117th Meeting of Executive Board

Sunday, 23 October 2016
09:00-18:00 hrs
(Continued Tuesday, 25 October 2016
09:00-12:00 hrs)

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters
Drammensveien 78, 0271 Oslo, Norway
(Continued at the Hotel Scandic Victoria, Oslo, Norway)

DRAFT DECISIONS

Present: Orhan Altan, John Ball, David Black, Michael Clegg, Barbara Erazmus, Manuel de León, Jinghai Li, Gordon McBean, Nicole Moreau, Daya Reddy (Day 1), Cheryl de la Rey, Kazuyuki Tatsumi and Heide Hackmann (ex officio)

Apologies for absence: John Buckeridge, Raghavendra Gadagkar and Daya Reddy (Day 2)

Secretariat: Charles Erkelens, Rohini Rao and Lucilla Spini

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

Professor Ole M. Sejersted, President of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, welcomed the Members of the Executive Board. The President thanked Professor Sejersted, for the generous offer to host the Extraordinary General Assembly of ICSU and the Executive Board meeting at the Academy.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Members were informed that a delegation from Taipei planned to be at the Academy at 6pm to present initial planning and logistics for the General Assembly of 2017. With no additional items, the agenda was adopted. This report follows the order of the Agenda as originally distributed.

Decision: The Board adopted the Agenda

3. Decisions from the 116th Meeting of the Executive Board, April 2016 and from the Officers Meeting, June 2016 and matters arising

All matters arising from the 116th Meeting of the Executive Board and from the January Officers Meeting are treated elsewhere on the Agenda.

Decision: The Board took note of the Decisions from the 116th Meeting of the Executive Board, April 2016 and the Officers meeting, June 2016.
4. **ICSU-ISSC Merger process**

4.1. **Agenda for the ICSU Extraordinary General Assembly of 24 October 2016**

The Agenda for the ICSU Extraordinary General Assembly, to be held jointly with the ISSC General Assembly in Oslo on 24 October 2016, was presented and discussed. The chairs of both organisations will open the meeting and Khotso Mokhele will facilitate the meeting and its discussion. Vice-President Jinghai Li together with ISSC Vice President Saths Cooper will introduce the rationale of the merger. After that the Draft Planning Framework including its 38 Recommendations will be presented by Khotso Mokhele and discussed by the members.

In the afternoon both ICSU and ISSC members will get the chance to discuss the implications and their concerns regarding the merger in a separate continuation of both General Assemblies after which the two votes will be brought to the table.

The Board was reminded that in the case of a positive vote regarding the extension of their mandate with a 2/3 majority, they would remain board members for another 2 years, until 2018. ISSC also extended the term of office of their executive body with 2 years. John Ball raised the concern that the proposal to extend the mandate of the EB is not clearly in accordance with the Statutes. This was discussed and the necessity of a two third majority was deemed sufficient to deflect any possible claims of members on this issue.

The Board also noted concerns expressed by some Union members about the outcomes of the process and how this would affect or influence their role in ICSU. The President reassured the EB that this EGA as well as the possible following more detailed discussions related to the possible merger will be the right place for all members to discuss these and all other relative concerns and come up with possible solutions. The ultimate decision on the merger with all its implications will not be made before the GA in Taipei in October 2017.

4.2. **Voting Procedures**

The Board noted that the mail ballots were opened in advance for electronic voting. The Secretariat received 16 votes by mail from National Members and from Scientific Unions 8 votes were received. The Tellers will consider these votes for a final count. Three people were proposed as Tellers, with Julie Britan (chair), Sana Sorovari and Susan Barr all willing to serve in such capacity. The Board approved the list and appointed the Tellers.

4.3. **Transition Task Force Composition**

The Transition Task Force is composed of a Chair and three executive members from each ICSU and ISSC and supported by the respective Executive Directors. It is proposed to include additional persons from other regions like Africa and Latin America. The Board is in favour of this, it will invite additional members.

4.4. **Composition of the Nominating Committee**

The Secretariat drew up a slate of names for the Nominating Committee. John Ball indicated that the names proposed were not all high level and asked if further time could be given to consider additional names. The Board decided that if a Nomination Committee needed to be appointed due to the voting result at the EGA, dispensation time would be requested from the members to come up with the Nomination Committee members list.

