSU Secretariat in Paris. The Vice-President for Scientific Planning and Review gave a brief overview of the meeting which had been fruitful and robust.

There was one vacant position on the CSPR. ICSU had solicited 3 nominations from its social science Unions as CSPR was poorly represented in this area (except for psychology) and the EB was asked to select one of these candidates.

**Decisions**

To **NOTE** the 24th CSPR report; and  
 to **INVITE** Stewart Lockie to serve on the CSPR from January 2013 – March 2015.

**6. Meeting of ICSU Officers, Regional Chairs/Directors and EB Liaisons**  
**November 2012**

Since 2009, the ICSU Officers, the Regional Chairs and Directors and EB liaisons had met annually prior to EB meetings. The previous meeting had been held in September 2011 prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The 4th meeting took place on 12-13 November immediately prior to the Board meeting.

## 6.1 Report of meeting

An oral report was provided to the Board. The discussions covered the functions of the Regional Offices and Regional Committees, Terms of Reference for the Regional Committees, major Office activities, finance and fund-raising, evaluations of the Regional Offices, the model for office renewal, and the need for clarity concerning the role of the Offices with regard to the host institution. The Board noted that it was important to maintain good relations with the host institution.

## 6.2 Brief oral reports from Regional Chairs

The Regional Chairs reported orally on the key developments in their regions over the past year and the major implications looking to the future.

### **Decisions**

To **NOTE** the key highlights of the meeting of Officers, Regional Chairs and Directors; to **AGREE** to approve the Terms of Reference for the Regional Committees electronically; and to **ASK** the Secretariat to prepare a timeline and process for evaluations of the Regional Offices and a model for office renewal.

## 7. **Global Sustainability Activities**

### 7.1. Update on Future Earth design

In September 2011, the 30th ICSU General Assembly 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 the “Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability”, which included ICSU, the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Belmont Forum of funding agencies, UNESCO, UNEP, UNU, with WMO as an observer.

Future Earth will be a global platform to coordinate activities and projects on global environmental change for 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 include engagement of a variety of stakeholders, such as research funders, research users and service providers, in the definition of research agendas.

A multi-stakeholder committee (Transition Team), was appointed in June 2011 by the ICSU EB, in cooperation with other partners of the Alliance and following recommendations of CSPR, and 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, in December 2011 (San Francisco) to work on the high level vision for the initiative, and in March 2012 (London) to discuss the framework for research and governance. Its fourth and last meeting occurred on 20-21 September (Paris) and its goals were to consolidate the research strategy and the governance option for Future Earth, to define an initial framework for the engagement of stakeholders, to refine the plan for consultations of the broader global environmental change community, and to identify key steps towards the implementation of the initiative. Work was now starting on the preparation of the main report of the Transition Team, setting out the initial design of Future Earth.

Future Earth was introduced to the scientific community at the Planet under Pressure Conference (March 2012), successfully launched at the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development associated with the 'Rio+20' UN Conference on Sustainable Development (June 2012) and presented at a side event at the main Rio+20 conference, as a new mechanism proposed by the scientific community for coordinating research and enhancing science-policy linkages for sustainable development.

The community engagement in Future Earth was now being broadened significantly. This included a written consultation on the research framework with the Global Environmental Change programmes and their projects throughout September, a meeting with project representatives in November, and an online consultation with a broader group of stakeholders. Workshops to develop a regional engagement strategy for Future Earth will take place between October and December 2012 in Cape Town, Kuala Lumpur and Mexico City, with plans for Europe and North America workshops in 2013. Some of these consultation activities will feed directly into the Transition Team initial design report; for timing reasons, others will inform later stages of the development of Future Earth.

#### 7.2. Future Earth Scientific Committee

The initial design report of the Transition Team was due by end 2012. An interim phase would start in 2013, and ahead of full operations of Future Earth planned for mid-2014. During the interim phase, it had been proposed that the programme operate with an interim Governing Council and an interim Secretariat, but that a substantive scientific committee be appointed as soon as possible to continue the scientific leadership of the programme. It was proposed that decisions on the membership of the Scientific Committee for Future Earth be made by the Executive Board in April 2013; the International Social Science Council Board would also consider the membership, and the ICSU/ISSC decisions will be put to the Alliance for endorsement. Draft terms of reference and an outline of the selection process for this committee were considered by the Board.

#### 7.3 ICSU's role in Future Earth in 2013 and beyond

To ensure a smooth transition between the existing GEC landscape and the new structure, more emphasis was being placed on managing the transition. A transition management board, including members from the Alliance, GEC Programmes and projects, was developing and overseeing the transition arrangements, before full operations of Future Earth start around mid 2014.

During this period (January 2013 – mid 2014) the GEC programme secretariats would be asked to put some resources into supporting Future Earth but it is clear that ICSU would have to continue to play a coordinating role. There was also a strong case for appointing a dedicated interim Director, who was well respected within the GEC community, to provide scientific leadership for Future Earth. However, both ICSU's supporting role and the Director position were dependent on the availability of funding. The Executive Director presented preliminary plans in this regard, including success in securing substantial philanthropic funding.

**Decisions**

To **NOTE** progress of the Future Earth design, including the definition of a research framework; its launch at “Rio+20”; and the plans for extensive consultations of the GEC community;

to **ADVISE** on the draft Terms of Reference for the Future Earth Scientific Committee (Annex 1) and **APPROVE** the process for nomination of the Scientific Committee (Annex 2);

to **NOTE** that initial funding for Future Earth of 1.5M\$ had been secured;

to **AGREE** to recruit immediately an Interim Director for Future Earth; and

to **AGREE** to discuss the initial design report, when available, by teleconference.

**8. UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20)**

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) took place 20-22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A series of global Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings were also held in the run up to the conference over 2011 and 2012. In addition, five Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meetings were held in 2011. ICSU was asked by the UN to act as co-organizing partner of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group for Rio+20. ICSU also decided to organize a range of activities and meetings in the run up to Rio+20 to ensure that it could present the best possible scientific knowledge to Rio+20, and engage the wider international scientific community, and governments and other stakeholders, in discussions on science for sustainable development.

ICSU activities included: participation in the official global and regional intergovernmental preparatory meetings and Rio+20 itself; the organization of five Regional Science and Technology Workshops; coordination and dissemination of nine policy briefs; co-organization of the international interdisciplinary science conference '*Planet Under Pressure: new knowledge towards solutions*'; organization of a 5-day *Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development* at Rio+20; promotion and the launch at Rio+20 of the 10-year international initiative *Future Earth – research for global sustainability*; and mobilising and coordinating ICSU National and Union Members for Rio+20.

These efforts served to raise the profile of science in the intergovernmental process. While the final Rio+20 outcome document was lacking in ambition and clear actions for sustainable development, the importance of science for policy was well recognised throughout. Furthermore, it was noted by many observers that the true strength of Rio+20 might not be in the intergovernmental process, but in the range of other processes and agreements that were reached in parallel, often among non-governmental actors. ICSU also became heavily involved in many of these parallel processes, and was able to push for key scientific points of interest beyond the intergovernmental process.

