

**15th Meeting of the
Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science CFRS**

ICSU Secretariat
7-8 October 2013
Paris

Meeting Report

- Present** Leiv K. Sydnes (Chair), Ashima Anand, David Black (*ex officio*), Edouard Brézin (day 1), Merry Bullock, Carol Corillon, Hasan Dweik, Alberto J. Núñez Sellés, Akilagpa Sawyerr, Silke Schick Tanz, Irene Villaseñor, Menahem Yaari, Jiansheng Zhang
- Apologies** Fatma Attia, Alexander Kaminskii
- ICSU Secretariat** Roger Pfister, Carthage Smith (*ex officio*)
- Guests** Denise Young and Johannes Mengel (ICSU Communications section, for agenda item 5.1) and John Crowley (UNESCO Division of Ethics and Global Change, for agenda item 6)

1 Welcoming remarks and introduction

The Chair welcomed Alberto J. Núñez Sellés, a chemist from Cuba who currently works in the Dominican Republic, as a new member, replacing Washington Bénitez-Ortiz from Ecuador, who was a Committee member until January 2013.

E Brézin was able to participate on day 1 only, because he had to attend a meeting at the French Academy on 8 October. A Kaminskii sent his apologies because of the current situation with the Russian Academy of Sciences (agenda item 11.2) and F Attia was prevented because of difficulties to obtain her visa. All other Committee members attended both days of the meeting.

The Chair informed the Committee that Denise Young and Johannes Mengele (ICSU Communications section) and John Crowley (UNESCO Division of Ethics and Global Change) would join the meeting as guests on day 1 for agenda items 5.1 and 6 respectively.

Committee members were reminded that travel arrangements to attend CFRS meetings should be made as early as possible and through the ICSU Secretariat for reasons of cost effectiveness. Equally, the Chair asked members to limit their use of the Internet during Committee meetings to issues that were currently under consideration.

Decisions

To welcome Alberto J. Núñez Sellés as a new member

2 Adoption of agenda

CFRS members adopted the meeting agenda.

Members were reminded that while the meeting report will be made available publicly, the individual documents were strictly confidential.

In view of the discussion on future CFRS workshops and conferences (agenda item 13) on day 2, members were invited to reflect on possible issues and topics.

Decisions

To adopt the agenda

3 Report of the 14th CFRS meeting and implementation by the Secretariat

The report of the previous CFRS meeting in Montreal, agreed on by all members electronically, was put on the ICSU website in August. Information on all decisions that the Secretariat implemented and that did not suggest specific additional action was provided under this agenda item, while all other matters were considered at the relevant agenda items below.

3rd World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI; Montreal, Canada, May 2013)

Committee members were consulted for comments on the draft “Montreal Statement on Research Integrity in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations” that was made available online on 24 June. The consolidated responses were sent to the conference organisers on 16 August. In addition, a new section on research integrity was added to the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal” to serve as a clearinghouse for this topic, assembling WCRI material as well as statements, codes of conduct and reports of global relevance.

CFRS communication: corporate presentation

With minor modifications, an updated and revised version of the PowerPoint presentation was sent to all Committee members on 28 June for use at relevant meetings. At the current meeting, CFRS members were invited to inform the Secretariat about presentations they make that include mention of ICSU and/or CFRS as well as to distribute ICSU Annual Reports on such occasions, for example.

Scientific publishing ethics

During 2012, the Secretariat was approached regarding the handling of two publications, written by a primatologist in Sri Lanka, by the Editor-in-Chief of an international scientific journal. The Secretariat wrote to the two parties to express disappointment that their case was not yet resolved, and to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) to enquire whether their guidelines had been followed. Benefiting from their participation at the 3rd WCRI in Montreal, two COPE Council members were invited to the CFRS meeting there. They explained that the author in this case could directly turn to COPE for assistance because the journal in question was a COPE member. On 4 July, the Secretariat informed the author in Sri Lanka accordingly, asking for an update in case of significant developments. COPE did not provide any further details, in spite of several attempts by the Secretariat and the Chair to obtain such information from the two COPE representatives who had addressed CFRS in Montreal. Because the initial contact was with the Chair of COPE, the Secretariat was asked to formally write to her again to ascertain the current situation.

Papers to scientific journals by authors from Iran

Because of US sanctions against Iran, the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) regulations prohibit US-based editors and reviewers from handling scientific manuscripts if any of the authors was employed by the Government of Iran or had dual affiliations, i.e. academic and government. The Secretariat contacted a staff member at the US National Academy of Sciences, who was suggested by C Corillon because of his long experience in relations with Iran. According to his information, this regulation did not affect manuscripts of authors who were based at Iranian academic or research institutes, or manuscripts from a clinical setting that was not government run. Although concerned, the US National Academy of Sciences

had not yet been made aware of any problems involving such limitations. Should this be the case, they would try to overcome the limitations through OFAC licenses or other steps. While noting that the actual situation appeared to be unproblematic, CFRS members considered the OFAC regulation to be in contradiction with the Principle of Universality of Science. To have confirmation that the scientific community was not adversely affected by this regulation, and following verification that the regulation was currently still applied to Iran, the Secretariat was asked to contact the ICSU Union Members to make them aware of the regulation and determine whether it had any implications for Union journal editors. Depending on the outcome of that query, the publication of a note in *Nature* would be considered.

