DECISIONS

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

Apologies for absence: John Buckeridge and Raghavendra Gadagkar

Regional Offices: Nordin Hasan, Manuel Limonta and Daniel Nyanganyura

Secretariat: Tish Bahmani Fard, Charles Erkelens, Johannes Mengel (Agenda Item 18), Nora Papp (Agenda Item 22), Katsia Paulavets (Agenda Item 13), Rohini Rao, Lucilla Spini, Anne-Sophie Stevance (Agenda items 11.4, 14.2 and 14.3), Clare Thirlway and Denise Young

Invited: Peter Gluckman (INGSA, Agenda Item 10), Ruthann Hughes and Andy Martin (Firetail Consulting, Agenda Item 6)

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

The President welcomed all Members of the Executive Board, and welcomed the new Operations Director, Charles Erkelens, for whom this was his first Executive Board meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with some changes as to the order in which items were taken. This report follows the order of the Agenda as originally distributed.

Decision
To adopt the Agenda.

3. Decisions of 115th EB Meeting and Matters Arising and from the Meeting of Officers, January

Other than the item below, all matters arising from the 115th Meeting of the Executive Board and from the January Officers Meeting were treated elsewhere on the Agenda.
3.1 Liability

Charles Erkelens updated the Board with regard to their responsibilities and potential liabilities and a written report from the External Auditor, Pierre Godet, was provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decisions</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>To note</strong> the Decisions of 115th EB meeting and the January Officers Meeting; and to <strong>note</strong> the document on liability.</td>
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4. Decisions taken electronically or by webinar since last meeting

The EB reviewed and noted the decisions taken electronically since the last meeting.

5. ICSU-ISSC Working Group (Closed discussion with Executive Director and Operations Director)

The 1st meeting of the ICSU-ISSC Working Group (WG) took place at the ICSU Secretariat on 28-29 January 2016. A synopsis of the meeting and update of WG actions since January were presented by Heide Hackmann.

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<th>Decision</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>To provide feedback</strong> to the WG on its proposed next steps.</td>
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6. ICSU Strategic Planning

Heide Hackmann updated the Board on progress towards developing a new Strategic Plan for ICSU. She also outlined the multiple streams of work and the timetable for developing the new plan. Andy Martin and Ruthann Hughes of Firetail Consulting presented the interim feedback from their series of stakeholder interviews and an internal survey of staff, EB and CSPR members. The interviews with senior stakeholders included questions around ICSU’s role, purpose, and potential areas for development and future priorities. Andy Martin shared the main themes emerging from this work, and the Board considered the findings. The Board also offered their views on the questions to be asked in the upcoming member survey.

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<th>Decision</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>To note</strong> progress made.</td>
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7. InterAcademy Partnership: Report-back from the February IAP Conference and General Assembly

A brief report was presented on the outcomes of the recent IAP Conference and General Assembly hosted by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). The conference focused on the theme of Science Advice and was preceded by a capacity building workshop co-organized by the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA). ICSU had a slot in the opening session.

One of the major decisions of the IAP General Assembly was to bring together three academy networks, IAP, IAMP and IAC, to form the InterAcademy Partnership, with the three component parts to be renamed IAP for Science, IAP for Health and IAP for Research, respectively. The three organizations are engaged in closer relationship with ICSU through Science International. The Board discussed the importance of ICSUs engagement with IAP.
Krishan Lal (India) and Volker ter Meulen (Germany) were elected Co-Chairs of the IAP.

**Decisions**

To note the outcomes of the IAP Conference and General Assembly; and to agree that the ICSU Secretariat will investigate further the implications of ICSU having observer status within the InterAcademy Partnership.

8. Policy Committees

8.1 Report of 31st Meeting of CSPR

A brief report of the March meeting of CSPR was presented.

**Decision**

To note the CSPR report.