An external consultancy firm was hired to assess the impacts of ICSU's work for Rio+20, and the results were discussed by the EB. There were mixed views from external stakeholders about ICSU's activities. It was noted that overall a greater focus on targeting key policy-makers, developing key messages and a stronger focus on communication with policy-makers, scientists and the public might prove more effective and considerably less costly for ICSU than organizing large meetings such as the Forum in Rio. A reduction in the number of meetings would also allow more flexibility within the ICSU team to respond to emerging opportunities, rather than being locked into a pre-determined and administratively heavy programme of work.

**Decision**

To **NOTE** ICSU's work for Rio+20.

**9. Science for Policy**

There was a growing recognition of the need to improve links between science and policy. In the past – and in many quarters still today – there was an assumption that the availability of sound scientific knowledge would ensure that policy-making was founded on this knowledge. However, now it was increasingly realised that this was in fact rarely the case, and that there was something of a disconnect between science and policy in most governmental processes. To build the necessary connections, scientists would need to directly engage and collaborate with policy-makers in the setting of both policy and research agendas. The deeper the collaboration, the more likely it was that the scientific research would come to influence policy-making. Establishing such collaborations however required a change in how scientists work, and brought with it many questions about scientific independence.

Science for policy was one of ICSU's main focus areas, and many of ICSU's programmes were created with science for policy in mind and had made good progress in this arena, for example DIVERSITAS' work with IPBES. Future Earth would also take linking science for policy as one of its main goals. For ICSU itself, work on science for policy had mostly focused on working with the United Nations at the international level, providing scientific knowledge for UN processes.

However, there was a great deal of scope for enhancing ICSU's science for policy work. Using its experience of science-policy processes at the international level, and its connections to science-policy processes at the national level through its National Members, ICSU could potentially contribute significantly to untangling many of the issues surrounding science for policy, to establishing best practices in science for policy, and to setting a clear agenda for future research and effort into issues that continue to stymie efforts to improve science-policy links. One proposed activity discussed by the EB was the creation of an international Forum for chief scientific advisers.

There were several outcomes in the Rio+20 outcome document that presented opportunities for ICSU to continue its international science coordination efforts and for Future Earth to work towards its aim of providing science for policy. While it was not possible to know at this point how these outcomes would develop in the long-term, they would hopefully have positive ramifications for sustainable development and for the science-policy interface at the global, regional and national levels. Both ICSU and Future Earth would therefore be looking to collaborate with the UN system in their development. These outcomes included the UN Science Advisory Panel that would be set up by UNESCO, a 'High Level Forum' that would provide political leadership, guidance, and recommendations for sustainable development, as well as improving the science-policy interface at the UN; the strengthening of UNEP; and the definition of Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) that would be modelled on the Millennium Development Goals that were set to expire in 2015.

It was suggested that ICSU needed to explore new areas of collaboration, such as with national Chief Scientific Advisors and to work more with its National Members and Scientific Unions if it wished to be visible and effective in the area of science for policy.

**Decision**

To **REQUEST** the ICSU Secretariat to continue to explore future avenues for work on science for policy.

**10. External Review of ICSU**

At its last meeting and in a subsequent teleconference the Board agreed on the composition of the Selection Committee (SC) for the Review Panel and all four members had agreed to serve (Roger Elliott, Goverdhan Mehta, Hal Mooney and Hiroyuki Yoshikawa). The SC would hold its first teleconference in mid November to discuss the general objectives of the review, the framework and Terms of Reference (ToR) and to suggest a first set of names of persons for the review. A second teleconference would take place in mid December to agree on the final list of names and who would approach each proposed member, with a third teleconference in early January to establish the final list of those who had agreed to serve and to address any problems which might have arisen in this connection. The proposed membership of the Review Panel would be sent to the Board for endorsement with brief information on each person. If the Board were not happy with any of the proposed members, they would need to communicate their concerns to the Selection Committee and **not** make proposals of their own. The Board reiterated their suggestions for criteria for membership of the Review Panel, including that there should be someone with communications expertise, and their concern that this be a high level and credible Panel.

Members of ICSU had been asked for their inputs to the Terms of Reference and had been informed of the need for an external secretariat to host this and of the requirements involved. It was expected that the external secretariat would consist of a manager for the review and one assistant but that these would not be full time positions. The main tasks of the secretariat would be organizing/hosting three Panel meetings, communicating with Review Panel members and preparing the review report. Travel costs of the Panel members would be covered by ICSU. Six initial expressions of possible interest in hosting the secretariat had been received, and of these four have confirmed their willingness to host the secretariat; the other two had decided to withdraw.

The Board noted that the US National Academy of Sciences had hosted the Assessment of ICSU in 1996 and that there was a possible perception of conflict of interest concerning the offer from China: Taipei. After some further discussion the Board agreed that it was generally in favour of accepting the offer from IUMRS subject to some clarification.

**Decision**

To **FINALIZE** the ToR for the External Review (Annex 3);  
to **ENDORSE** the membership of the Review Panel electronically;  
to **DECIDE** to seek further information from IUMRS as a potential host of the Review secretariat and, if satisfactory, agree on this electronically.

**11. ICSU and Business and Industry**

The business sector represented a significant source of new scientific knowledge and endeavour, as well as opportunities for partnership for new research. Increased coordination between science and business could therefore aim to maximise knowledge, effort and funds to the best possible extent. Currently ICSU as an organization had not attempted to engage



strategically with business and industry. Collaborations with business had taken place more on an individual project level, depending on the task in hand. If ICSU were to increase its links with business and industry, it would be useful to analyse ICSU's current engagement with business, and to explore potential advantages of increasing the organization's connections with the business community. The EB discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a closer collaboration with business, and overall it was felt that ICSU should make efforts to improve its links with the business community, and with organizations such as the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS), the World Economic Forum and the Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum.

#### **Decision**

To **REQUEST** the ICSU secretariat to continue to seek ways to engage with business and industry.

### **12. Communications Strategy**

At the last EB, there was discussion around communications and outreach, and the need to develop a communications strategy was noted. A presentation was made now which looked at what ICSU sought to achieve in terms of internal and external communications, the challenges and opportunities of the ICSU website - using Rio + 20 as a case study - and the findings of a member satisfaction survey conducted over July-August 2012.

In the ensuing discussion, the Board stressed that ICSU needed to be clear on what it wanted to achieve from its communications strategy and supported the idea of using national science media centres to disseminate information. Several suggestions were made for enhancing communications with members, such as maintaining regular contact with the communications experts of ICSU's members, asking members for their inputs to the ICSU newsletter, *Insight*, feature one Union in each issue, asking the Unions to ensure that information received from ICSU was distributed as widely as possible to their networks, and ensuring a high level ICSU presence at major Union meetings. Members should also be requested to put links to ICSU on the front page of their websites.

#### **Decisions**

To **AGREE** that with the limited resources available priority should be given to communicating with ICSU's members and using their networks.

### **13. Unions**

Unions play a critical role in ICSU's membership, representing disciplinary excellence and the breadth of ICSU's scientific interests. They could provide direct contact with the core constituency – the scientific community, and working alone and together (either within or across Union clusters), they could make an essential contribution to the delivery of the ICSU mission.

Since starting at ICSU, the Executive Director had had a number of opportunities to interact with Union members – whilst all had been warm in their welcome, many had raised issues of concern, which have also been reflected in some of the consultation input received for the External Review.