Dual use research

In October 2012, the Australian Parliament approved the Defence Trade Controls Act to implement a pact between the United States and Australia from 2007. Intending to streamline trade in defence-related technology and know-how, the act would, in principle, allow the Australian government to tighten control on research considered to have potential dual use application. The Australian Academy of Science was consulted on the draft legislation, following which a two-year trial period was included as a pivotal amendment. Based on a draft by D Black, the Chair wrote to Professor Ian Chubb, Chief Scientist of the Australian Government, in July to support the ICSU National Member in its endeavour to preserve the freedom of scientific inquiry for researchers in Australia and to ask for updates. The Australian Chief Scientist confirmed in his response that a steering panel would follow developments and produce biannual reports that would be accessible online. The Secretariat informed the Australian Academy about this, proposing that it should revert to CFRS for further action if considered necessary. D Black would also follow developments and report to CFRS as appropriate.

Interaction with other science organisations

From the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal,” links were added to the websites of other organisations dealing with science and human rights issues, namely the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, Scholars at Risk, Physicians for Human Rights and the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA). A link to the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies website had been added previously. These organisations were asked for reciprocal links from their website to the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal.” Concerning work of other science organisations in the area of scientific integrity, pertinent documents were included in the new section “Research Integrity” on the “Freedom and Responsibility Portal,” *inter alia* from the global network of science academies (IAP), the InterAcademy Council (IAC), the All European Academies (ALLEA) and the European Science Foundation (ESF).

Freedom of science and the UN sanctions system

CFRS had been engaged in the case of a physicist in Iran, who could not attend scientific meetings abroad because his name was on the UN Security Council sanctions list against Iran. Responding to a letter from the Chair, the International Court of Justice in The Hague confirmed in writing that they could make an advisory opinion on the legality of such sanctions lists if asked by UN organs entitled to do so. At the current meeting, it was not considered appropriate for CFRS to take any further action.

Freedom of science: independence of academies

Following a letter of appeal to CFRS, the Chair wrote to the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts in November 2012, emphasising the need to respect the independence of academies and their selection processes based on scientific merit, free of any political interference. The Secretariat shared this letter with IAP and ALLEA, the latter of which provided copies of their correspondence with the Montenegrin Academy. Their documents confirmed the approach taken by CFRS. Additionally, at a meeting of ICSU National Members from Europe in Prague on 1 October, the representative from the Montenegrin Academy personally thanked R Pfister for the CFRS letter.

Open access and evaluation by metrics

Two weeks before the current meeting, E Brézin represented CFRS at a meeting of the ICSU Executive Board sub-group that was tasked to look into issues of open access and evaluation by metrics. Its brief was not to consider alternative business models for publishing, but open access as a principle. This would include making information and data freely available to readers and authors, ensuring long-term accessibility as well as preserving and maintaining quality standards. As regards metrics, reference would be made to the San Francisco “Declaration on Research Assessment” (agenda item 13.2). CFRS would be consulted on drafts of the sub-group’s work.

Decisions

To note the meeting report

To note the follow-up actions by the Secretariat

CFRS communication: to ask Committee members to inform the Secretariat about presentations that included mention of ICSU and/or CFRS

Scientific publishing ethics: to ask the Secretariat to write to the COPE Chair to enquire about the status of the case in question

Papers to scientific journals by authors from Iran: to ask the Secretariat to write to ICSU Union Members to establish the implications of the OFAC regulation for them

4 CFRS initiative on academic freedom

Reflecting its concern that increasing pressure on academic freedom and scientific autonomy around the globe was calling into question the Principle of Universality of Science, CFRS had taken various actions. A letter to raise awareness was sent to all ICSU Members, constitutional texts that provided for academic freedom were assembled and a section on “Academic Freedom” was added on the Freedom and Responsibility Portal. While recognising the issue’s continued relevance and importance for CFRS’s brief, the Committee also agreed that its meaning and scope continued to be fuzzy.

For the current meeting, E Brézin and S Schicktanz prepared a draft document that was intended to clarify and frame academic freedom as it related to CFRS’s remit. Referring to the 1997 UNESCO “Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel,” it was phrased in broad terms, while nevertheless raising specific issues. It drew a distinction between academic freedom at the individual and institutional level and pointed out the responsibility aspect if scientists wanted to benefit from academic freedom.

In considering the paper, CFRS members made several suggestions concerning the wording, for example with regard to scientists contacting the media, and the proposal to add specific issues, such as commercial pressures. Beyond these more detailed observations, there was agreement that the document should refer to the Universality of Science Principle as an umbrella, to indicate that the document dealt with academic freedom as it pertained to the conduct of science. In addition, it was proposed to restructure the document and bundle elements of the text.

E Brézin, M Bullock and S Schicktanz, assisted by the Secretariat, were asked to review the document in light of the discussion at the current meeting and present a revised draft at the CFRS meeting in April 2014.

Decisions

To ask E Brézin, M Bullock and S Schicktanz, with the support of the Secretariat, to revise the document along the lines discussed at the current meeting

To ask the Secretariat to circulate the revised version among CFRS members by December for their comments

5 CFRS communications

5.1 Message to ICSU Members on CFRS meetings

Given the potential interest of CFRS's work to ICSU Members, it was decided from its beginning that meeting reports would be made available publicly, but this was not an appropriate tool for general communication. At the Montreal meeting, the Secretariat was therefore asked to compile a memo with the main points from CFRS meetings to inform the ICSU Membership on the Committee's activities. A draft to this effect was prepared, but not sent after consultation with the Communications section at the ICSU Secretariat, who had some concerns. To re-consider content and format of such a message, Denise Young and Johannes Mengel, staff members from the Communications section, took part in the current meeting to share their expertise.

