

**14th Meeting of the
Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science CFRS**

Hyatt Regency Montreal
9-10 May 2013
Montreal, Canada

Meeting Report

- Present** Leiv K. Sydnnes (Chair), Ashima Anand, Fatma Attia, David Black (*ex officio*), Edouard Brézin, Merry Bullock, Carol Corillon, Hasan Dweik, Alexander Kaminskii, Akilagpa Sawyerr, Silke Schicktzanz, Irene Villaseñor, Jiansheng Zhang
- Apologies** Menahem Yaari
- ICSU Secretariat** Roger Pfister, Carthage Smith (*ex officio*)
- Guests** Gordon McBean (ICSU President-Elect; day 1, agenda items 1-14), Dick Bourgeois-Doyle (National Research Council of Canada; first half of day 1, agenda items 1-6), Charlotte Haug and Rosemary Shinkai (Committee on Publication Ethics; agenda item 7)

1 Welcoming remarks and introduction

M Yaari sent apologies for not being able to participate, while all other members attended both days of the present meeting. It was reported that Washington Bénitez-Ortiz from Ecuador had resigned from the Committee in January 2013 due to other commitments. To replace him, the ICSU Executive Board approved the nomination from the CFRS Chair and the Cuban Academy of Sciences of Alberto J. Núñez Sellés, a chemist. Pending his acceptance, Professor Sellés would participate at the CFRS meeting in October 2013.

The National Research Council of Canada, an ICSU National Member, kindly hosted the current meeting. Its Director of Corporate Governance, Dick Bourgeois-Doyle, took part in the Committee's deliberations during the first half of the meeting's first day.

Related to his participation at and contribution to the 3rd World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI) in Montreal on 5-8 May (agenda item 4), Gordon McBean, ICSU President-Elect, joined the first day of the CFRS meeting.

Charlotte Haug and Rosemary Shinkai, Vice-Chair and Council member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), would join the meeting for agenda item 7 "Scientific publishing ethics".

Decisions

- To note that Alberto J. Núñez Sellés would join the Committee as a new member from October 2013
- To thank the National Research Council of Canada for hosting the meeting
- To welcome Gordon McBean and Dick Bourgeois-Doyle as guests

2 Adoption of agenda

CFRS members adopted the meeting agenda. Four additional issues were brought to the Committee's attention within days of the current meeting and would be considered under agenda item 21 "Any other business".

Decisions

To adopt the agenda

To note the additional items to be considered under "Any other business"

3 Report of the 13th CFRS meeting and matters arising

The report of the CFRS meeting in October 2012 had been agreed by all members electronically and posted on the ICSU website. All issues that arose from that meeting would be dealt with during the current meeting.

C Corillon indicated that the case of the health professionals in Bahrain was not to be considered as closed, as the meeting report suggested, and that new developments on this case would be introduced under agenda item 16.9.

C Smith recalled that members had been invited at the previous meeting to suggest topics the Committee should deal with and to come forth with possible proposals at the end of the current meeting under "Any other business".

Decision

To note the meeting report

4 3rd World Conference on Research Integrity (Montreal, Canada, 2013): reflections and follow-up

Similar to the two previous editions, ICSU was engaged in the organisation of the 3rd WCRI in Montreal through C Smith as a member of the Planning Committee. At the conference, the following Committee members gave presentations, highlighting CFRS's work on aspects of the rights and responsibilities of scientists:

- LK Sydnes: "Responsible public communication of science" (Session "Trust in science")
- LK Sydnes: presentation in the Session "Integrity meets societal responsibility: practical applications of the Singapore Statement's responsibility 14"
- A Anand: "Essentials of determining authorship" (Session "Publication ethics: authorship")
- M Bullock: presentation in the Session "Integrity meets societal responsibility: practical applications of the Singapore Statement's Responsibility 14"
- A Sawyerr: "Building industry-academia partnerships" (Session "Private-public partnerships, industrial research and research integrity")
- S Schicktanz: "Philosophical and practical aspects of the researcher's responsibility role" (Plenary E)

In addition, C Smith chaired the concurrent session "How shall we manage research integrity and misconduct?"

In taking stock, CFRS's involvement was considered important to ensure that integrity as an issue in conducting research was taken increasingly serious in more disciplines and countries. On the other hand, the novelty of contributions compared to Singapore was limited:

more empirical evidence on the extent of misconduct was needed; the situation of research in the private sector was lacking; the institutional dimension and drivers that were conducive to research misconduct were not considered; and, the global South and the Middle East were under-represented.

As in the case of the first two editions, the 3rd WCRI would result in a Statement with recommendations. A draft was available online prior to the conference with the possibility to comment. The contents of this document were discussed during the conference and the revised version would go online in a few weeks after the conference had ended. While anybody could make individual comments, CFRS decided that it would consider contributing a corporate view once that version was available. The Secretariat would liaise between the Chair and Committee members for this purpose.

At the closing of the 3rd WCRI, it was announced that a 4th WCRI would be held in Rio de Janeiro in April 2015. So far, ICSU had made in-kind contributions to the first three WCRI by assisting the organisers in terms of identifying speakers and helping to shape the programme as well as through CFRS taking part. Whether or not ICSU should take a more prominent role in the 4th WCRI would be considered at the next CFRS meeting. In the interim, and given that this was a core activity for CFRS, the Secretariat was asked to add a section on research integrity in the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal” and make available all relevant material in order to develop that section into a clearinghouse for that topic.