### 13.1 Unions meeting March/April 2013

ICSU holds a meeting of its Unions in between General Assemblies, and the next Union meeting was due to take place in March/April 2013. The Executive Director wrote to all ICSU Unions, asking for feedback on the key topics for the Unions meeting, with responses requested from the Union cluster rather than individually. The Executive Director gave an oral summary of feedback received to date, and asked for the Executive Board's input on the priorities for the meeting.

The Board agreed that topics for discussion at the meeting should include mini-seminars on major ICSU initiatives such as Future Earth, IRDR and Urban Health, and that it was important to limit the number of topics so that each could be dealt with properly. Each topic could be introduced by pairs of Union and EB/secretariat speakers. Young scientists could also be invited to the meeting, including representatives of groups of young scientists such as the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS). Suggested topics for the Agenda were:

- How to strengthen the relationship between ICSU and its Unions
- What new interdisciplinary programmes should be developed and how can Unions working together take a leading role
- What tangible impact on science education can be made by working together
- Update on implementation of the Strategic Plan

ICSU should facilitate meetings of the Union clusters immediately prior to the meeting. It was pointed out that unions in some of the clusters did not currently work together; they were composed of groups which would not naturally talk to each other. The GeoUnions could be asked to explain the way they functioned as a cluster.

The dissatisfaction expressed by the BioUnions was noted with some surprise by the Board since the biological Unions had been very much involved, for example, in the planning phase of the Urban Health initiative and the biological sciences were an intrinsic part of Future Earth. Many small Unions had difficulty seeing beyond their own very specific foci.

### 13.2 Letter from GeoUnions

The President had received a letter from Ron Abler, on behalf of the GeoUnions, summarizing discussions on how to move to smoother and more productive interactions among the GeoUnions, the ICSU Secretariat, and the entire ICSU family. The letter, which was a welcome demonstration of ICSU Unions working together constructively, as a cluster, covered both positive aspects and areas for improvement and identified a set of questions.

#### **Decisions**

To **AGREE** that the agenda for the 2013 meeting of ICSU Unions should focus on a small number of priority topics (Future Earth, IRDR and Urban Health);  
to agree that Executive Board participation in the meeting was strongly encouraged;  
to **ASK** the Secretariat to write to the Unions proposing 29-30 April 2013 as the dates for the Unions meeting; and  
to **ASK** the President, Orhan Altan and the Executive Director to work together on a response to the GeoUnions letter.

#### **14. ICSU Foresight Success Scenario 2031**

The ICSU Foresight scenarios exercise was conducted in parallel to the development of the Strategic Plan, 2012-2017, and was designed to explore long-term issues concerning the role of international science and ICSU. This exercise was managed by a CSPR task-team. Part 1, which involved a broad consultation with the ICSU community, resulted in the development of four exploratory scenarios for international science in 2031. The part I report was published in December 2011 <http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/icsu-foresight-analysis/>. The second part of the exercise began with a facilitated workshop that brought together CSPR, the ICSU Officers and Regional Chairs and Directors in April 2011. This produced a draft ‘success scenario’ laying out the main characteristics of an ideal vision for the world in 2031 and the steps that ICSU should take to contribute to this vision. The draft ‘success scenario’ was discussed at the National and Union Members’ fora prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and sent to Members for comment. This early draft was also presented, for information, at the 107th EB meeting.

A small workshop was convened in January 2012, with some members of the CSPR task team, to ‘road test’ the success scenario against the four earlier exploratory scenarios. Additional inputs were provided by CSPR at its February meeting. All these contributions, including the responses from Members, were incorporated into the final part 2 report that was being prepared for publication. A brief presentation of the success scenario was made by the Secretariat and members were invited to consider its implications for ICSU.

It was noted that in discussions on the external review of ICSU, the Board recommended that the Foresight exercise should be one of the significant inputs to the review. In this context, it highlighted a number of areas where longer-term actions might be necessary for ICSU to fulfil its mission.

<b>Decision</b>
-----------------

To <b>NOTE</b> the Foresight Exercise.
--

#### **15. Strategic Forward Look – Open Discussion**

It was felt that ICSU needed to be clear about what it is and how it fits with other organizations such as the InterAcademy Panel (IAP). The importance of the involvement of young scientists in ICSU was again stressed, for example, different organizations of young scientists could be invited to EB meetings on a rotating disciplinary basis. There was at present no place in the ICSU structure for young scientists and this should perhaps be envisaged but it was pointed out that for this to work, the Unions and National Members would need to be carrying out similar initiatives. The Regional Offices could also play an important role in this.

#### **16. Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS)**

CFRS met on 9-10 October, for the first time under the chairmanship of Leiv Sydnes. A draft report of the meeting was provided for information and the Secretary General made an oral report.

A number of items were brought to the attention of the Executive Board:

### 16.1 World Conference on Research Integrity

ICSU had previously co-sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conferences on Research Integrity, with CFRS and the Secretariat providing the input to these Conferences and attending the meetings. The 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference was being planned for 5-8 May in Montreal and ICSU had again been invited to co-sponsor this and be represented on the Planning Committee. The next CFRS meeting would be held in Montreal immediately after the Conference. The Board was asked to formally approve ICSU sponsorship of WCRI 3.

### 16.2 CFRS advisory notes

CFRS had responsibility for promoting dialogue with the ICSU membership on issues relating to freedom and responsibility and one of the mechanisms that it had been using to achieve this was the production and circulation of ‘advisory notes’. Some of these reflected the outcomes of workshops, whereas others were generated by the Committee. In past discussion at the Board there had been some unease that a policy committee was releasing communications that had not been approved by the Board. At the same time, there was a strong feeling from CFRS – emphasised again at the recent meeting – that it must be able to communicate directly with the membership if it was to fulfil its functions. One suggestion was that, in the future, the notes be renamed as ‘discussion notes’ making it clearer that they were not formal ICSU policy.

### 16.3 Communication between CFRS and the Executive Board

Partly in relation to advisory notes but also on a more general level, there was some concern expressed by CFRS that communication with the Board was not optimal. There was a need to build better mutual understanding and respect. In this regard it was previously agreed by the Board that the CFRS chair should report to the Board once a year and it was suggested that he be invited to contribute to the next Board meeting.

### 16.4 Turkey

There were several ongoing and new cases of individual scientists being persecuted in Turkey that were being considered by CFRS. At the same time, the larger issue of Turkey’s membership of ICSU and the developments with the Academy of sciences, TUBA, had been considered by both CFRS and the Board. Most recently, the ICSU President wrote to the Ministry of Science and Innovation in this regard. CFRS requested that the Board continue to pursue this and noted that there might be potential to work with the ICSU membership in this respect. It was noted, for example, that IUPAC is organizing its major congress in Istanbul in 2013.

#### **Decisions**

To **NOTE** the report of the CFRS meeting;  
to **CO-SPONSOR** and **ALLOCATE** €10 000 of the EB new initiatives funds for 2012 to the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity;  
to **AGREE** that in future CFRS advisory notes should be renamed discussion notes;  
to **INVITE** the CFRS chairman to contribute to the next Executive Board meeting; and  
to **DECIDE** to take no action with regard to Turkey at this juncture.

