

**18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science CFRS**

ICSU Secretariat  
26-27 March 2015  
Paris

**Meeting Report**

- Present** Leiv K. Sydnes (Chair), Ashima Anand, David Black (*ex officio*), Edouard Brézin, Merry Bullock (for agenda items 1 to 6 and 9.1, through videoconference), Carol Corillon, Hasan Dweik, Alberto J. Núñez Sellés, Akilagpa Sawyerr, Silke Schicktanz, Lucilla Spini (*ex officio*), Irene Villaseñor, Menahem Yaari, Jiansheng Zhang
- Apologies** Fatma Attia, Alexander Kaminskii
- ICSU Secretariat** Heide Hackmann (Executive Director, agenda items 1-4), Roger Pfister (CFRS Executive Secretary), Rohini Rao (Administrative Officer, agenda items 1-5, 9.2), Denise Young (Head of Communications)

**1 Welcoming remarks and introduction**

F Attia and A Kaminskii sent their apologies for not being in a position to personally attend the current meeting, while M Bullock joined parts of the proceedings through videoconference. All other Committee members attended the entire meeting.

Heide Hackmann was welcomed as the new ICSU Executive Director since March this year, and Lucilla Spini as the Head of Science Programmes since January, her attending the meeting as CFRS member *ex officio*. This position was newly created to manage the development and implementation of ICSU's scientific and science for policy initiatives, as defined in its Strategic Plan, and to assist the two ICSU policy committees in meeting their strategic objectives. In the absence of Johannes Mengel, who had represented the Communications section at the last few CFRS meetings, Denise Young, the Head of Communications, attended the meeting.

It was recalled that Committee members should make their travel arrangements to attend 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 and for accommodation for the duration of CFRS meetings.

Members were reminded that while the meeting reports were publicly available, the individual documents were strictly confidential. As from 2015, members of all ICSU committees were asked to bring the meeting documents along. The Secretariat no longer provided them in paper form, but electronically on a USB stick if requested in advance.

**Decision**

To welcome the new ICSU Executive Director and the Head of Science Programmes, and to note that the Head of Science Programmes is serving as CFRS member *ex officio*

## 2 Adoption of agenda

In addition to adopting the meeting agenda, Committee members were invited to indicate any issues for “Any other business” (agenda item 14).

The Secretariat flagged out the issue of academic freedom related to a recent report in the *Times Higher Education*.

### Decision

To adopt the agenda

## 3 Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> CFRS meeting and implementation

The report of the previous meeting was sent to all CFRS members for approval on 5 November. Following their consent, the report was put on the ICSU website on 26 November. At the current meeting, the Secretariat updated the Committee on the implementation of those meeting decisions that would not require specific additional action. All other matters would be dealt with at subsequent agenda items.

### ***Science exposed to public pressure***

Related to the finalised CFRS operating document dealing with physical violence against scientists, scientific institutions, experiments or experimental equipment, S Schicktanz reported on attacks against scientists doing gender research in Germany, to the extent that one scientist needed police protection. As decided, the Chair wrote to the country’s National ICSU Member, the German Research Foundation (DFG), to the German member of the International Sociological Association (ISA), which is the ICSU Union Member in that field, and to the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, expressing concern and asking for their assessment and position. With its agreement, the Secretariat shared the response from the German Sociological Association with the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. While expressing appreciation for the Committee’s attention paid to the situation of this sector of the German research community, the responses from these two organisations were concurring that necessary steps had been taken at the national level, including a public statement by the German Sociological Association, therefore not warranting additional action from CFRS.

### ***Financial transactions related to international scientific meetings***

The International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM), an ICSU Union Member with a secretariat currently hosted in the UK, had contacted the Secretariat on a problem related to the reimbursement of expenses to a member for attending a conference in Cuba. Although Committee members confirmed that financial transactions involving Cuba were difficult for political reasons, it did not appear that the ICSU Secretariat was encountering such problems with Cuba or similarly challenging countries. As decided, the CFRS Secretariat therefore suggested to IUPESM in writing to consider working through the ICSU house bank.