8.2.1 CFRS Secretariat hosting and transition arrangements

An update on the call for hosting was presented including the interest shown by the Royal Society of New Zealand. A formal response has not yet been received however the Royal Society had indicated their interest and the start date would be no later than 1 July 2016.

**Decisions**

To acknowledge the generous hosting of the CFRS Secretariat by SCNAT; to thank Roger Pfister, Executive Secretary of CFRS for his excellent work; and to note the interest shown by the Royal Society of New Zealand in hosting the CFRS secretariat and ask the Secretariat to follow up.

8.2.2 Support for Turkish Academics

The Officers had considered a letter from the Scholars at Risk Network expressing concern over the situation of certain Turkish academics and had agreed that the ICSU logo could be used on this. They had also decided that it should be posted on the CFRS portal as there had been no time for a detailed strategic discussion by the Board. The Board took note of the response from the Minister of National Education and the follow up process. Whilst the Board agreed to endorse the CFRS declaration, it felt that statements prepared on ICSU’s behalf must be done with prior consultation and approval. This matter will be discussed at the CFRS meeting in Mexico. The Executive Director assured the Board that this matter would be raised with the Chair during their meeting on 20 April.

**Decision**

To agree to endorse the CFRS declaration as an ICSU statement; and to reiterate that any statement going out on behalf of ICSU must be approved by the Executive Board beforehand.

8.2.3 Update on CFRS Workshop on Gender Issues in Field Research

The workshop on “Gender Issues in Field Research (Mobility and Internationalization of Science)” will take place at the Mexican Academy on 27 April. The purpose of the workshop is to prepare an advisory note on gender equity and the internationalisation of science, to be disseminated
amongst ICSU Members and published on the ICSU website. This output is expected to contribute to the work that GenderInSITE has undertaken to do for ICSU and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) on developing a gender policy for international scientific organisations. The Board was informed of the UNESCO L’Oréal Women in Science Manifesto, which will be signed in Mexico in conjunction with the Gender Summit.

### Decisions

To note the plans for the CFRS Workshop
to acknowledge the support of the Mexican Academy of Science in hosting the workshop; and
to formally approve the signing of the L’Oréal Women in Science Manifesto on behalf of ICSU by the CFRS Chair.

#### 8.2.4 Review of CFRS mandate and number of meetings

A meeting would take place between the CFRS Chair and members of the Secretariat shortly after the Board meeting to discuss CFRS operations, including its mandate, frequency of meetings, hosting related transfer of tasks, and the need for closer coordination with the EB in terms of selection of priorities for CFRS activities.

### Decision:

To agree to propose at the next General Assembly that in future the Vice-President for External Relations should chair the CFRS in order to complement the chairing of CSPR and ensure closer relations between CFRS and the EB.

### 9. Regional Offices: Activity updates and new developments

#### 9.1 Regional Office for Africa (ROA)

Daniel Nyanganyura from ROA presented the activity report.

The appointment of RCA members had been completed and the Committee held its 16th meeting in Pretoria in March 2016. During the meeting, it was proposed that the structure be modified to accommodate a Vice-Chair of the Committee and the Regional Committee agreed to recommend Joseph Katongo Kanyanga from Zambia for this position.

### Decisions

To note ROA activities; and
to appoint Joseph Katongo Kanyanga as Vice-Chair of the RCA.

#### 9.2.1 Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

Nordin Hasan presented an overview of ROAP activities.

### Decision

To note ROAP activities.

#### 9.2.2 ROAP Review Report

The ROAP Review Report was presented to the Board. The outcome from the review panel was positive about ROAP’s work over the past five years and had found it to be extremely effective despite its limited financial and human resources. It recommended maintaining the office with its current staff.
The Secretary General, a member of the Review Panel, recommended that the Board send an appropriate note complimenting Nordin Hasan for his directorship and the successful functioning of the Regional Office. The Board also noted that the contract for the Director’s position expires in September 2016 and that Nordin Hasan should be asked if he is willing to consider an extension.

