

**17th Meeting of the
Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science CFRS**

ICSU Secretariat
13-14 October 2014
Paris

Meeting Report

Present	Leiv K. Sydnes (Chair), Ashima Anand, David Black (<i>ex officio</i>), Edouard Brézin, Merry Bullock, Carol Corillon, Hasan Dweik, Alexander Kaminskii, Alberto J. Núñez Sellés, Akilagpa Sawyerr, Silke Schick Tanz, Irene Vilaseñor, Menahem Yaari, Jiansheng Zhang
Apologies	Fatma Attia
ICSU Secretariat	Roger Pfister
Guests	Peter Liss (Interim Executive Director), Johannes Mengel (ICSU Communications section)

1 Welcoming remarks and introduction

Apologies for not attending the current meeting were received from F Attia, while E Brézin attended part of day 1. All other Committee members attended both days of the meeting. Peter Liss, the ICSU Interim Executive Director, and Johannes Mengel from the ICSU Communications section were welcomed as guests, attending part of and the entire meeting respectively.

It was recalled that Committee members should make their travel arrangements to attend CFRS meetings as early as possible and through the ICSU Secretariat for reasons of cost effectiveness and to facilitate the obtaining of visas, if necessary. ICSU would reimburse expenses for air travel in Economy Class and cover costs for accommodation for the duration of CFRS meetings.

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

Decision

To welcome all participants

2 Adoption of agenda

In addition to adopting the meeting agenda, Committee members were invited to indicate any issues for “Any other business”.

Three matters were raised for consideration under agenda item 19: climate change controversy in Australia, case reporting of individual scientists to UNESCO and the situation of three scientists in Mexico.

Decision

To adopt the agenda

To include three issues for consideration under “Any other business”

3 Report of the 16th CFRS meeting and implementation

Following consent by all CFRS members, the report on the first CFRS meeting this year was made available online on the ICSU website on 10 June. The Secretariat updated the Committee about the implementation of the decisions taken in April this year, and for which no specific additional action was current proposed. All other matters would be considered in subsequent agenda items.

Open access and evaluation by metrics

The ICSU Executive Board had established an ad-hoc subgroup on open access to information and data as well as related bibliometric indices and incentives. CFRS provided input related to its co-sponsorship of the international workshop “Revaluating science in the digital age” with the UK Royal Society in 2012, with its comments on the “San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment” of 2013 and with E Brézin contributing to subgroup meetings on behalf of CFRS. A number of comments were raised when considering a draft report at the previous meeting, namely to more clearly flesh out the link between open access and metrics and how they affected each other. C Smith as the outgoing Deputy Executive Director was asked to relay them to the subgroup. The final report was endorsed by the ICSU General Assembly on 2 September 2014 (agenda item 8) and was now put to the Committee for information.

Science exposed to public pressure

The CFRS operating document dealing with physical violence against scientists, scientific institutions, experiments or experimental equipment was finalised at the previous meeting. As requested, the Secretariat made it available on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal in the section with advisory documents and ensured inclusion as part of the CFRS documents for the ICSU General Assembly (agenda item 8). In that context, at the current meeting, S Schicktanz reported on attacks against scientists in Germany doing gender research, to the extent that one scientist needed police protection. To express their concern about the situation, a group of scholars wrote to the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. To bolster this approach, the Committee agreed that the Chair should also address these two organisations and the International Sociological Association (ISA) as the ICSU Union Member to establish their position and offer the Committee’s support.

Workshop “Science assessment and research integrity”, Beijing, April 2014

This workshop, sponsored and organised jointly by CFRS, the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), preceded the previous CFRS meeting. At the Committee’s request, the Secretariat made available in the “Research Integrity” section of the Freedom & Responsibility Portal the presentations of those speakers who had given their permission. The Secretariat also developed a paper synthesising the issues raised at the workshop, serving as a basis for a CFRS session at next year’s World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI; agenda item 15). To communicate the insights of the event, the ICSU Communications section published a news item on the ICSU website on 11 April and articles drafted by the Chair, M Bullock, D Black and R Pfister were submitted to *Nature* and *Chemistry International*. The latter, the magazine of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), would include it in the November 2014 issue. For the purpose of further dissemination, the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section would compile a list with the in-house publications of ICSU’s National and Scientific Union Members through which to reach out to their scientific communities. Beyond this, a CFRS sub-group with A Anand, M Bullock, D Black, H Dweik and A Sawyerr was formed at the cur-

rent meeting to develop a communication plan with support from the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section.