### ***UNESCO Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers (1974)***

This policy document was in the process of being revised following a decision by the UNESCO General Conference in 2013. The first phase was including stakeholder consultation. The view prevailed that the Committee should provide comments to enhance the document’s importance and thereby strengthen the global science community. The majority of amendments proposed by CFRS members in the consultation prior to the meeting in October 2014 was agreed on. Furthermore, the Committee suggested that the revised document needed to reflect the following topics that had developed since the early 1970s: access to data and information, research misconduct, publication ethics, research ethics training for scientists, risks related to dual use research, science communication and scientific policy

advice. These assembled comments, together with references to relevant ICSU and CFRS documents, were submitted in writing to UNESCO before the deadline of 31 October 2014. The process now on-going entailed negotiations among the UNESCO Member States, and the UNESCO General Conference in 2017 would consider adopting the revised document with the modifications agreed upon to that stage. At the current meeting, the importance of the Committee's comments in the context of ICSU's partnership with UNESCO on other matters was emphasised, notably the 10-year research initiative Future Earth. H Hackmann also pointed out that CFRS could help shape the agenda of the UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) that was involved in the revision of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation.

#### **Decision**

To note the meeting report

To note the follow-up actions by the Secretariat

#### **4 ICSU and CFRS communication**

Under different agenda items, communication issues related to both the Council and CFRS were considered and measures proposed at the previous meeting.

Related to two publications from ICSU National Members relevant to the Committee's work, the Secretariat was asked to add links to codes of conduct and codes of ethics on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal. These were compiled by searching websites of ICSU National Members, online compilations of relevant works and the web-based database of the UNESCO Global Ethics Observatory. Those documents that could be considered as being of national relevance and as applicable transdisciplinary were added in the adapted section "Statements, reports & codes" in the "Research Integrity" menu, together with links to other pertinent information. Pointing out the new online section as a reference tool, the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section e-mailed the ICSU National Members to point to the Committee's research integrity work and to ask for possible additional material.

Included in this message was the Council's intent to increase communication with its Membership and their constituencies through the Members' regular in-house publications that were aimed at a wider audience. A list of magazines and journals, compiled by the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section, was attached and recipients were asked to ensure completeness. That part of the message was also sent separately to ICSU's Union Members. Both communications produced feedback with a rate of return of roughly 30%. The compiled list of publications was now available at the ICSU Communications section for future use.

A further issue was the presentation of CFRS matters at annual congresses of ICSU Union Members and Interdisciplinary Bodies, taking into account that the Council was usually represented through a member of its Executive Board. Since this therefore would not normally necessitate for CFRS to also attend, R Pfister liaised with the ICSU Secretariat to ensure coordination and distribution of the CFRS brochure at future congresses. The arrangement agreed upon was to make the CFRS PowerPoint presentation available to the ICSU Secretariat to ensure inclusion in presentations of Executive Board members. Dissemination of the revised CFRS brochure "Freedom, responsibility and Universality of Science" would be arranged to the extent possible.

The presentation at Union congresses was among the measures included in a document that would guide CFRS's communication endeavours. Drafted by the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section, the document put to Committee members for consideration at the current meeting included comments from the Chair and a CFRS sub-group composed of A Anand, D Black, M Bullock, H Dweik and A Sawyerr.

In considering these developments, CFRS members suggested reviewing the indexing of the Freedom & Responsibility Portal pages to increase their being listed in Google searches. On the codes of conduct, and noting an absence of texts from developing countries, the Secretariat was asked to contact the ICSU Regional Offices to ascertain the situation. Furthermore, the Secretariat should enquire with UNESCO about possibilities to link the Freedom & Responsibility Portal with their Global Ethics Observatory database. While approving the CFRS communication document, it was acknowledged that its implementation would remain a challenge, requiring continuous personal contact with editors of the in-house magazines of ICSU Members in particular.

**Decision**

To note the progress in communication activities

To agree on the CFRS communication plan

To ask the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section to review the indexing of the Freedom & Responsibility Portal pages

To ask the Secretariat to contact the ICSU Regional Offices regarding codes of conduct from their regions

## 5 Papers to scientific journals including authorship from Iran

Alerted by a message from Elsevier Publishing, the Committee previously considered possible implications of US sanctions against Iran, because the inclusion of handling scientific manuscripts involving authors based in Iran was potentially contravening the Universality of Science Principle. Information obtained from the US National Academy of Sciences suggested that authors based at academic research institutes, or in a clinical setting that was not government run, were not affected by this legislation, however. Equally, the absence of a response to the Secretariat's requests to the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) and the ICSU National Member in Iran suggested that it was not a concern to their constituencies, which would in principle be most affected. Because the sanction was still in place and to gain certainty that this was not violating the Universality of Science Principle, the Secretariat provided the Committee with the actual piece of legislation, such as requested at the previous meeting.

This document, issued in December 2004, was under the auspices of the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which is part of the Department of Treasury. In considering the relevant section "Authorized transactions necessary and ordinarily incident to publishing," a majority in the Committee agreed that the regulation was less restrictive than anticipated and that unless a specific case of restricted publication would come to CFRS, no action was necessary at this stage.