### Decisions

- **To compliment** Nordin Hasan for his excellent leadership and Sharizad Dahlan and Hizam Jafaar for their excellent work;
- **to agree** to explore with Nordin Hasan a possible extension of his contract; and to work with the Malaysian Academy of Sciences on the renewal of the Agreement.

#### 9.3 Regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

Manuel Limonta updated the Board on ROLAC activities.

**Decision**

To **note** ROLAC activities.

#### 9.4 ROLAC Hosting offer from El Salvador

The Board had accepted the offer from El Salvador. A draft agreement had been sent to the Ministry of Education and was now under review. Heide Hackmann, Charles Erkelens, David Black and Manuel de León will travel to El Salvador to finalise the agreement. They were asked to ensure that the terminology in the agreement maintained the Regional Office’s independence. The office is expected to start functioning as of 1 July 2016.

**Decisions**

- **To acknowledge** the generous offer from El Salvador;
- **to note** the ongoing negotiations with El Salvador,
- **to approve** the proposed agreement in principle and ask Heide Hackmann, Charles Erkelens, David Black and Manuel de León to finalise this.

#### 10. International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA)

Peter Gluckman presented an overview of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA), whose primary goal is to improve the use of scientific evidence to inform public policy formation at all levels of government. The network’s focus is on the development of effective advisory systems, independent of any particular national or local constitutional or structural considerations. Through workshops, conferences and a growing catalogue of tools and guidance the network aims to enhance the global science-policy interface to improve the potential for evidence-informed policy formation at local, national and transnational levels. In 2015 INGSA worked with ICSU, ISSC and Future Earth to undertake a capacity building workshop for early career sustainability scientists. The case-based teaching model piloted at this workshop was a great success. Lessons learned were applied to a South African activity. Several workshops are in development or committed to, in 2016 and 2017 in Jordan, Senegal, China, Malaysia, Europe and Africa.

**Decision:**

To **note** progress on INGSA; and
To approve the ToR (with the modifications suggested by the ICSU Secretariat regarding the correct naming of ICSU bodies and functions in the ToR).

11. International Research Programmes, Scientific Committees and Networks (Interdisciplinary Bodies)

11.1 Urban Health and Wellbeing (UHW) Programme: Nominations

The nominations for the new Scientific Committee for Urban Health and Wellbeing Programme that CSPR had reviewed at their meeting in March were presented, together with the recommendations from CSPR.

Decisions
To approve the membership of the UHW SC (see Annex 1 for list of Members); and to acknowledge the work of the outgoing SC Members and Chair.

11.2 World Climate Research Programme (WCRP): Request to reduce the size of the Joint Scientific Committee and upcoming review in 2017

The Board took note of the letter received from the WCRP Director requesting ICSU’s approval for reducing the size of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) from 18 to 15 members. The request was considered by the CSPR in at its March meeting and it had recommended that the proposed reduction in the size of the JSC be discussed further in the context of the upcoming review of WCRP in 2017.

Decisions
To approve the reduction in size of the JSC; and to ask the Secretariat to inform the WCRP and Co-Sponsors that the number of members will be addressed in the 2017 review of the programme by ICSU.

11.3 Future Earth: Knowledge Action Networks (KANs)

Heide Hackmann updated the Board on the Knowledge Action Networks activities set up to develop new activities with Future Earth. ICSU is currently working to facilitate the development of KANs in the field of planetary health and oceans, with the purpose also of linking other ICSU programmes and interdisciplinary bodies to these initiatives. The KANs are an important development for Future Earth. ICSU will present KANs at the UNEP General Assembly through a side event in May.

Decision:
To note progress made on the KANs.