In confirming that the work produced by CFRS had the potential to attract the interest of a wider audience, they suggested that it would be helpful for communication considerations to flow in CFRS's activities at an early stage, for example when a meeting or workshop would be organised. It was therefore agreed that, in the future, the Secretariat would share information with the Communications section on Committee meetings prior to them taking place. Also, a Communications staff member would participate at CFRS meetings, at least when they were being held in Paris. In the interim, the Secretariat would, jointly with the ICSU Communications section, pursue the following strands of action suggested in discussion at the current meeting:

- review the presentation of the Freedom and Responsibility Portal for further improvement
- assemble a list of international days on science and freedom and/or responsibility that could serve as anchors for news alerts on issues dealt with by CFRS
- engage the ICSU Membership whenever possible to raise their awareness of and interest in CFRS's work
- include news on CFRS activities on the ICSU website as appropriate for subsequent inclusion in the quarterly newsletter *ICSU Insight*

In parallel, an attempt would be made to draft a communications strategy to position the Committee in the long-term as a competent, useful and reliable source of expertise, information and/or assistance to the science community.

Decisions

To ask the Secretariat to make available CFRS meeting information to the ICSU Communications section before meetings take place

To ask the Secretariat, together with the ICSU Communications section, to implement the measures suggested at the current meeting to further promote the visibility of the Committee's work

To ask the Secretariat to develop, together with the ICSU Communications section, a long-term CFRS communications strategy

5.2 Booklet "Freedom, Responsibility and Universality of Science"

The revised draft for the 2008 CFRS booklet, with updates and revisions proposed by M Bullock, was sent to Committee members for general remarks in the wake of the Montreal meeting. The Secretariat assembled the comments, notably the substantial revision proposals on the booklet's first part provided by S Schicktanz, and made them available to the Chair in June for his consideration.

In welcoming this revised version and thanking M Bullock and S Schicktanz for their contributions, Committee members agreed that it was essential to further review the booklet and add current examples of CFRS's work to the description of each area of activity. The Freedom and Responsibility Portal should be adequately referenced, and the academic freedom initia-

tive included. The Secretariat was asked to work on the booklet along these suggested lines, taking into account comments from the ICSU Communications section regarding the booklet's overall presentation and length. The Secretariat would then ensure a consultation process as follows: S Schicktanz (end of November), M Bullock (first week of December), CFRS members (end of January 2014) and ICSU Communications section (February/March), the latter in particular for formatting purposes.

The finalised version of the booklet would be considered at the next CFRS meeting in April 2014, in view of the deadline for its completion in May and so that it could be presented at the ICSU General Assembly in September. The booklet was aimed at initiating a dialogue with the Membership and their comments could feed into its subsequent revision.

Decisions

- To note the revised version and thank M Bullock and S Schicktanz for their work
- To ask the Secretariat to further review the booklet as suggested at the current meeting and take into account comments from the ICSU Communications section
- To ask the Secretariat to ensure consultation of S Schicktanz, M Bullock, CFRS members and the ICSU Communications section between November 2013 and March 2014
- To ask the Secretariat to take the finalised version to the CFRS meeting in April 2014

6 UNESCO: “Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers” (1974) and interaction with the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)

The UNESCO Executive Board decided in October 2012 to consider a revision of the 1974 UNESCO “Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers” by an *ad hoc* expert group of its World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST). The likely modifications appeared to concern primarily the terminology, while the substance of the original Recommendation would remain. Although serving in their personal capacity, A Anand and I Villaseñor were members of this expert group. After the CFRS meeting in Montreal, they informed the Secretariat that the 8th Ordinary Session of COMEST discussed the item of revising the 1974 Recommendation on 27-29 May in light of the expert group's draft report. John Crowley from the UNESCO Division of Ethics and Global Change joined the current meeting for an update, and to identify areas where CFRS and COMEST could add value to each other's activities more generally.

He informed Committee members that on 4 October the UNESCO Executive Board decided to put the revision of the 1974 Recommendation on this year's agenda of the UNESCO General Conference during 5-20 November. On that occasion, UNESCO member states would decide whether the Recommendation should be revised and through which process. A probable scenario would be two years of options-oriented drafting by experts and, dependant on their agreement, two years of intergovernmental consultation. The purpose of this exercise would be to update and revise the document by including issues that were of no particular concern in the early 1970s, such as gender, equity and environmental responsibility, without losing the main thrust of what was a very positive document in terms of the rights of scientists. If successful, the new Recommendation could become an effective normative instrument that UNESCO could ask its member states to implement with monitoring reports. It could therefore be instrumental for the implementation of Article 27(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that stipulates: “Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.” Given the nature of the Recommendation's thematic orientation, and because ICSU was already an *ex officio* member of COMEST, it appeared natural to closely involve CFRS as a stakeholder in the first part of the revision process, as suggested above. This engagement could serve as an opportunity for the Committee to reach out to the ICSU Membership and engage with the international policy community.

It was therefore agreed that C Smith should represent ICSU and introduce its position at the discussion on the relevant agenda item at the forthcoming UNESCO General Conference, and that the ICSU Secretariat should explore possibilities to enhance its representation in COMEST.

Decisions

To thank J Crowley for his presentation at the current meeting
To ask C Smith to take part in the UNESCO General Conference when the revision of the Recommendation was on the agenda
To ask the ICSU Secretariat to explore ways of enhancing ICSU's representation in COMEST

7 Research exposed to public pressure

In Montreal, CFRS members asked to include in the current meeting's agenda the situation of Sir Simon Wessely, a Professor at a London hospital, because he faced a sustained campaign of attacks related to his public position in the controversy over the causes of chronic fatigue syndrome. Also at the previous meeting, Committee members learnt of attacks on scientists at an Italian university, whose research involved animal experiments. The Secretariat was asked to include this case in the CFRS meeting memo to raise the awareness of ICSU Members that attacks on, or interference with, scientific work were not acceptable. However, because the message after the Montreal meeting was not sent, the two above examples of pressure on science and scientists were jointly put to CFRS for it to consider taking a particular position on either or both cases.