**Decision**

To note the OFAC regulation and not to take action

## 6 Freedom of science: generic issues (updates)

### 6.1 Gender issue in field research

In 2013, the Committee was informed about cases of exposure of scientists, particularly women, to pressures when doing fieldwork, notably sexual favours being requested by members of local communities in return for rendering assistance. Three ICSU Union Members potentially affected by this situation, which was hindering scientists to freely conduct their research, were contacted to obtain their assessments. Among them, the International Sociological Association (ISA) responded with an interest from its Research Committee "Women in Society" (RC32). To explore the matter, a sub-committee chaired by Roberta Vil-

Ialón, Associate Professor in Sociology and Anthropology at St John's University in New York City, and comprising seven scholars from Africa, Europe, India and the US to cover a wide range of disciplines was formed. For the CFRS meeting in October 2014, they proposed a research project that went beyond the Committee's request, including other aspects of abusive power relationships and looking at research in general. While appreciating this initiative, a majority of CFRS members preferred to maintain the focus on sexual harassment in field research, also for reasons of feasibility of the study. The Secretariat communicated this and the possibility to apply, jointly with other Union Members involved in field research, to the ICSU Grants Programme for funding to the RC32 sub-committee. In addition, S Schicktanz spoke with the chair and a member of the sub-committee to examine possibilities of aligning the project with the Committee's needs.

Against that background, the RC32 sub-committee's amended proposal for the current Committee meeting was a commented bibliography on sexual harassment and gender disparities in fieldwork, with some focus on the social sciences. This would include broader issues related to discrimination and power in research, because research had indicated that power relations, and potential abuses, were occurring along gender, sexual, ethnic, racial, class and other intersecting factors between researchers and community members. This work could be done by a member of the sub-committee, together with a graduate student research assistant, for whose compensation some funding was requested. The ISA Research Committee "Women in Society" would maintain its interest in addressing the issue of intersections of power in research, as outlined in their original proposal, for a panel at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology in Vienna, Austria, in July 2016.

Given that it was not CFRS's role to fund projects and that funding from the Council for such a proposal was uncertain, but because it maintained its interest in the subject, the Committee agreed that the proposal could serve as a topic for a CFRS workshop. The matter would therefore be further considered under agenda item 9.2.

#### **Decision**

To thank S Schicktanz for her engagement  
To consider the new proposal under agenda item 9.2

## **6.2 Boycott calls against the Israeli science community**

In line with its position on boycott calls and boycotts against the Israeli science community expressed in earlier documents, the Committee opposed renewed such calls launched by two US-based organisations during 2013, because they were violating the Principle of the Universality of Science. The letters to these organisations were shared with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) because of their shared stance against scientific boycotts in general. Because of additional boycott calls thereafter, for example by the African Literature Association in New York and the online petition [backtheboycott.com](http://backtheboycott.com), the Secretariat was asked at the previous meeting to investigate AAUP's interest in taking joint action and the Chair was asked to write to *Nature* and *Science*.

Two Email requests to the AAUP remained unanswered, however, and the Chair's submissions, based on a draft prepared by the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section, were not retained for publication. The Secretariat was therefore asked at the current meeting to update the paper, taking into account more recent boycott calls elsewhere, for example that of students and staff of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) on 27 February, and explore other publication possibilities, such as in-house publications of the ICSU Membership.

#### **Decision**

To note the CFRS position document

To ask the Secretariat to update the paper for submission to in-house publications of ICSU Members

### 6.3 Spying on scientific institutions

According to a report in the French daily *Le Monde* on 8 May 2014, based on Edward Snowden's revelations, the US National Security Agency (NSA) had been spying on the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) based in Trieste, Italy. Concerned that this would violate the spirit of the Universality of Science Principle, E Brézin, L Sydnes and D Black were asked at the previous meeting to enquire for details with the ICTP and its funders, UNESCO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), respectively. Because the response from the ICTP and feedback from the two other bodies did not substantiate the claims raised by *Le Monde*, the Committee decided not to take the matter any further and to close the dossier.

#### Decision

To note the reports at the meeting  
To close the dossier

### 6.4 L'Aquila, Italy (2009)

In 2009, an earthquake killed more than 300 people and injured thousands in L'Aquila and devastated this Italian city. In 2010, the public prosecutor charged six scientists of a commission that had been tasked to assess the earthquake risk in that region with manslaughter. The Committee considered this case in July 2010 and September 2011, prior to the court case, and again after a court had sentenced the scientists to six years in prison in October 2012. Acknowledging that this was a complex case at the interface of the free practice of science and the responsibility of communicating science, the International Council for Science issued a press release in October 2012 in support of the six scientists.