Decision

To note the meeting report

To note the follow-up actions by the Secretariat

Science exposed to public pressure:

To ask the Chair to write to the DFG and the German National Academy of Sciences regarding the attacks against scientists in the area of gender research

Workshop "Science assessment and research integrity":

To ask the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section to assemble the in-house publications of ICSU Members and contact the editors to include CFRS contributions

To form a group with A Anand, M Bullock, D Black, H Dweik and A Sawyerr to develop a CFRS communication plan

4 Papers to scientific journals with authors based in Iran

The handling of scientific manuscripts involving authors based in Iran was an element of the US sanctions against Iran, dealt with by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). The Secretariat previously obtained information from the US National Academy of Sciences that this did not affect papers with authors based at Iranian academic research institutes, or in a clinical setting that was not government run. Scientists from the physics discipline being potentially most affected, the Secretariat was asked to confirm the situation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). Because the request remained unanswered, CFRS members asked at the previous meeting that the status of the legislation be reconfirmed and that the view be obtained from the ICSU National Member in Iran. No response was obtained from the University of Tehran; in contact with the Secretariat, Elsevier Publishing, which had initially alerted journal editors about the legislation, informed that the sanction was still in place, that they had engaged outside counsel to work on a strategy to remove it and that they had again asked the US administration for guidance on how to interpret the restriction.

To evaluate whether the US regulation in place violated the Universality of Science Principle, the Secretariat was asked to provide the Committee with the actual piece of legislation.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to provide the Committee with the OFAC legislation

5 Interaction with UNESCO

The relevance of UNESCO's interaction with CFRS was echoed in the presentation given by their representative at this year's ICSU General Assembly (agenda item 8), mentioning the Committee's role in contributing to the revision of the 1974 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers considered subsequently.

5.1 Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers (1974)

In 2013, the UNESCO General Conference had voted for the revision of this policy document in a process that would include consultation of stakeholders for proposals of redrafting, followed by intergovernmental negotiations. The intention was a revised document that would include issues that were not yet of particular concern in the early 1970s, without losing the main thrust of what was a positive document for the rights of scientists.

In communication with UNESCO, the Secretariat received a set of questions on the different parts of the Recommendation. After preselecting those that were of particular relevance to CFRS, the Secretariat circulated the Recommendation to Committee members to comment. The document put to the Committee at the present meeting incorporated all amendments received, notably by A Nuñez Selles and A Sawyerr, to the extent possible, while some issues that were raised required clarification. Feedback in this first round could be provided until 31 October this year, followed by negotiations among the UNESCO Member States from February to July 2015. Any propositions for modification agreed upon to this stage would be assessed at the UNESCO General Conference in late 2017 in view of a possible adoption.

In considering the Committee's position and whether or not it should provide input to the consultation, members took into account the report of the Chair on his participation the meeting of the UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), where the 1974 Recommendation was on the agenda (see 5.2). The view prevailed among CFRS members that while the current Recommendation had probably not been an effective tool, it could become an important multilateral document that would strengthen the global science community, and this Committee should therefore provide comments. In addition to agreeing on the majority of amendments proposed in the consultation prior to the current meeting, Committee members consented that the document should be shortened and that the following topics should find reflection in the revised document: access to data and information, research misconduct, publication ethics, training of scientists on ethics in research, risks related to dual use research, science communication and scientific policy advice.

The Secretariat would compile all of the above-mentioned elements, including appropriate reference to ICSU and CFRS documents, and provide the Committee's input to the consultation in writing to UNESCO.

Decision

To approve the consolidated comments from CFRS to the 1974 Recommendation
To ask the Secretariat to compile and communicate the proposed amendments to UNESCO

5.2 World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)

Committee members agreed at the previous meeting that the Chair should henceforth represent ICSU *ex officio* in COMEST to facilitate ICSU's and CFRS's future interaction with this UNESCO body. Requiring its formal agreement, the ICSU Executive Board approved this proposal at its April meeting this year. Shortly after having communicated this change in representation to UNESCO, the Chair was invited by the UNESCO Director-General to attend the 18th Extraordinary Session of COMEST and to take part in the international symposium "Addressing water security challenges: policy, technical and ethical responses," co-sponsored by COMEST, in Quebec, Canada, on 1-3 October 2014.

In addition to reporting, under 5.1, on COMEST's deliberations related to the 1974 Recommendation, the Chair provided an account of the main issues presented at the conference by speakers with different disciplinary backgrounds, pointing out that COMEST could serve as a channel through which to communicate ICSU and CFRS products.

Decision

To note that the Executive Board approved the Chair's *ex officio* position in COMEST
To note the report of the Chair on the COMEST meeting and international symposium

6 Publications from ICSU Members

Two reports produced by ICSU National Members were recently brought to the Secretariat's attention. Drafted by the Science Council of Japan, the "Code of conduct for scientists" is a general statement on a wide range of integrity aspects related to the conduct of research. The report "Scientific freedom and scientific responsibility" by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and National Academy of Sciences in Germany Leopoldina more specifically deals with scientists' responsibilities when conducting research with potential dual use applications.

In considering both documents at the current meeting, CFRS members asked the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section to combine their survey of magazines published by ICSU Members, such as agreed on under agenda item 3 above, with a compilation of codes of conduct and codes of ethics produced by the ICSU Membership and make them available with links on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal.

