114TH MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD  
28-29 April 2015

ICSU Secretariat  
5 rue Auguste Vacquerie  
75116 Paris

DECISIONS

Present:  Orhan Altan, John Ball, David Black, John Buckeridge, Michael Clegg, Barbara Erazmus, Raghavendra Gadagkar, Yuan Tseh Lee, Manuel de León, Jinghai Li, Gordon McBean, Nicole Moreau, Daya Reddy, Cheryl de la Rey, Kazuyuki Tatsumi and Heide Hackmann (ex officio)

Secretariat:  Rohini Rao, Lucilla Spini, Clare Thirlway and Denise Young  
Leiv Sydnes by teleconference for Agenda Item 8.2.1., Frans Berkhout for Agenda Item 9.1., Franz Gatzweiler for Agenda Item 9.2.2, Simon Hodson for Agenda Item 10 and Johannes Mengel for Agenda Item 12

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

The President welcomed all members of the Board, and in particular Heide Hackmann, Executive Director, and Lucilla Spini, Head of Science Programmes, for whom this was their first Executive Board meeting. He then invited each person present to introduce themselves briefly.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

With the exception of reference made to Agenda Item 25 Closed Session, no changes were made; modifications were then requested on the following day. The report follows the order of the agenda.

Decision:
To adopt the Agenda.

3. Decisions of 113th EB Meeting and Matters Arising

With the exception of items below, all matters arising from the Decisions of 113th meeting of the Board were treated elsewhere on the Agenda.

3.1 Liability of EB Members

Members were informed that although the legal texts on associations in France have been received from the auditor, these cover every aspect of establishing an association and are difficult to understand with regard to liability. A synthesis of these texts in English had not
been received at the time of the meeting and Members were informed that this would be made available when received. In order to understand better legal liability, members asked the Secretariat to prepare a presentation for the next meeting.

3.2 Conflict of Interest

Members were reminded that at the 113th Meeting of the Executive Board, they had been asked to send a short note on their potential conflict of interest. Several members had declared possible conflicts of interest, and were asked to declare at this meeting if there were any others, particularly in relation to specific agenda items. It was noted there were no potential conflicts of interest at this meeting.

**Decision:**
To **note** Decisions of 113th EB meeting; to **request** the Secretariat to prepare a presentation on the legal liability of the EB for the next meeting; and to **note** any potential conflicts of interest.


There were no matters arising that were not treated elsewhere on the Agenda.

**Decision:**
To **note** the Decisions of Officers’ meeting.

5. Decisions taken electronically or by webinar since last meeting

Three decisions had been taken electronically since the 113th meeting of the Board.

**Decision:**
To **note** that the following decisions had been taken electronically since the last meeting: to **approve** the membership of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCLAC), Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP), and the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR).

6. Decisions of 31st General Assembly and Matters Arising

6.1 Revisions to Nominations and Voting at General Assembly (GA)

The working group had produced a draft paper for discussion by the Board regarding election procedures. The current system follows the Statutes and Rules of Procedure but is not always understood by delegates at the GA. To overcome problems that were expressed at the latest GA, the Working Group proposed three options for discussion. Their central points are:

Option i: Separate distinction of nominees from Union and National Members would be abolished, and eight EB members would be elected from a slate of sixteen candidates.

Option ii: The current distinction between Union and National Members would be retained, but the nomination of candidates by Union clusters would be removed. Four EB members would be elected from each slate.

Option iii: The current distinction between Union and National Members and the nomination of candidates by Union clusters would both be retained. If a Union cluster failed to provide two nominees, the Nominating Committee would intervene to add a new nominee or re-allocate a nominee from a cluster with more than two nominees.
The Board discussed the proposed options and suggested that, given the complexity and importance of the process, the National and Union Members be consulted before reaching a decision.

6.2. 32nd ICSU General Assembly

A letter had been received from the Academy of Sciences located in Taipei outlining their proposed arrangements and dates for the 32nd General Assembly of ICSU.

The Board agreed to the proposed dates of 19-27 October 2017 and instructed the Secretariat to write to the Academy of Sciences accepting their offer and announce this to ICSU Members, asking them to alert us to any major potential clashes. The Board asked the Secretariat to plan meetings of CSPR and CFRS around these dates in Taipei. Finally, the Board asked that ICSU Members be solicited for suggestions on topics and potential speakers for Science lectures.

Decisions:

6.1. To engage in a dialogue with the National and Union members after further discussions by the EB before reaching a formal decision.

6.2. To agree on proposed dates 19-27 October for 2017 GA; plan meetings of CSPR and CFRS around the GA dates; and inform the National and Scientific Union members inviting suggestions on topics and potential speakers for lectures; and to ask the Secretariat to write to the Academy of Science located in Taipei about these decisions and processes.

7. External Review of ICSU

At the 31st General Assembly held in Auckland in 2014, the Executive Board (EB) had been asked to formulate a response to the 2014 External Review Report, and to submit this to the Council’s membership for consideration and decision making. A proposed response had been drafted by a working group comprising Gordon McBean, Daya Reddy, Michael Clegg, Barbara Erasmus and Heide Hackmann. It draws on discussions held during the January 2015 meeting of ICSU Officers, and the April 2015 meeting of the Committee for Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR).

The Board endorsed the proposed approach, which includes:

i) Presenting a clearly defined set of key challenges that ICSU must confront; and

ii) Outlining a set of concrete actions that address those challenges that ICSU could implement in the next 18-24 months.

