



**INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL
FOR SCIENCE**

**22nd Meeting of the
Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science**

ICSU Secretariat
20–21 April 2017
Paris

Meeting Report

Present	Leiv K. Sydnnes (Chair), Ranjini Bandyopadhyay, David Black (<i>ex officio</i>), Richard Bourgeois-Doyle, Merry Bullock, Guéladio Cissé, Roberta D’Alessandro, Hasan Dweik, Kumie Inose, Gaven Martin, Silke Schicktanz, Valérie Schini-Kerth, Alberto J. Núñez Sellés, Lucilla Spini (<i>ex officio</i>), Mark Thorley
Absent	Eric Odada
ICSU Secretariat	Heide Hackmann (Executive Director), Roger Ridley (CFRS Executive Secretary), Johannes Mengel (Communications Officer)

1 Welcoming Remarks and Introduction

The chair welcomed the committee members.

The chair reminded committee members about the confidential nature of the meeting documents. The meeting report is a public document.

The chair reminded members of ICSU’s policy for conflict of interest. No members reported conflicts of interest.

The chair reminded committee members that travel arrangements should be made as early as possible, if necessary through the ICSU Secretariat, for reasons of cost effectiveness and to facilitate the obtaining of visas. ICSU would reimburse expenses for economy air travel and accommodation for the duration of CFRS meetings.

The chair noted that Eric Odada is withdrawing from the committee.

Decision To send Eric Odada a card from ICSU
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2 Adoption of agenda

The chair noted one item for discussion by the committee under item 16: Any other business, and adjusted the order of some items to suit availability of attendees.

Decision To adopt the agenda
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3 21st CFRS meeting: report and action list

The Committee noted the minutes and actions from the previous meeting. The minutes were approved electronically and were posted on the ICSU website in December 2016. The committee considered all matters outstanding from the 21st meeting under the appropriate agenda item at this meeting.

The chair clarified that in regards to science communications, notes approved by the executive board should go on the ICSU webpage, and those approved by CFRS go on the CFRS webpage.

Decision

To note the report of the 21st CFRS meeting and the actions taken

4 Freedom and responsibility in science: generic issues (updates & new ones)

4.1 Boycott calls against Israeli science institutions

The Committee noted at the previous meeting that the American Anthropological Association (AAA) had voted against the proposed boycott of Israeli science institutions.

The Chair subsequently wrote to ICSU's member organisation, the International Union for Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), of which AAA is a member, and copied the letter to the American Anthropological Association. The letter expressed satisfaction with the outcome and the adherence to the Principle of the Universality of Science.

Both IUAES and AAA responded positively, noting AAA's ongoing commitment to academic freedom and the Principle of the Universality of Science, and their satisfaction with resolving the issue in a democratic way.

Decision

To note the letters between AAA, IUAES and CFRS

4.2 Ban on teaching political science at Uzbek higher education institutions

At the previous meeting, the Committee agreed to send a follow-up letter to the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences requesting a response to the earlier letter inviting their assessment of the government's ban on teaching of political science at the country's universities. To date there has been no response from the academy to the chair's follow up letter.

Decision

To note the letter from CFRS to the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences

To remove this item from future agendas

To add a note in future agenda items on the origin of source material for cases

4.3 Joint action with the InterAcademy Partnership to protect scientists' human rights

There has been no progress with the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) on this topic.

Decision

To note that the chair will raise this issue with the Executive Board

To note there is a formal memorandum of understanding under development that includes IAP

4.4 Vetting of scientific publications in Russia

The committee previously discussed the consequences of a requirement, apparently introduced by the Russian authorities, that scientists at universities and other research institutions get approval before disseminating the results of their scientific research. This was based on a Nature article in 2015. There have been no further developments observed and no examples have become known.

The committee also noted that there are other examples around the world where researchers are protesting about inappropriate restrictions and vetting. The committee noted that care is required in interpreting the boundary between vetting for political purposes and legitimate vetting by directors of quality assurance.

Decision

To write to the Russian Academy noting the Nature article and inquiring as to whether there have been any consequences or examples of inappropriate vetting that would break the Principle of Universality of Science

To continue to follow the case and act as appropriate in future

4.5 The situation in Turkey

The State of Emergency remains in place in Turkey. Nature has highlighted scientists' concerns about the situation in Turkey. The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) has written to ICSU claiming science research and innovation are continuing as usual with proper procedure.

Orhan Altan briefed the committee on the situation in Turkey.