Decision

To note the two publications of ICSU National Members

To ask the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section to compile codes of conduct and codes of ethics from ICSU Members and link them from the Freedom & Responsibility Portal

7 Academic freedom initiative

Finalised by CFRS at the previous meeting, the principle document on academic freedom was linked on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal from the "Advisory Documentation" and the "Academic Freedom" sections. The Committee further asked that the document be submitted for approval as a formal ICSU policy statement, the Secretariat ensured its inclusion among the documents for the recent ICSU General Assembly where it was endorsed.

To further disseminate and propagate the document, the Secretariat did a quick horizon scanning for science organisations with a current interest in the subject to consider possibilities for joint action: the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) did work in this area through its Committee on "Academic Freedom and Tenure," and Scholars at Risk, their main activity of protecting the human rights of scholars aside, was organising "International Academic Freedom Workshops." In contact with the Secretariat, both organisations displayed an interest in partnering with CFRS on this subject.

At the current meeting, CFRS members agreed that a dialogue on matters of common interest should be sought with these two and other organisations, such as the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attacks. At the same time, it was considered more effective to use the academic freedom days previously compiled by the Secretariat to raise awareness for and spread the Committee's work by disseminating its current products. It was recalled that the sub-group formed under agenda item 3 above would also look into the further improvement of the Committee's communication activities.

Decision

To agree on using academic freedom days as opportunities to disseminate CFRS's work

8 CFRS at the ICSU General Assembly

The Chair represented CFRS at the ICSU General Assembly the previous month in Auckland, New Zealand. D Black and R Pfister were also attending as ICSU Secretary General and representative of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT), a National Member, respectively.

In his presentation on 2 September, the Chair reported on the Committee's activities during 2012-14, documented in the CFRS progress report that was made available to all participants. To illustrate the outcomes, two CFRS Advisory Notes (data sharing, academia-industry relationships), the recommendation on international scientific meetings and visa issues together with the documents on the Universality of Science and physical integrity of scientists and academic freedom were also among the documentation. The ICSU Membership noted and endorsed these documents in Auckland. In the second part of his presentation, the Chair outlined the work plan for 2014-17, inviting ICSU Members to actively contribute to the Committee's work, by making proposals for thematic workshops, in particular. The document with more details was also endorsed. The Secretariat put both the CFRS progress report and work plan online on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal, replacing the previous versions. All participants at the General Assembly also received a print copy of the CFRS brochure "Freedom and Responsibility in Science," which had further benefited from substantial editing and proofreading by C Corillon following the previous meeting, and which was equally made available on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal prior to the current meeting.

In the reactions and questions from the floor to the Chair's presentation, research integrity issues figured prominently. The pressure on young scientists to produce and publish ever more novel research results and the role of scientific journals were mentioned as factors that were exacerbating research misconduct. To help ameliorate the situation, it was proposed that CFRS should work together with other scientific organisations concerned with research integrity, particular mention being made of the Global Research Council (GRC) that brings together research funding organisations from around the globe. The external review of ICSU also highlighted that research integrity should be a focus for the Committee. This report, which was presented at the General Assembly, emphasises the importance of this work in order to safeguard the trust of society in science and recommends adding scientific integrity as an item in the Freedom & Responsibility Portal. Preempting this finding, at the two previous meetings the Committee had already decided on and taken action for stronger engagement at next year's World Conference on Research Integrity (agenda item 15) and the Secretariat added the online menu "Research Integrity" after the first CFRS meeting this year.

Decision

To thank C Corillon for her work on the brochure

To note the finalised CFRS progress report, work plan and brochure and their online availability

To note the section of the ICSU external review with recommendations for CFRS

9 Gender issue in field research

During last year, CFRS learnt about cases of scientists, particularly women, being exposed to particular pressures when doing fieldwork, notably sexual favours being requested from them by members of local communities in return for rendering assistance. Because this was curtailing the freedom of scientists to conduct research, CFRS approached three ICSU Union Members potentially affected to obtain their assessment of the situation. Among them, the Research Committee "Women in Society" (RC32) of the International Sociological Association indicated an interest in exploring the matter in a research project. To assess the expertise and interest among its members, the topic was tabled at the RC32 business meeting at the ISA World Congress in July this year.

Following this meeting, and to look into formulating a research project, a sub-committee was formed, composed of seven scholars from Africa, Europe, India and the US, covering a range of disciplines and chaired by Roberta Villalón, an Associate Professor in Sociology and Anthropology at St John's University in New York City. Among other positions, she is a member of the Human Rights and of the Gender Studies sections of the Latin American Studies Association. The draft research project that was now proposed differed from what

the Committee had initially looked for, in that it would include other aspects of abusive power relationships and the focus would be expanded from fieldwork to research in general.

At the current meeting, CFRS thanked the initiators for their proposal, but interested in the particular question of sexual harassment in field research and for reasons of feasibility of the study, the majority of Committee members had a preference for maintaining the original focus. The option was also pointed out that ISA, jointly with other ICSU Union Members involved in field research, could apply to the ICSU Grants Programme for funding. The Secretariat was asked to communicate the Committee's stance with the additional information to the RC32 sub-committee. S Schicktanz would subsequently liaise with Prof. Villalón to consider with her possibilities of adapting the research project alongside the Committee's needs.