The process for completing the response includes the following steps and targeted timeline:

- To obtain feedback from ICSU staff and the Regional Offices.
- To send the response to previous ICSU leaders for comment.
- To submit a revised draft to EB by end May or early June.
- To send to ICSU members by end June / early July – and to ask them to support the response as a whole rather than approve individual concrete actions.

It was noted that the draft response includes many of the EB agenda items, and it was agreed to deal with the latter as part of an extended discussion about the response itself. Detailed decisions related to these agenda items will be reflected in the next version of the response.

Decision:
To agree on proposed next steps and timeline as outlined above.
8. Policy Committees

8.1 Report of Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR)

Jinghai Li, Vice President for Scientific Planning and Review gave a presentation of his views of CSPR, and the important advisory role CSPR plays in ICSU and its strategic planning processes. He briefly updated the EB on major recommendations from the 29th CSPR Meeting held on 9-10 April 2015, which was his first meeting as Chair and that of the new committee, and informed Members of the progress made on scientific activities and review processes, and the discussions on initial ideas towards developing a new Strategic Plan through consultative approaches. He also stressed the importance of partnerships within the framework of the proposal “Science International”. Those issues (e.g., nominations for WDS Scientific Committee) related to the CSPR recommendations which required decisions by the Board were covered under specific agenda items.

**Decision:**

To note the report on the activities by the CSPR.

8.2 Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS)

Leiv Sydnes, Chair of CFRS reported on the main achievements and highlights of the ongoing activities related to freedom and responsibility of scientists, including individual cases, as well as communication issues and topics/hosts for upcoming workshops. The latter include one to be hosted by the Mexican Academy of Sciences in April 2016.

He referred to the statement on “Research assessment and quality in science: perspectives from international science and policy organisations” at the upcoming 4th World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI) which would be held under the theme of “Research rewards and integrity: improving systems to promote responsible research” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 31 May to 3 June 2015. The last two WCRI resulted in major statements, among them the Singapore Statement in 2010 that had become a globally recognised document. For this year’s WCRI, no such statement was foreseen. This could serve as an opportunity for CFRS and ICSU to issue a statement of their own or with partner organisations and he invited the EB to review a document drafted by CFRS following last year’s workshop in China on science assessment and research integrity and to review the procedures for publication of the statement.

The Board noted that terms of office for several CFRS members come to an end on 30 September 2015. The Secretariat proposed a slate of new nominations for the period 2015-2017 which were approved. The next meeting with new members will be held on 1-2 October 2015.

The Board took note of the offer from the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) Egypt to host the Secretariat for a period of one year. After consideration they recommended that the Secretariat write to the ASRT thanking them for their kind offer and informing them that hosting an international office required a long-term commitment and hence the offer could unfortunately not be accepted.

The Board noted that the Secretariat had been negotiating with the Swiss Academy of Sciences to extend its current support for CFRS by six months. The Swiss Academy of Sciences had agreed to the extension for another six month so as to enable further time to identify another host organization. The Board gratefully accepted this offer.

The Board members agreed to target specific members/organisations who could potentially host the CFRS Secretariat and contact them directly.
**Decisions:**
To **approve** the conference statement on Research Integrity (Annex 1)
to **approve** the proposed CFRS membership (Annex 2);
to **thank** the Swiss Academy of Sciences for the hosting of the CFRS Secretariat and the six-month extension of the agreement; to thank Roger Pfister in particular for supporting the committee over the last five years;
to **acknowledge** the offer of the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) Egypt and inform them of the Board’s decision; and
to **ask** Board members to liaise with the Secretariat about potential Members or organisations they would be willing to contact concerning the hosting of CFRS Secretariat

9. **International Research Programmes**

9.1 **Future Earth, including Governing Council**

Frans Berkhout, Interim Director, gave an update on the progress made towards implementation and operation of Future Earth and the key developments over the past six months. The new Executive Director, Paul Shrivatsava, had taken up office on 1 February 2015 in Montreal, Canada. The recruitment of staff at the five global Secretariat Hubs is ongoing and the handover of all activities is progressing smoothly. The International S&T Alliance for Global Sustainability (comprising the co-sponsors of Future Earth) is now acting as the Governing Council and ICSU is currently Co-Chairing the Governing Council together with UNESCO. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), as well as observers from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the STS Forum had now been invited to join as members.

The Board took note of the progress report and conveyed their appreciation for the work of the interim Secretariat Staff and the Governing Council.

**Decisions:**
To **express its appreciation** for the work of the interim Secretariat; and
to **note** the progress report and developments related to the new Secretariat and Governing Council.

9.2 **Urban Health and Wellbeing**

Franz Gatzweiler, Executive Director, gave an update on the inauguration of the International Programme Office (IPO) and highlights from the Xiamen Expert Workshop. The Workshop generated a special publication called ‘Environment International’ that brought together 20 papers from participants and a proposal for a Strategic Research Plan which was now deemed necessary to direct the programme’s strategies, in collaboration with the co-sponsors of the programme (UNU and IAMP).

He thanked the Institute of Urban Environment for their generous offer and support for providing office space and staff. A new Science Officer and an Administrative Officer had been recruited to support the Director. The types of activities that could be funded under the current IPO budget included annual Workshops, a Global Urban Health forum, and short expert courses on specific themes to inform non-science actors. The Board thanked Franz Gatzweiler for his presentation and the Chinese host for their continued support of ICSU and its programmes.