Decisions

To note CFRS’s engagement in the 3rd WCRI

To ask the Secretariat to liaise between the Chair and CFRS members regarding a possible CFRS position when the revised Montreal Statement is available

To consider ICSU’s involvement at the 4th WCRI at the next CFRS meeting

To ask the Secretariat to add a “Research Integrity” section on the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal” with relevant material

5 CFRS initiative on academic freedom

Concerned that increasing pressure on academic freedom and scientific autonomy around the globe was calling into question the Principle of Universality of Science, CFRS had raised awareness among the ICSU Membership with a letter from the former Chair on the “muzzling” of scientists and the protection of whistle-blowers. The Secretariat also assembled constitutional texts that provided for academic freedom. These CFRS documents, responses from ICSU Members and media news were added to newly created “Academic freedom” section on the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal” (agenda item 6.1) in January 2013. This information was communicated in a news item on the ICSU website and in a letter by the Chair to the ICSU Membership. This drew media attention in the London-based magazine *Research Europe*.

At the current meeting, CFRS noted new cases of academic freedom being encroached upon in different parts of the world in several ways and relevant activities by other organisations, for example a seminar that Scholars at Risk (agenda item 12.2) had co-organised on this subject in March. Thus, while agreeing that the topic continued to be relevant and important for CFRS’s brief, it was less evident how this could be dealt with appropriately because the concept of academic freedom was very broad and meant different things depending on the thematic and regional contexts. Committee members therefore asked E Brézin and S Schick-tanz to try and clarify and frame the issue and to suggest possible action by CFRS for the next meeting.

The current meeting was taking place in Canada and the participation of Gordon McBean, Professor in Geography at the University of Western Ontario, and Dick Bourgeois-Doyle

gave CFRS members the opportunity to be informed about the national context. The “muzzling of scientists” continued to be an issue, particularly in the field of climate change. This could be traced back to Canada’s withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol in December 2011, which had led to tighter controls on communications from scientists that were employed by the Federal Government. An element in this was the conduct of media relations by scientists. To assist them, the NRC had issued a small booklet with a set of recommendations. In that context, CFRS’s work to promote the free and responsible communication of scientific results was welcomed. Further, it was noted that these issues were probably not unique to Canada.

Decisions

To note the new “Academic freedom” section on the ICSU website with online information
To ask E Brézin and S Schicktzan to further develop the frame of the CFRS initiative on academic freedom and report at the next meeting
To note the information provided by G McBean and D Bourgeois-Doyle

6 CFRS communication

Three lines of action had been decided at the previous meeting to foster communication on CFRS’s activities.

6.1 ICSU website: Freedom and Responsibility Portal

With support from the ICSU Communications and IT unit in Paris, the CFRS section was integrated into the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal,” now jointly presenting all relevant activities and material sustaining the Universality of Science Principle insofar as it related to freedom and responsibility.

To update the ICSU Membership on the Committee’s activities, the Secretariat was asked to henceforth compile a kind of press release/memo to Members with important news from CFRS meetings.

Decisions

To note the revised “Freedom and Responsibility Portal” on the ICSU website
To ask the Secretariat to henceforth compile news messages with pertinent information from Committee meetings for information to the ICSU Membership

6.2 Corporate presentation

Following a decision at the previous meeting, the Secretariat drafted a corporate PowerPoint presentation that the ICSU Communications and IT unit further enhanced. This now included an introduction to ICSU, the Universality of Science Principle and a presentation of CFRS. In welcoming the PowerPoint resource, Committee members suggested a few minor changes for further improvement.

The Secretariat would provide all CFRS members with the final version for presentation purposes at relevant meetings.

Decisions

To approve the PowerPoint presentation with minor changes to be made by the Secretariat
To ask the Secretariat to circulate the document among the CFRS members

6.3 Booklet “Freedom, Responsibility and Universality of Science”

In Paris, a small group of CFRS members was formed to assess the current version of this CFRS booklet produced in 2008 and propose updates and revisions. M Bullock introduced an initial revised draft at the present meeting. This incorporated substantial parts from the original booklet and new elements, to more fully reflect CFRS’s brief to include aspects of responsibility. In discussing the process of revising this brochure further, CFRS members were asked at the current meeting to provide general comments on the direction of the draft version by 15 June. The Secretariat would assemble the responses and collectively transmit them to the Chair for incorporation, supported by M Bullock and A Sawyerr and taking into account the views of D Black and C Smith. The revised version would then be put to the next CFRS meeting for consideration, with the Secretariat ensuring a timely delivery prior to that meeting.

Decisions

To thank M Bullock for her contribution and proposed revisions

To ask CFRS members to provide general comments on the outline of the current vision by 15 June

To ask the Secretariat to assist the revision process in co-ordinating and circulating the documents and comments in due time

7 Scientific publishing ethics

At its previous meeting, CFRS considered a case introduced by the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka, an ICSU National Member. This related to the position taken by the Editor-in-Chief of an international scientific journal regarding two publications by a primatologist in Sri Lanka in this journal. The view of D Vaux, a former CFRS member specialised in publication integrity matters, was sought. However, after some initial Email exchanges with the protagonists, the intricacies of the case were considered too complex for CFRS to deal with in depth. The Secretariat was asked therefore to write to the two parties to express disappointment that this case was not yet resolved. In response, the Editor-in-Chief insisted on having followed the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). This prompted the Secretariat to write to the COPE Chair to enquire whether the Editor-in-Chief in question had handled this matter in accordance with their guidelines. In parallel, the Secretariat invited COPE to the CFRS meeting in May 2013 to discuss possibilities for interaction on matters such as the above.