Decision

To thank the ISA sub-committee Research Committee "Women in Society" for their proposal
To ask the Secretariat to communicate CFRS's stance to maintain the initial focus and point out the ICSU Grants Programme as a funding opportunity
To ask S Schicktanz to subsequently consider with the chair of the sub-committee ways of amending the research project accordingly

10 Freedom of science: generic issues (updates)

10.1 Annual congresses of ICSU Union Members and Interdisciplinary Bodies

Congresses of ICSU Union Members and Interdisciplinary Bodies were providing potential opportunities for a dialogue with the scientific community on threats to freedom in the scientific enterprise in the respective national contexts. CFRS therefore requested receiving, at the second of its biannual meetings, the list of planned congresses for the following year. In currently reviewing the list of congresses for 2015, it was recalled that ICSU was already represented at these congresses through a member of the Executive Board, taking into account geographical proximity between his/her country of residence and the congress location as well as disciplinary affinity. This member would present ICSU and its activities, including those of CFRS. This arrangement therefore would not normally necessitate for CFRS to also attend congresses, but would require coordination with the Executive Board member attending. The Secretariat was therefore asked to ensure this coordination and, in particular, that the new CFRS brochure would be distributed at forthcoming congresses.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to coordinate the CFRS contribution to ICSU Union Member congresses with the Executive Board

10.2 Boycott calls against the Israeli science community

The Committee had considered boycott calls and boycotts against the Israeli science community on several previous occasions because of its opposition to such action, considering them as a breach against the Universality of Science Principle. In 2002, it had issued an Advisory Note and the CFRS Chair had written a Correspondence in *Nature* in 2007 and 2009. Additionally, earlier this year, CFRS issued a guidance document to the attention of organisers of scientific meetings in the Middle East or North Africa, or concerning that region, regarding the non-discrimination of scientists related to their country of residence or origin, or their political orientation. This document was shared with the ICSU Regional Offices and also the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) because of their shared stance against scientific boycotts concerning Israel and their opposition to such calls from two US-based organisations during 2013. Since the previous CFRS meeting, new boycott calls against the Israeli science community were issued by the African Literature Association in New York and in the online petition backtheboycott.com.

Agreeing that the renewed boycott calls against scientists or scientific communities were violating the Universality of Science Principle, the Secretariat was asked to establish potential interest in AAUP for joint action on Israel. In parallel, the Chair was asked to write a letter to the editors of leading science journals and of the in-house magazines of ICSU Members.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to contact AAUP for possible joint action
To ask the Chair to condemn boycott calls in writing to leading science journals and ICSU Member in-house magazines

11 Freedom of science: generic issues (new)

11.1 Financial transactions related to international scientific meetings

The UK-based International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM) contacted the Secretariat on a problem they encountered when paying expenses for one of their members who had attended a conference in Cuba. Payment was eventually settled with their bank, but only after IUPESM had agreed to Lloyds Bank looking into their activities in detail and to sign up to the bank's policy related to financial transactions involving countries exposed to UN, UK, EU or US sanctions: to have no direct or indirect dealings with Iran, Syria, Sudan or North Korea through their Lloyds Bank accounts; to contact the bank for prior agreement before commencing any future business with Cuba or Myanmar; and to inform the bank if they would decide to continue trading with the above countries through another financial institution. The Executive Secretary personally discussed the request with the outgoing ICSU Treasurer at the ICSU General Assembly and put him in contact with the IUPESM President, who was also present in Auckland. Because the issue was apparently not resolved, it was put to the Committee for consideration.

CFRS members confirmed that financial transactions involving Cuba would be difficult for political reasons, indicating that this could also apply to working through a bank that had dealings with the United States. Based on his insight from the Executive Board, D Black could not confirm that ICSU would have encountered problems in handling financial matters with its Members in the countries mentioned above. The Secretariat was therefore asked to suggest to IUPESM to henceforth work through the ICSU house bank.

Decision

To ask the Secretariat to propose to IUPESM to henceforth use the services of ICSU's house bank

11.2 Spying on scientific institutions

Based on Edward Snowden's revelations, on 8 May this year the French daily *Le monde* reported that the US National Security Agency (NSA) had been spying on the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP). The mission of this research institute for physical and mathematical sciences was to foster advanced studies and research, especially in developing countries, by providing a forum of exchange between scientists from around the globe. The ICTP was also offering courses on nuclear data management, the preservation of nuclear knowledge and the role of isotopes. Established in 1964 by the Pakistani Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam, ICTP was operating under a tripartite agreement between the Italian Government, which was providing the bulk of funding by hosting the ICTP in Trieste, UNESCO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). E Brézin was serving as a member of the ICTP Scientific Council.

Concerned about this account, the Committee asked E Brézin to obtain more details from the ICTP Director, while the Chair and D Black would informally enquire at UNESCO and IAEA, where ICSU has an *ex officio* and consultative status respectively.