The Board also noted that the terms of office of the current SC members, appointed in June 2012, would end normally in May 2015. Given that the programme is still in an implementation phase, the recommendation made by CSPR to extend the terms of office for all members for one year, *i.e.* to 31 May 2016, was endorsed by the Board. The Secretariat was asked to put forward
a call for nominations to the ICSU members in September/October this year and the CSPR will look at the slate of new nominations early next year and make recommendations to the EB in April 2016.

**Decisions:**
- To note progress in implementing the Urban Health and Wellbeing programme and welcome the generous support provided by China to host the International Programme Office; and to endorse the proposal to extend the term of office for all SC members and charge the secretariat to inform members accordingly;
- To instruct the Secretariat to prepare a call for nominations to be sent to ICSU members by September/October 2015

9.3 Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

An update of the IRDR activities was provided by recalling inter alia the establishment of Centres of Excellence. In the spirit of fostering cooperation among ICSU co-sponsored initiatives, the Board was informed that the IRDR Science Committee asked its co-sponsor ICSU to formally support its request for mutual representation (observership) in the science committee of Future Earth. The Board was supportive in principle of closer involvement of IRDR in Future Earth but wished to look more closely at the best mechanism for this, also within the context of other ICSU programmes’ collaborations with Future Earth and existing partnership agreements under Future Earth.

The Board noted that the process was set for new nominations of IRDR SC and that the CSPR/EB are expected to approve these electronically; it also noted that a comprehensive review of IRDR is scheduled for 2016 (as per CSPR at its 28th Meeting), but given current activities it will commence in the second half of 2015.

**Decisions:**
- To note that the EB will have to review/approve SC nominations electronically;
- To further examine the possibility of formal linkages between IRDR and Future Earth committees, also by examining current partnership agreements under Future Earth; and to recommend a comprehensive review of IRDR in 2016.

10. Interdisciplinary Bodies

10.1 SCAR and SCOR Reviews

The CSPR at its 28th Meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the reviews and discussed possible chairpersons for the SCAR/SCOR Review Committee. At its 29th Meeting, the CSPR endorsed the proposal to appoint Peter Liss as chair of the SCAR/SCOR Review Committee, and agreed on the schedule for the review. The call for nominations for Members of the Review Committee had been issued. The EB is expected to comment on the report during its meeting in April 2016.

**Decision:**
- To note progress on the joint SCAR/SCOR review.

10.2 Observing System Reviews

An update was provided from the outcomes of the CSPR 28th and 29th Meetings that discussed the importance of carrying out the review of GOOS and GTOS, in consultation with the other co-sponsoring organizations, and agreed to conduct the review in 2016. The Secretariat was tasked to compile progress reports from GOOS and GTOS to enable definition of the procedures, in collaboration with the co-sponsoring organizations, for the GTOS and GOOS at the next CSPR Meeting in October 2015.
The Board was also informed that the ICSU Secretariat is also liaising with the GEO/GEOSS Secretariat, so as to ensure linkages of these processes with the initiatives related to the development of the GEO/GEOSS 2016-25 Implementation Plan.

**Decision:**
To **note** progress towards the definition of the reviews for GTOS and GOOS.

### 10.3 World Data System (WDS)

WDS was seeking approval for a new composition of its Scientific Committee. The CSPR reviewed the nominations at its 29th Meeting and agreed a proposed composition which takes into account that at least one third (4 members) of the SC shall be Directors of WDS member organizations, and that one member will cover health science. The WDS-SC proposes that the current Chair’s term be exceptionally extended for one additional meeting to allow a handover between the current Chair and the new Chair. The WDS Executive Director proposes that ICSU introduce, in 2015, a mechanism to stagger leadership and member appointments using an existing provision of the Committee's ToR: "Tenures should be staggered in order to allow for renewal whilst maintaining continuity".

The Board approved the recommendations made by CSPR on WDS SC nominations, including a vacant post for LAC region so as to foster geographical balance, and the Board agreed to extend the current Chair’s term for one additional meeting so as to enable continuity.

**Decision:**
To **approve** the new composition of the WDS SC (Annex 3); and **renew** the current Chair’s term for one additional meeting for the sake of continuity.

### 10.4 Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)

Simon Hodson, Executive Director, CODATA gave an introduction to the new CODATA Strategy: ‘Exploiting the Data Revolution’. Three major strategic programmes are identified that will form clear priorities for CODATA to the end of the planning period in 2018. They are a) data principles and practice, b) frontiers of data science and c) capacity building. These priorities are central to exploiting the scientific potential of the data revolution. With WDS, CODATA is contributing to a Data Task Force for Future Earth and with ICSU European members will organise a workshop on Data Policy Development. On Capacity Building initiatives, CODATA is working with ICSU, including its regional offices.

The Board took note of the progress made and thanked the Executive Director for his presentation.

**Decision:**
To **note** progress on CODATA activities

### 11. Policy Initiatives

The United Nations is currently implementing global processes to shape a more resilient and sustainable world beyond 2015 in the fields of climate change, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and urbanization. As stipulated in the Strategic Plan 2012-2017, ICSU was taking an active part in these international processes in order to ensure that science is integrated into policy development and governance at the international level, and that relevant global policies take into account scientific knowledge and the needs of science. An update was provided on the ongoing activities related to the (i) Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and/High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HPLF); (ii) World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR); and (iii) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC Negotiations.
11.1 Disaster Risk Reduction: the Sendai Process

Gordon McBean presented the outcomes of the Sendai Conference where ICSU had been invited by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to be the official coordinator of the Science and Technology Major Group for the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which took place on 14-18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. ICSU facilitated the participation of a delegation of nearly 400 members of the scientific community from around the world.