At the current meeting, the Committee was informed that an appeals court had overturned the convictions in November 2014, ruling that no crime had been committed, although the prosecution could still take the ruling to a higher court for final consideration. Of relevance in that context would be a forthcoming publication from the Global Science Forum (GSF) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on "Scientific advice to policy making," which the Secretariat was asked to bring to the Committee when available.

#### Decision

To note the development  
To ask the Secretariat to bring the OECD GSF publication on scientific policy advice to CFRS when available

## 7 Freedom of science: individual cases (updates)

### 7.1 Omid Kokabee, Iran

This doctoral student, enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin and arrested during a return trip to Iran in January 2011, continued being imprisoned. CFRS followed his case at all of its meetings since September 2011 and took several actions. In addition to letters from the Chair to the Iranian authorities in Tehran and support to other international initiatives, the former ICSU Executive Director and E Brézin intended hand delivering a letter to the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran resident in Paris following the first CFRS meeting in

2014. Because all efforts were left without a specific response to CFRS, the Chair was asked at the previous meeting to request a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador resident in Oslo to hand over a letter to him to the attention of the Iranian authorities.

Also at the previous meeting, the Committee learnt from C Corillon that O Kokabee continued to be denied medical treatment despite worsening health. During that meeting, the news broke that the Supreme Court had accepted the request for a retrial, but in January 2015, the court of appeal in Tehran upheld the 10-year prison sentence. The following month, O Kokabee was bestowed the AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award for his “steadfast courage in defending scientific freedom by refusing to participate in weapons-related research in Iran,” based on the AAAS’ decision in October 2014.

Within three days of the bestowal of the award, the Iranian Ambassador in Oslo accepted the Chair’s request, proposing 8 April as date for a personal meeting. It was agreed at the current meeting that the humanitarian aspect of the case of O Kokabee should be emphasised in that meeting, putting this initiative in the framework of the Committee’s mission to protect the human rights of scientists who are exposed to threats. In that context, mention should be made of CFRS’s support to calls for an independent international investigation into the murders and attempted assassinations of four Iranian physicists during 2010-2011. Depending on the outcome of the meeting, further action would be considered, for example linking the situation of O Kokabee to the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies during this year, taking into account the subject of O Kokabee’s PhD study.

In that context, the Secretariat learnt of a case that was very similar to that of O Kokabee. It concerned Hamid Babaei who was pursuing a doctoral study in economics at the University of Liège in Belgium until his arrest in August 2013 during a visit to Iran. As with O Kokabee, he was sentenced to six years imprisonment later on allegations of acting against national security by communicating with a hostile government, apparently related to a scholarship he received from the University of Liege. Because this information was obtained only within days of the current meeting, the Secretariat was asked to further investigate the case and report at the next Committee meeting.

#### **Decision**

To note the Chair’s forthcoming meeting with the Iranian Ambassador in Oslo on 8 April and consider additional action following that meeting  
To ask the Secretariat to obtain additional information on the case of Hamid Babaei for the next Committee meeting

## **7.2 Bahá’í community leaders, Iran**

At its meetings from 2012 to 2014, the Committee considered the situation of six scientists of the Bahá’í faith in Iran, whose imprisonment appeared to contravene Statute 5 that was opposing discrimination in science on grounds of religious beliefs. The Chair wrote several letters of appeal for the release of these scientists to the Iranian Minister of Science, Research and Technology, with copy to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran and, in November 2013, to the UNESCO Director-General.

In continuing to monitor these cases, further action would be considered as appropriate, notably in the context of the Committee’s endeavours related to O Kokabee and in view of the release of Mahvash Sabet, Mahmoud Badavam and Ramin Zibaei scheduled for May this year after having served their 4-year prison sentences.

#### **Decision**

To consider action as appropriate taking into account developments related to O Kokabee and three of the six Bahá’í scientists

### 7.3 **Büşra Ersanlı, Turkey**

The Committee last considered the situation of B Ersanlı, a political scientist in Turkey, in May 2013. She was imprisoned in October 2011 because of alleged links to the violent Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), although she reportedly never advocated or practiced violence. Pending the outcome of her trial, she was released in July 2012. In August 2013, the Chair had the opportunity to discuss her situation with B Ersanlı during a personal meeting in Turkey. To continue supporting B Ersanlı, the Committee agreed that the Chair should attend the court hearing on behalf of CFRS as an international observer. The trial against B Ersanlı and roughly 200 other accused persons, initially scheduled for late 2013 or early 2014, eventually took place on 26 November 2014 in Istanbul.