At the current meeting, CFRS members mentioned other examples that involved physical violence against scientists and scientific institutions or projects. For example: the destruction of fields with GM crop experiments in France, the case of the forensic scientist in Guatemala considered by CFRS previously and threats against climate change scientists in Australia. These examples seemed to suggest that scientists were probably exposed to violence more than the average person because they were taking positions in the public domain. Although not opting for a statement on the above two cases, Committee members asked the Secretariat to develop an operating document derived from ICSU's Statute 5 that would express CFRS's condemnation of the victimisation of scientists and the scientific enterprise in generic terms so that it could be used in future cases.

Decisions

To ask the Secretariat to draft a generic document that would condemn violence in various forms and by various actors against scientists and the scientific enterprise

8 Gender issue in field research

At the Montreal meeting, CFRS members considered information that fieldwork entailed potential risks to researchers, particularly women, for example in the form of sexual favours being requested by members of local communities in return for assistance for their studies. On 9 July, the Secretariat wrote to ICSU Union Members potentially concerned – International Geographical Union (IGU), International Sociological Association (ISA), International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) – to enquire about the situation in their fields. In spite of a reminder on 6 September, no response was received from any of the contacted Unions.

Considering this to be unsatisfactory, the Chair was asked to write personal follow-up letters to the persons serving as contacts in these Unions for ICSU matters, to establish whether there was any guidance on such issues in their scientific fields. If necessary, the Secretariat

would follow up through personal contacts.

Decisions

To ask the Chair to renew the query to the identified ICSU Unions by addressing their ICSU contact persons individually
To ask the Secretariat to follow up through personal contact if necessary

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

During 2011-2012, CFRS was involved in a consultation process on 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 the UN “Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights,” together with details on CFRS’s contribution, was made available online on the Freedom and Responsibility Portal. As a follow-up, the “Special Rapporteur” held a seminar for further consultation at the UN in Geneva on 3-4 October.

To ensure representation from around the globe, the organisers contacted the Secretariat for names of panellists from the African and Asian regions. Given their interest and expertise, the Secretariat suggested A Anand, A Sawyerr and I Villaseñor as possible speakers, of which the latter could effectively take part. On behalf of CFRS, R Pfister was also included as a speaker. The presentation of I Villaseñor in the session “Scientific freedom” on day 1 focused on the 1974 UNESCO “Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers” (agenda item 6) and how this would further enhance responsibilities of scientists in their work. R Pfister’s paper in the session “Access to information, technology and knowledge” on day 2 was based on the 2011 CFRS Advisory Note “Sharing scientific data, with a focus on developing countries.” The seminar proceedings are scheduled to be on the agenda of the UN Human Rights Committee in June 2014. Seminar participants could be consulted on a draft version for their comments.

Also taking part in the seminar was AAAS, through their Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program. Their contribution related to the recently released AAAS report “Defining the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications: American scientists’ perspectives.” Given the relevance of this report to CFRS’s brief, the Secretariat would include it in the documents for the next CFRS meeting.

Decision

To note the information provided at the meeting
To ask the Secretariat to include the AAAS report in the documentation for the CFRS meeting in April 2014

10 Freedom of science: generic issues (update and new)

10.1 Palestine-Israeli scientific relations

CFRS had previously taken action in the context of the Palestine-Israel situation, generically and in cases of individual scientists and scientific meetings. Presently, the Committee reaffirmed its stance in favour of science co-operation between the two communities. In this context the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization (IPSO), which was established in 2003, was cited as a very positive example of co-operation that merited stronger support from donors.

On a related issue, C Smith informed Committee members about a consultation meeting on the global research programme Future Earth that ICSU organised at the Cyprus Institute in June 2013. Scientists were invited from 16 different countries in the Middle East and North

Africa region, including one scientist from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. A number of invitees protested the presence of the Israeli scientist and boycotted his presentation, despite the strong line taken by ICSU and the hosts in support of the Principle of Universality of Science. C Smith subsequently discussed this situation with the President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Academy's position regarding the invitation of Israeli scientists to conferences with participants from the Middle East and North Africa.

The Committee condemned the behaviour of the scientists who boycotted the Israeli scientist in Cyprus, because it was a grave breach of the ICSU Principle of Universality of Science. It confirmed the ICSU position in favour of co-operation rather than boycott, which was considered especially important for global sustainability research done in the Middle East and North Africa region. To help avoid such situations in the future, the Secretariat was asked to compile a guidance document for meeting organisers that would include ICSU Statute 5 and a few application examples. It should be emphasised that scientists from all countries around the globe, irrespective of their political orientation, were entitled to participate in scientific meetings and that this was crucial to promote international research collaboration for the benefit of mankind. The Secretariat should make this guidance note available on the ICSU website and disseminate it among the ICSU Regional Offices.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to prepare a guidance note on the application of the Principle of Universality for organisers of regional scientific meetings
To ask the Secretariat to make this documentation available on the Freedom and Responsibility Portal and share it with the ICSU Regional Offices