Decision:
To note progress

11.2 Post-2015 Development Agenda

Lucilla Spini updated the Board on the progress made on the Post-2015 Development agenda and the participation of ICSU at the January, February and April negotiations sessions. Following CSPR’s advice to produce a scientific analysis of the output of the Open Working Group (OWG), ICSU and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) released in January 2015 a scientific review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to provide science-based recommendations on the targets and indicators. The report is framed as a practical tool for negotiators and other actors involved in the political process, and was launched with great success in New York at the February negotiation session.

ICSU was also currently working with ISSC and Future Earth to include a commitment from member states into the final post-2015 Agenda to significantly enhance support for science and technology (S&T) in the coming years, including S&T capacity building, and encouraging stronger collaboration across the scientific and policy-making communities at all levels, nationally, regionally and globally.

ICSU had been developing a closer relationship with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), to provide contributions on a number of related processes; notably the elaboration of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), a new annual publication by the UN which draws on international scientific assessments and scientific literature to provide information on key issues for the implementation and review of sustainable development commitments. The GSDR-2015 will be presented at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) “Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015” which will be held in New York, from 26 June to 8 July 2015.

The ICSU Secretariat was currently leading on the coordination of the Scientific and Technological (S&T) Major Group’s Delegation for the Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations which will focus on “Means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development”. In addition, within the framework of the upcoming High Level Political Forum, ICSU, via its role in the S&T Major Group, has the opportunity to submit discussion papers related to the theme of this year's HLPF "Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015" to be issued as official document of the 2015 session of the high-level political forum.

The Board took note of progress made and commended the ICSU team for their dedicated work.

Decision:
To note progress.

11.3 International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA)

Following the first meeting on national science advice held in Auckland before the 31st General Assembly in August 2014, ICSU had been working with Peter Gluckman, to take this initiative
forward to include discussions about planned activities, funding opportunities and, importantly, the formalization of ICSU’s role as the network’s parent / validating body. Peter Gluckman, pro-tem Chair of the Network, had proposed a number of operational and governing measures.

The Board noted the updates from the Executive Director and thought this to be an excellent initiative. The Board approved the operational and governing measures proposed to secure ICSU’s role – and visibility – as INGSA’s parent body.

### Decision:
To approve the proposed operational and governing measures of INGSA.

#### 11.4 Science International

In January 2015, the ICSU Officers had discussed a proposal to initiate a series of annual ‘Science International’ meetings that would focus on key S&T policy issues and bring together the leadership of ICSU, the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the InterAcademy Partnership and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). The proposal had been designed to respond to key recommendations made by the 2014 External Review. With the agreement of the Officers, it had been informally discussed with the Steering Committee of the InterAcademy Partnership (in February 2015) and the ISSC Executive Committee (in March 2015), with positive feedback received from both bodies. On 10 April 2015, members of the CSPR considered the proposal and agreed to recommend to the Executive Board that it be implemented, with the first meeting to be held before the end of 2015 and to focus on the topic: “Big Data: Challenges and Opportunities for Science and Society”. The first meeting would include participation from the leadership of the four organisations; future meetings could be opened to their membership.

It was noted that the IAP is enthusiastic about the initiative and is moving ahead quite rapidly and a member of the Board, Mike Clegg, is already representing ICSU at the IAP meeting in New Delhi, India, in September. The Board endorsed the proposal.

### Decision:
To approve the proposal to hold annual Science International meetings.

#### 12. Capacity Development and Early Career Science Initiatives

##### 12.1 Early Career Scientists strategy

The importance of engaging Early Career Scientists in ICSU’s work had been strongly emphasised in the 2014 External Review. Following this, ICSU had engaged with Kimberly Nicholas, who chaired the Early Career Scientists Panel during the 31st General Assembly, to develop an initial draft of an Early Career Scientists Strategy for the Council. The Secretariat proposed to work further with Professor Nicholas and relevant networks of early career scientists, as well as ICSU Regional Offices, to further develop the strategy. The latter would serve as one of several concrete actions in response to the External Review.

### Decision:
To agree on the proposed process for developing an Early Career Scientists strategy and include this as a concrete action in the response to the External Review.

##### 12.2 Young Scientists Conference, Villa Vigoni

The third conference in the series, titled “Future Sustainability: the role of science in the Sustainable Development Goals”, will take place from May 24-30 in Villa Vigoni, Como, Italy. Support for this series of conferences by the German Research Foundation (DFG) ends in 2015.
The ICSU and ISSC Secretariats propose to collaborate on preparing a proposal for a second series of three conferences, from 2016-2018 – requesting 150,000€/ year to be managed by ISSC, to support the participation of 30 Young Scientists at each conference.

**Decision:**

To **note** progress and **agree** on ICSU’s continued partnership with the ISSC in seeking support for a second phase of the Young Scientists Conferences.

### 12.3 Sida Proposal

In 2015, ICSU submitted a 5-year proposal (for 9.3M€) to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), entitled “Building Capacity for integrated research on Global Sustainability in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean”. The programme aimed to increase capacities for research in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean that would support research aimed at accelerating transformations to sustainability.

While ICSU is the lead applicant for the Sida grant, it recognized the critical importance of working with relevant partners to achieve the Programme’s objectives. The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) in Latin America, the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) in Africa and the International Social Science Council will be the key partners of the Programme. A few recommendations had emerged from a joint meeting with Sida on the proposal and these were being incorporated for preparation of a final proposal to be submitted to Sida by June 2015.

**Decision:**

To **note** the development status of the ICSU proposal to Sida.