At the current meeting, Charlotte Haug, COPE Vice-Chair, introduced the relatively young organisation that some 20 editors had established with the purpose to advise editors in handling difficult cases and to make these processes transparent. COPE’s memberships had grown to presently some 8,500 editors of scientific journals. The assistance portfolio now comprised codes of conduct and flowcharts also for publishers and peer-reviewers. When COPE was approached for assistance, the actual papers in question would not normally be considered, but advice was given on the procedure and process used by the involved parties to handle the situation. Charlotte Haug emphasised that COPE did not have legal or other means to obligate its members to comply with these guidelines. Cases in which COPE had become involved were documented anonymously on its website.

Of relevance to the case before CFRS, Charlotte Haug explained that authors that faced problems could also turn to COPE for assistance if the journal involved was a COPE member. Accordingly, the Secretariat would inform the author from Sri Lanka that the case could be reported to COPE, because the journal involved was among COPE’s members. COPE would look into the case and subsequently inform the journal’s editor, the publisher and the author of the paper about their assessment.

Beyond this particular case, issues of common interest between COPE and CFRS included concern that the pressure on scientists to publish was adversely affecting research integrity and the need to establish alternative incentives and metrics in the science system.

It was agreed that in the new “Research Integrity” section on the “Freedom & Responsibility Portal”, a link to COPE would be added.

Decisions

To note the correspondence

To thank the COPE representatives for their information

To ask the Secretariat to inform the author from Sri Lanka about the possibility to address COPE with her case

To ask the Secretariat to follow up developments on this case with COPE

8 Dual use research

Based on a list the Secretariat had assembled with activities, statements and guidelines on dual use, CFRS decided at its last meeting that there was no need for action, but asked the Secretariat to complement the document with material related to the chemical weapons conventions and from the ICSU website’s biosecurity section. The Secretariat was also asked to establish the situation in space science research by contacting the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the relevant ICSU Interdisciplinary Body.

At the current meeting, the Committee acknowledged the updated list. It further took note of a discussion summary prepared by the Executive Secretary on his conversation with the COSPAR Executive Director in January this year as well as of extracts from the study “Ethics of space policy” produced in 2000 by the Working Group “Ethics of outer space” of the UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST).

In a separate issue, in October 2012 the Australian Parliament approved the Defence Trade Controls Act to implement a pact between the USA and Australia from 2007 that intended to streamline trade in defence-related technology and know-how. This legislation would, in principle, allow the Australian government to tighten control on research with potential dual use application. The Secretariat contacted the Australian Academy of Science to obtain their views on the matter. According to their response, this ICSU National Member had been consulted on the draft legislation, which was partly amended. A pivotal amendment was the inclusion of a formal two-year trial period, during which all impacts of the legislation would be assessed. To support the ICSU National Member in its endeavour to preserve the freedom of scientific inquiry for researchers in Australia, the Chair would write to Professor Ian Chubb, Chief Scientist of the Australian Government. In line with the views of the Australian Academy, the Chair would ask that CFRS be provided with update reports from the review panel. A draft would be prepared with D Black’s assistance.

Decisions

To note the updated list of dual use related activities, statements and guidelines

To note the information on COSPAR and COMEST

To note the situation in Australia and ask the Chair, with the assistance of D Black, to write to Australia’s Chief Scientist

9 UNESCO “Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers” (1974)

UNESCO adopted the so-called “Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers in 1974”. In October 2012, the UNESCO Executive Board decided to consider a possible

revision of this document by the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), which contacted its *ex officio* members, among them ICSU, to establish their interest in participating in such a process. This could involve contributing to the work of an *ad hoc* expert group and/or to an online consultation.

A Anand informed the Committee that she and I Villaseñor were members of the COMEST *ad hoc* expert group, thereby providing CFRS with a potential voice going into the revision process. The likely revisions appeared to concern primarily updating the terminology, while the substance of the original Recommendation would remain. A COMEST meeting to discuss a first revised draft was scheduled to take place within a few weeks after the current CFRS meeting.

Decisions

To note the documents and proposal for revising the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation
To ask A Anand and I Villaseñor to feed CFRS's views into the revision process and update the Committee on developments

10 The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications

In late 2011, CFRS was involved in a consultation process led by the UN "Independent Expert in the Field of Cultural Rights" on conceptual and practical issues regarding the implementation of Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that stipulates the right "to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications". The final report by what now was the "Special Rapporteur" was released in June 2012 and took into account CFRS's comments on an earlier draft. As decided at the last meeting, the Secretariat made the final report, together with information on CFRS's contribution, available in a new section on the "Freedom and Responsibility Portal".

Decision

To note the online publication of the material

11 Advice regarding international scientific meetings and visa issues

At the previous meeting, CFRS asked the Secretariat to further amend these guidelines for organisers of scientific meetings, which included recommendations on visa issues. The document was reorganised by creating separate principles and management sections, by adapting the indicated deadlines and by including a recommendation on transit visas (agenda item 15.1). After consulting CFRS members for their comments on the revised version, the finalised guidelines were made available online in January 2013.

