25 October 2011

105th Meeting of Executive Board

Rome, Italy
25 September 2011

DECISIONS

Present: Catherine Bréchignac, Congbin Fu, Bryan Henry, Maurizio Iaccarino, Dov Jaron, Reiko Kuroda, Yuan T. Lee, Goverdhan Mehta, Hans Ott, Bruce Overmier, Sergio Pastrana, Kari Raivio, Uri Shamir, Maurice Tchuente, Abdul Hamid Zakri and Deliang Chen (ex officio)

In attendance: Nordin Hasan, Manuel Limonta, Edith Madela Mntla and Bruce McKellar (Agenda items 1-6)

Secretariat: Tish Bahmani Fard, Howard Moore, and Carthage Smith

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

All Members of the Board attended the meeting which was the last one for this Board.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with the addition of the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) and staff matters under Any Other Business and two additional items under Agenda item 9.

Decision
To adopt Agenda.

3. Decisions of 104th Meeting of Executive Board and Matters Arising
(not treated elsewhere)

With the exception of the two items below, there were no matters arising from the last meeting of the Board which were not dealt with elsewhere.

Decision
To note the Decisions.
3.1 **ICSU prizes at Union meetings**

The sub-group had considered various options for prizes and recommended that this should be taken forward by the new EB after the General Assembly.

**Decision**

To ask the new EB to continue to explore options for ICSU prizes.

3.2 **Fund-raising**

As this Board was coming to the end of its term, it was recommended that the next EB should consider the issue of fund-raising.

**Decision**

To agree that the committee on fund-raising will be considered at the next EB meeting.

4. **30th General Assembly**

4.1 **General Assembly Decisions**

The Board reviewed each of the Decisions of the General Assembly and agreed on how to handle these should any problems arise.

4.2 **Appointment of Resolutions Committee and Tellers**

The Executive Board agreed on four persons to recommend to the General Assembly that they be asked to serve on the Resolutions Committee and three to serve as Tellers, with additional names in the event that any of these were unable to serve.

4.3 **Voting at GA**

The Board agreed which Decisions of the Assembly should be by general agreement by a show of hands (raising each delegations’ set of voting slips) and, if the President judged necessary, the votes counted; and which would need a secret ballot. The votes agreed for secret ballot were: Weighted Voting, approval of the outline budgets, admission of new Members, and elections of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Executive Board.

4.4 **Assignment of responsibilities to Officers and Ordinary Members**

The Board agreed on which EB Member would be responsible for presenting each of the decisions of the GA.

4.5 **Media/press**

The media plan for the 30th General Assembly included press releases and, possibly, a press conference. In the lead-up to the GA, Howard Moore had taken on responsibility for liaising with the media and reported to the Board.
Decisions
To agree on EB's response to proposed GA Decisions, where such might be required; to agree on proposals to GA for membership of Resolutions Committee and Tellers; to agree that a secret vote; should be held on Weighted Voting, approval of the outline budgets, admission of new Members, and elections of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Executive Board to agree on each EB Member's responsibilities with regard to GA Agenda; and to note the media arrangements for the GA.

5. General discussion EB and Regional Chairs and Directors

The Officers, Regional Chairs and Directors and EB liaisons had met immediately prior to the meeting of the Board and reported orally.

Decision
To note the reports of the discussions.

6. Appointment of Regional Committees

6.1 Regional Committees for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP)

Five new Members needed to be appointed to RCAP and RCAP suggested that in the interests of balance on the Committee, the Board might wish to appoint six new Members.

Decision
To appoint Lourdes Cruz, Keith Andrew Hunter, Marshall Jayasuriya, Hong-Kum Lee, Chuluun Togtokh, and B.V.R Chowdari to serve on the Committee from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014.

6.2 Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCLAC)

Three new Members needed to be appointed to the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCLAC).

Decision
To agreed to appoint Anthony Clayton, Jerson Silva and Humberto Rodriguez to serve on the Committee from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014.

7. Appointment of Environmental Governing Bodies

7.1 DIVERSITAS Scientific Committee

DIVERSITAS was seeking renewal of three SC members and the appointment of two others. G. Mace was proposed as Chair and had the support of the other sponsors.

Decisions
To agree to seek clarification from DIVERSITAS as to why additional Members were being proposed for the Committee; and to ask the next Executive Board to decide on this matter.
7.2 IGBP Scientific Committee

The IGBP Chair (2012-2014) was appointed in 2011. IGBP was now seeking renewal of two members and appointment of two others.

**Decisions**

To reappoint W. Erisman and C. Lancelot for the period 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2014; and to appoint M. Claussen and C. Mbow to the IGBP SC for the period 1 January 2012 - 31 December 2014.

7.3 IHDP Scientific Committee

At the beginning of 2011, nine members of the IHDP started their term or were renewed for a three year period. The incoming IHDP Chair (2012-2014) was appointed in 2011. IHDP had indicated three preferred candidates for appointment and this would bring the SC to 13 regular members. If the proposed preferred candidates were appointed, economists would compose 38% of the SC. This was of note, as ISSC and ICSU’s Executive Directors were not supportive of this disciplinary concentration, particularly because the incoming IHDP Chair was an economist.

Originally, the appointment of R. Oniang'o and two of the alternates: D. Ariely (USA, behavior scientist) and L. Hunter (USA, sociologist) was considered; however, ISSC indicated that it would be difficult to obtain approval for the appointment of two Americans in one round. As there was already a sociologist on the IHDP SC, suggesting the appointment of D. Ariely was considered. This option was raised to the IHDP Executive Director, but he did not support this alternate approach and recommended his original proposal of appointing R. Oniang'o, B. Shiferaw, and M. Bursztyn.

**Decisions**

To recommend that a conversation with IHDP, ICSU, ISSC, and UNU take place as soon as possible to raise ICSU and ISSC’s concerns on the disciplinary spread on the IHDP SC and to strive to find a mutually agreeable solution on how to fill the remaining slots.

7.4 Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

GCOS had approached ICSU to renew its Steering Committee Chair, who had been an active Chair and had the support of the other GCOS co-sponsors.

**Decisions**

To reappoint the GCOS SC Chair, A. Simmons, for the period 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2013.

8. CFRS Statement on Gene Patenting

At its 103rd meeting the Executive Board agreed that the CFRS should prepare a revised policy statement on gene patenting. After consultation with the biological Unions this statement was now being prepared and would be finalized at the CFRS meeting on the day immediately prior to this Board meeting.
Decision
To approve the statement on Gene Patenting.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 International Year on Global Understanding (IYGU)

Uri Shamir reported that he had again been contacted concerning the International Year on Global Understanding. He felt that insufficient information was in hand and that this matter should be put on the Agenda of the next Board.

Decision
To ask the next Executive Board to consider the International Year on Global Understanding when more information was available.

9.2 Staff

It was noted that the Secretary General during his three year tenure had had various interactions with the staff and that this would be reported on further in the closed session.

Decision
To note the Secretary General’s interactions with the Secretariat.

10. Evaluation of Meeting

Thanks were expressed both to Board Members and to the staff.

Some Members of the Board felt that more guidance could be given on issues on the Agenda but were informed that this lack of guidance was deliberate in order to ensure a free ranging discussion.

11. Closed Session

- With Executive Director
- Without Executive Director

There being no other business the President closed the meeting at 18:00.

Catherine Bréchignac                Deliang Chen