11.4 Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Programme:

An update was provided on the search for a new Executive Director, funding, and the review process. Interviews for four candidates are scheduled at the end of April and ICSU is working in close collaboration with RADI and its co-sponsors ISSC and UNISDR. The review of the IRDR is on-going with the IRDR review panel meeting at ICSU concurrently with the EB meeting. The review report is expected for September 2016. A five-year proposal totaling 1.4 million Euros was developed with IRDR to enhance national science advisory capacities for disaster risk reduction, using the funds provided by the IRDR International Centre of Excellence located at Academia Sinica.
Decision
To note progress with regard to appointment of a new Director for IRDR; and
To note the funding proposal.

11.5 Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research/Scientific Committee on Ocean Research (SCAR/SCOR): Review Update

A report on the SCAR/SCOR Joint Review was presented. The review panel would prepare two separate reports, which will be submitted to CSPR for review (electronically) by May 2016.

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

11.6 Timeline for upcoming review of Programmes and Interdisciplinary Bodies (IBs)

The Board noted the revised schedule for IBs/Programme reviews and approved the timeline recommended by CSPR.

2016: Continuing SCAR-SCOR
     Continuing IRDR/GTOS [pending consultation with Co-Sponsors]

2017: GOOS [pending consultations with Co-Sponsors]/WCRP/INASP/WDS
2018: Continuing GOOS/Urban Health and Wellbeing/Future Earth/COSPAR/SCOSTEP/IUCAF

Decision
To approve the revised timeline for the review-processes as recommended by the CSPR.

12. ICSU Grants Programme

The redesigned ICSU Grants Programmes was presented to the Unions and the Board Meetings and the Unions had received it well. The CSPR had endorsed the redesigned programme at its meeting in early March.

Decision
To approve the new Grants Programme; and
to ask the Secretariat to launch the first call for applications by May 2016.

13. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) Grant Agreement

The Sida proposal had been successful and the grant awarded. ICSU Secretariat will manage the project in collaboration with ICSU ROA, the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC).

Decision:
To note progress and plans to implement the project.

14.1 Science International

The Executive Director presented a report on the decisions made during the 2015 meeting about the nature and possible development of Science International. She also presented progress on the open data campaign following the Science International agreement to support in international accord on Open Data in a Big Data World.

A letter requesting the endorsement of the accord by members of Science International partner organisations, as well as other international scientific institutions, publishers, funding agencies, and libraries was sent out in early March. It is also planned to launch an African Open Data/Open Science Platform in December under the leadership of ICSU-CODATA.

Priorities for Science International 2016-2017 were discussed and it was agreed that ICSU would propose the topic of “Metrics”, covering issues regarding the valuation of scientific excellence and impact, to other Science International partners.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To endorse the decisions made during the 2015 Science International meeting; to note progress made in implementing the Open Data campaign; and to propose Metrics to other Science International partners as a topic for the next Science International meeting, to be held in 2016-2017.</td>
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14.2 Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

The fourth session of the Plenary of IPBES took place in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on in February 2016. ICSU had been approached to nominate experts through its members. The idea is for ICSU to remain engaged in IPBES as observer, and coordinate inputs and nominations of experts from its members and programmes on strategic activities. The question of ICSU’s specific role in international scientific assessments such as IPBES and IPCC versus its programmes was also raised as programmes are involved in developing the research that is then assessed by IPCC and IPBES.

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<tr>
<td>To continue contributing nominations of experts on strategic aspects of IPBES work e.g. the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services but leave proactive engagement to Future Earth.</td>
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14.3 Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals

ICSU is currently following up on its 2015 analysis of the SDG targets and preparing a report on key trade-offs in the SDGs framework, aimed as a tool for policy-makers at all levels in identifying and managing synergies and trade-offs and promoting an integrated approach to the implementation of the SDGs. In this context a brainstorming meeting took place at ICSU headquarters in Paris on 21-22 January 2016. It aimed to bring together a small group of experts to frame an analysis of synergies and trade-offs in the SDG framework. The meeting resulted in a draft outline for a concise report that will provide a framework to characterize the range of negative to positive interactions between targets across the SDG framework and illustrate the importance of an integrated approach to implementing the SDGs that takes into account the many interdependencies. The report will be delivered in two stages with the analytical framework and one worked out example in May 2016 and the full report towards the end of the same year.
Decision
To note the progress on the development of a report related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14.4 InterAcademy Council (IAC) Proposal