Decision

To note the online publication of the guidelines

12 Interaction with other science organisations

The Secretariat undertook a quick horizon scanning for science organisations with tasks similar to those of CFRS to consider possibilities for interaction.

12.1 Scientific integrity

The policy report "Responsible conduct in the global research enterprise", released in October 2012, was the first result of a joint project by the global network of science academies

(IAP) and the InterAcademy Council (IAC) on promoting research integrity at the global level. At IAP, ICSU is an Observer and some of the other members are concurrently ICSU National Members. The IAP-IAC report would be added to the research integrity section on the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal”. Links to other organisations pursuing a regional or national focus regarding research integrity, for example the All European Academies (ALLEA) or the Union of Concerned Scientists in the United States, would equally be considered for addition.

Decisions

To ask the Secretariat to add information on relevant material to the research integrity section in the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal”

To ask the Secretariat to add links to relevant organisations on a reciprocal basis

12.2 Science and human rights

At the global level, four science organisations with significant activities to protect human rights of scientists had been identified. Of foremost relevance to CFRS’s work is the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN), established in 1993 and hosted by the US National Academies. With more than 80 member academies worldwide, it considers cases of individual scientists being subject to repression for having non-violently exercised their rights as promulgated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Network has been a long-standing partner of CFRS and its predecessor Committee through its Executive Director, C Corillon. In her concurrent position as a CFRS member, she takes cases to Committee meetings when considered appropriate. For this purpose, case dossiers are established and made available to the Committee members as part of the meeting documentation.

Scholars at Risk pursues two activities relevant to CFRS: it organises sanctuary for professors, lecturers, researchers and other intellectuals under threat in their home country through providing temporary academic positions at universities that are members of its global network; it monitors and identifies attacks on higher education communities and on academic freedom. The latter topic was the focus of a recent meeting co-organised by Scholars at Risk.

The Council for Assisting Refugee Academics was established in 1933 in Britain to provide refuge and support for academic colleagues who were forced by Nazi discrimination to leave Germany and Austria. At present, it helps academics with refugee status in the UK to rebuild their lives and careers, mitigates the loss of Iraq’s intellectual capital by supporting academics in the country and in exile and supports the resurgence of Zimbabwe’s higher education sector.

At the current meeting, Physicians for Human Rights was also mentioned, because their brief includes ensuring respect for the human rights of health professionals, in particular.

In taking note of the above information, CFRS members asked the Secretariat to add links to these organisations from the relevant section in the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal” and to ask these organisations for reciprocity.

Decisions

To note the information provided by the Secretariat and at the meeting

To ask the Secretariat to add, on a reciprocal basis, links to these organisations from the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal”

13 Freedom of science and the UN sanctions system

Related to the personal situation of the Iranian physicist J Rahighi (agenda item 16.4), who could not attend scientific meetings abroad because his name was on the UN Security Council sanctions list against Iran, the Secretariat had explored if and how the legality of these 'black-lists' could be challenged. It appeared that the UN General Assembly could ask the International Court of Justice in The Hague for an advisory opinion. This would be non-binding, but could potentially cause the Security Council to review its action. Because written enquiries by the Secretariat to the International Court of Justice were left unanswered so far, the Committee asked the Chair to renew the query.

Decision

To ask the Chair to write to the International Court of Justice in The Hague

14 Freedom of science: independence of academies (updates)

14.1 Montenegro

The Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts had contacted ICSU for support in relation to government restructuring attempts that posed a threat to the academy's independence. Following consideration by CFRS, the Chair wrote to the Academy – an ICSU National Member – in November 2012. His letter emphasised respect for the independence of academies and their selection processes based on scientific merit, free of any political interference.

The Secretariat was asked to share this letter with ALLEA and IAP, in case the Montenegrin Academy had contacted them for support as well.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to share the letter from the Chair with ALLEA and the IAP, in case the Montenegrin Academy had also consulted them

14.2 Turkey

CFRS had discussed with concern at previous meetings developments related to science organisations in Turkey. This included the withdrawal of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) from full ICSU Membership and threats to the independence of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA).

The Chair reported that he would be attending the World Chemistry Congress and General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) in Istanbul in mid-August 2013. Whilst there, he was willing to try and arrange meetings with relevant actors, for example from the university sector, to discuss the situation in Turkey.

Decisions

To note the information provided at the meeting

To ask the Chair to try arranging meetings with relevant actors in the Turkish science domain to discuss the situation during the IUPAC meetings in Istanbul in mid-August 2013

15 Freedom of science: generic cases (updates and new)

15.1 Transit visas for scientists

At the last meeting, Committee members heard several reports from scientists who faced difficulties obtaining a transit visa to attend a scientific meeting in a final destination for which they had obtained the required entry documents. In order to clarify the extent of the problem, the Secretariat examined the situation in the United States, the Schengen Area with 26 European countries and the United Kingdom. Information on transit visa regulations for these three countries and regions could be obtained from the International Visitors Office of the US National Academies, the European Commission and the Internet respectively. According to the compiled documentation made available to the Committee in Montreal, it was important for scientists to bear in mind that they needed to clarify the transit visa regulations well in advance and prior to making specific travel arrangements. CFRS members asked the Secretariat to include and highlight this in the message on the current meeting to ICSU Members.