### 13. Co-organized Events

#### 13.1 World Science Forum (WSF)

The seventh World Science Forum will be held in Budapest from 4 to 7 November 2015, focusing on the theme "The Enabling Power of Science" reflecting on the way science opens new paths for the improvement of human life, business innovation and policy making”. The overall programme is available at [http://www.sciforum.hu/programme/programme/index.html#eventlist-all](http://www.sciforum.hu/programme/programme/index.html#eventlist-all). The opening ceremony features remarks by the ICSU President; and ICSU was also working towards co-organizing a joint JRC-ICSU thematic session on resilience within the Forum.

The EB was also informed that Jordan will host the 2017 World Science Forum; and that the next WSF Steering Committee Meeting will be held in Budapest, Hungary on 4 June 2015.

**Decision:**

To **note** progress on the organization of the WSF.

#### 13.2 Our Common Future under Climate Change” Conference and linkages to UNFCCC/COP-21

The International Scientific Conference “Our Common Future under Climate Change” will take place at UNESCO (Paris) in July 2015. This four-day conference will be the largest forum for the scientific community to come together ahead of the 21st UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP21), which will be hosted by France in December 2015 (“Paris Climat 2015”). The conference is organized under the umbrella of ICSU, Future Earth, UNESCO and major French research institutions, with the support of the French Government. With the Scientific Committee chaired by Chris Field, the event is expected to bring together over 1,000 scientists and stakeholders. ICSU is currently organizing a side event “Science and the Road to
Transformation: Opportunities in the post-2015 global climate regime” to be held just prior to the official opening of the conference (6 July 2015), and is also working on the development of a document to be submitted to the UNFCCC/COP-21. The ICSU Secretariat is also exploring the possibility of updating the 2006 document on ICSU and Climate Science to be distributed within the framework of these events.

Decision:
To note progress on the organization of the conference and ICSU side event.

14. Strategic Forward Look

The EB used the time set aside under this agenda item to work on the response to the External Review. Concrete actions included in the draft response and not covered elsewhere in the EB agenda, included the following ideas:

- Exploring the possibility of initiating a series of TED science talks
- Redesigning the ICSU grants programme
- Investigating the possibility of raising funds for prestigious ICSU science awards

The outcomes of discussions on these and other proposed concrete actions in response to the External Review will be reflected in a revised draft of the proposed response, to be distributed to all EB members.

15. Regional Activities

15.1 Update on activities

The Board noted updates on recent meetings of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC).

Manuel de Leon, represented the EB at the ROLAC meetings, including a Focal Points Workshop, in March and Heide Hackmann attended the ROAP meeting in April.

Decision:
To note updates of recent Regional Office meetings and activities.

15.2 Reviews and follow-up actions

ICSU ROA Review

At the 28th CSPR meeting, Chris Leaver, Chair of the Review Panel, delivered a presentation with key findings and recommendations which were endorsed by the CSPR. These were now put to EB for final approval.

The Board also noted that as of 1 May 2015, ROA will move to a new host located at the Academy of Science for South Africa (ASSAf) for the next 5 years. An ad hoc Committee, established by ICSU, will oversee the transition of ROA to ASSAf, and is tasked to help develop a new MoU between ICSU and ASSAf, and help with the nomination and selection of qualified candidates for the Regional Committee for Africa. A list of candidates will be identified by the ad hoc Committee and put to the Board for final approval electronically in early June 2015; it is expected to have a new Regional Committee for Africa in place soon after.

The Board took note of the recommendations from the review Panel and approved these on condition that the whole structure be reviewed once all three reviews of the Regional Offices had been completed.
ICSU ROLAC Review

The first meeting of the Review Panel took place on 23-24 February 2015. The site visit to Mexico will take place on 20-22 May 2015.

ICSU ROAP Review

The first meeting of the review panel will take place on 20-21 July 2015 followed by a site visit to Kuala Lumpur in October 2015.

The outcomes of these two reviews will be presented to CSPR31 and to the EB.

**Decisions:**
- To thank the ICSU ROA Review Panel for its work;
- Review ICSU’s strategy on Regional Offices once all reviews have been completed and Approve on condition of a review of the outcomes of all Regional Office reviews, the recommendations put forward by the ICSU ROA Review Panel and advise ICSU on follow-up actions;
- to approve the publication of the final report of the ROA Review;
- to note the progress on the ICSU ROA transition;
- to thank NRF for hosting ICSU ROA during 10 years;
- to thank DST for continuous support of ICSU ROA and to welcome ASSAf as a new host of ICSU ROA; and
- to note the dates for ICSU ROLAC and ICSU ROAP reviews and final membership of review panels.

15.3 EB Liaisons

The Regional Director and the ICSU Executive Director served as *ex officio* members in the Regional Committees and since 2007 (EB 96th decision) a Member of the Board has also been appointed *ex officio* member on the RCs. The host institution also appoints an *ex officio* member of the RCs. The *ex officio* members have the same rights and responsibilities as ordinary members. Regional Committees normally meet twice a year.

The Board agreed to appoint, for an interim period, pending reviews: Kaz Tatsumi (ROAP); Cheryl de la Rey (ROA) and Manuel de Leon (ROLAC).

**Decision:**
- To appoint EB Liaison Officers C. de la Rey for ROA, M. de Leon for RCLAC and K. Tatsumi for ROAP.

16. Membership

16.1 Admission of New Members/Associates

16.1.1 Application for National Membership

According to Statute 28 (f), the Board is empowered to admit new National Members when these applications are received more than twelve months in advance of the General Assembly.