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<th>Decision:</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.1. The Board <strong>took note</strong> of the revised agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly</td>
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<td>4.2. The Board <strong>took note</strong> of the voting procedures and</td>
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<td>4.2. The Board <strong>appointed</strong> the Tellers;</td>
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<td>4.3. The Board will <strong>invite</strong> additional members for the Transition Task Force;</td>
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<td>4.4. The Board <strong>took note</strong> of the Composition of NC and tasked the Secretariat follow the procedures.</td>
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5. **External Review update**

Heide Hackmann presented the various actions undertaken as a result of the conclusions of the external review.

Updates are provided on collaboration/partnership with:

- World Economic Forum: Heide Hackmann and Anne-Sophie Stevance met Mr. Lee Howell, Member of the Managing Board in Geneva with an objective to foster partnership with ICSU. The Board noted that they would be engaged in the process early next year;
- The International Chamber of Commerce. It was agreed to come up with a proposal for cooperation;

6. **Science International**

Following the Executive Board meeting in April discussions were held with Science International partners about ‘Metrics’ as a topic for the next Science International Meeting. The Officers were informed about the proposal at their meeting in June, and noted that CFRS was equally enthusiastic about the topic. The Officers approved the proposal pending a final approval of the Executive Board at its meeting in October.

In the meantime, ICSU received an email from the Inter Academy Partnership (IAP), one of the Partners of Science International, raising questions of clarification about roles and consensus on leadership and implementing partners and that no formal MoU has been drawn between the four organizations. IAP has proposed to set up a telecom with all partners in the near future. The Board took note that the Secretariat is doing everything possible to move forward, and that the ISSC colleagues are keen on work with ICSU and CFRS on the subject.

The Board also took note of a number of developments in addition to the accord and the campaign. CODATA has been developing an open data/open science platform in Africa, to be launched in December 2016. The platform brings together key stakeholders from consortium partners, funders and ministries. The funding comes from DST to Academy of Science South Africa. As a result of the accord, the Belmont Forum funders have indicated their interest in partnering with ICSU and CODATA to look at issues on data and publication. They have also indicated their interest in collaborating with ICSU to host a joint workshop.

**Decisions:**

The Board **took note** of developments with Science International and tasked the Executive Director to take the discussions forward with the SI partners and set up a meeting.

The Board **agreed** to pursue a proposal on ‘Metrics’.

7. **Finances**

7.1. **Update on situation with French contribution and the housing agreement**

The Treasurer gave an update on the French contribution and housing situation, confirming that the housing for the Secretariat is planned to be maintained for up to 9 years and a new agreement is now awaited.

In August, ICSU received a message from the French ministry announcing that the special financial contribution of 500k€ from them will not be extended as of 2017. A response has been sent to the government. Gordon McBean and Barbara Erazmus are going to meet the new Director of Research on 28 October 2017 for further negotiations. It was discussed that ICSU needs to work on securing additional funding in the near future to be able to cover core costs.
Possible ISSC/ICSU annual budget

Charles Erkelens presented the revised budget for 2017 – which will be sent to the Board after the CF has validated it at its meeting on 14 November. He referred to the reduced costs and assured EB that he is not cutting down on salaries and programme funding.

An example of a joint annual budget for ISSC and ICSU was presented, also to be shown at the EGA if necessary.

Decisions:
7.1. The Board took note of the development of the discussion with the French Government on housing and their annual contribution.
7.2. The Board took note the revised budget for 2017;
The revised budget will be put to the CF at its meeting on 14 November, and sent to EB for a final approval.

8. Updates on Policy Committees and other activities

8.1. Update on CFRS Secretariat hosting agreement

Leiv Sydnes, the Chair of CFRS was invited to update the EB on issues pertaining to the CFRS, including the CFRS Secretariat, and the outcomes of the 21st CFRS Meeting and back-to-back workshop.

An update on the hosting of the CFRS Secretariat at the Royal Society of New Zealand was provided, also informing that the Executive Secretary, Roger Ridley, has now taken up his post and he has attended the 21st CFRS Meeting held on 6-7 October 2016 in Paris. He expressed his appreciation the Royal Society of New Zealand in hosting the Secretariat for the next five years; however, it was noted that a formal agreement for the hosting is yet to be signed.

8.2. Report from 21st CFRS Meeting, 6-7 October 2016

The Chair of CFRS walked through the agenda and gave major highlights:

Freedom and responsibility in science generic issues: Reference was made to the Boycott calls against the Israeli science community, and the most notable call that came from the American Anthropological Association (AAA). CFRS conveyed ICSU’s stance on Statute 5 and asked the organisation to reconsider its position on the issue.