In reporting at the current meeting, the presence of the Chair in the court room "made a difference." However, no final verdict was taken and the cases were deferred to the Constitutional Court in Ankara. Drawing further attention to the case of B Ersanlı, the Chair gave an interview to *bianet*, a prestigious Internet daily. Further, the Secretariat and the ICSU Communications section drafted a news item that was released on the ICSU website on the occasion of the UN Human Rights Day on 10 December. According to the Chair, the Constitutional Court might hear the case in April this year, following which he would keep the Committee informed.

#### **Decision**

To note the information obtained at the current meeting

To ask the Chair to inform the Committee about further developments

### 7.4 **Alexander Sodiqov, Tajikistan**

This doctoral student, enrolled at the University of Toronto, was arrested in Tajikistan in June 2014 during field research for his study on conflict resolution and civil society in Central Asia. Detained in the country's capital, his arrest was connected to investigations for "high treason," punishable from 12 to 20 years imprisonment. The case drew wide international attention and his doctoral supervisor, Edward Schatz, became personally engaged to bring about the release of A Sodiqov, which materialised on 22 July. A Sodiqov could eventually leave Tajikistan and return to Canada on 10 September. As proposed at the previous meeting, the Secretariat asked E Schatz whether he would share his insights into the handling of this case with the Committee. In accepting, he spoke to the Committee over videoconference at the current meeting.

At the outset, E Schatz made a reminder that the applicability of this case to others was limited and that not necessarily all details of the case were known to him. Nonetheless, he identified three elements that he judged to be important in bringing about A Sodiqov's release. Above all, A Sodiqov's scholarly credentials were put in the foreground to avoid him becoming a political case. The emphasis was therefore on a detained scholar and academic freedom, rather than on human rights. A second component was the dissemination of information through the social media, Facebook in particular, in Canada and in Tajikistan. The support from fellow students in Toronto and the Tajik people was of crucial importance in that context, while the information spreading had to be monitored to the extent possible in order to avoid misinformation. Thirdly, and relying on knowledge of Tajik politics, the case was politically executed by taking account of the country's political and bureaucratic system and involving diplomatic circles where appropriate. In the discussion with the Committee, E Schatz further explained that the arrest of A Sodiqov could not possibly be anticipated and that he would probably continue with his PhD topic. In terms of his legal situation, the charges against A Sodiqov have not yet been lifted and could be extended beyond the one-year period.

In thanking E Schatz for his time and for sharing details about this case with the Committee,

the Chair asked him to give an interview to the ICSU Communications section for an ICSU news item, a request that E Schatz agreed to.

**Decision**

To thank Edward Schatz for his availability and for sharing insights into this case  
To ask the ICSU Communications section to conduct an interview with E Schatz for an ICSU news piece

## 7.5 Health professionals, Bahrain

At the time of the previous meeting, two of the 48 health professionals imprisoned following the 2011 protests in Bahrain remained in prison: 'Ali 'Esa Mansoor al-'Ekri and Ibrahim al Demistani. Being persistently engaged from the outset by writing to the King of Bahrain, the Committee continued asking for the release of the two unjustly imprisoned medical doctors and, in the interim, for medical care for I al Demistani who was suffering from health problems according to C Corillon. As asked at the previous meeting, the Chair reiterated the Committee's appeal to the King of Bahrain, with copy to the Bahrain Medical Society.

At the current meeting, C Corillon informed that I al Demistani should be allowed to leave prison on 27 April. If that were to be the case, the Chair was asked to write to the King of Bahrain to express the Committee's gratification and to ask that I al Demistani could return to his medical position. In parallel, the Secretariat would enquire with the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP) regarding their engagement, as suggested by L Spini.

**Decision**

To note the letter from the Chair to the King of Bahrain  
To ask the Chair to write to the King of Bahrain in the case of I al Demistani's release from prison  
To ask the Secretariat to explore the engagement of the InterAcademy Medical Panel in these cases

## 7.6 Pinar Selek, Turkey

Learning of this case at its meeting in May 2013, the Committee then decided not to take action because of uncertainty about the extent to which the situation of P Selek, a Turkish sociologist, writer and advocate for the rights of minorities, including Kurds and Armenians, could be directly linked to her scientific work.