One application was in order from the Research Council of Oman.

**Decision:**
- To admit the Research Council of Oman as a National Scientific Member of ICSU.
16.1.2 International Scientific Union Membership

One application for Scientific Union membership in ICSU had been received from the International Federation of Societies for Microscopy (IFSM), currently an International Scientific Associate of ICSU.

**Decision:**
To instruct the Secretariat to ascertain if there is adequate support from Members for the application from IFSM; and, if so, and if no objections are received, to also recommend admission of the IFSM by the General Assembly in 2017.

16.1.3 International Scientific and Regional Associate status

According to Statute 28 (f), the Board is empowered to admit new Scientific and Regional Associates when these applications are received more than twelve months in advance of the General Assembly. One application for Regional Associate status had been received from the Science Council of Asia (SCA).

International Scientific and Regional Associates pay annual dues of €500. However, the SCA has requested that, if they were admitted, the Executive Board waive the payment of dues in their case as they do not have dues paying members and therefore do not have the financial resources to pay dues to other bodies.

The Board discussed this at length and agreed not to accept the SCA request to have fees waived and, hence, not to admit the SCA as Regional Associate at this stage. Should SCA decide to drop the request to have fees waived, the Board will reopen the issue.

**Decision:**
To reject the application for admission of the SCA as a Regional Associate because of the request to have payment of dues waived; and to instruct the Secretariat to inform the SCA that, should they change their mind, the Board will reopen the issue.

16.2 EB attendance at Union meetings

Recently, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) had explicitly questioned the added value of a Board Member attending its meeting. The Executive Director reported on a positive discussion about this with the incoming IAU Secretary General. The Board discussed the model of attendance at such meetings, and how to respond to the informal feedback, as well as the response from the IAU leadership.

It was agreed that B. Erazmus and Heide Hackmann will follow-up on discussions with the IAU.

**Decision:**
To agree on Board members attendance at major Union and Interdisciplinary Bodies’ meetings; and to agree that Barbara Erazmus and Heide Hackmann should continue discussions with the IAU in order to resolve the issue of ICSU representation at the next IAU General Assembly.

16.3 Towards a membership drive and engagement strategy

Building an expanded membership base for ICSU, and engaging members more actively in ICSU activities were key recommendations of the 2014 External Review Report. A number of concrete suggestions related to these recommendations had been proposed in the draft response to the External Review – see agenda item 7.
14

**Decision:**
See Agenda Item 7

### 17. Relationship with Key Partners

#### 17.1 Key Partners

The Board took note of an overview of existing partnerships between ICSU and other organizations, also referring to ongoing dialogues with organizations – specifically the InterAcademy Partnership and the ISSC. In this context the Board was reminded of the importance of following up to the Trieste 2014 Meeting and was informed of the letter received from ISSC concerning strengthening cooperation. The Board welcomed the letter from ISSC and confirmed the importance of a follow-up meeting to the one held in Trieste, also within the framework of the proposal for the Science International conference.

**Decisions:**
To **continue** to foster partnerships and synergies between ICSU and the other organizations; to **follow up** to the Trieste 2014 Meeting, also by implementing the proposal for the Science International conference; and to respond **positively** to the letter received by ISSC.

### 18. Communications

The EB took note of the submitted 2015/16 communications workplan. The main focus will be an update to the visual identity and a new website. Communicating ICSUs work to a wider audience remains a challenge and we have to offer a clear value-added. The work priorities should be guided by the need to develop an integrated strategy and should articulate a clear vision and mission statement which will accompany the shift in visual identity. Reaching this longer-term goal has serious implications for budget and human resources of communications work.

Johannes Mengel presented ICSU’s Road to Paris blog that was launched in July 2014, and explained the link between having a regular content stream and good engagement with different target audiences via social media activity.

The response to external review also includes suggestions about the development of a longer-term outreach and engagement strategy, going beyond a focus on communications within the ICSU family.

The Board took note of the report and thanked the communications team for considerable progress made. The Board agreed to:

- implement the Workplan in 2015;
- develop the long term strategy;
- rebrand ICSU to emphasize the full name of the organization rather than the acronym; and
- approve the proposed communications budget for 2015.

**Decisions:**
To **note** that an update to the ICSU vision and mission statement should be a priority that accompanies redevelopment of ICSU’s visual identity and associated communications product; to **agree** to task the communications team to work with design consultants on an update of the ICSU logo and brand identity; to **agree** to task the communications team to start the process of redeveloping the ICSU website; and to **approve** the adjustment of the communications budget for 2015.
19. Secretariat

19.1 Overview of activities

The new Executive Director gave an initial assessment of the Secretariat’s activities and capacities, based on her first few weeks in the position. This was based on a review of activities and individual discussions with all staff members, and has resulted in an updated overview of activities and Secretariat division of responsibilities. The ED noted the dedication of the Secretariat in undertaking an extensive workload and expressed concern about the capacity of the Secretariat to take on new substantive activities.

19.2 Capacities and vacancies to be filled

Recruitment was ongoing for a third permanent Science Officer (to start August/September) and a third permanent Administrative Officer (to start July/August), as approved by the Secretary-General and Treasurer. Interviews would be held shortly to fill the existing part-time Accounts Assistant position on a permanent basis.

Decision:
To note developments in the Secretariat.

20. Finance

The Executive Board was preceded by a meeting on 27 April 2015 of the Committee on Finance (CF). The Chair of CF and the ICSU Treasurer reported on the outcomes of this meeting, and presented a final version of the 2015 ICSU budget.