Decisions

To note the documentation

To ask the Secretariat to include in the message to ICSU Members the importance of verifying transit visa regulations prior to making travel arrangements and to highlight this on the website

15.2 Palestine-Israeli scientific relations

CFRS had issued a statement on the Israel-Palestine situation in 2008, following calls for a boycott of Israeli science in a number of countries. It also took action regarding the personal situation of a former Cambridge PhD student who had been prevented from entering Israel in 2009. While this particular case was closed in October 2012, at the current meeting it was considered whether there was any role for CFRS to facilitate Palestine-Israeli scientific relations more broadly.

At the current meeting, CFRS members learnt from H Dweik and E Brézin about the initiatives of the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization (IPSO) to foster and sustain science co-operation between the two communities. Although the Oslo I Accord from 1993 mentioned academic co-operation, progress on implementation depended on the political setting and funding.

In the absence of any specific conclusions, H Dweik and M Yaari, together with E Brézin, were asked to further consider whether and in what way CFRS could potentially contribute to improve this situation and report at the next meeting.

Decisions

To note the information provided at the current meeting

To ask H Dweik, M Yaari and E Brézin to further consider CFRS's potential contribution to ameliorate scientific relations between Israel and Palestine

15.3 Right of women to science education

In August 2012, the Iranian Government decreed that women were no longer allowed to study 77 subjects at national universities. Since this violated ICSU's Statute 5 call for equitable access to science, CFRS reacted by publicly endorsing a statement by the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies, asking the Iranian authorities to review their policy. In October, and in another context, publicly available sources suggested that women in China increasingly needed to score higher than their male colleagues at high school to get admitted to universities, therefore facing informal gender quotas in favour of men.

In discussing the two situations, it was noted that while they appeared similar, they differed from each other in several respects, calling to mind that seemingly clear cases were often more complicated on the ground and that all aspects needed due consideration for the Committee to become engaged. It was also noted that the connection between gender and science often continued to be a difficult one, constituting a generic issue that applied to many countries around the globe for a variety of reasons.

Decision

To note the information at the current meeting

16 Freedom of science: individual cases (updates)**16.1 L'Aquila, Italy**

In 2010, a year after an earthquake had devastated the Italian city of L'Aquila, killed more than 300 people and injured thousands, the public prosecutor charged six scientists, who were part of a commission tasked to assess the earthquake risk in that region, with manslaughter. CFRS discussed this case at meetings in July 2010 and September 2011, days before the court case began. It also supported the statement of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), an ICSU Union Member. This case exemplified the complexity of issues related to the free and responsible practice and communication of science.

At the current meeting, CFRS members were informed that, in October 2012, a court in L'Aquila sentenced the six scientists to six years in prison. This prompted strong reactions and criticism from the science community around the globe. ICSU added its voice by issuing a press release, with references to the CFRS Advisory Note "Science communication", that was sent to all Members. In January 2013, the judge gave the reasons for his verdict, arguing that the scientists had been negligent in appropriately communicating their findings to the media and the local population. This was relevant for CFRS and a reminder that its own statements needed to be balanced to bring out the freedoms and responsibilities of scientists in their work.

Decision

To note the developments on this case

16.2 Saidqul Ashurov, Uzbekistan

S Ashurov, Chief Metallurgist for Oxus Gold plc. in Uzbekistan, was accused of revealing state secrets. Attempts by the Secretariat to obtain more information on this case through different sources had been unsuccessful so far. At the current meeting, it was suggested that the recent query to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should be renewed in the name of the Chair.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to renew the query to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the name of the Chair

16.3 Valentin Danilov, Russia

This Russian physicist had been charged with treason and fraud for allegedly having sold "state secrets" to a Chinese company and for allegedly having embezzled project funds. At the previous meeting, the Chair was asked to renew CFRS's concern about the judiciary's handling of this case and request that V Danilov be granted parole by writing to the new Russian Minister of Education and Science. Before this letter was despatched, V Danilov was freed from prison in November 2012.

Decisions

To note the development of this case
To close this case

16.4 Javad Rahighi, Iran

This Iranian physicist was prevented from attending scientific meetings abroad because his name is on the EU and UN sanctions lists against Iran. While arguing, strongly supported by colleagues at home and abroad, that his name was on the list in error, his attempts to get his name removed and advice from CFRS to that effect were to no avail. Related to the discussions on the UN sanctions system at the last meeting (agenda item 13), the “Focal Point for De-Listing” from sanctions lists at the UN Secretary-General’s Secretariat was mentioned and the CFRS Secretariat informed J Rahighi about this possibility in November 2012 as proposed by the Committee.

Decisions

To note the update in this case
To keep this case pending

16.5 Massoud Ali Mohammadi, Fereydoon Abbasi, Majid Shahriari and Mostafa Ahmadi-Roshan, Iran

These Iranian physicists were victims of bomb attacks during 2010-2012, for which the governments of Iran, Israel and the US accused each other. In June 2012, the Chair wrote to the Iranian authorities and the UN High Commission for Human Rights (UNHCHR) to express the Committee’s concern about these attacks and to support Tehran’s call for an international investigation. In the absence of a response so far, the Chair renewed the Committee’s call to senior UNHCHR officials in January 2013 and was asked to do so again at the current meeting and now formally request a response from the UN in Geneva.