## 17. Open access to scientific data and literature and assessment of research by metrics

Access to data and information underpins the universality of science and was thus of central interest to ICSU. A report from the *Ad hoc* Strategic Coordinating committee on Information and Data (SCCID, 2011) recommended 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”. This recommendation was endorsed at the 24<sup>th</sup> CSPR meeting and subsequently at the 107th Executive Board meeting in April this year. It was agreed that the Executive Director and EB would prepare a policy brief for the next General Assembly.

Initial inputs had been requested from ICSU’s specialist bodies dealing with data and information issues (CODATA, WDS, INASP, ICSTI, former-SCCID) and also the Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS). CFRS co-sponsored a workshop with the UK Royal Society on ‘Revaluing science in the digital era’, which was attended by EB Member, John Ball. The input from these various bodies was provided for consideration by the Board, which was invited to consider how it would like to take this project forward.

It was noted that at its recent meeting CSPR had welcomed this initiative from the Board and had asked to be kept informed and consulted as appropriate.

John Ball gave a brief overview of the issues involved and noted that open access publishing was already the norm in many branches of science. After discussion the Board agreed to establish a sub-group to prepare a discussion paper dealing with open access for publications and data and research metrics.

### Decision

To **ESTABLISH** a Board sub-group composed of John Ball (Chair), Orhan Altan, Malegapuru Makgoba and Gordon McBean, working with the relevant ICSU expert groups, to draft an initial discussion paper on open access and research metrics to be sent to the ICSU membership for consideration.

## 18. Finance

### 18.1 Report from CF and budgets for 2012 and 2013

The Committee on Finance met immediately before the Board to consider financial management issues, including the performance and adjusted budget for 2012 and a revised budget proposal for 2013. The Committee Chair and the Treasurer reported on the outcomes of this meeting, noting that the financial situation was reasonably stable and would look more positive when the ~1.5M\$ that had recently been promised for Future Earth had been received.

### 18.2 Sida grant and future funding perspectives

It had been reported at the previous Board meeting that a substantial grant of €815k had been secured from the Swedish International Development Aid Agency (Sida). The focus of this support was the Regional Offices and integration of regional and global activities. The initial award was for 18 months, May 2012 – December 2013 with the prospect of additional funding for 2 x 5 years. Part of the funding was being used to support a project coordinator, Katsia Paulavets, based in Paris and several workshops had already taken place or were imminent. Discussions would have to start soon on a follow-up grant and the longer term strategic issue was for what sort of activities this might be requested.

Aside from the Sida funding, the Board noted that 1.5M\$ had been secured to support ICSU's role in Future Earth over the next 18 months until the initiative had its own independent International Programme Office.

It was also noted that there was a discussion ongoing between the US-NAS and NSF as to how ICSU dues would be paid in the future. Whilst both were very supportive of ICSU, it would be important to ensure that under any new transfer mechanism the total US funding to ICSU (dues + NSF grant) was not reduced.

### 18.3 National Member Arrears

The Board were informed that certain National Observers had been in arrears for more than six years and that, according to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, they should not therefore be allowed to continue as Observers.

#### **Decisions**

To **NOTE** the adjusted budget for 2012;  
to **APPROVE** the revised budget for 2013;  
to **NOTE** the additional funds secured to support Future Earth in 2013; and  
to **AGREE** that if those Observers in arrears for more than six years had not regularized their situation by the time of the next General Assembly, they should be removed from membership; this should be communicated to them now.

## **19. Fund-raising**

The EB sub-committee on fund-raising, chaired by Dov Jaron, met by teleconference on Friday, 12 October. The discussion focussed on a scoping paper to clarify the purpose of ICSU fund-raising; how funds could be raised and what the next steps should be. The sub-committee discussed issues relating to both securing the existing ICSU funding base and additional funding; the recognition that project-based support would be easier to acquire than general support, but that ICSU needed to be clear about what was needed and package that in a professional way; that ICSU should consider how all of its major initiatives could be used (*e.g.* Future Earth, Urban Health, IRDR, *etc.*), and recognised the need for professional fundraising advice.

It was agreed that short documents (two pages) should be prepared on ICSU's major programmes (Future Earth, Urban Health, IRDR) to be used in fund-raising. Members could also be consulted for fund-raising suggestions, as could major partners, such as IUCN. The need to avoid competing with others (*e.g.* the Regional Offices) was stressed.

**Decisions**

To **NOTE** the progress of the fundraising subcommittee;  
to **ASK** the Secretariat to produce 2pp documents on Future Earth, Urban Health and IRDR by the end of January 2013; and  
to **ENDORSE** the planned actions.

**20. Appointment of Committees****20.1 Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCLAC)**

RCLAC was seeking renewal of membership of two members for a second term (2013-2015) and to replace three outgoing members, including the Chair, whose term came to an end in December 2012.

**Decisions**

To **RENEW** the terms of office for Arturo Martinez and Patricio Felmer for the period 1 January 2013- 31 December 2015; and  
to **ASK** the Executive Director to seek further information concerning the proposed new Chair and members and also with regard to additional nominations and discipline balance on the Committee.

**20.2 World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)**

WCRP was seeking renewal of membership of the ICSU/WMO/IOC Joint Scientific Committee (JSC). Seven members of the JSC could be offered renewal of membership for a further two-year period and seven members should retire when their terms of appointment end on 31 December 2012. The WMO Executive Council had proposed a list of nine candidates to be used as the basis for further consultation to select the most suitable candidates to replace the seven outgoing members.

The CSPR advised the Board on nominations for membership of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee and its recommendations were presented to the EB.

**Decisions**

To **RENEW** the terms of office for Antonio Busalacchi (Chair), Sarah Gille, Filippo Giorgi, B.N. Goswami, Vladimir Kattsov, Teriyuki Nakajima, Frederick Semazzi for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015;  
to **APPOINT** Steven Belcher, Anny Cazenave, Veronika Eyring, In-Sik Kang, Rodney Martinez, Mauricio Mata and Soroosh Sorooshian to the SC for the period 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2016; and  
to **NOTE** that consultations with IOC and WMO are necessary.

**20.3 International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)**

IGBP was seeking renewal of membership for its Scientific Committee. Two members could be offered renewal of office for a second term and two members should retire when their term of appointment ends in December 2012. The Committee had identified two potential candidates to replace the two outgoing members.

The CSPR advised the Board on nominations for membership of the IGBP Scientific Committee and its recommendations were presented to the EB.

**Decisions**

To **RENEW** the terms of office for Jean Palutik of and Ray Bradley for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016; and  
 to **APPOINT** Priya Shyamsundar and Jose Marengo for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016; and  
 to **ASK** the Secretariat to ensure that the persons appointed know that, in light of Future Earth, they may not serve a full term.

#### 20.4 Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

By decision of the Executive Board at its 104th Meeting, subsequently endorsed by the other two co-sponsors of IRDR, ISSC and UN-ISDR, Sálvano Briceño had been appointed Chair of the IRDR Scientific Committee from 1 November 2011. However, he had indicated recently that personal circumstances prevented him from devoting sufficient time to the task of Chair, and had, with regret, decided to step down from the position.

It was agreed that he be invited to assume the role of Vice-Chair of IRDR-SC and that one of the three existing Vice-Chairs, David Johnston, Director of the Joint Centre for Disaster Research at Massey University, New Zealand, take on the task of Chair.