Decision

To ask E Brézin to obtain additional information from ICTP

To ask the Chair and D Black to make informal enquiries at UNESCO and IAEA respectively

12 Freedom of science: individual cases (updates)

12.1 Omid Kokabee, Iran

O Kokabee, enrolled as a doctoral student in physics at the University of Texas at Austin until his arrest during a return trip to Iran in January 2011, was still imprisoned. The Committee had considered his situation at each meeting since September 2011. At its request, and noting the concern and attention of other scientific and human rights organisations at the previous meeting, the Secretariat provided information about the Committee's activities to Amnesty International, which had requested CFRS to sign up to an online petition. In addition, and to continue adding its voice to the international movement in support of O Kokabee, the Chair was asked to renew the Committee's appeal in writing. Because no response was received to any of the CFRS letters sent to the Iranian authorities so far, the ICSU Executive Director and E Brézin were asked to hand deliver this letter to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Paris. Numerous attempts from both the CFRS and the ICSU Secretariat were made, including asking for assistance from diplomatic sources, to establish contact with the Iranian Embassy in Paris and to arrange a meeting with their ambassador, but this did not come to fruition. In the meantime, and according to the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN), O Kokabee's health and conditions of confinement had worsened, but he continued to be denied any medical treatment for his kidney stones and stomach ailments. His teeth had recently been causing him pain as well.

During the current meeting, C Corillon announced the news that the relevant branch of the Supreme Court had just accepted the request for a retrial of O Kokabee. This positive development notwithstanding, the Chair would seek advice from the Human Rights Committee at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters before approaching the Iranian Embassy in Oslo.

Decision

To note that the request for retrial against O Kokabee was accepted

To note that the Chair would seek advice from the Human Rights Committee at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters with a view to contact the Iranian Embassy in Oslo

12.2 Health professionals, Bahrain

In the wake of the 2011 protests in Bahrain, 48 health professionals were imprisoned. CFRS appealed in writing to the King of Bahrain in several instances for their release. By April 2014, the two medical doctors 'Ali 'Esa Mansoor al-'Ekri and Ibrahim al Demistani remained in prison, the latter suffering from health problems according to C Corillon. The Chair was therefore asked to reiterate the Committee's appeal to release both unjustly imprisoned health professionals and, in the interim, to ask for the provision of medical examination and treatment of Ibrahim al Demistani. This letter to the King of Bahrain was despatched as registered mail on 9 July, with copies to the country's Ministers of Health and of Justice. Given his presumed influence in Bahrain, a copy was also sent to the Minister of Health in Saudi Arabia.

According to information from the IHRN Network, both medical doctors were detained in a cell with 12 other prisoners, some of whom were serving life sentences for crimes such as drug dealing and paedophilia. Dr al Demistani continued to be denied access to medical care. Against that background, the Chair was asked to reiterate the Committee's appeal to the King of Bahrain and copy the Bahrain Medical Society into the correspondence.

Decision

To ask the Chair to reiterate the Committee's written appeal to the King of Bahrain, with copy to the Bahrain Medical Society

13 Freedom of science: individual cases (new)**13.1 İsmail Beşikçi, Turkey**

According to a media report, İ Beşikçi, a Turkish sociologist and PEN Honorary Member, was prevented from boarding a plane in Istanbul on 20 April 2014 in order to travel to Washington, despite being in the possession of a valid visa for the US. The Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), one of the institutions he intended visiting and giving scientific lectures at, wrote to the US authorities on 15 May to establish the reasons for this incident. İ Beşikçi was a professor at Ataturk University until his dismissal and subsequent arrest in 1971 for writings on the Kurdish population in Turkey. After his release in 1974, he was rearrested eight times over the next 25 years on charges of propaganda, serving 17 years in prison in total.

In writing, the Secretariat established that MESA had not received a response to their request and that they were welcoming an additional inquiry from CFRS. In his letter of 10 July, the Chair therefore requested the Secretary of Homeland Security to investigate the incident. In its response of 13 August, the Transport Security Administration of the Department of Homeland Security indicated that "individuals who believe they have been incorrectly delayed, denied boarding" had the possibility to address their concerns to them by completing a specific form and provide all requested documents. The Secretariat informed İ Beşikçi by Email on 22 August about this option to possibly clarify the current circumstances and to help prevent future such incidents, asking him for an update as appropriate.

Decision

To note the information
To close the case

13.2 Alexander Sodiqov, Tajikistan

A Sodiqov, a doctoral student enrolled at the University of Toronto, was arrested in Khorogh, Tajikistan, on 16 June this year while doing field research for his study on conflict resolution and civil society in Central Asia. At the time of his arrest, he was allegedly conducting an interview with a civil society activist and opposition leader. On 20 June, the State Committee for National Security reportedly issued a public statement saying that A Sodiqov was detained in the capital, Dushanbe. His arrest had apparently been sanctioned by a judge at a court in Dushanbe and connected to investigations for "high treason," punishable from 12 to 20 years imprisonment according to the Tajik Criminal Code. A Sodiqov was not initially allowed to see the defence lawyers of his choice, while the Tajik authorities announced that he had seen a state appointed lawyer.