Situation in Turkey: Referred to the violations committed by the Turkish government of basic rights granted to academics and researchers as expressed in the Principle of Universality of science in the aftermath of the coup. ICSU and CFRS were contacted by organizations and individuals requesting ICSU publish a statement about the situation and development in Turkey. A statement was posted on the ICSU homepage on 28 July 2016. He said that the situation in Turkey is very volatile. How the science community can contribute to restore respect for and obedience of the Principle of Universality of Science is not clear, but this challenge has to be met.

Defence Trade Controls in Act 2012 (DTCA), Australia: An update was given on the potential impact of Defence Trade Controls Act (DTCA) on the freedom of Australian scientists in carrying out their work.

Guidelines for scholars doing research in unstable regions: Inspired by the recent Regeni and Kokabee cases, the committee received a progress report from its subgroup members tasked with drafting guidelines for students and scholars doing research in countries and regions where the Principle of Universality of Science might be breached, and where research or the researcher could be at risk.
8.3 Revised Advisory note on ‘Science Communication’

This Advisory Note addresses guidelines and responsibilities of Scientists. During its meeting in Mexico City in April of this year the Committee finalized the revision of the Advisory Note on Scientific Communication on the basis of a draft document prepared by a task group of committee members. The note was presented to the EB for approval; and the EB approved the advisory note.

8.4 Advisory note on “Mobility and Field Research in the Sciences: Gender Equality and Prevention of Harassment”

This Advisory Note provides advice on strategies to promote gender equality and equitable access to all resources in the practice of science, and to remove barriers to the full participation in science mobility and internationalization by women. Its focus is on fieldwork and visiting scholars carrying out short- to medium-term research studies at home or abroad. The draft was submitted to the EB for review and approval. The advisory note was approved by the EB.

The Board thanked Professor Sydnes for his presentation and asked that CFRS prepare a one page information note highlighting its success stories over the past 5 years.

8.5 SCAR-SCOR Review Process

The Board took note of SCAR SCOR Review process completed in two meetings. The reports – already reviewed and endorsed by the CSPR - were submitted to the EB for approval. The final reports were approved by the EB.

8.6 Update on Science-for-Policy including High Level Political Forum and the UN SG SAB report

At the last session of the HLPF (July 2016), many ICSU scientists (incl. CSPR and CFRS Members) were invited to speak enabling further visibility of science and science/policy interface at the HLPF. The EB was informed of the recent report by the Scientific Advisory Board of the UN Secretary General and of the HLPF Ministerial Declaration which have implications on the science/policy interface at the next sessions and on future issues of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). The EB was also informed of the upcoming IRD-IDDRI-ICSU workshop on GSDR to be held on 27-28 October 2016 also enabling further linkages/cooperation with UN DESA and with French Institutions. The EB was informed that these issues will also be discussed at the meeting of the CSPR to further discuss ICSU role in this context.

8.7 Update on World Science Forum 2017

An update was provided on the World Science Forum 2017 which will be hosted by Jordan from 7 to 11 November 2017 under the theme “Science for Peace” in order to seek advice on ICSU’s role in the programme of the Forum. It is to be noted that at the First Meeting, the WSF Statutes were modified enabling, inter alia, IAP and ISSC to become member of the Steering Committee. Comments are sought by the ICSU Secretariat through its CSPR, CFRS and EB in order to start shaping the plenary and thematic sessions. The second meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Jordan on 12 December 2016 and the third meeting will be hosted by ICSU in Paris, France, in early/mid-June 2017.

In this context, it was highlighted that the CFRS discussed opportunities of the upcoming WSF, noting that WSF’s focus on science provides an appropriate place to socialise and promote the Principle of Universality of Science, complementing the World Conferences on Research Integrity (WCRI).

Decisions:
8.2 The Board took note of the report of CFRS and thanked the Chair;
8.3-8.4 The Board approved the Advisory Note on Science Communication; and the Advisory note on Mobility and Field Research in Sciences.
8.5 The Board approved the final reports from the Review Panel on SCOR and SCAR; and thanked the Panel Review Members and Chair.
9. Regional Offices: Activity updates and new developments

9.1. Regional Office for Africa (ROA)

The Board noted that D Nyanganyura is currently the Acting Director of the Regional Office with support from the ROA management team, comprising of R Diab, C de la Rey, C Masoka and H Hackmann. The Board further noted that under the ASSAf contract, it will host the office only for the next three years and given the short time, it was recommended not to advertise the position due to complicated work permit procedures but to retain the current staff.