The committee discussed available information on Turkey, noting restrictions on movement, e.g. public servants, including foreigners, are not able to leave. Conferences will struggle to be viable if scientists are reluctant or unable to attend.

The committee noted the need for better information about what the international community is doing and that there needs to be international solidarity in support for addressing issues.

The committee suggested that, subject to further discussion, ICSU write a letter to country members and unions asking them to help raise awareness and showing solidarity in restoring the Principle of Universality of Science in Turkey. The committee wishes to encourage ICSU country members and unions to develop mechanisms for informing colleagues in Turkey about international efforts to call to attention and address the issues for Turkish academics and scientists.

Decision

To note the update, the press release and the letter from TUBITAK

To agree that there is no need to reply to TUBITAK's letter

To request that ICSU writes to its members encouraging solidarity

4.6 Defence Trade Controls Act 2012 (DTCA), Australia

The chair wrote to thank the President of the Australian Academy of Sciences for their assistance and requested that the academy advise the committee if any new concerns arise. The Academy acknowledged the letter.

Decision

To note that the Australian Academy of Sciences is monitoring the situation

To remove this item from future agendas

4.7 New legislation that affects Hungarian universities

Hungarian legislation has been fast-tracked through parliament altering the conditions for the operation of foreign universities under Hungarian law. All foreign universities outside of the European Union are affected. Many of the new clauses introduced only affect the Central European University. The Central European University has indicated that these new requirements will make it difficult to remain viable.

The committee discussed the issue, noted that it is not a clear-cut violation of the Principle of Universality of Science, and that it was important to get more information on this matter.

The committee agreed to seek more information initially by writing to Michael Ignatieff, President and Rector at the Central European University, about best way forward. This should include whether the legislation is aimed at a particular university or whether it is being applied as a general principle, in which case, which universities are affected.

The committee also noted Venezuela as another example where there are changes taking place that might deserve attention.

Decision

To note the developments in Hungary
To request further information through writing to the Central European University
To obtain additional information about Venezuela

4.8 Disruption at the Al Quds University campus

The committee noted that the level of disruption has not escalated further and there was a need to seek further information about the situation through indirect channels.

Decision

To note the report
To consider writing to the Israeli academy requesting their opinion on the situation

4.9 Killing of Giulio Regeni, an Italian PhD student, in Egypt

Giulio Regeni was killed in Egypt where he was doing fieldwork as part of his PhD studies at University of Cambridge. This incident prompted CFRS into deciding to write an advisory note on the importance of institutional and individual support for appropriate training for scientists doing fieldwork in risky situations. The committee is preparing guidance on researchers doing work in risky environments, of which Giulio Regeni is one example, and is therefore interested in the University's views about lessons learnt.

The committee noted that no report on the incident has yet been published and the case is still under investigation. However, when the investigation is over, the chair can write again to the University of Cambridge requesting their views on the situation.

Decision

To proceed with finalising, publishing and distributing the guidance on doing research in risky environments
To write to and seek the views of the University of Cambridge
To note that any new information arising could be incorporated in a revised note at a later date

4.10 United States Travel Ban

The United States government's Executive Order "*Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States*" released in January 2017 raised widespread global concerns about the negative effects the Order would have on the global freedom of scientific movement and exchange. The committee noted that ICSU published and distributed a statement expressing its own concerns that the Order violated ICSU's Principle of Universality of Science shortly after the Order was issued.

The committee discussed the media response to the ICSU statement and the various channels used to ensure its wide publication, recognition and timeliness. ICSU's communication staff provided statistics and information

about the statement's preparation and distribution to inform the discussion.

The committee noted the importance of anticipating major issues where possible while acknowledging that it is very difficult to anticipate statements in advance and that, considering the circumstances, ICSU had done well to publish the statement within four days. Committee members made a number of suggestions for distribution of such notes.

Decision

To note the information and suggestions from committee members
To thank ICSU communication staff

4.11 Guidelines for scholars doing research in unstable regions

The Committee previously established a subgroup (M Bullock, G Cissé, R D'Alessandro, K Inose, G Martin, S Schicktan and V Schini-Kerth) to prepare a draft advisory note "*Responsibilities for Preventing, Avoiding, and Mitigating Harm to Researchers in Risky Research Situations*".

The committee considered the draft advisory note and provided feedback for a further iteration to be presented the following day (Item 8).

Decision

To thank the subgroup for its work to date on the guidelines
To provide feedback on the draft
To task the subgroup with updating the draft for discussion under Item 8

4.12 Conference Sponsorship

Colleagues associated with the International Commission for Optics (ICO) raised an ethical question regarding co-sponsorship of conferences (organised by ICSU member unions) by defence organisations

The committee discussed the issue raised and decided that each issue should be considered by the organising committee on a case-by-case basis. The committee agreed that the issue is outside its remit.