At its 107<sup>th</sup> Meeting the Board had appointed members of IRDR Scientific Committee caused by the terms of office of nine of its members coming to an end on 30 April 2012. In doing so it had decided to leave one seat unallocated, it being understood that this would be filled at a future date by a qualified individual from the African Region agreed upon by the Chair IRDR-SC, Chair CSPR and the ICSU Executive Director. The individual proposed was Shuaib Lwasa of the Department of Geography, Makerere University, Uganda.

**Decisions**

To **APPOINT** David Johnston as Chair of the IRDR Scientific Committee from 1 January 2013 until 30 June 2015;  
 to **INVITE** Sálvano Briceño to continue to serve on the Committee until 31 October 2014; and  
 to **APPOINT** Shuaib Lwasa to the IRDR Scientific Committee until 30 June 2015; subject to the agreement of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR).

#### 20.5 Process for selecting committees

At the last meeting of the Board the Executive Director had agreed to draft a discussion paper on the process for the appointment of committees and possible improvements and this was provided for the Board.

**Decision**

To **AGREE** on the process for appointment of policy committees (Annex 4).

### 21. **31st General Assembly 2014**

The 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly would be held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 28 August to 3 September 2014.



### 21.1 Draft Agenda and Nominating Committee

Although the Statutes only called for the Agenda to be sent to Members three months in advance of the General Assembly, in practice this was always sent at least one year in advance in order to allow Members time to consult and send their inputs to the Agenda. The Board was asked to reflect on content and structure of the Agenda and the Agenda and timetable of the last Assembly were given for information. It was suggested that additional satellite meetings could be held around the Assembly, in cooperation with the Royal Society of New Zealand, involving Chief Science Advisors and science media centres.

The Nominating Committee made recommendations on nominations received for the position of Officers and received the nominations for ordinary members of the Board. It consisted of the President and six other Members and was appointed by the Executive Board. Members of the Nominating Committee were not eligible for election. The Committee met once, with an additional teleconference at the beginning of the Assembly, if necessary. Although the Statutes only stipulated that the Nominating Committee be appointed one year in advance of the General Assembly, it was preferable that this be done earlier in order that the call for nominations be sent out in sufficient time to allow Members a reasonable consultation period.

### 21.2 Lecturers and speakers

At the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, there were three scientific lectures: the first, the President's Guest Lecturer at the opening session and two invited lectures during the Assembly itself. Speakers could also be invited for specific topics on the Agenda. These persons need to be invited well in advance. It was agreed that there would not be a President's Guest Lecturer at the next Assembly and that the speakers should include some local experts, in consultation with the Royal Society of New Zealand.

### 21.3 Draft budget

The draft budget had been discussed by the Committee on Finance immediately prior to the EB meeting and the Board requested that the Secretariat revisit this.

### 21.4 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly 2017

The President-Elect informed the Board that he was in negotiations with different bodies in Canada concerning the possibility of Canada hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

#### **Decisions**

To **NOTE** the need to finalize the Agenda and members of the Nominating Committee for the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly at the EB meeting in April 2013;  
to **ASK** the Secretariat to circulate a form for suggestions for the Nominating Committee;  
to **ASK** the Secretariat to circulate a form to Members and the EB for proposals for guest speakers with an indication of the profile required for speakers;  
to **AGREE** to decide on speakers at a teleconference in early 2013; and  
to **ASK** the Secretariat to recheck the budget for the Assembly.

## 22. Admission of new Members

One application for Scientific Union membership in ICSU had been received from the following organization:

- International Federation of Computational Logic (IFCoLog)

After some discussion it was agreed that Scientific Associate status might be more appropriate for IFCoLog than admission as a Union.

### Decisions

To **REQUEST** the Secretariat to inform IFCoLog that the Executive Board felt that Scientific Associate status would be more appropriate; if IFCoLog agree, to **INSTRUCT** the Secretariat to seek the opinion of IUPAP, IUHPS (DLMPS) and IMU as to the appropriateness of admission of IFCoLog as a Scientific Associate; and, if they were in favour, to **ASK** the Secretariat to ascertain if there is adequate support from Members for the application, and, if sufficient support and no objections were forthcoming, to **AGREE** to admit IFCoLOG as a Scientific Associate.

## 23. ICSU endorsement of activities

### 23.1 Workshop on Polar Science and Education

The Secretariat was contacted in August by representatives of the Polar Educators International Association ( <http://www.arcus.org/arctic-info/archive/19188> ), which was created after the International Polar Year Conference 2012 in Montreal. PEI was organizing an international workshop “Education meets science: bringing polar research into the classrooms” in March 2013 in Portugal. This workshop had already been endorsed by the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR), International Arctic Science Council (IASC) and Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS). PEI had invited ICSU to endorse and sponsor the workshop and the initial response from the secretariat had been encouraging, although it had been stressed that any formal endorsement would require a decision from the Board and would not have any funding directly associated with it.

The education networks that developed during IPY, were considered to be one of its great successes and were cited as an example in the ICSU review of Education (2011) of the sort of activity that ICSU should be supporting in all its programmes.

### Decision

To **ENDORSE** the PEI workshop.

### 23.2 International Year of Light

The 107<sup>th</sup> EB meeting had expressed its wish to support the International Year of Light scheduled for 2015, subject to confirmation of the fully international nature of the initiative. The EB had been concerned because the associated steering group did not appear balanced from an international perspective. Since the EB meeting, the Executive Director had contacted the Secretary General of the European Physical Society (EPS), who had agreed to take account of ICSU’s suggestions for additional members of the steering group, which would improve the international balance.

Based on advice from IUPAP, a letter had been sent to EPS with membership suggestions for the steering group. Since sending the letter, the Secretariat had been advised by EPS that, unknown to ICSU, the proposal for IYOL had been enhanced significantly, ahead of its consideration by UNESCO. The ICSU position remained to support IYOL as long as it did take a fully international approach.

**Decision**

To **NOTE** the progress on the International Year of Light, that ICSU will now endorse the initiative based on assurances provided by EPS, and that fuller information was awaited.

23.3 International Year of Global Understanding

The 107<sup>th</sup> EB meeting agreed to endorse the International Year of Global Understanding if it could be held in 2014 or 2016, following the newly established principle to endorse no more than one international year per year. The organizers of the International Year of Global Understanding had confirmed that it would take place in 2016. An update on the plans was given at the EB meeting.

**Decision**

To **NOTE** the progress on the International Year of Global Understanding.

23.4 Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013

A request had been received for ICSU endorsement of an initiative entitled Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013.

**Decisions**

To **ASK** the organizers of Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013 to show how this initiative would contribute to ICSU's priorities; and subject to receipt of satisfactory information on the initiative, to **AGREE** to decide electronically whether to endorse Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013.

**24. Key Activities of President and Executive Director**

A newly proposed standing item had been prepared, consisting of a list of ICSU activities undertaken by the President and Executive Director since the 107<sup>th</sup> EB meeting. This allowed the President and Executive Director to provide an oral summary of selected activities not covered elsewhere on the Agenda, and for Board Members to raise any points of interest.

The Board noted that all of the President's travel expenses had been covered by his Academy.

**Decision**

To **NOTE** the key activities highlighted by the President and Executive Director.