10.2 Violence against academics in Iraq

A report in *Al-Fanar Media* suggested that academics appeared to be particularly exposed to acts of violence in Iraq because of their privileged status in society. This included academics and doctors becoming targets of assassinations and kidnappings. It was unclear, though, whether this was a real trend that would justify action by CFRS. The Committee therefore asked the Secretariat to verify and substantiate the situation through contact with organisations working in and/or on Iraq, notably Scholars at Risk, CARA, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, as well as to search the Internet for relevant information.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to substantiate the situation through contact with relevant organisations working in and/or on Iraq and to search the Internet

10.3 Visa problems at ICSU Union Member and other international scientific meetings

Recently, the Secretariat was informed about difficulties that several participants encountered in trying to obtain visas to attend two separate ICSU Union science congresses in the United Kingdom, i.e. that of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) in Birmingham in July and of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) in Manchester in August. In the wake of the two meetings, the Secretariat was provided with detailed case information on 17 scientists who were affected. It was likely that other registered participants also could not attend because of visa problems, but that they did not contact the conference organisers for assistance. In addition to providing relevant documents, the IUPS Executive Committee indicated to C Smith that, had they known about the situation beforehand, they would have considered not holding their meeting in the UK.

In a separate instance, ICSU was contacted by its sister organisation, the International Social Science Council (ISSC), because Valentin Kolossov, President of the International Geo-

graphical Union (IGU), also an ICSU Union Member, faced visa problems to attend the ISSC 29th General Assembly and the related World Social Science Forum in Montreal, Canada, on 10-15 October. In this case, CFRS provided a letter of support to assist V Kolossov in his visa application.

In considering the case details provided by the organisers of the two congresses in the UK, CFRS members were concerned that the measures taken by the authorities to prevent illegal immigration were interfering with international scientific meetings. There appeared to be a particular emphasis on establishing the applicants' financial means to ensure that they did not become economic immigrants. The procedures to ascertain this, including the provision of personal bank details and other financial guarantees, were considered degrading for bona fide scientists who were simply wishing to attend meetings and had personal invitations and return tickets.

Committee members agreed that the UK Royal Society should be consulted to ensure joint action that would help to alleviate rather than aggravate the situation. This could include a letter to the Home Office, the Minister of State for Universities and Science and to the Government Chief Scientific Adviser to express the Committee's concern, to point out the adverse consequences for the UK's science community and to ask for measures to facilitate the visa process for bona fide scientists to attend meetings. In the contact with the UK Royal Society, it should also be suggested that they consider installing a mechanism whereby they would serve as a kind of clearing house for organisers of international scientific meetings vis-à-vis the relevant UK authorities. This could be similar to the assistance provided by the US National Academies' International Visitors Office.

In parallel, the Secretariat was asked to thank the two ICSU Unions for the detailed case information and indicate that CFRS was pursuing several follow up measures. Additionally, the Secretariat would further review the document with advice regarding the organisation of international scientific meetings and adapt where necessary. The section "International Meetings & Visas" on the Freedom and Responsibility Portal would be further developed in consultation with the ICSU Communications section. Pulling all this together, the Secretariat would write to ICSU Members to alert them about the visa refusals and that planning international scientific meetings in the UK required familiarity with the latest visa requirements and challenges. This communication should also contain suggestions on how to best address the situation by referring to the Freedom and Responsibility Portal.

Decision

- To ask C Smith to consult the UK Royal Society to establish its position and to agree on any joint action
- To ask the Secretariat to thank the IUAES and IUPS for having provided detailed information on the refused visa applications and indicate that follow-up measures were being pursued
- To ask the Secretariat to adapt the CFRS document with advice regarding the organisation of international scientific meeting as appropriate
- To ask the Secretariat to revise the information under "International Meetings & Visas" on the Freedom and Responsibility Portal
- To ask the Secretariat to alert ICSU Members about the visa challenges in the UK and provide assistance

11 Freedom of science: independence of academies (update and new)

11.1 Turkey

CFRS had previously discussed with concern the situation of science organisations in Turkey, including 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). In addition, several recent articles in *Nature*, *Science* and *ScienceInsider* suggested an increasing politicisation of science and political pressure on scientists in Turkey. Of equal concern to CFRS were cases of individual scientists. A report released at the end of July, based on a fact-finding mission by the IHRN Network and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina to Turkey in February, drew attention to a number of cases of unjustly accused scientists, including some of those considered later in the meeting (agenda items 12.6-12.8).

Whilst attending the World Chemistry Congress and General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) in Istanbul in mid-August 2013, the Chair tried to use the opportunity to raise awareness among that section of the science community as to the situation in Turkey. In the absence of a sense of particular interest, the Chair was now considering writing a note for the Union's magazine, *Chemistry International*. At their current meeting, and beyond this particular instance, CFRS members considered ways and means of encouraging ICSU Unions to inform their memberships about national contexts where the globally accepted freedoms of scientists were in jeopardy. It was a matter of alerting them so that their meetings would not take place without making any reference to such situations and thereby demonstrate solidarity among scientists. In an attempt to pro-actively engage the ICSU Unions in this way, C Smith would make available the list of Union conferences known to the ICSU Secretariat at the next CFRS meeting. Furthermore, the Chair would bring the issue of engaging the ICSU Unions to promote CFRS's work to the attention of the ICSU General Assembly in 2014.

As regards the individual cases, and in addition to the consideration of cases later during this meeting, the Secretariat was asked to draft a generic letter with reference to the IHRN Network report to the attention of the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, with copy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Turkey.