P Selek was among a group of people arrested and accused for having orchestrated an explosion in a marketplace in Istanbul in 1998. Detained for two and a half years after a trial, a court acquitted her in 2000 due to a lack of evidence. Subsequently, she was in and out of the courts, tried and acquitted in 2006 and 2008, before taking refuge in Germany and later France. Although acquitted a third time, she was handed a life sentence in a trial two years later. This verdict was again overturned by a criminal court in Istanbul in December 2014, as the Secretariat updated the Committee at the current meeting. In case the acquittal would again be reversed and upheld by the Supreme Court, lawyers of P Selek stated in June 2014 that they would take her case to the European Court of Human Rights.

**Decision**

To note the development in this case

## **8 Freedom of science: individual cases (new)**

### **8.1 Vladimir Golubev, Russia**

Several media outlets reported in February this year that the nuclear scientist Vladimir Golubev, who had worked at the Russian Federal Nuclear Centre in Sarov during 1975-2013, was arrested in July 2014. According to the reports, he was charged with high treason for allegedly disclosing state secrets in a paper he gave at the international conference “New trends in research of energetic materials” in April 2013 at Pardubice University, Czech Republic. Given the unclear circumstances of this case, for example whether V Golubev was in detention, the Secretariat wrote to A Kaminskii and to the presidents of the Russian Academy of Sciences and of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) for additional information. Complementary to that, C Corillon tried to obtain more information through her Network.

In view of the uncertainty of the circumstances, the Secretariat was asked to follow the case and report back to the Committee if further details would become known.

#### **Decision**

To ask the Secretariat to follow the case and take to the Committee again as appropriate

### **8.2 Rennan Pekünlü, Turkey**

This case was brought to the Secretariat’s attention by a member of the ICSU Executive Board in November 2014, within days of the beginning of R Pekünlü’s jail sentence. In 2012, this former professor in astrophysics at Ege University, a public university in Izmir, was sentenced to two years in prison for having prevented a student who was wearing a headscarf from entering the faculty building where he worked. In July 2013, the Supreme Court of Appeal confirmed the verdict.

To help assessing whether CFRS action was justified, the Secretariat enquired whether the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) or the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) had taken on the case. This coincided with Email correspondence with the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), which had also been alerted. In further contact with IAP and through their assistance, the Secretariat obtained the viewpoint of the Turkish Academy of Sciences. In considering all information available, the Committee decided not to take any action and to close the case.

#### **Decision**

To note the information provided at the current meeting  
To close the case

## **9 Conferences and CFRS workshops**

### **9.1 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity (Brazil, May/June 2015)**

As agreed previously, the Committee was increasing its involvement and visibility at forthcoming World Conferences on Research Integrity (WCRI) by organising the symposium “Research assessment and quality in science: perspectives from international science and policy organisations” at this year’s edition on “Research rewards and integrity: improving systems to promote responsible research” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 31 May to 3 June. Based on last year’s CFRS-CAST-CAS workshop, it would further explore the nexus between science assessment and research integrity. M Bullock and the Secretariat reported on the preparations of the symposium based on the decisions in October 2014.

The speakers from the Global Young Academy (GYA) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) were confirmed. Given Helga Nowotny's non-availability, Ellen Hazelkorn was included as a personality in policy and higher education with a background that was including consultancy work to the OECD and authoring studies on the impact of rankings. The initial interest of Sultan Abu-Orabi, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU), as representative the Middle East was not confirmed. The geographic focus thus shifting to Africa, involving several iterations and numerous resource persons, including the ICSU Regional Office for Africa, Robert McLaughlin from the University of Cape Town agreed on giving a paper. The finalised programme presented to the Committee therefore comprised the following speakers:

- Ellen Hazelkorn, Policy Advisor to the Higher Education Authority in Ireland / Higher Education Policy Research Unit at the Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland: "Challenges for science and the problems of assessing research"
- Carthage Smith, OECD Global Science Forum, France: "Research assessment and science policy development"
- Robert H. McLaughlin, Office of Research Integrity at the University of Cape Town, South Africa: "Research integrity in South Africa: the value of procedures and processes to global positioning"
- Tatiana Duque Martins, GYA & Federal University of Goiás, Brazil: "Rewards, careers and integrity: perspectives of young scientists from around the world"

Following the introduction by M Bullock as moderator and presentations of 12 minutes per speaker, a discussion among the panellists and the audience would aim at identifying ways and means of how science assessments could be supportive of research integrity. M Bullock and the Secretariat were asked to explore possibilities of recording the presentations of the speakers that were agreeing to make them available on the Freedom & Responsibility Portal.