## 25. Outreach

### 25.1 Meetings of Unions and Interdisciplinary bodies

Board Members were invited to review Unions and IB meetings in 2013 and asked to inform the Executive Director after the meeting of their interest in representing ICSU in the various major meetings of ICSU's Scientific Unions and Interdisciplinary Bodies. It was stressed that it was important that the ICSU representatives familiarize themselves with the activities of the Union prior to the meeting. The Regional Chairs and Directors should also be asked to represent ICSU as appropriate. The Secretariat will contact the Union/IB and inform them of ICSU representation at their meetings and request an opportunity for ICSU to address the meeting. If no such opportunity is forthcoming, there should be no ICSU representation.

A corporate presentation is available which could be specifically tailored for presentation to each meeting.

### 25.2 Forthcoming Key Meetings involving Secretariat

A list of key meetings organized by, or in which ICSU was involved, and who would be attending from ICSU for the period December 2012 to April 2013 was provided for information for the Board.

### 25.3 Key Partners

- *InterAcademy Panel (IAP)/InterAcademy Council (IAC)*
- *UNESCO and other UN bodies*
- *International Social Science Council (ISSC)*
- *The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)*
- *World Science Forum (WSF)*

Reports were routinely made on a number of strategic partners and the Vice-President for External Relations gave an oral update on interactions with various partners to the Board.

#### **Decisions**

To **AGREE** to inform the Executive Director of any interest in representing ICSU at Union and Interdisciplinary Bodies General Assemblies (and equivalent) in 2013;  
to **NOTE** the key meetings being organized or attended by ICSU;  
to **AGREE** that this list should be expanded to include EB and Secretariat attendance at past meetings; and  
to **NOTE** interactions with key partners.

## 26. Dates and Places of Next EB and Officers Meetings

The following dates of meetings in 2013 and 2014 had already been fixed:

### 2013

07-08 March	CSPR, Paris
22 April	Committee on Finance, Paris
23-24 April	Executive Board, Paris
29-30 April	Unions Meeting, Paris

05-08 May	World Conference on Research Integrity, Montreal
09-10 May	CFRS, Montreal
04 November	Committee on Finance, Paris
04 November	Meeting of Officers, Regional Chairs, Directors and EB Liaisons, Paris
05-06 November	Executive Board, Paris

#### 2014

27 August	Executive Board
28 August-	
03 September	31 <sup>st</sup> General Assembly, Auckland, New Zealand
04 September	Executive Board

#### **Decision**

To **NOTE** the dates of Officers and EB meetings in 2013 and 2014; and to **AGREE** to set the dates of the first EB meeting in 2014 electronically.

### **27. Any Other Business**

A request had been received from the Academy of Sciences of Moldova for ICSU to formally express its support in the light of stringent budget costs for science by the government of the Republic of Moldova.

#### **Decision**

To **AGREE** to write to the Academy of Sciences of Moldova stressing the importance of science and of investment in science.

### **28. Evaluation of Meeting**

There was general agreement that this had been a good and productive meeting which had been well prepared.

#### **Decision**

To **FORMALLY EXPRESS** the Board's thanks to all members of staff in the Secretariat for all their hard and efficient work.

### **29. Closed Session**

- 29.1 Without Executive Director
- 29.2 With Executive Director

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting at 13:00.

### **Annexes**

Annex 1	Terms of Reference for the Future Earth Scientific Committee
Annex 2	Process for nomination of the Future Earth Scientific Committee
Annex 3	Terms of Reference for the External Review of ICSU
Annex 4	Process for appointment of policy committees
Annex 5	Follow-up Actions



## **Future Earth – Draft Terms of Reference for Scientific Committee (formulated by the Working Group 2 of the Transition Team)**

A **Science Committee** will provide scientific guidance to Future Earth and report to the Governing Council. It will ensure that the science of Future Earth is of the highest quality, building on the excellence that the global environmental change programmes have developed over the years, and take on emerging issues. The Science Committee will bring to the attention of the Governing Council scientific issues for consideration as projects, other scientific activities (e.g. scoping workshops, open science meetings, stakeholder fora and synthesis), or new Research Themes if required. Members of the committee should be appointed by the Governing Council, based on nominations from the academic partners of the Alliance (i.e. ICSU and ISSC).

The Science Committee will represent the full spectrum of global environmental change science from natural science to social sciences, humanities and engineering, as well as science from other sectors, such as government and industry. It will comprise of around eighteen appointed members. Especially in the early stages, the Science Committee will be responsible for integrating projects and activities of the current global environmental change programmes into Future Earth. The Science Committee will meet twice a year, possibly at the same time as the Engagement Committee. Independent experts can be invited to inform the Science Committee as appropriate, depending on the theme or domain considered.

ICSU and ISSC – on behalf of the Alliance - will submit nominations of members of the Science Committee to the Governing Council for their approval. Science Committee members are selected based on their scientific excellence and standing in the community, with due attention paid to gender, age and geographical balance, in addition to disciplinary balance and inter- and transdisciplinary expertise. The Science Committee, like the Engagement Committee, is in principle a subsidiary body to provide advice and recommendations to the Governing Council to which it reports. Its advice and activities are, however, independent of the Governing Council, because its main remit is to guarantee scientific quality and integrity. This can only be achieved when the Science Committee is truly independent.

To ensure the highest levels of scientific quality, independence and credibility for all products delivered by Future Earth, the Science Committee will perform the following activities:

- Propose the science agenda for Future Earth (taking into account bottom up contributions from steering committees, projects, the broader scientific community, and users, including through the Engagement Committee; and where necessary proposals to fill gaps in the research agenda);
- Advise the Governing Council on scientific matters;
- Oversee the portfolio of Research Themes and advise the associated steering committees relative to the Future Earth science agenda;
- Jointly with the Engagement Committee, monitor and evaluate progress of the Research Themes based on the information provided by the research committees;
- Monitor and evaluate the contribution of existing projects and propose end of projects if needed;
- Evaluate proposals for new projects;

- Define and recommend ways to implement cross-cutting capabilities, as in research framework;
- Advise on data policies for Future Earth research;
- Jointly with the Engagement Committee, propose a capacity building strategy to Future Earth;
- Propose nominees for the Science Committees of Research Themes and projects for consideration by the Governing Council;
- Advise on integration and synthesis across themes and projects of Future Earth.