The ICSU Secretariat had been contacted about developing a partnership within the context of a project on “Improving Scientific Input to Global Policymaking: Strategies for Attaining the Sustainable Development Goals”. This three-year project is coordinated by the IAC and the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), and funded by the Carnegie Corporation. It seeks to strengthen the ability of scientific organizations around the world to contribute high quality evidence-based input and advice to policy-makers in areas relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals. The project will guide future plans and activities of global scientific activities. ICSU will nominate candidates for the expert committee, and it is proposed to have a member of the EB as formal representative on the committee.

Decisions
To ask the Secretariat to define ICSU’s role in the project in negotiations with the IAC and in consultation with the CSPR and its Chair.

14.5 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR)

Following the ICSU/UNDESA Expert Group Meeting on “Emerging Issues and Peer Review” held in October 2015, and subsequent interactions with UNDESA colleagues, the Secretariat had worked, in close collaboration with the CSPR and its Chair, to secure ICSU contributions to the 2016 GSDR edition. The GSDR would allow ICSU to be more involved in implementing the mechanism in engaging members.

Decisions
To note progress made by the CSPR and the Secretariat towards formalizing ICSU’s cooperation with UNDESA on the GSDR.

14.6 Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM)

The first meeting of the UN-appointed 10-member group supporting the TFM was held in New York on in March 2016. The group comprised of representatives of civil society, the private sector and the scientific community and was co-chaired by William Colglazier (AAAS) and ICSU’s Executive Director.

The TFM comprises three elements: a UN inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation (STI), a collaborative multi-stakeholder STI Forum that will meet once a year and an online platform. Working with the UN interagency task team, the 10-member group will prepare the meetings of the STI Forum, support the development and operationalization of the online platform and provide briefings and other inputs to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

The first Annual STI Forum will be held in New York on 6-7 June 2016. ICSU has applied to hold a side event bringing together its programmes during this Forum. The deadline for the call for a side event is 22 April.

Decision
To note the plans for the June 2016 STI Forum; and ideas for a possible side event to be
14.7 Habitat III

An update was provided on the activities conducted by the ICSU Secretariat, in collaboration with the Urban Health and Wellbeing Programme (UHW) and Future Earth; and on plans related to ICSU’s role within the context of the upcoming Habitat III Conference, which will be held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

This year ICSU had launched a process of engagement with Habitat III – seeking to place science at the heart of these discussions as ICSU has done with other UN and post-2015 processes. Together with Future Earth, ICSU coordinated comments on the released policy unit papers, which will be considered as official input to the process. In the run-up to the Habitat III conference in Quito in October, ICSU will seek to influence the New Urban Agenda through providing scientific input at strategic points. ICSU has been invited to join the General Assembly of Partners, the stakeholder entity the Habitat III process is using for comments and recommendations. ICSU is seeking to have Future Earth as well as UHW join as official voting members. Engagement with the General Assembly of Partners, particularly, allows ICSU to gain more influence and scientific leadership in the recommendations that will eventually go to the Bureau that is drafting the zero-draft of the new urban agenda.

Decision:
To note activities with regard to Habitat III.

15. Early Career Science Strategy

The Draft Early-Career Scientists Strategy was presented. Its main objectives are to establish strategic partnerships with relevant international organizations representing early career scientists, increase the number of early career scientists involved in ICSU activities and develop, in collaboration with the GYA, WAYS and ICSU members, international thought leadership on the future of science and scientific practice for early career scientists.

Decision
To approve the Early Career Scientists Strategy, with slight amendments, for incorporation in the new strategic document being prepared for the 2017 GA.