Decision

To reply to conference organisers that this issue is beyond the remit of ICSU

5 Freedom of science: individual cases (updates and new ones)

5.1 Omid Kokabee, Iran

The Committee has been following the case of Omid Kokabee's imprisonment in Iran and his subsequent release. The committee noted correspondence with the Iranian Ambassador in Oslo, with whom the chair has previously discussed the matter, acknowledging the release of Kokabee.

Decision

To note the letter
To remove the item from future agendas

5.2 Büşra Ersanlı, Turkey

Turkish authorities arrested Büşra Ersanlı, a political scientist, in October 2011 because of alleged links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). There has been a series of court appearances and the committee has continued to follow the case. The next court session is due 16 June 2017.

Decision

To note the oral report
To continue to monitor the case

5.3 Bahá'í community leaders, Iran

The committee continues to follow the case of the four scientists among the Bahá'í community leaders that are still imprisoned in Iran. The committee noted the chair's further letter to the Minister of Research Science and Technology in Iran to renew the concerns over the imprisonment of these scientists.

Decision

To note the letter
To continue to follow the case

5.4 Professor Ahmadreza Djalali (new case)

The committee noted that Professor Ahmadreza Djalali, an Iranian lecturer in Disaster Medicine and resident of Sweden, was arrested while visiting his home country in April 2016. He has been held without trial and accused of collaboration with a hostile government. A judge has threatened with a death sentence and ordered him to change lawyers. Nature reports Djalali has declining health after spending over two months on a hunger strike.

The committee noted the documentation, discussed the case and considered appropriate actions.

Decision

To seek a meeting with the Iranian authorities to discuss this and other Iranian cases
To seek further information from Scholars at Risk and the Committee of Concerned Scientists about the case

5.5 Work with individual cases

The committee reviewed recent individual cases and the outcomes that had resulted, with a view to better understanding how the committee can be most effective in its work. The committee noted the somewhat arbitrary approach to identifying and discussing individual cases.

The committee noted a number of international organisations that the secretariat could routinely approach for relevant information on cases. The secretariat noted the criteria previously agreed that distinguishes between cases where science and violation of the Principle of Universality of Science is the main driver and cases where human rights are the main driver.

Decision

To note the document on recent cases
To note committee suggestions for identifying suitable cases
To agree that the chair decide the process of consultation required on a case by case basis

6 ICSU/ISSC and GenderInSITE gender-lens project

Lucilla Spini from the ICSU secretariat provided an oral report on GenderInSITE.

Gender in Science, Innovation, Technology and Engineering (SITE) is an international initiative to promote the role of women in science, innovation, technology and engineering, and to demonstrate how applying a gender lens to SITE can provide deeper insights, more effective programmes and more sustainable outcomes in the context of development. The Executive Directors of ICSU and ISSC are on the steering committee.

The committee noted that the project's aspirations are in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and that the project is largely about raising awareness. The project will run until the end of April 2017 and will help inform a diversity/gender policy for the new organisation should the merger of ICSU and ISSC proceed.

Decision

To note the information about the project

7 Conferences and workshops

7.1 2017 World Science Forum in Jordan “*Science for Peace*”

Lucilla Spini from the ICSU Secretariat updated the committee on progress with the planning of the World Science Forum (WSF) programme. The committee noted that plenary topics have been decided and are on the website. However, speakers are not yet determined and the host is still considering the thematic sessions. ICSU will host the third meeting of the steering committee of WSF on 26 June at which the programme will be finalised. The committee noted that World Science Day for Peace and Development, celebrated every 10 November, was during the WSF.

The committee noted that it had previously provided feedback on topics and speakers following discussion at the previous CFRS meeting and agreed it needed to be ready to respond to any opportunity to lead a thematic session on the Principle of Universality of Science. A subgroup was formed (L. Sydnes, D. Black, R. Bourgeois-Doyle and M. Thorley) to work with the secretariat to develop a possible program for a thematic session on the Principle of Universality of Science.

Decision

To note the update on the WSF programme planning

To request the Executive Secretary to prepare a proposal for a thematic session on the Principle of Universality of Science

To finalise and submit the proposal for consideration by the WSF steering committee

7.2 Workshop on “*Shaping the future of researchers in developing countries*”

The subgroup (G Cissé, R D’Alessandro, K Inose, and V Schini-Kerth) presented the draft proposal for a workshop on “*Shaping the future of researchers in developing countries: strategies for better enabling environment and enhancing the value of research*”. The committee provided feedback for the subgroup to consider and incorporate in an update on the second day (Item 9).