The case drew wide international attention in the media, from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and human rights organisations. The IHRN Network alerted its members and the Committee on Human Rights of the US National Academies wrote letters to the President and the Minister of Justice of Tajikistan. To evaluate possible

complementary action, the Secretariat wrote to the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan on 27 June to obtain information, and the Committee's support was pledged to A Sodiqov's doctoral supervisor, Professor Edward Schatz. In the absence of information suggesting the need for action, CFRS continued to follow the case and learnt that A Sodiqov had been released on 22 July, but that he was not allowed to travel. The Tajik authorities subsequently allowing him to leave the country, A Sodiqov returned to Canada on 10 September. The charges against him have not been dropped, but it appears that the case would be closed in the near future or would expire after one year.

Satisfied with these developments, the Chair was asked at the current meeting to write to the Tajik authorities to express the Committee's gratitude and relief about A Sodiqov's release, trusting that the charges against him would be dropped. The Secretariat would contact Prof. Schatz, who was apparently instrumental in the release of his doctoral student, to enquire about him joining the next CFRS meeting through electronic means to possibly inform the Committee's case work.

Decision

To note the information

To ask the Chair to express gratitude about A Sodiqov's release in writing to the Tajik authorities

To ask the Secretariat to ask A Sodiqov's doctoral supervisor to share his experience with CFRS at the next meeting

13.3 Ilham Tohti, China

On 23 September, I Tohti was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of "separatism," following his arrest on 15 January this year. A professor in economics at Minzu University of China in Beijing, I Tohti has been a long-time advocate for the rights of the Uighurs, without ever advocating violence. From 1999, he was the object of publication bans and a four-year suspension from teaching. Since 2005, his "Uighur" website reported on the systematic and extensive human rights violations against this ethnic minority in China. Additionally, the Chinese authorities prevented him from spending a research stay in the US in 2013.

According to public information, I Tohti was held incommunicado for about six months after his arrest. Although he had left China's north-eastern Xinjiang province in 1985, he was transferred there. I Tohti was denied food for ten days and had his feet shackled for about three weeks. His lawyers did not have access to all the evidence; they were only allowed to meet with him for the first time in June and to call any witnesses during the two-day trial. In addition to life imprisonment, the court ordered that all of I Tohti's assets be confiscated, depriving his wife and two young children from their means of existence. At the trial, I Tohti emphasised his innocence and his lawyers announced that they would appeal.

I Tohti's case drew wide international attention from human rights organisations, from the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the UN Human Rights Council and in the media. The IHRN Network actively followed the case from the beginning of his imprisonment. At the current meeting, concern was expressed about the situation of I Tohti. In considering whether or not to take action, the Committee discussed to what extent his arrest was related to his scientific work and the allegation that I Tohti had advocated violence in the classroom. While it agreed to the overwhelming and credible information whereby I Tohti had not advocated violence, there was consensus that I Tohti's sentencing was not linked to his scientific work, but that it was a human rights case. The Committee therefore decided to close the case.

Decision

To express concern about the case

To agree that the sentencing of I Tohti was not related to him conducting work as a scientist

To close the case

13.4 Alexander Gorsky, Russia

According to a media report, A Gorsky, a physicist at the Moscow-based Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics (ITEP), was intending to travel to New York in April this year to present a paper at Stony Brook University that had been published in an international journal a year earlier. However, ITEP administration requested the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the two research centres and security clearance before authorising his visit. Yet, A Gorsky went to the US anyway, subsequent to which he was dismissed by ITEP. This drew some media attention and it came to CFRS through the Committee on International Freedom of Scientists of the American Physical Society, which protested A Gorsky's dismissal in writing to the Russian Minister of Education.

The Committee considered the case, but agreed on not taking action because of it being a matter internal to ITEP, namely the violation of employment rules by the scientist in question.

Decision

To note the case without taking action
To close the case

14 Responsibilities of science: generic issue (update)

At the previous meeting, CFRS considered new legislation in Uganda whereby homosexuality could result in life sentences. Arguing that homosexual orientation was not foreseen in nature, the country's president invited scientists to present counter evidence. With the certainty that such scientific evidence was available, but that it was deliberately ignored for political reasons, the Committee agreed in April this year not to become involved to avoid being instrumentalised for political ends.

According to a recent *Science* article, the Uganda National Academy of Sciences had equally declined a government request to take position, prior to signing the bill. However, a joint in-depth study with the Academy of Science of South Africa was now on-going and should be completed during 2015. In noting these developments at the current meeting, the Committee confirmed its stance of not wanting to get involved.