16. Scientific Basis for Nuclear Clean-up

Kazuyuki Tatsumi reported on the international approach to scientific basis for a nuclear agreement – a national clean up effort that requires a worldwide concerted approach. He reported on the key outcomes from the Workshop and expressed that the scale of the problem is extremely large and only be solved conjointly. In order to organize research guided in such a way, one would need to establish a consortium of research entities with clearly identified competencies, an internationally based funding scheme such as CERN model or role of ICSU as a possible interface to funding bodies. One of the ideas advanced in the workshop was to see if this could be linked with the Future Earth initiative, which is quite strong in Japan and requested the ICSU Executive Board to help move ahead with the project. The Board agreed that this was an interesting and challenging topic that requires further investigation and asked a sub set of EB to help develop a plan and address at the Officers meeting in June and the EB in November.
17. Revisions to Voting Procedures at General Assembly

The Board discussed Unions’ feedback on possible changes to the voting procedures for appointment of the Nominating Committee.

**Decision**
To ask the Working Group (David Black, John Ball and Manuel de León) to continue their analysis of the possible options and report back to the Board.

18. Communications

Denise Young/Johannes Mengel reported on communications activities including a hackathon using virtual reality technology for science communication. A short video of the event was shown.

The rebranding process had been completed and the new logo will be introduced starting with the Annual Report for 2015, which will be published shortly. Members and Regional Offices have been informed of the change, as were the Unions at their meeting. A corporate design manual is being produced.

Following a selection process, a contract has been signed with a London-based Bureau for Visual Affairs for the redevelopment of the ICSU website. The process is expected to be completed by October 2016.

To inform the development of the new ICSU website, the Communications team had prepared a snapshot of current metrics collected through the ICSU website and social media channels.

**Decision**
To note progress on the rebranding and the redevelopment of the ICSU website.

19. Additional External Review Response Actions: Progress updates and next steps

The Secretariat had made good progress on implementing a number of the concrete actions included in the EB’s response to the 2014 External Review.

20. Membership

20.1 Admission of New Members/Associates

20.1.1 International Scientific and Regional Associate status

Requests for admission as a Scientific Associate had been received from the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE) and the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS).
To agree to instruct the Secretariat to ascertain if there is adequate support from Members for the applications from the ISDE and the IAS and, if so and no objections are received, to further agree to admit the ISDE and the IAS as International Scientific Associates.

20.2 ICSU sponsorship of meetings

An invitation had been received from the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) for ICSU to serve as one of the supporting organizations of the upcoming 2016 Conference, which would be held in November in Beijing.

The Board also heard a request from Nicole Moreau for endorsement of the IUPAC Conference on Green Chemistry, which would be held in Venice in September 2016.

Decisions
To endorse ICSU support for / sponsorship of the World Life Science Conference and the IUPAC Conference on Green Chemistry;

to further agree that for meetings organized by the Unions the Executive Director could authorize endorsement of these and then inform the Board accordingly.

20.3 Reflections from the Unions Meeting, Paris, 12-13 April 2016 and possible follow up actions

The Board discussed the main outcomes of the Unions Meeting and noted that on the whole the meeting had been positive.

Decision
To ask the Secretariat to ensure that the Unions were kept informed as to follow-up actions undertaken.

21. Alumni of ICSU Fellows: Update

David Black informed the Board of the rationale that had been used in producing the current list and what was expected of the Alumni. Some concerns were expressed as to the value to the individuals concerned of being named an ICSU Alumni and attention was drawn to key persons who it was felt should be on the list; including more from the regions.

Decision
To ask the communications team to design an effective programme that can be implemented financially and would be perceived as bestowing an honour on the recipients.

22. 32nd General Assembly and Associated Meetings (2017)

The Board discussed the thematic focus of the 2017 GA and made some suggestions as to themes, bearing in mind that the local hosts had also made suggestions. Possible themes were:

- Priorities in basic research which do not address global challenges but facilitate them
- Science education
- Disaster risk reduction
- Urban health

Some suggestions were also made as to possible high level speakers and the choice of these could also impact on the themes chosen.
Decision
To ask David Black and Gordon McBean to work with Heide Hackmann and Denise Young to develop a proposal for the form and focus of the GA including the development of a concept note on a science summit at the time of the GA.