Decisions

To note the letters
To ask the Chair to renew the call to the UNHCHR and specifically ask for a response

16.6 Omid Kokabee, Iran

This Iranian doctoral student in physics, enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin, was arrested in January 2011 during a return trip to his home country and was sentenced to ten years imprisonment in May 2012. In expressing distress about this situation, the former CFRS Chair asked the Iranian authorities in writing for his release. Tehran’s Court of Appeal confirmed the sentence in August 2012 in a trial that reportedly did not apply due process. The new Chair renewed the query to the Iranian government in November and asked the authorities to review the case.

O Kokabee’s imprisonment was on-going and CFRS expressed its continued concern for his situation, learning at the current meeting from publicly available sources that his detainment may be related to him not having agreed to co-operate with the Iranian military. The Chair was therefore asked to renew CFRS’s call to the government in Tehran to review the case and ask for a response.

Decisions

To note the update on this case
To ask the Chair to renew the call to the Iranian government authorities to review the case and ask for a response

16.7 Bahá’í community leaders, Iran

In June 2012, the former Chair wrote to the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology concerning the arrest and imprisonment of scientists of the Bahá’í faith: Fariba Kama-

labadi, Mahvash Sabet, Vahid Tizfahm, Saeid Rezaie and Mahmoud Badavam since 2008, and Ramin Zibaei since 2011. Their imprisonment appeared to contravene ICSU Statute 5 that opposes discrimination in science on grounds of religious beliefs. Given the continued imprisonment of the six scientists, the new Chair renewed the request to the Iranian Ministry in January 2013 for additional information on these cases and to consider their release, taking into account their time already spent in prison.

In the absence of any progress and taking into account additional information on the generally distressing situation of the Bahá'í community in Iran, the Chair was asked at the current meeting to renew the Committee's concern in the case of the six scientists in writing and send copies to UNESCO and the UN High Commission for Human Rights.

Decisions

To note the information provided at the meeting

To ask the Chair to renew the Committee's request to the Iranian authorities with copy to UNESCO and the UNHCHR

16.8 Büşra Ersanlı, Turkey

B Ersanlı, a political scientist at Istanbul's Marmara University and a non-Kurdish member of the Assembly of the Peace and Democracy Party (Barış ve Demokrasi Partisi, BDP) was imprisoned in October 2011 on charges of suspected links to the violent Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan, PKK), although she reportedly never advocated violence. In June 2012, the former Chair wrote to the Turkish Ministry of Justice, asking for further information and for B Ersanlı's unconditional release on bail. A month later, she was released from jail, pending the outcome of her on-going trial.

As indicated under agenda item 14.2 concerning the situation of Turkish academic organisations, the Chair intended to go to Turkey in August this year. CFRS members proposed at the current meeting that he should write to B Ersanlı and suggest a private meeting to discuss her situation. Concurrently, he was asked to write to the Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister, to ask for a meeting with him to discuss the situation of B Ersanlı.

Decisions

To ask the Chair to write to B Ersanlı and ask for a meeting with her in August

To ask the Chair to write to the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs and ask for a meeting to discuss the situation of B Ersanlı with him in August

16.9 Health professionals Bahrain

CFRS previously considered the situation of health care professionals that were shot at, killed, threatened or arrested by security forces during the Arab Spring in North African and Middle East countries. While not central to its remit, the Committee added its voice by supporting the campaign of the World Medical Association (WMA). In June 2012, the then Chair wrote to the King of Bahrain regarding the imprisonment of 48 health care professionals in Bahrain and referred to the WMA initiative. Later that month, the Bahrain High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld some convictions, but reduced the duration of their sentences, while other health professionals were cleared of all charges. Not considered were the appeals of two accused because they were absent during this process.

At the current meeting, C Corillon informed the Committee that three health professionals continued to be imprisoned. Additionally, the health professionals that had been released seemed precluded from finding employment in their field of formation because Bahrain only had one public hospital. In view of this continuously unresolved situation, the Chair was asked to write to the King of Bahrain again to acknowledge and express appreciation for the actions that he had undertaken so far to make the releases possible. At the same time, he should request that the remaining cases be resolved in accordance with the recommendations made in the 2011 "Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry."

Decisions

To note the developments in this case

To ask the Chair to write to the King of Bahrain to welcome the releases so far and to ask for the resolution of the outstanding cases

17 Freedom of science: individual cases (new)**17.1 Onur Hamzaoğlu, Turkey**

C Corillon introduced this case, referred to her by the Science Society Istanbul, at the current meeting. Professor O Hamzaoğlu was an epidemiologist at the Faculty of Medicine at Kocaeli University near Istanbul. Several scientific studies he had conducted on the heavily industrialised Dilovası area in Kocaeli Province indicated elevated mortality rates from cancer. In January 2011, when plans for the construction of a new iron-steel plant in that region became known, a journalist interviewed O Hamzaoğlu on possible effects to public health and the environment. O Hamzaoğlu indicated that his earlier findings and a study he was working on suggested the presence of heavy metals in new-borns' meconium, their mother's breast milk and in the air. This triggered denials from officials from Kocaeli Province and the Ministry of Health, accusing Professor Hamzaoğlu of "misinforming the public with the 'findings' of a yet uncompleted survey" and thereby causing panic in the local population. In April 2011, the Mayors of Dilovası and Kocaeli filed a petition for a criminal suit against O Hamzaoğlu, but because of Turkish law regulations, the Public Prosecutor could only pursue a suit if the university that employs a scientist gives permission to do so. A request to that effect was reportedly sent to the Rector of Kocaeli University, which led to a criminal investigation that appeared to be on-going. In parallel, the university's Ethics Committee also examined the case and, in October 2011, seemingly decided unanimously that O Hamzaoğlu had been ethically negligent. While recommending the "condemnation" of O Hamzaoğlu, the University's Rector reduced it to a "warning." Additionally, the Turkish Medical Association had also taken on the case for review and reportedly found no indication of ethical negligence but, rather, that O Hamzaoğlu's research "served a significant and important purpose."