In addition to M Bullock, the Chair, D Black and the Executive Secretary would represent ICSU and the Committee. The budget available necessitated this further downsizing of the CFRS sub-group, although partnering organisations were covering the costs of participation of two symposium speakers. The Committee and ICSU would also be present with an information stand and a banner. Furthermore, Wei Yang, a speaker at the Beijing workshop, was included as keynote speaker immediately preceding the CFRS symposium, such as proposed by M Bullock.

To interest the science community in the WCRI and alert it on ICSU's engagement, *Chemistry International*, the magazine of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), was running an article from the Executive Secretary at the end of 2014 and a news was released on the ICSU website on 2 March this year. At the current meeting, the Secretariat was asked to draft a general piece to outline the meaning of research integrity and why it was important for publication on the ICSU website prior to the WCRI, as proposed by D Young. In trying to have an impact on the anticipated WCRI statement, as was the case in 2010 and 2013, M Bullock was asked to send the CFRS outcome document from last year's Beijing workshop to the conference organisers to feed into the drafting process.

#### **Decision**

To note the final programme of the CFRS symposium

To ask the Secretariat to explore possibilities of recording presentations and making them available online

To ask the Secretariat for a draft on the scope and relevance of research integrity for publication on the ICSU website prior to the WCRI in Rio

To ask M Bullock to provide the WCRI organisers with the CFRS document based on the 2014 Beijing workshop

## 9.2 Workshop in Mexico (2016)

Following the invitation from the Mexican Academy of Sciences, it was confirmed that CFRS would hold its first meeting in 2016 in Mexico (agenda item 12), together with a workshop on a topic of joint interest insofar as it related to the Committee's agenda to bring out the balance between freedoms and responsibilities in the conduct of science. Following the previous meeting, the Secretariat confirmed this to the Mexican Academy of Sciences.

In currently considering a possible workshop topic, CFRS members, in consultation with AJ Núñez Sellés, agreed on gender issues in field research. The work proposed by the ISA RC32 sub-committee (agenda item 6.1) would thereby become part of the preparatory arrangements. One possibility to include this was through an internship at the ICSU Secretariat, which L Spini was asked to investigate. A further element to be taken into account was the work on women scientists by the InterAmerican Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS), which is also being hosted by the Mexican Academy of Sciences.

In order to develop a draft programme for the next CFRS meeting, a CFRS working group was formed with AJ Núñez Sellés, S Schicktanz and L Spini. The Secretariat would support their work, which, at this stage, included inviting the Mexican Academy of Sciences to delegate a representative and Manuel Limonta, Director of the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, to join the group. In case the CFRS membership beyond October 2015 would comprise an additional representative from Latin or South America, he or she would also be welcome to serve the group.

The date for the workshop was set for 20 April 2016, following which the Committee would hold its regular meeting on 21-22 April.

### Decision

To thank the Mexican Academy of Sciences for hosting this joint workshop  
To note the workshop topic "gender issues in field research"  
To thank AJ Núñez Sellés, S Schicktanz and L Spini for serving a working group to organise the workshop and related preparatory work by including the work done by the ISA RC32 sub-committee (e.g., internship) and with the support of the Secretariat  
To ask the Secretariat to confirm to the Mexican Academy of Sciences the workshop topic and invite them to delegate a representative to the working group  
To ask the Secretariat to invite Manuel Limonta to join the working group  
To note 20 April 2016 as the date for the workshop

## 9.3 Future CFRS workshops

The 2014 ICSU General Assembly approved the Committee's work plan for 2015-2017, a core element of which was the organisation of workshops to balance freedoms and responsibilities on issues of concern to the global science community. These workshops would usually be arranged with partners, above all with ICSU Members, in order to promote a dialogue with the academia in different regions and to develop products of use to them and beyond. A list of potential topics, identified by the Committee, was included in the work plan. Those that had not yet been addressed were:

- Brain circulation and the universality of science
- Knowledge divide
- Research in scientific areas of public controversy
- Conflicts of interest
- Biosecurity regulations and transnational controls
- Biotechnology, GMOs and stem cells
- Access to international research facilities

- Intellectual property rights and patents
- Converging technologies
- Science, ethics and the cyber-world
- Science without borders in conflict areas

Based on the experience of previous workshops and because CFRS was meeting twice a year only, at the current meeting the Committee considered identifying themes of particular interest to be pursued beyond 2016. The views expressed appeared to confirm that the first four topics remained relevant. Open access to scientific literature and data as it related to developing countries was furthermore mentioned. In general terms, though, Committee members were reminded of the need to clarify at the outset what freedom and responsibility aspects a given topic would entail and, therefore, the added value of a CFRS workshop.