23. Finances

The Committee on Finance (CF) met prior to the Executive Board meeting. The major items that it considered were prepared accounts for 2015 and the revised budget for 2016.

The Treasurer and the Chair of the CF reported on the CF meeting. The Treasurer narrated on the main developments since the previous meeting and highlighted that the 2015 accounts had an overall positive net result of 287,462€ and had been approved by the auditor. For the 2016 budget, she indicated that additional expenses are foreseen, such as development of the Communications plan, Science International, External Review and Human Resources. It is to be noted that the anticipated deficit of -763,334€ for 2016 will reduce the overall reserve in the General Fund to 950,000€, but assured Members that this was only temporary as the CF foresaw stability in the budget for 2017-2018.

The Treasurer also reported on negotiations concerning the agreement with the French Government on housing and financial support. The CF had agreed that if the situation was not resolved by early June, it would meet electronically in late June 2016 to come up with a plan to re-evaluate expenditures from 2017 onwards and the use of ICSU funds in light of the reduction of total annual income, and b) to initiate discussions on alternative housing and funding arrangements.

The set up of a Fundraising Task Group including Julia Marton Lefèvre, Mark Ferguson and Michel Spiro was mentioned including the fact that Charles Erkelens will take the lead to come up with a fundraising strategy and engage the members of the Fundraising Task Group.

Decisions:
To note the report of the Chair and Treasurer; to recommend the closed 2015 accounts for (electronic) approval by the General Assembly; to approve the revised budget for 2016 (Annex 2); and to note the composition of the Fundraising Task Group and plans for developing a fundraising strategy.

24. Secretariat

24.1 Overview of activities and Forthcoming Key Meetings involving Secretariat/President

The President and Executive Director gave a brief overview of meetings attended.

Decision:
The note the meetings attended.

24.2 Staffing
Tish Bahmani Fard would be retiring from her position of Assistant Executive Director on 30 June 2016 and would be on leave as of 30 April) and a reception was held in her honour in early May.

Charles Erkelens had been appointed to the position of Operations Director – he joined the Secretariat on 10 March 2016.

A new outreach/membership profile was currently being finalised and the recruitment process for this position would start in the second half of the year.

Katsia Paulavets (Science Officer) returned from maternity leave on 4 April 2016. Alexandra Guennec (Payroll and HR Administration Officer) would be going on maternity leave later this year.

**Decision:**
To note developments.

### 25. Dates and Places of Next Board and Officers Meetings

The following dates had been agreed for meetings in 2016. It had been proposed to hold the November meeting of the Board in El Salvador but it was felt that this was not feasible at this stage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07-29 April</td>
<td>CFRS Meeting and Workshop, Mexico City</td>
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<td>27-28 June</td>
<td>Officers, Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>06-07 October</td>
<td>CFRS, Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-27 October</td>
<td>CSPR, Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>Committee on Finance, Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 November</td>
<td>Officers, Regional Chairs &amp; Directors and Board Liaisons, Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-17 November</td>
<td>ICSU Executive Board, Paris</td>
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**Regional Committees:**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>26-27 April</td>
<td>ICSU Regional Committee for Asia &amp; the Pacific, Seoul, Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-29 April</td>
<td>ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico City,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-September</td>
<td>ICSU Regional Committee for Africa, Morocco (dates to be confirmed)</td>
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**Decision**
To explore the possibility of holding an Board or Officers meeting in El Salvador in conjunction with a meeting of the Regional Committee in early 2017.

### 25. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

### 26. Evaluation of Meeting
There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 17:30 hrs.

Annex 1  Membership of Urban Health and Wellbeing Scientific Committee
Annex 2  Revised budget 2016
Annex 3  List of Follow-up Actions