CFRS members expressed concern that O Hamzaoğlu could possibly be condemned for his research. But because the case continued to be under investigation, they decided that more information needed to be obtained from the Science Society Istanbul through C Corillon to further clarify the circumstances before deciding on any action by CFRS.

Decisions

To note the documentation

To ask C Corillon to obtain more information from the Science Society Istanbul on this case and report to the next meeting

17.2 Pinar Selek, Turkey

C Corillon introduced the case of this Turkish sociologist, writer and advocate for the rights of minorities, including Kurds and Armenians, at the current meeting. Following an explosion in a marketplace in Istanbul in July 1998, she was among a group of people arrested and accused for having orchestrated the explosion as a member of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party. At the time, P Selek was researching for a book on the Kurdish movement, for which she also interviewed PKK members. After a trial she was detained for two and a half years, but then acquitted by the court in late 2000 due to a lack of evidence; an expert's report had found that the accidental ignition of a leaking liquid gas bottle, and not a bomb, had caused the explosion. P Selek was released subsequently, but the case was reopened in 2001 because a legal expert assigned by the Ministry of the Interior had concluded that it was nonetheless a bomb that had caused the explosion. Additional contradictory reports on the causes of the explosion were produced and P Selek had been in an out of the courts during the following years. The Istanbul Heavy Penal Court No 12 acquitted her in 2006, 2008 and 2011. In the meantime, P Selek took refuge to Germany and currently lives in France, but her case

continues to appear before different courts in Turkey. Most recently, in January 2013, the Istanbul Heavy Penal Court No 12 sentenced P Selek to life imprisonment. It appears that her case has been submitted to the European Court of Human Rights on the grounds that she had been tortured while in prison and that her right to due process had been denied.

CFRS members expressed their concern about this case that was unresolved after almost 15 years, but there was also a degree of uncertainty about the extent to which the situation of P Selek could be directly linked to her scientific work. It was therefore decided to follow developments in this case and, depending on the decision taken by the European Court of Human Rights, for the Committee to then consider taking action.

Decisions

To note the documentation
To keep the case pending

18 Conferences and Workshops

18.1 The case for international sharing of scientific data: a focus on developing countries (Washington DC, US, 2011)

CFRS had co-sponsored the International Symposium “The case for international sharing of scientific data: a focus on developing countries” in Washington DC in April 2011, organised by the US National Academies. The Committee contributed through the participation of the then Chair, C Corillon and the Executive Secretary at the actual meeting. Based on the symposium, CFRS issued an Advisory Note in November 2011. In December last year, the US National Academies Press published the symposium proceedings, with contributions by the former Chair and the Executive Secretary. A link to the online publication was made from the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal”.

Decision

To note the publication of this symposium co-sponsored by CFRS

18.2 Revaluing science in the digital age (Chicheley Hall, UK, 2012)

In September 2012, CFRS had co-sponsored a workshop organised by the UK Royal Society on “Revaluing science in the digital age.” Because an Advisory Note was planned as an outcome, CFRS considered drafts prepared by the Royal Society, including comments from the Secretariat, and former CFRS member D Vaux, at the last meeting. The revised versions, with comments from Committee members raised then and immediately after the meeting, were provided to the ICSU Executive Board meeting in November to inform its open access policy. The Secretariat informed the workshop organisers about these developments and thanked them for having invited CFRS.

C Smith reported at the current meeting that the Executive Board considered the CFRS documents and inputs from ICSU’s specialised data and information bodies and decided to establish a small working group to organise a consultation among the ICSU Membership on ‘open access’. The purpose of this exercise would be to produce, for the ICSU General Assembly in 2014, a report on key data and information issues and including a section on indicators and metrics. From CFRS, E Brézin was asked to serve as the contact person for this working group and participate in their deliberations as appropriate.

Decisions

To note the information provided at the meeting

To thank E Brézin for serving as possible contact person to the ICSU data and information working group

18.3 Science assessment and research integrity in rapidly developing science systems (China: CAST, 2014)

The offer of the China Association of Science and Technology (CAST) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to host, in April 2014, a workshop on science assessment was confirmed at the current meeting. CFRS members also took note of a document synthesised by the Secretariat with comments from a working group composed of the Chair, E Brézin, H Dweik and J Zhang with topics to be considered in such an event. In discussing these ideas at the current meeting and to take plans for this workshop further, the focus on China was considered appropriate because it was an interesting example for many developments in the science system. At the same time, China's experiences could be useful and of relevance to other countries around the globe.