Decision

- To ask C Smith to introduce the list of planned ICSU Union Member conferences available to the ICSU Secretariat at the next CFRS meeting
- To ask the Chair to raise Union involvement in CFRS's work at the 2014 ICSU General Assembly
- To ask the Secretariat to draft a generic letter on the situation of several unjustly charged scientists to the Turkish President, Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, with copy to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

11.2 Russia

On 27 June, the Vice Prime Minister and the Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Government presented a bill to reform the Russian Academy of Sciences, which was established in 1724 and has been an ICSU National Member since 1955. The key elements of the current reform initiative included merging the Russian Academy of Sciences with those of Medical Sciences and Agricultural Sciences, creating a federal agency to manage their property during a transition period, banning elections of new members for three years and abolishing the category of corresponding members. The request by the newly elected President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladimir Fortov, to Russian President Vladimir Putin to withdraw the bill and allow for the Academy's internal reform within a year's time was turned down. On 5 July, the State Duma, the Russian Parliament, approved the bill after two readings, but with some changes, e.g. the merger of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the abolishment of corresponding members were dropped.

These developments received international attention. In his letter of 9 July to Academy President Fortov, put online on the ICSU website, the CFRS Chair emphasised that the independence of Academies was a prerequisite for the free and responsible conduct of science,

enabling them to provide independent and evidence-based scientific advice to government and for the benefit of society. The CFRS letter was gratefully acknowledged in written by President Fortov and his Advisor, Michael Ugromov, and it was posted on the Russian Academy's website.

At its third and final reading on 18 September, the State Duma adopted the bill with a few amendments. Accordingly, the three academies mentioned above will be merged and their members will become full members of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Russian Government will establish a special agency to manage their property and budget. Russian President Putin signed this revised bill on 27 September.

Although concerned about the mechanism and timing of the reform, the Committee also agreed that there needed to be room for manoeuvre by national governments to implement changes considered necessary to render the work of academies more effective and to benefit the country and society.

Decisions

To note the developments and information provided at the meeting

12 Freedom of science: individual cases (updates)

12.1 Saidqul Ashurov, Uzbekistan

CFRS had made several attempts through several sources to obtain more information on the case of the Chief Metallurgist for Oxus Gold plc., who was accused of having revealed state secrets. The renewed query in July by the CFRS Chair to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was not met with a response. Because the Secretariat's renewed search on the Internet for more information did not unearth any further details, the Committee decided to consider this case as pending, but not currently requiring additional action.

Decision

To keep this case pending without currently taking additional action

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

The Chair reiterated CFRS's concern about the attacks against these Iranian physicists during 2010-2012 by writing to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran on 5 July. Supporting Tehran's call for an international investigation and specifically asking for a response from the UN officials to this, no answer was received prior to the Committee's current meeting. Dissatisfied with this outcome, the Committee decided that a renewed letter, unchanged in substance, should be posted by registered mail, benefiting from contact details to be provided by C Corillon, to the Personal Assistant to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Decisions

To ask the Chair to resend the letter by normal, registered mail to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

12.3 Omid Kokabee, Iran

During a return trip to his home country, this Iranian doctoral student in physics, who was enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin, was arrested in January 2011. His trial in May 2012 before Branch 15 of Tehran's Revolutionary Court failed to meet internationally recognised standards for a fair trial. Nonetheless, in August of that year, Tehran's Court of Appeal confirmed his ten-year prison sentence. Distressed about the situation of this young scientist, both the former and current Chair asked the Iranian authorities in writing to review the case.

In light of O Kokabee's continued imprisonment and publicly available reliable sources suggesting that his detainment may be related to non-co-operation with the Iranian military, the Chair renewed the request to the Iranian government in July 2013.

At the current meeting, CFRS members were informed that the American Physical Society recently awarded to O Kokabee and Boris Altshuler, of the Lebedev Physical Institute their Andrei Sakharov Prize, which recognises scientists committed to human rights. Taking into account that the changes in Iran's political leadership in August resulted in the release of a prominent human rights lawyer, and because no response to the CFRS's letter was received as of the current meeting, Committee members asked the Chair to send a new letter of appeal to the Iranian government authorities.

Decisions

To ask the Chair to renew his request to the Iranian government authorities to review O Kokabee's case

12.4 Bahá'í community leaders, Iran

The Chair renewed his request to the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology on 5 July for additional information on six imprisoned scientists of the Bahá'í faith. He also asked that their release be considered because of their time already spent in prison, and because their imprisonment appeared to contravene ICSU Statute 5 that opposes discrimination in science on grounds of religious beliefs. A copy of the letter was sent to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran and to the UNESCO Director General.

The Deputy Director of the UN Human Rights in Iran Unit acknowledged receipt of the letter. In confirming the UN Special Rapporteur's continued concern about the situation of the Bahá'í in Iran, he asked for the names of witnesses who could be interviewed to describe the situation of that community. To follow this up, the Secretariat liaised with the Representative of the Bahá'í International Community to the UN in Geneva. Being in close contact with the office of the Special Rapporteur, they had already arranged for a number of Bahá'ís to be interviewed.

Against the background of recent political changes in Iran, the Chair was asked to renew his request for information from the Iranian government on these cases and to plead for the release of the Bahá'í scientists.

Decisions

To ask the Chair to renew a reworded request for additional information from the Iranian government authorities and ask for the release of the six Bahá'í scientists

12.5 Health professionals, Bahrain

CFRS had supported the campaign of the World Medical Association (WMA) regarding the situation of health care professionals in Bahrain, of which three of the initial 48 continued to be imprisoned. In Montreal, Committee members asked the Chair to again write to the King of Bahrain to acknowledge the releases that have taken place and express appreciation for them, while, at the same time, requesting that the remaining cases be resolved by applying the recommendations made in the 2011 "Report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry." The CFRS letter was despatched in mid-July.