On the issue of fundraising, the proposal for ICSU to establish a Fundraising Task Group, which should be asked to put together a fundraising strategy and associated implementation campaign, was one of the proposed actions included in the draft response to the External Review.

The Executive Board took note of the presentations made by the Chair and Treasurer

Decisions:
To note the report of the CF Chair and Treasurer;
to approve the 2014 prepared accounts and send to Members;
to approve the 2015 ICSU budget (Annex 4);
to establish a Fundraising Task group

21. Key Meetings and Activities of Secretariat, Executive Director and President

The President and Executive Director reported on their activities and meetings attended since the 113th EB Meeting, as well as key meetings scheduled for the coming months.

Decision:
To note the key activities highlighted by the President and Executive Director.

22. Dates and Places of next EB and Officers Meetings

The Executive Board and Officers usually meet twice per year with a webinar of the Board half way between meetings. One meeting of the Officers was held jointly with the Regional Chairs and Directors, usually in the second half of the year.

The Board requested the Secretariat to come up with possible dates for two years 2016 and 2017. They also decided to use teleconferencing rather than webinar facilities.
In the context of the discussion on the response to the External Review, the Board proposed strengthening the links with members, as well as with the regions, by holding some of its meetings in locations other than Paris.

Those meetings of the Board already fixed are:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Meeting</th>
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<td>16 November</td>
<td>Committee on Finance</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>Officers and Regional Chairs and Directors</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19 November</td>
<td>EB</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Decision**

To note the dates of the Officers, CF, and EB meetings;  
To set up teleconferences in 2015; and  
To ask the Secretariat to propose a set of dates for 2016 and 2017 and to look into the possibility of holding one or more of these meetings in a different regional location, hosted by an ICSU member.

23. **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

24. **Evaluation of Meeting**

The Board had no particular comments to make with regard to the evaluation of the meeting.

25. **Closed Session**

25.1 Communication between Secretariat, Officers and Executive Board and clarification of roles

There being no other business the President closed the meeting.

**Annexes**

Annex 1: Statement on Research Integrity  
Annex 3: WDS Membership  
Annex 4: Revised 2015 ICSU Budget
CFRS statement of principles on “Science assessment and research integrity”

Guided by the vision that science should be for the benefit of all, the International Council for Science (ICSU) works to strengthen international science. As part of this effort, the Council promotes the Principle of Universality of Science, which emphasises the need for both freedom and responsibility in the practice of science. This encompasses free expression, circulation, and communication and equitable access to data and information for scientists. These are balanced with the responsibilities to carry out and communicate scientific work with integrity, trustworthiness and transparency.

For science to benefit all, it must be of high quality and global in application and accessibility. A fundamental principle underlying high quality science is the promotion of excellence, implemented through quality standards that include peer review of research proposals, scholarly works and data as well as awards to recognise the highest achievements in science.

As the science enterprise has grown and become increasingly specialised, distributed and competitive, additional measures to assess scientific output have been developed by other stakeholders, foremost journal publishers. These metrics, largely quantitative, include such measures as the citation and impact factors related to published research applied to individuals, journals and institutions as well as ranking systems applied to institutions or countries.

The ICSU Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS) is concerned that replacing peer review with quantitative assessment, and the use of some of these assessment metrics to calculate scientific merit or reward without concurrent assessment of quality may create a reward system that favours quantity of output over quality of output. This may undermine scientific integrity by tempting scientists to use “shortcuts” to achieve high quantity output.

In order to address this concern, CFRS has raised some of the most salient issues to encourage discussion among stakeholders in science and to promote the highest levels of science assessment. The suggestions below are informed by an earlier CFRS advisory document on peer review,1 and are derived from discussion at an international workshop on science assessment and research integrity, co-sponsored by CFRS, the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in April 2014 in Beijing. Experiences discussed in that workshop from science assessment in Brazil, China and South Africa2 reflected the challenges faced by the global science community in general.

Issues of concern and proposals for amelioration

General

• It is critical to specify the purpose and evaluation parameters of any science assessment. Assessment methods and metrics are applied in different contexts, at the level of countries, institutions, disciplines and individual scientists, while assessment results are used for different purposes, such as allocation of research funds, promotion of scholars or goal setting. Science assessments may be helpful management tools, but it is critical that their purpose be defined transparently;

• There needs to be alignment of assessment output and science values and incentives. Quantitative assessments are generally based on easily measured dimensions such as output or citation volume. There needs to be attention given to measurement of less readily quantified factors such as relevance to society or impact on the discipline;

• Assessment systems need to serve the needs of science as well as science management. Many current quantitative assessment systems were developed by science managers to facilitate the efficient allocation of scarce resources, rather than to reward merit. The science community needs to be involved more strongly in assessment systems, to ensure

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2. www.icsu.org/freedom-responsibility/research-integrity/science-assessment-and-research-integrity
that there is concurrence between quantitative evaluations and evaluations based on rigorous and unbiased peer review. Assessment systems themselves should be periodically evaluated.

**Ranking systems**

- Although ranking systems can provide valuable information on some dimensions of the scientific enterprise, they are inherently limited in capturing the full dimensions of science quality. Their use should be limited to benchmarking and goal setting.

**Reward systems for scientists**

- All science assessment systems provide implicit and explicit incentives for behaviour. Quantitative metrics that focus on impact and citation factors that focus on quantity of research or scholarly publications may increase the pressure to rapidly produce scientific output. These conditions provide potential incentives to breach research integrity, for example in the form of multiple publications of the same data, fabricated, falsified or plagiarised data, honorary or even fraudulent authorship, all of which harm the scientific enterprise. The science community and science managers together need to discuss systemic measures to establish incentives that prevent such practices.