The format agreed upon would be a one-day workshop for interaction with key players in the Chinese science system on the issues and challenges with which they are confronted. This dialogue would further include a couple of experts on review processes, behavioural change, etc. to link these insights with those made in Brazil and India, for example. While the first part of the meeting would be open to some 50 people from different academic levels, including students, the second part would be more limited to the Chinese leaders, the experts and CFRS members. Their discussions would serve as the basis on which to draft a CFRS Discussion Note that could potentially be fed into the 4th World Congress on Research Integrity (agenda item 4).

With these considerations, a draft programme would be circulated among CFRS members for their comments by mid-July and their suggestions of experts from outside China as contributors to this workshop.

Decisions

To note progress on this workshop

To ask the Secretariat to circulate the draft programme and workshop synopsis among CFRS members by mid-July

To ask CFRS members for comments and names of experts

19 Status of CFRS Advisory Notes

In taking stock of the Advisory Notes produced by CFRS to date, at its previous meeting the Committee reaffirmed the importance of a mechanism that would allow it to directly communicate with the ICSU Membership, while also considering how such notes related to the work of and policy statements issued by the ICSU Executive Board. It was thus suggested that the Advisory Notes be renamed "Discussion Notes" to distinguish them from formal ICSU policy documents. The Executive Board approved this proposal at its last meeting in 2012.

To further develop the interaction and build better mutual understanding between CFRS and the Executive Board, it was also agreed that the CFRS Chair would report to the Board once a year and join their meeting through teleconference or Skype if possible.

Decisions

To note the terminology of CFRS "Discussion Notes"

To note that the Chair would report to the Executive Board once a year

20 Future CFRS meetings

The two annual CFRS meetings normally took place in rotation between the ICSU Secretariat and elsewhere. Those outside Paris were usually linked to a conference of relevance to the Committee's work and, if possible, also involving the ICSU network. Accordingly, the next meeting in 2013 had previously been decided to take place in Paris on 7-8 October. Thereafter, the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) would host the first CFRS meeting in 2014 on 10-11 April in Beijing, related to the workshop discussed under agenda item 18.3 that would take place on 9 April. Further ahead, the second meeting of that year would take place in Paris on 6-7 October.

Decision

To note places and dates for the next three CFRS meetings: 7-8 October 2013 (Paris), 10-11 April 2014 (Beijing), 6-7 October 2014 (Paris)

21 Any other business

21.1 Papers to scientific journals by authors employed by the Government of Iran

The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of the Treasury administers and enforces economic and trade sanctions. In a recent note, made available to CFRS by an ICSU Executive Board member, an international publisher of scientific journals informed US-based editors and reviewers that OFAC sanctions would prohibit them from handling scientific manuscripts if any of the authors were employed by the Government of Iran or if an Iranian author had dual affiliations, e.g. university and government. The regulation did not appear to affect manuscripts where the authors were based at Iranian academic and research institutes or manuscripts originating from a clinical setting that was not government run.

Because such a scenario would affect the freedom of scientists to express and communicate their work, it was decided that the Secretariat should contact staff at the US National Academies to obtain their views on this situation and report at the next meeting.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to contact the US National Academies staff to ascertain their views and report to the next meeting

21.2 Research involving animal experiments

CFRS learnt from public sources of a case in which activists recently occupied animal experiment facilities at the University of Milan, Italy, releasing mice and rabbits and mixing up cage labels to confuse experimental protocols. In a Statement issued in 1996, ICSU recognised the need for animal experimentation to improve the health and well-being of humans and animals, while also stating that alternative methods should be utilised whenever possible. Because this document did not make reference to the right of scientists not to be attacked and because the issue of animal rights was a continuing one, Committee members decided that this case should be used to raise awareness among the ICSU Membership that any attacks on or interference with scientific work are not acceptable.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to include this case in the message on the current CFRS meeting to the ICSU Membership

21.3 Research exposed to public pressure

Public sources informed CFRS members about the situation of Sir Simon Wessely, Professor at Maudsley Hospital in the south of London, who faced a sustained campaign of attacks because of his public position on the causes of myalgic encephalomyelitis, or chronic fatigue syndrome. Its causes were a controversial subject and in the contested discussion S Wessely was on the side of the scientific majority arguing that they were a matter of psychology rather than of organic origin. Concerned by this situation, Committee members asked the Secretariat to include this issue in the CFRS meeting message to ICSU Members and to include it in the agenda of the next meeting.

Decisions

To ask the Secretariat to include this case in the briefing message on the current CFRS meeting to the ICSU Membership

To ask the Secretariat to add this matter to the agenda of the next meeting

21.4 Gender issue in field research

CFRS members learnt from different sources that doing fieldwork involving human interaction with local communities entails potential risk to researchers, particularly women. This could include, for example, sexual favours requested from scientists in the field in return for assisting their studies. Concerned about this information, CFRS members asked the Secretariat to contact the relevant ICSU Union Members for an assessment of the situation in their specific domains and to report back at the next meeting. The relevant Unions would include the International Geographical Union (IGU), International Sociological Association (ISA) and the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES).

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to contact relevant ICSU Union Members to assess the situation in their fields and to report at the next meeting

21.5 Topics for CFRS workshops

Committee members were reminded that the Secretariat welcomes suggestions for topics to be considered at future CFRS meetings or workshops.

Decision

To ask CFRS members to propose to the Secretariat topics for consideration at future CFRS meetings or workshops