Since then, and according to information provided by C Corillon, one further health professional was released, leaving two medics still in prison. At the current meeting, it was further indicated that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights would soon go on a mission to Bahrain. Committee members therefore asked the Chair to explain CFRS's engagement and concern in writing to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as to appeal to the King of Bahrain to release the remaining health professionals from prison.

Decisions

To ask the Chair to write to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to document CFRS's engagement on behalf of the health professionals in Bahrain
To ask the Chair to renew the appeal to the King of Bahrain for the release of all unjustly sentenced health professionals from prison

12.6 Büşra Ersanlı, Turkey

Charged with suspected links to the violent Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), this political scientist and non-Kurdish member of the Assembly of the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) was imprisoned in October 2011, although she reportedly has never advocated or practiced violence. She was released from jail in July 2012, pending the outcome of her on-going trial. To benefit from his attending the IUPAC conferences in Turkey in mid-August (agenda item 11.1), the Chair sought a private meeting with B Ersanlı and wrote to the Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister to ask for a meeting with him to discuss B Ersanlı's situation.

While the Minister did not respond, the Chair had the opportunity of a personal meeting with B Ersanlı of several hours to discuss her situation. Waiting for her trial to take place either in December 2013 or January 2014, the Chair would attend the court hearing as an international observer for CFRS. CFRS members welcomed this gesture at the current meeting. To optimise his presence in this instance, the Chair would liaise with B Ersanlı and her lawyers as well as C Corillon. Communication about the trial and its outcome would be considered if appropriate.

Decisions

To ask the Chair to attend the trial against B Ersanlı as an observer, after liaising with B Ersanlı, her lawyers and C Corillon
To communicate the substance of the trial and its outcome as considered appropriate

12.7 Kemal Gürüz, Turkey

The retired professor of chemical engineering, formerly a university rector, head of the Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council (TÜBİTAK) and chair of Turkey's Council of Higher Education (YÖK), was imprisoned in June 2012 for his alleged role in the 1997 so-called "unarmed coup" or "Post-modern coup" against Turkey's first Islamic-led government. He was the only non-military member among the 109 charged in this trial. CFRS had previously considered the situation of K Gürüz in the Ergenekon trial and the former Chair had written a letter to *Nature*.

In June 2013, K Gürüz attempted to commit suicide while in prison. At the end of August, he was sentenced to 13 years and 11 months in prison in the Ergenekon trial. Because no arrest warrant was issued, he could have gone home pending the outcome of the appeal, but he remained imprisoned at the time, awaiting the judge's decision in the "unarmed coup" trial, which had not yet begun. However, on 5 September he was released on probation pending the verdict of the High Court of Appeals in the Ergenekon trial and the verdict in the "unarmed coup" trial.

The developments reported at the current meeting did not require specific action, but the situation of K Gürüz would continue to be monitored and CFRS would take action as appropriate.

Decisions

To continue monitoring the situation of K Gürüz and take action as appropriate

12.8 Onur Hamzaoğlu, Turkey

Scientific studies by this epidemiologist at the Faculty of Medicine at Kocaeli University, near

Istanbul, on the heavily industrialised Dilovası area in Kocaeli Province, indicated elevated mortality rates from cancer. Interviewed by a journalist in January 2011 about possible effects on public health and the environment of a planned iron-steel plant in that region, O Hamzaoğlu indicated that his earlier findings and an on-going study suggested the presence of heavy metals in new-borns' meconium, their mother's breast milk and in the air. This triggered denials from local political institutions and a petition for a criminal suit against O Hamzaoğlu. Subsequent investigations by Kocaeli University and its Ethics Board found him guilty of ethical negligence for revealing results of his incomplete study and gave him a warning, while a review by the Turkish Medical Association found no indication of ethical negligence in the conduct of O Hamzaoğlu's actual research. His lawyers appealed the university's decision and the process is on-going. This information was confirmed at the current meeting by C Corillon, based on correspondence with Science Academy Istanbul, the newly established science organisation in Turkey. The Committee therefore agreed to keep the case pending, but that it did not currently require action on its part.

Decisions

To keep the case pending, but not to currently take action

13 Conferences and workshops

13.1 Science and policy advice (Denmark, September 2013)

Plans for this joint workshop with the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, an ICSU National Member, have been on CFRS's agenda since 2009. Bengt Gustafsson, the former Chair and a member of the Danish Academy, was in the lead together with Hans Thybo, Professor in Geography and Geology at the University of Copenhagen and chair of the Danish Academy's working group for this workshop. The intention was to use climate change as an example of science advice to policy, with the EU's first Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard from Denmark, sharing her insights from having partly chaired the 2009 UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. CFRS had an interest in this workshop because of ICSU's general concern for enhancing science-policy interaction. On 12 July this year, Hans Thybo informed the Secretariat that the symposium was going to take place on 5-6 September in Copenhagen, but without Commissioner Hedegaard as a keynote speaker and with the examples to be considered extending beyond that of climate change.

At the symposium, the current Chair and D Black each made an introductory statement, and Bengt Gustafsson chaired the last session in the two-day programme. CFRS was further represented by R Pfister from the Secretariat. The presentations covered a range of subjects and examples, among them that of the L'Aquila earthquake. Some 50 scientists from different fields attended, with a strong Nordic presence. All presentations would be made available online and conference proceedings would be published. D Black was invited to make a written contribution that would encapsulate ICSU's view for inclusion in the proceedings. The organisers equally considered the drafting of a document with conclusions from the symposium.