The Board took note of the proposal to establish a ‘Management Team’ comprising of R Diab, C de la Rey, H Hackmann, DST, NRF and C Erkelens and D Black to:

a. To work closely with Daniel Nyanganyura.
b. To come up with a strategy for 3-years with an objective to implement and deliver the outcomes in the stipulated period;
c. The LIRA grant gives ROA additional funds to be handled by ASSAf.
d. ROA to work with Assaf on Data Science forum and help develop on Africa chapter, to be supported by Assaf, NRF, DST and ICSU.

9.2. Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

The contract for hosting the ROAP office ended in September 2016. The Malaysian Academy of Science is pleased to extend their offer for another 5 years including finances until September 2021. The ROAP Director, Professor Nordin Hasan has indicated his wish to step down as of 31 December 2016, and the office now needs to appoint a new Director. Several qualified persons in Malaysia are interested in the position.

The Board conveys their appreciation to Professor Nordin Hasan for his dedicated leadership and to his staff and instructed the Secretariat to advertise the position and open the process for appointment of a new Director, to be handled jointly by ICSU and the Malaysian Academy of Science.

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

The ROLAC office opened at the end of August and housed in the ministry building. The Director Professor Manuel Limonta is in El Salvador and the office staff is appointed.

Decision:
9.1 The Board took note of the proposal to establish a Management Team and its aforementioned tasks.
9.2 The Board approved the advertising of the position of the Director and work jointly with the Malaysian Academy of Sciences.

10. Brainstorm GA 2017 Science day

The Board discussed the ideas for the Science day at the next General Assembly in Taipei in 2017. It was proposed to ask all Scientific Union members to inform ICSU on the prizes they have awarded to young scientists and to invite those price winners to enter into a number of panel discussions on different topics with more senior representatives in those areas.

11. Debrief, Reflections and Actions on Merger Process

(Held on Tuesday 25 October 2016.) The Board recalled the successful Extraordinary General Assembly of 24 October and the overall result. A general consensus to move ahead with the process and set up the Transition Task Force, bringing in additional members from both ICSU and ISSC representing the Unions and National members was decided. Both votes were positive with 75% of the ICSU members in favour of
continuing the discussions with regard to a merger with ISSC and extending the mandate for the Executive Board with another year until 2018. It was agreed that a special Strategic Working Group will be set up to help determine the strategy of the new organisation. The next step is to create both the Transition Task Force and the Strategic Working Group and get them together as soon as possible. Simultaneously the GA in Taipei needs to be planned and organized for October 2017, including another joint meeting of ISSC and ICSU.

12. **Strategic Planning**

Members were updated on the process so far.

13. **Dates and Places of Next EB and Officers Meetings**

Charles Erkelens proposed that the meeting of Officers be virtual. However, given the workload for the Officers and the appointment of the Transition Task Force, it is proposed that the January meeting be held in Paris.

- 16-17 January 2017: Officers Meeting (physical meeting requested in Paris)
- 13-14 June 2017: Officers Meeting (Video conference)
- 10-11 April 2017: CSPR Meeting, ICSU Secretariat, Paris
- 21 April 2017: CF Meeting, ICSU Secretariat, Paris
- 20-21 April 2017: 22nd CFRS Meeting, ICSU Secretariat, Paris
- 24-25 April 2017: 118th EB Meeting, ICSU Secretariat, Paris
- 21 October 2017: 119th EB Meeting, prior to the General Assembly
- 23-24 October 2017: ICSU General Assembly in Taipei
- 25-26 October 2017: Joint Meeting of ICSU-ISSC
- 27 October 2017: ‘Science Day’ organized by ICSU
- 28 October 2017: EB Meeting postmortem after the General Assembly.

**Decision:**
The Board **decided** to hold the January meeting in Paris given the work related to the Transition Task Force.

14. **Any Other Business**

- John Ball expressed his concern that as member of the Board, he was not consulted nor informed of the procedures undertaken in the dismissal of the former ROA Director and requested clarifications, which were given. He also expressed his concern that the statement on Turkey was issued by ICSU without consulting the EB.
- Nicole Moreau also voiced her opinion that, as member of the Board, she would appreciate being informed of actions/decisions taken by the Officers rather than letting members discover them at a meeting, and that the Officers are responsible to the Board for any decisions taken virtually. This was agreed.
- An INGSA Meeting related to the NZ RS celebrating its 150 years of existence will be held on 4-7 April 2017.
- Presentation by Taipei delegation: Ren Huei Huang, Department of International Affairs, presented information on planning and logistics for the next GA in Taipei 2017.

15. **Evaluation of Meeting**

The Board thanked Heide Hackmann for all her work and ISSC colleague, Mathieu Denis for work on the ICSU-ISSC WG. Special thanks to Charles, Nora and Maureen for their work on the Extraordinary General Assembly.