Decision

To note the developments

15 4th World Conference on Research Integrity (Brazil, May/June 2015)

CFRS had agreed at the previous meeting that the Committee and ICSU should increase their involvement and visibility at the next World Conference on Research Integrity on "Research rewards and integrity: improving systems to promote responsible research," to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 31 May to 3 June 2015. It was therefore decided to organise a symposium on the nexus between science assessment and research integrity, based on the theme of the CFRS-CAST-CAS workshop in Beijing (agenda item 3). For that purpose, a group with the Chair, A Anand, M Bullock, A Sawyerr, S Schicktanz and D Black was formed. Since the previous meeting, with M Bullock in the lead and assisted by the Secretariat, the title of a CFRS symposium was defined as "Research assessment and quality in science: perspectives from international science and policy organisations," taking into account the main points raised by Committee members immediately after the Beijing workshop. Based on these elements, a draft programme with four contributions was developed:

- Global Young Academy (GYA): “Can optimising assessment metrics foster excellence?” Based on a project submitted to the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) by its head, Dr Martin Dominik, School of Physics and Astronomy at University of St Andrews, UK Royal Society University Research Fellow and a member of the GYA;
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): “Research assessments and national science policies.” Indicating their interest in contributing to a joint symposium, Carthage Smith, now head of the OECD Global Science Forum (GSF), would arrange a speaker;
- U-Multirank: “Multi-dimensional listings to rate universities and avoid simplistic league tables.” A speaker with knowledge of this alternative, multi-dimensional ranking model, but without direct involvement in its development, which the European Union had funded;
- Institution/personality in policy and higher education: the biologist and social scientist Helga Nowotny, former president of the European Research Council (ERC; 2010-13) and Professor emeritus of Social Studies of Science at the ETH Zurich, Switzerland, or Ellen Hazelkorn, Director of research and enterprise at the Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland, consultant to the OECD and author of a book critical of rankings.

The Committee thanked M Bullock and the other group members for their work. On the proposed organisations and speakers, there was agreement on both the Global Young Academy and the OECD contribution. Instead of U-Multirank, and in order not to privilege this ranking system over the existing others, Sultan Abu-Orabi was proposed to have the view from the Middle East. S Abu-Orabi, a Professor in chemistry at Yarmouk University in Amman, Jordan, has been speaking on quality assurance systems in his capacity as Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU). As for the fourth speaker, there was a preference for H Nowotny. The proposed speakers would first be approached informally by R Pfister (M Dominik), H Dweik (S Abu-Orabi) and M Bullock with S Schicktanz (H Nowotny). In case of their commitment, a formal invitation would go out from the Secretariat. Where possible and appropriate, CFRS would seek to ensure funding from the host organisation of these speakers to attend the WCRI. It was envisaged to have the symposium in place by the end of November this year for submission to the WCRI Organising Committee.

In addition to M Bullock, who would moderate and synthesise the CFRS symposium, and taking into consideration the Committee’s composition beyond 2015 (agenda item 17) and its budgetary situation, the Chair, S Schicktanz, D Black and the Executive Secretary would be attending the WCRI. In addition to the CFRS symposium, allowance was made for ICSU/CFRS as co-sponsor of the conference to organise an information stand at the WCRI.

In parallel to developing the symposium, Committee members had asked M Bullock at the April meeting to become part of the WCRI planning team to ensure a stronger involvement of CFRS in the upcoming and possible future world conferences. Reflecting its way of working, the WCRI structure was consisting of an Organising Committee, co-chaired by M Anderson and S Kleinert, a Local Committee and an Advisory Board. M Bullock was eventually invited to serve on the Advisory Board, currently with five other members. The members of all three entities held a meeting from 29 September to 1 October in Minneapolis, US, from which M Bullock reported at the current meeting.

As a background, the WCRI originated from the initiative of a small number of people, especially research integrity officers. Over the years, there were attempts to formalise the organisation somewhat as well as broaden the scope and target audience by reaching out to the science community, in particular. In that context, the co-chairs of the Organising Committee welcomed a stronger involvement of ICSU, although not necessarily at the organisational level in terms of leadership. The format of the 2015 WCRI would consist of three keynotes and some six plenaries, with follow up discussions in focus tracks, as well as of symposia, paper and poster sessions. The conference would be preceded by training sessions on research ethics and integrity and fora for doctoral students to present their work in the area. In addition to organising the CFRS symposium and ensuring a table for ICSU/CFRS at the

WCRI, M Bullock provided the names of Wei Yang, who was a speaker at the CFRS-CAST-CAS workshop, and H Nowotny as keynote speakers.

In considering the Committee's involvement in the WCRI beyond 2015 against this background, there was a general agreement among its members on wanting to continue involving the science community through keynotes and symposia as well as through contributions in publications and at conferences of the ICSU Membership.