Decisions

To note the reports on the workshop given at the current meeting

13.2 Science assessment and research integrity (China: CAST, April 2014)

In conjunction with the CFRS meeting in Beijing on 10-11 April 2014, the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) offered to host this workshop that would consider the implications of science assessment on research integrity by taking examples of rapidly developing science systems. This topic emanated

from the World Conferences on Research Integrity where the nexus between the science and research system and research integrity had not so far been considered.

Following the Committee meeting in Montreal, the programme was further developed. The current version and a scoping paper for the workshop were put to Committee members for consideration, together with the “San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment.” This document, adopted by a group of scientists, research funders and journal editors at a workshop in mid-May 2013, was relevant for the workshop in China, because it critically discusses the use of journal impact factors to measure scientific output in order to reward scientists and institutions.

At the current meeting, the scope of the workshop was further refined by defining themes for the two key sessions, i.e. science assessment experiences in Brazil, China and South Africa, and the impact of science assessments on research integrity. An important contribution would be that on the functioning and management of the “Academic Ranking of World Universities” compiled by Shanghai Jiao Tong University. A Anand was asked to make a presentation on behalf of CFRS to illustrate the link between science assessment and research integrity, and to share her draft with other Committee members by February 2014 for comments. The concluding session would address specific questions, e.g. the applicability of assessment systems to different scientific disciplines, the effect of assessment systems on international research collaboration and possible alternative models to ensure best science and research integrity. The idea was to have some 30 representatives from China and from different scientific levels taking part in the workshop.

The Secretariat was asked to further develop the programme along these lines and then liaise with CAST for the organisational aspects of the workshop, including press coverage.

Decisions

To ask the Secretariat to further develop the programme and to liaise with the local partners to organise the symposium

To ask M Bullock, A Sawyerr and J Zhang to provide names of speakers from Brazil, South Africa and China

To ask A Anand to circulate a draft of her presentation among CFRS members for comments by February 2014

13.3 4th World Conference on Research Integrity (Brazil, April 2015)

The organisers of the 3rd WCRI announced in Montreal that the next edition would be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in April 2015. ICSU’s contribution to the three WCRI consisted of assisting the organisers by identifying speakers, helping to shape the programme and through CFRS taking part. In considering a possible role for ICSU and/or CFRS in the 4th WCRI, C Smith provided the background of the organisational and institutional arrangements of the previous WCRI and CFRS’s engagement.

There was agreement on the need for CFRS’s continued involvement because promoting research integrity was central to its brief. To increase engagement and visibility and to ensure the presence of the science community, it would be important to contact the organising committee at an early stage by proposing session topics with programmes and delivering names of relevant scientific scholars as speakers. Funding for invited scholars would have to be sought.

It was not currently considered an option for ICSU to become the main WCRI organiser. C Smith was asked to contact Melissa Anderson, the main organiser for the 4th WCRI, and propose one or two session topics to be held as part of or prior to the World Conference. A possible theme could be a follow-up of the science assessment workshop in China in 2014.

Decisions

To ask C Smith to contact the organisers of the 4th WCRI and suggest one or two possible session topics

13.4 New topics for CFRS workshops

The 2011 ICSU General Assembly approved the CFRS work plan for 2012-2014, including the organisation of scientific meetings and workshops on specific topics, but proposals for additional issues and potential partners for future CFRS workshops were welcome.

At the current meeting, the following additional topics were suggested for the work-plan 2014-2017:

- Science assessment and research integrity: follow-up from the workshop in China in 2014 (agenda item 13.2)
- Academic freedom: explore specific issues raised by the CFRS initiative (agenda item 4)
- Status of scientists: resulting from the possible review of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation (agenda item 6)
- Research in areas of public controversy: an example mentioned in Paris was a research project in Brazil on sexual orientation after the government had just passed legislation on that matter
- Science without borders in conflict areas: for example scientific co-operation between Israel and Palestine (agenda item 10.1)

In view of the ICSU General Assembly in August/September 2014, CFRS needed to update its work plan 2014-2017. Assisted by A Sawyerr and AJ Núñez Sellés, the Secretariat would prepare a draft for consultation among the ICSU Membership by January 2014 for proposals of additional workshop topics. The revised version would be considered at the CFRS meeting in April 2014 to finalise the work plan by the deadline of June 2014.

Decisions

To note the ideas for workshops proposed at the current meeting

To ask the Secretariat, with the assistance of A Sawyerr and AJ Núñez Sellés, to review the CFRS work plan 2014-2017

To ask the Secretariat to consult the ICSU Membership on the reviewed work plan by January 2014 and ask for their proposals of workshop topics

To ask the Secretariat to further amend the document subsequently and include it on the agenda of the CFRS meeting in April 2014

14 Future CFRS meetings

The dates previously fixed for the two CFRS meetings in 2014 were 10-11 April, hosted by CAST in Beijing, and 6-7 October at the ICSU Secretariat in Paris. To allow participation of all CFRS members, the latter date was now moved to 13-14 October. The date and place for the first Committee meeting in 2015 would be fixed at the meeting in April 2014, taking into account CFRS's possible role in the 3rd World Conference on Research Integrity (agenda item 13.3) and that the biannual CFRS meetings normally take place in rotation between the ICSU Secretariat and elsewhere.

Decision

To note that the two CFRS meetings in 2014 will take place in Beijing on 10-11 April and in Paris on 13-14 October

To fix date and place for CFRS's first meeting in 2015 at its next meeting in April 2014

15 Any other business

There was no other business.