**Education in research integrity**

- An understanding of the principles of research integrity and the behaviour that constitutes improper scientific conduct need to be taught and nourished during every phase of a scientist’s education. Although there are socio-cultural differences between regions in the role of authority, originality and responsibility within the scientific endeavour, these areas need to be addressed with consistent teaching of principles and codes of conduct at higher education institutions around the world;

- Violations of research integrity need to be addressed within a preventative and educational framework.
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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Current Members</th>
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<th>Status</th>
<th>Term ends</th>
<th>Field of expertise</th>
<th>Year of birth</th>
<th>Country of employment</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Sydnes, Leiv K</td>
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<td>Chair</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Bullock, Merry</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Cognitive science, Developmental science, ethics, universality of science, science policy</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Estonia/USA</td>
<td>Estonia/USA</td>
<td>F</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Polymer Science &amp; Technology (Rubber technology)</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Medecine / biology</td>
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<td>David Black, ICSU EB</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>IUPAC, IUGG, IUCr, UK-RS</td>
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World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2015-2018

Chair: Professor Sandra (Sandy) Harrison
(1st term: 1 July 2014–30 June 2017)
Centre for Past Climate Change and
School of Archaeology, Geography and
Environmental Science (SAGES)
The University of Reading
PO Box 227
Reading RG6 6AB
United Kingdom
Tel. +44 118 378 5258
Email. s.p.harrison@reading.ac.uk

Dr Aude Chambodut
(1st term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)
Ecole et Observatoire des Sciences de la Terre
5 rue René Descartes,
67084 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Tel. +33 3 68 85 00 81
Email. aude.chambodut@unistra.fr

Dr Arona Diedhiou
(1st term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)
IRD-LTHE, BP 53, University of Grenoble-Alpes,
38041 Grenoble Cedex 9
France
Tel. +33 6 65 15 66 36
Email. arona.diedhiou@ird.fr

Dr Ingrid Dillo
(1st term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)
Data Archiving and Networked Service (DANS)
Anna van Saxenlaan
51, 2593 HW Den Haag
The Netherlands
Tel. +31 6 121 66 989
Email. ingrid.dillo@dans.knaw.nl

Dr Claudia Emerson
(1st term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)
Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St. Michael’s Hospital
250 Yonge Street Suite 600
Toronto ON M5B 2L7
Canada
Tel. +1 416 817 4013
Email. emersonc@smh.ca

Professor Elaine Faustman
(1st term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)
University of Washington
Box: 354695, 4225 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105
United States
Tel. +1 206 685 2269
Email. faustman@u.washington.edu

Mr Wim Hugo
(2nd term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)
South African Environmental Observatory Network (SAEON)
2B Carletta Street, Paarl, 76200
South Africa
Tel. +27 21 872 2699
Mobile +27 83 631 1521
Email. wim@saeon.ac.za

Professor Toshihiko Iyemori
(1st term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)
WDC for Geomagnetism, Kyoto
Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University
Kitashirakawaoiwakecho, Sakyo-ku
Kyoto 606-8502
Japan
Tel. +81 75 753 3949
Email. iyemori@kugi.kyoto-u.ac.jp
**Ex-Officios**

Heide Hackmann  
Executive Director  
ICSU  
Email. heide.hackmann@icsu.org

Yasuhiro Murayama  
Integrated Science Data System Research Laboratory NICT  
4-2-1 Nukui-kita, Koganei  
Tokyo 184-8795  
Japan  
Tel. (+81) 42 327 6685  
Fax. (+81) 42 327 6490  
Email. murayama@nict.go.jp

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**Professor Rob Kitchin**  
(1st term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)  
National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis  
Iontas Building, Maynooth University, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland  
Tel. +353 17083372  
Email. rob.kitchin@nuim.ie

**Dr Guoqing Li**  
(2nd term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)  
Data Technology Division, Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth (CEODE)  
Chinese Academy of Sciences  
No 9, Dengzhuangnan Road  
Beijing 100094  
China  
Tel. +86 10 82 17 80 62  
Mobile. (+86) 156-010-50120  
Email. ggli@ceode.ac.cn

**Dr Alexander de Sherbinin**  
(1st term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)  
CIESIN, Columbia University  
P.O. Box 1000  
Palisades, NY 10964  
United States  
Tel. +1 845 365 8936  
Email. adesherbinin@ciesin.columbia.edu

**Dr Sanna Sorvari**  
(1st term: 1 July 2015–30 June 2018)  
PO Box 48 (Erik Palmenin aukio 1, Dynamicum)  
University of Helsinki, 00014 Helsinki  
Finland  
Tel. +358 504154729  
Email. sanna.sorvari@fmi.fi
ICSU Budget 2015, in Euros

Where an exchange rate is necessary, this is based on the average rate of 2014 of 1$ = 0.753€.

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<th>Income</th>
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<th>EB 111 apr14</th>
<th>CF EB apr15</th>
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<td>Ruentex Foundation (funds carried over from 2014)</td>
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<td>LS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>DFG (Managed by ISSC)</td>
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<td>Stakeholder Forum for Sustainable Future</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<th>CF EB apr15</th>
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<td>CT 1.1</td>
<td>General Assemblies annual provision</td>
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<td><strong>2 POLICY COMMITTEES</strong></td>
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*Provisions, Gain on exchange, Loss on assets… 309 197*

Net result 2014: 397 177