### Recruiting and selecting the Future Earth Science Committee

1. The Alliance, which will be the interim Future Earth Governing Council, has previously asked that the Future Earth Science Committee be established in early 2013. The Alliance has agreed that the selection of the first Committee be managed by ICSU and ISSC, on its behalf.
2. The Science Committee will include co-Chairs and up to sixteen members, all of whom serve in a personal capacity. The term of the Scientific Committee co-Chairs and members will be 3 years, renewable once. Care should be taken to avoid future large scale changes of the committee membership, by renewing members for varying terms up to 3 years, as appropriate (including not renewing).
3. Nominations for the co-Chairs and members will be sought from all Alliance members, and will be made using standard nomination forms. It is expected that each Alliance member will seek nominations from their respective constituency through a transparent process, communicated to the research community.
4. Of its sixteen members, the initial Scientific Committee will include up to eight members from the Global Environmental Change (GEC) programme Science Committees (Diversitas, IGBP, IHDP and WCRP). These nominations will be made by the programme Chairs, in consultation with their membership (and may include themselves).
5. Alliance members will be consulted on the nominations received, and their views compiled. Final decisions, taking into account Alliance views, will be made by the ICSU Executive Board (EB) and ISSC Executive Committee. Alliance members will be asked to endorse the final selection. The primary criterion for selection will be scientific excellence; beyond this, discipline, geographical and gender balance, and ability to contribute to the Terms of Reference of the Future Earth science committee will be considered. It is expected that the co-Chairs will meet the excellence criterion, and between them have expertise from natural and social sciences, and reflect the other areas of balance (N/S, male/female etc).
6. The nominations process for the Future Earth Science Committee will open in October, with a deadline for nominations of end November. The Alliance will be consulted on the nominations in December/January, and final decisions will be made by the ICSU Executive Board and ISSC Executive Committee in April 2013.
7. The Executive Board is asked to **AGREE** the process for recruiting the Future Earth Science Committee.



## **EXTERNAL REVIEW**

### **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE (ICSU)**

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

##### **I. BACKGROUND**

ICSU was established in 1931 as the International Council of Scientific Unions - a successor body to the International Research Council (1919) which itself grew out of the International Association of Academies (1899). Its name was changed in 1998 to the International Council for Science but the acronym retained.

The 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICSU in Rome in September 2011 agreed to commission an external review of ICSU and that the findings of this review should be presented to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Assembly in 2014. The last review of ICSU took place in 1996 and the report of this, including both the recommendations and the Terms of Reference, can be found at [1996 Assessment of ICSU](#).

The Review was discussed both by the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) and the Executive Board of ICSU at their meetings in early 2012, and the Board agreed on the process for the Review. A 12-member Review Panel will be set up by a Selection Committee composed of four former Officers of ICSU. The Executive Board agreed that the Panel membership needed to reflect a highly credible group, with a good balance of scientific disciplines, gender and geographic distribution and that it should include users of ICSU sponsored science; some of the members should already be familiar with ICSU. The selection of the Review Panel is an independent process carried out by the Selection Committee. The Executive Board will be asked to endorse the review panel membership agreed by the Selection Committee, with any concerns referred back to the Selection Committee.

Members of ICSU were asked for their inputs on the Review process and Terms of Reference and the latter have been drawn up taking the comments of members into account.

##### **II. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

ICSU's mission is stated in its present Statute 3, as follows:

- a) to encourage and promote international scientific and technological activity for the benefit and well-being of humanity;
- b) to facilitate coordination of the international scientific activities of its Scientific Union Members and of its National Scientific Members;
- c) to stimulate, design, coordinate or participate in the implementation of international interdisciplinary scientific programmes;
- d) to act as a consultative body on scientific issues that have an international dimension;
- e) to encourage the strengthening of human and physical scientific resources world-wide with particular emphasis on the developing world;
- f) to promote the public understanding of science;
- g) to engage in any related activities.

The Review Panel will be expected to review the mandate of ICSU and the structure which has evolved over the years to carry out this mandate, and to make recommendations as to how the mandate and structure should be modified, if necessary. It will also review progress made on the recommendations of the 1996 Assessment. To do this the Review Panel will need to consider both the internal world of ICSU (Members (National and Union), Associates, and Interdisciplinary Bodies) and the external world in which ICSU functions (partnerships with both intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, governments, and the international landscape of science in general). It will also need to take account of ICSU Strategic Plan II 2012-2017, as adopted by the Members of ICSU in 2011 ([ICSU Strategic Plan II](#)), and the Foresight Success Scenario for 2031 that was finalized in 2012 ([Foresight Success Scenarios](#)).

The Review should address, *inter alia*, the following, each of which should focus on the past and present situation and how this can be improved:

**1. Review of progress made since 1996 Assessment**

*Successes, failures, and lessons learnt in responding to the 1996 Assessment recommendations, with a focus on the period covered by the ICSU strategic plans.*

In the light of the review of progress, and taking account of the external environment, make recommendations on the following to ensure that ICSU is fit for purpose for the next decade.

**2. Mission, vision and strategic priorities**

*Appropriateness of ICSU's present mission and vision given the changing societal landscape and the rapid advances in science, and suggest directions for the future.*

**3. Communications, visibility and influence**

*Review ICSU communications with members and other audiences, with regard to increasing ICSU's visibility and influence.*

**4. Funding strategy**

*Review ICSU's present funding arrangements and their long-term viability for the future. If necessary, recommend alternative or additional funding strategies.*

**5. ICSU model of National and Union membership and Associates**

*Review ICSU's membership model and "umbrella" function, and; taking into account members' expectations, the expected benefits of membership.*

**6. Partnerships**

*Consider how ICSU should work with its peer organizations and its partners in the UN system.*

**7. Operational structure**

*Review the ICSU governance structure, and how to continue to ensure high quality representation on ICSU's governing bodies.*

**8. Secretariat support**

*Review the functioning of the ICSU secretariats in Paris and the regions and assess their adequacy for delivering and supporting ICSU's mission.*

### Policy committee membership recruitment: Process for nominations, selection and decision

1. Following the discussion on Policy committee nominations at the 107<sup>th</sup> EB meeting, the Executive Director agreed to make some suggestions on how the process could be improved, and identify any general principles for the selection of other committees. Since the EB meeting, the Director has also benefited from discussion at CSPR.
2. There are four areas where suggestions for improvement are made. These are designed to bring greater clarity to the:
  - a. selection criteria;
  - b. roles in the selection process;
  - c. nominations; and
  - d. approach to be taken when a recruitment has not been completed successfully; and
  - e. communication of decisions.

#### **Selection criteria**

3. Ahead of a committee membership recruitment exercise, EB should discuss whether there are any special requirements over and above the normal selection criteria. The normal selection criteria proposed are:
  - a. Quality – reflecting the individual's field. For example, the quality of an academic physicist would be measured in a different way to that of a business person or educational specialist. ICSU must not compromise on quality.
  - b. Committee balance, taking into account:
    - i. Disciplines required to meet the Terms of Reference
    - ii. Regional coverage
    - iii. Gender
    - iv. Experience (balancing experience and 'new blood')
4. If step 3 is not carried out, it is presumed that the normal selection criteria will be used.