Decision

To thank M Bullock for her engagement

To endorse the organisations (GYA, OECD, AAU, ERC) and speakers (M Dominik, S Abu-Orabi, H Nowotny) for the CFRS symposium

To ask M Bullock, H Dweik, S Schicktzan and R Pfister to informally approach the proposed speakers, followed by formal invitations from the Secretariat

To note that the Chair, M Bullock, S Schicktzan, D Black and R Pfister would go to the WCRI

To note the report of M Bullock on the WCRI preparatory meeting

To agree on CFRS wanting to contribute to future WCRI and to publicise them among the ICSU Membership

16 CFRS Secretariat

Following a call from ICSU during 2009, the ICSU National Member in Switzerland, the Swiss Academy of Sciences, offered to host the CFRS Secretariat. In a Memorandum of Understanding between ICSU and the Swiss Academy of Sciences, the duration agreed on was five years, commencing on 1 October 2010. To give early notice, the Swiss Academy of Sciences confirmed the conclusion of this arrangement in writing to the ICSU Executive Director in April this year, although indicating flexibility in the handing over of the Secretariat during the last quarter of 2015. In acknowledging and thanking for the Swiss contribution and commitment to ICSU, the Chair informed the ICSU Membership at the General Assembly in Auckland about this development. A call to host the CFRS Secretariat beyond 2015 was circulated among ICSU Members on 10 October.

Independent of this change, a new position of Head of Science Programmes was created as part of an overall reorganisation of the ICSU Secretariat. This person would help manage the development and implementation of ICSU's scientific and science for policy initiatives, as defined in its Strategic Plan. The work would include supporting the two ICSU policy committees, i.e. the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) and CFRS, in collaborating with the respective Chairs to help these committees meet ICSU's strategic needs. The selection process was currently under way and the new Head of Science Programmes was expected to start by February/March 2015.

Decision

To note the information

17 CFRS membership

A Anand, F Attia, A Kaminskii, A Sawyerr and J Zhang would conclude their second terms of office in CFRS next year, while I Villaseñor had previously indicated that she would not serve a second term. At the current meeting, C Corillon informed the Committee about her retirement as Executive Director of the International Human Rights Network by January 2015. Cases of scientists before the Network would continue to be channelled to CFRS for consideration, however. The engagement of these CFRS members would officially end before the first meeting of the new Committee in October 2015 (agenda item 18).

All other members needed to be re-nominated, should they wish to continue serving the Committee for a second term, because renewal was not automatic. A call from the ICSU Secretariat was sent out on 10 October, with 19 December as deadline for nominations. The incoming Executive Board would decide on CFRS membership upon consideration of the Committee's overall composition.

Those members who could potentially serve a second term were again invited to speak to the Chair and/or to the Executive Secretary about their personal situation, should they wish to do so.

Decision

To note the Committee membership

To note that the Chair and all CFRS members who would be eligible to serve a second term would need to be nominated

To invite members serving the first term to speak to the Chair and/or the Executive Secretary about their situation

18 Future CFRS meetings

In April this year, the date agreed on for the first meeting next year was 26-27 March, hosted by the ICSU Secretariat in Paris and taking into account that several Committee members would attend the 4th WCRI in Rio de Janeiro in May/June. This date was confirmed at the current meeting, although M Bullock would be able to participate only in the morning of 26 March and through Skype. In determining the place and date of the second meeting in 2015, and although the biannual meetings normally rotate between Paris and elsewhere, the new Committee would convene for its first meeting at the ICSU Secretariat on 1-2 October.

Acknowledging their invitation to host a CFRS meeting and a joint workshop in 2015, the Chair had thanked the Mexican Academy of Sciences in May for this offer, suggesting to postpone the meeting to early 2016, however, such as the Committee had asked for in Beijing. In that context, the Secretariat was asked at the current meeting to write to the Mexican Academy for confirmation and to ask for suggestions regarding the proposed workshop for the Committee's consideration at the next meeting.

Decision

To confirm that the next meeting would be held in Paris on 26-27 March 2015

To note that the second meeting in 2015 would take place in Paris on 1-2 October

To ask the Secretariat to confirm to the Mexican Academy of Sciences the first CFRS meeting in 2016 and to ask for proposals of workshop themes

19 Any other business

Climate change debate

Media reports received from the Future Earth interim secretariat within days of the current meeting provided information on a controversy in Australia about the use of climate data, with climate sceptics accusing the government-funded Bureau of Meteorology of manipulating data to prove their climate change claim. Concerned about attacks on scientific communities in Canada and in the US related to the climate change controversy, it contributed to CFRS drafting of the operating document mentioned under agenda item 3. CFRS considered the situation in Australia as an on-going development, therefore not necessitating action on its part.

Case reporting to UNESCO

The UNESCO Committee on Conventions and Recommendations was serving as a channel

to submit cases of human rights violations against scientists, facilitating their resolution in a dialogue with the country in question through updates every six months. According to C Corillon, the IHRN Network had submitted some 65 cases during the last two decades, of which 53 were resolved successfully. However, she also reported at the current meeting about plans by a review committee to abandon this process, and that the IHRN Network had written to UNESCO to continue and strengthen this useful mechanism.

Mexican researchers

A Núñez Sellés informed the Committee about the dismissal of three scientists from a research institution in Mexico, apparently related to their intention of establishing a new research unit there. The case had come to the attention of the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, 82 professors wrote a letter of support and an appeal was pending in the court case. For CFRS to consider the case, A Núñez Sellés was asked to provide more detailed information in English.

Decision

Climate change debate: to note the information received

Case reporting to UNESCO: to note the information provided by C Corillon

Mexican researchers: to ask A Núñez Sellés to provide case details in English