#### **Decision**

To note that topics for future workshops needed to be given consideration at forthcoming CFRS meetings

### **10 CFRS Secretariat**

In October 2014, and as the Chair announced at the ICSU General Assembly the previous month, a call was issued to the ICSU Membership for nominations to host the CFRS Secretariat from October 2015. This followed the confirmation from the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) in April 2014 that its hosting of the CFRS Secretariat would end after five years, such as convened in a Memorandum of Understanding with ICSU in 2010. By the deadline for submissions in December, two ICSU National Members had indicated their interest, but did not tender due to insufficient funding, while another offer to host the Secretariat for the duration of 12 months was considered as too short to be taken any further.

At the current meeting, D Black reported that the search for a Secretariat host was on-going, including contact with the Swiss Academy of Sciences to consider prolonging to facilitate ICSU finding a suitable long-term arrangement. In any case, L Spini would coordinate support to CFRS. For that purpose, R Pfister introduced her prior to the current meeting and she would be henceforth included in the Committee's tasks.

#### **Decision**

To note the information provided at the current meeting

### **11 CFRS membership**

In line with the Council's rules of procedure for its two policy committees, CFRS membership would end for those who were concluding their second term of office before the newly formed Committee was going to meet for the first time in October this year. In addition, I Villasenor had indicated that she would not serve a second term. All other CFRS members eligible to run for a second term, including the Chair, were reminded at both Committee meetings in 2014 that re-nomination was required, because renewal was not automatic. In October, a call was sent to the ICSU Membership to nominate new CFRS members. By the deadline in December, re-nominations for four CFRS members eligible for a second term of office and nominations for 32 new candidates were received.

The incoming Executive Board would decide on CFRS membership on 28-29 April, taking into account the candidates' background and scientific expertise, experience and interest related to the Principle of Universality of Science, geographical and gender representation, rules of procedure as well as the Committee's overall composition.

At the current meeting, the Chair expressed his thanks to all Committee members for their invaluable contribution during their terms of office, mentioning that they would serve as ambassadors for the Committee even after their service on CFRS.

**Decision**

To note the information provided at the current meeting

## 12 Future CFRS meetings

The date and place for the second meeting were determined at the previous meeting. It would take place on 1-2 October and again in Paris so that the new Committee could first convene at the ICSU Secretariat. The first Committee meeting in 2016 would be linked to the joint workshop with the Mexican Academy of Sciences (agenda item 9.2). The Secretariat confirmed this arrangement to the Mexican Academy in December last year and at the current meeting, the date set was 21-22 April 2016, immediately following the workshop on 20 April.

**Decision**

To note that the second meeting in 2015 would be held in Paris on 1-2 October  
To note that the first meeting in 2016 would be held in Mexico City on 21-22 April

## 13 Feedback from Committee members

In looking back on six CFRS meetings during the last three years, the Chair invited members for feedback on their experience in serving on the Committee and for possible proposals to further increase its effectiveness. The comments provided centred on the following issues:

### *Mission*

- Core business: concentrate on freedom and responsibility aspects in science and profile CFRS as authoritative voice on those matters; promote academic freedom at the individual and institutional level

### *Individual scientists and human rights*

- Information: broaden the base for Committee decisions; invite ICSU National Members to serve as additional sources of information
- Science related: take action only when the situation of a particular scientist is related directly to his or her scientific work
- Prioritisation: concentrate on new cases

### *Outreach*

- Interaction with the ICSU Membership: inform about advisory/discussion/guidance documents and ask for further dissemination among their membership; obtain feedback from the more influential ICSU Members on CFRS's undertakings; consult 10 Members in the process of drafting meeting agendas
- Alumni system: appoint members of ICSU governing bodies as ICSU Fellows after completion of their service
- Embedding in the ICSU structure: interact with the Executive Board and the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR); align activities with ICSU's strategic objectives
- Publicise CFRS's work: build in activities when planning workshops; seize opportunities such as human rights days
- Online offer: facilitate access to information on the ICSU website by including young people as reviewers

**Decision**

To thank members for their feedback

To ask the Secretariat and the Head of Science Programmes to consider possibilities of implementation

**14 Any other business**

According to an article in the *Times Higher Education* on 21 March, a research group at the University of Lincoln in the UK was going to conduct a study on academic freedom and protection in Europe and Africa. Given CFRS's work in that area and the principle document it endorsed in April 2014, the Secretariat proposed to establish contact with this group to inform them accordingly.

**Decision**

To agree that the Secretariat would inform the research group about the Committee's activities related to academic freedom