#### **Selection process and nominations**

5. EB should also establish a recruitment selection committee. The membership of the selection committee will normally be:
  - a. The Secretary General
  - b. The Vice President for Scientific Planning and Review
  - c. The Executive Director or his nominee from the Secretariat

- d. An existing member of the committee, agreed by the other three members of the selection committee
6. If step 5 is not carried out, it is presumed that the normal selection committee membership will be used.
7. The recruitment process should be carried out on the basis that existing members of the relevant committee who are eligible to serve a further term, will be extended, unless either the individual does not wish to continue, or the selection committee (with advice from an outgoing chair, where relevant) has identified concerns about their participation in the work of the relevant committee thus far. Final decisions to not offer a further term rest with the Executive Board.
8. ICSU calls for nominations for the relevant Policy committee from its members, interdisciplinary bodies, CSPR and CFRS members, and the Executive Director. The call for nominations should also be highlighted on the ICSU website, with information on how to contact nominating organisations. A clear timetable is set out in the call, with a minimum of one month (but preferably at least 6 weeks) from issuing the call to the deadline for submission. Nominations must be received ahead of the deadline and on the official forms, if they are to be considered. Any special requirements identified in point 2 should be addressed during the nominations process (for example, where a specific discipline is needed which has not come forward previously, the relevant Union could be strongly encouraged to make a nomination).
9. Additional information to help judge quality should be added to the current official forms. To keep this manageable, it could be a list of the five most important papers (or other outputs where relevant) published by the nominee over the previous five years.
10. All the nominations received are made available electronically to the selection committee and the Executive Board in a consistent format. This is the opportunity for members of the Executive Board to comment on nominees, against the criteria agreed for the recruitment.
11. The selection committee meets and considers the nominations against the agreed criteria, taking into account comments received from Executive Board members. The selection committee identifies any existing members who will not be extended, and identifies its proposal for the membership of the new committee, based on its assessment of the nominations. The selection committee should identify the number of candidates required to fill the vacant positions, plus the next 3-5 highest ranked candidates as 'standby'.

12. At the subsequent Executive Board meeting (or electronically if agreed necessary), the representative of the selection committee (normally the Vice President for Scientific Planning and Review, or the Secretary General) proposes the new membership, briefly explaining the selection process and any difficulties encountered. The Executive Board's role is to decide on whether the overall proposal is balanced and meets the selection criteria, rather than focussing at this stage on discussing the merits of individual candidates. If the Executive Board is satisfied, then it agrees the new committee membership. If the Executive Board raises concerns on the overall balance or achievement of the selection criteria, then consideration is given to the standby candidates.

### **Recruitment unsuccessful**

13. If possible, any issues outstanding at the end of the discussion should be delegated to the selection committee to conclude, outside the Executive Board meeting. This could include a targeted recruitment, if the open process described above has failed to attract, for example, a candidate in a disciplinary area of importance to the relevant committee.

### **Communication**

14. Once the successful candidates have been informed, the outcome of the selection process is communicated to all organisations from which nominations were sought (paragraph 8) and on the ICSU website.
15. The general approach outlined above should be adapted as appropriate for other ICSU committees. Further committee specific information is available in the existing policy (<http://www.icsu.org/publications/statutes-policies/procedures-appointment-committees>).
16. The Executive Board is asked to **CONSIDER** the recommendations for policy committee membership recruitment.







19 December 2012

## 108th Meeting of Executive Board

### FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

<u>Agenda Item/Action</u>	<u>Responsible (lead person in bold)</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>3.2 Proposed resolution from IUGG</b> Inform IRDR-SC of EB request to prepare scoping report	HM	Nov.2013	
<b>5. CSPR</b> Invite Stewart Lockie to serve on CSPR	PB		Done
<b>6. ICSU Officers, Regional Chairs/Directors</b> Approve ToR for Regional Committees electronically Prepare timeline and process for evaluations of Regional Offices and model for office renewal	EB/CS/ <b>KP</b>  KP		
<b>7.1. Update on Future Earth design</b> Recruit immediately Interim Director for Future Earth Discuss initial design report by teleconference	SW EB		In hand
<b>9. Science for Policy</b> Continue to explore avenues for work on science for policy	PB		Ongoing
<b>10. External Review of ICSU</b> Endorse membership of Review Panel electronically Seek further information from IUMRS as potential host of Review secretariat If information satisfactory, agree Review host electronically	EB  <b>TBF/VL</b> EB		Done
<b>11. ICSU and Business and Industry</b> Continue to seek ways to engage with business and industry	PB		Ongoing
<b>13. Unions</b> Prepare and circulate agenda for 2013 Unions meeting Write to Unions proposing 29-30 April 2013 as dates Work on response to GeoUnions letter	SW MB YTL/OA/SW		Done
<b>16. CFRS</b> Allocate €10 000 of EB new initiatives funds for 2012 to 3 <sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity Rename CFRS advisory notes discussion notes Invite CFRS chair to contribute to next EB meeting	CS RP CS		Done

<b><u>Agenda Item/Action</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
<b>17. Open access</b> Draft discussion paper on open access and research metrics to be sent to ICSU membership for consideration	<b>JB/OA/MM/ GMcB</b>		
<b>18. Finance</b> Write to Observers in arrears for more than six years informing them of EB decision	<b>TBF</b>		
<b>19. Fund-raising</b> Produce 2pp documents on Future Earth, Urban Health and IRDR	<b>SW/DY/RQ/ CS/HM</b>	<b>End Jan.2013</b>	
<b>20.1 RCLAC</b> Inform ROLAC and members of reappointment Seek further information concerning proposed new Chair and members	<b>SW/RR</b>  <b>SW</b>		<b>Done</b>
<b>20.2 WCRP</b> Inform WMO of EB decision	<b>SW/RR</b>		<b>Done</b>
<b>20.3 IGBP</b> Inform IGBP and appointees of EB decision	<b>SW/RR</b>		<b>Done</b>
<b>20.4 IRDR</b> Inform IRDR, ISSC and UN-ISDR of EB decisions	<b>HM</b>		<b>Done</b>
<b>21. 31st General Assembly 2014</b> Agree Agenda and members of 31GA Nominating Committee Circulate form to EB for suggestions for NC Circulate form to Members and EB for proposals for guest speakers at GA with indication of profile required for speakers Arrange teleconference of EB in early 2013  Recheck budget for Assembly	<b>EB</b> <b>TBF</b> <b>CT</b> <b>RR</b>  <b>MB</b>	<b>April 2014</b>	<b>Done</b>
<b>22. Admission of new Members</b> Inform IFCoLog of EB decision If IFCoLog agrees, seek opinion of IUPAP, IUHPS (DLMPS) and IMU If in favour, circulate application to Members If sufficient support and no objections received, inform IFCoLOG of admission as Scientific Associate	<b>TBF</b>  <b>TBF</b> <b>TBF</b> <b>TBF</b>		<b>Done</b>
<b>23.1 Workshop on Polar Science and Education</b> Inform PEI of EB endorsement of workshop	<b>CS</b>		
<b>23.2 International Year of Light</b> Inform International Year of Light of EB endorsement and that fuller information is awaited	<b>SW</b>		

<b><u>Agenda Item/Action</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
<b>23.4 Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013</b>			
Ask organizers of Mathematics of Planet Earth 2013 to show how initiative would contribute to ICSU's priorities	SW		Done
Subject to receipt of satisfactory information, decide electronically whether to endorse	EB		Done
<b>25.1 Meetings of Unions and Interdisciplinary bodies</b>			
Inform ED of interest in representing ICSU at Union and IBs GAs in 2013	EB		
<b>25.2 Forthcoming Key Meetings involving Secretariat</b>			
Expand list to include EB and Secretariat attendance at past meetings	RR		
<b>26. Dates and Places of Next EB and Officers Meetings</b>			
Agree on dates of the first EB meeting in 2014 electronically	EB/TBF		
<b>27. Any Other Business</b>			
Write to Academy of Sciences of Moldova stressing importance of science and of investment in science	SW/TBF		
<b>28. Evaluation of Meeting</b>			
Inform staff of Board's thanks for all their hard and efficient work	SW		Done