Decision

To thank the subgroup for its work to date

To continue the discussion the next day (Item 9) after the subgroup has considered the feedback

7.3 World Conference of Science and Integrity

The committee noted that it had previously withdrawn from the WCRI. R D’Alessandro updated the committee and noted that she is staying in touch with the planning of the conference, will be attending the meeting, and will be chairing a session in a personal capacity. The program is available online (<http://www.wcri2017.org>).

Decision

To note the update

8 Updated draft guidelines for scholars doing research in unstable regions

The subgroup presented a further draft of the guidelines for scholars doing research in unstable regions for the committee to consider. This document will be finalised electronically in the weeks following this meeting. The committee will prepare a final draft before the end of June for the committee to consider for approval before seeking endorsement from the executive board for publication.

Decision

To provide further feedback

To finalise the document for approval by the committee

To seek endorsement from ICSU’s executive board for publication

9 Future CFRS workshops

The committee noted the potential topics proposed at previous meetings and discussed an updated proposal for a workshop “*Shaping the future of researchers in developing countries: strategies for better enabling environment and enhancing the value of research*” from the previous day.

The committee agreed to approach the ICSU Regional Office in South Africa in the first instance seeking their support for the proposal and help in identifying a suitable location in Africa such as Nigeria. The committee agreed that the workshop would be one and a half days, would involve African science leaders, would encourage audience participation, and would preferably take place in conjunction with a CFRS meeting. Committee members noted alternative locations for the workshop in the Middle East and Asia should Africa fall through as a viable option.

Decision

To thank the subgroup for its further work

To provide feedback on the draft

To write to the ICSU Regional Office in South Africa attaching the proposal and seeking their support

10 Science International

Heide Hackman discussed the history and status of Science International, informed the committee on progress with the Memorandum of Understanding and noted suggestions for topics under discussion.

Decision

To acknowledge and note the update

11 ICSU and ISSC merger update

Heide Hackman updated the committee on the state of the merger process. The ICSU/ISSC Strategy Working Group and the Transition Task Force (TTF) have prepared a strategy plan and new organisational framework for the merger respectively. A draft strategy document will go to the executives of both organisations, and then the membership of both organisations for approval. If the merger is approved by a vote at the upcoming General Assembly in Taipei in October 2017, the strategy document will become the official strategy for the future, merged organisation.

Decision

To note progress with the merger process

12 The ICSU homepage

Johannes Mengel from the ICSU secretariat updated the committee on the new web page. A new feature is the opportunity to write blog posts. Further development of the web page would be required if the merger goes ahead. The new web page is expected to be up and running in two weeks to a month.

Decision

To note progress on the new web page

13 Freedom and Responsibility in Science and Policy

This item was deferred until a later meeting. The committee noted that this could be a topic of a thematic session at the World Science Forum in November.

Decision

To defer discussion

14 Working on Guidelines and Future work

The committee provided feedback on an updated draft (see item 8) of the guidelines for scholars doing research in unstable regions.

Decision

To thank the subgroup for their work

To circulate a final draft within the next month and seek endorsement for publication from Executive Board.

15 Future CFRS meetings

The committee discussed future dates for CFRS meetings and noted that meetings beyond April 2018 would depend on the outcome of the merger proposal and process.

If the committee becomes involved in a thematic session in the upcoming World Science Forum in Jordan, then the next CFRS meeting will take place in Jordan. Otherwise, the next meeting will be held in Paris.

Decision

To have the next meeting on 6 November plus either 7 or 8 November at World Science Forum in Jordan if CFRS has a thematic session

To have the next meeting on 5 and 6 October at ICSU in Paris if CFRS does not have a thematic session at World Science Forum

To note the possibility of have the first meeting in 2018 alongside the proposed Workshop in Africa

16 Any other business

Japan Statement on Research for Military Security

Kumie Inose presented “*Statement on Research for Military Security*” published by the Science Council of Japan and expressed concern about the increasing military research spending in Japan, which could result in loss of transparency of public research investment and loss of academic freedom.

Decision

To note the statement

To agree to follow any developments

Closing remarks

The chair thanked the committee members for a productive meeting.

Before closing the meeting, Rohini Rao, ICSU secretariat administration officer was called on because she will retire from her role in June. The committee expressed their thanks for her significant work and support for the committee over many years.

The meeting closed 3.15pm