29th Meeting of the ICSU Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR)  
9-10 April 2015

Report of Discussions and Decisions

Attendees: Jinghai Li (Chair), Assem Barakat, Tom Beer, Enrico Brugnoli, Valéria Csepe, Maria Guzman, Fumiko Kasuga, Muhammad Saidam, Oyewale Tomori  
David Black (ex officio), Daya Reddy (ex officio)  
Heide Hackmann (ex officio), Lucilla Spini (Head of Science Programmes), Katsia Paulavets (Science Officer)

Secretariat: Staff for specific items, including Staff from the Future Earth Interim Secretariat and Staff from the Regional Offices by teleconference.

Regrets received: Nina Buchmann, Mark Ferguson, Chad Gaffield, Stewart Lockie, D. Salunke and Martin Visbeck

1. Opening of the meeting and introduction of members
Jinghai Li, the Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed five new Members to CSPR, whose terms would run from 1 March 2015 to 1 March 2018. All CSPR Members and staff present were invited to present themselves. The Chair referred to the Terms of Reference (ToR) which defined the work of the committee and recalled that the CSPR was within the boundaries of, and was a committee of, the EB and not the other way round. Members were asked to note the procedures for reimbursement of travel on ICSU business.

Tom Beer requested to change his email address for communication with ICSU; and this was noted.

2. Adoption of the agenda
The Chair asked the Committee for any changes or additions they may have to the agenda; no modifications were proposed.

**Decision**
 - The agenda was adopted without changes or additions.

3. Decisions of the 28th CSPR Meeting, and 112th and 113th Executive Board Meetings
The report of the 28th CSPR Meeting has been approved and made publicly available on the ICSU website. Likewise the decisions of the 112th and 113th Executive Board (EB) Meetings have been finalized. The reports were provided to CSPR Members for information.

An issue of holding some CSPR Meetings outside of France was raised. This could potentially help to further ICSU presence in other countries, increase interactions with ICSU National Members, meet and engage local scientists from other countries, particularly from less developed ones. In this context, some CSPR Members noted that they had never met French scientists within the context of CSPR Meetings held in the ICSU host country. To that it was proposed to invite, for instance, Colleagues from the Paris-based COSPAR community for the next CSPR meeting.

The CSPR was informed that the EB is also considering the possibility of holding its meetings in other countries.
However, potential financial and organisational constraints (e.g., venue, Regional Offices’ capacity) as well as carbon footprint associated with this change should be taken into account. It was suggested to undertake a comparative analysis of what it would entail to hold a CSPR Meeting outside of France and explore with the ICSU Regional Offices whether they would have the capacity to support the organization of these meetings. Daya Reddy stated that Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) could potentially host a CSPR Meeting; this could provide an opportunity to further engage with National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Republic of South Africa. Another suggestion was made to link CSPR Meetings with other major scientific events, such as the World Science Forum. The feasibility of this task should be explored.

Within this discussion, CSPR Members were reminded that they should act as ICSU ambassadors and represent ICSU at different events, if authorized, wherever possible.

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Decision
- To undertake a comparative analysis of financial, organisational issues, as well as carbon footprint of holding CSPR Meetings in and outside of France.
- To explore with the ICSU Regional Offices whether they would have capacity to support the organization of future CSPR Meetings in their regions.
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4. Introduction to ICSU
4.1. ICSU: overview, structure incl. Regional Offices, governance
Heide Hackmann provided an introduction to ICSU, including its purpose, history, its current structure, and the profile of activities.

During the discussion, the CSPR suggested that ICSU Paris-based Secretariat should collaborate more closely with the ICSU Regional Offices on engaging early career scientists and on capacity building, as significant work has already been done at the regional level.

Concerning ICSU work with funders, it was stated that the emergence of different funding schemes/partnerships could create some confusion among funding agencies and donors, leading to increased defragmentation. It was suggested that ICSU should help facilitate dialogue among different funding agencies.

4.2. CSPR: history, structure functions and role and responsibilities of CSPR
CSPR members were informed that CSPR was a policy committee of ICSU that advised the Executive Board on issues related to scientific planning and review. It was established following the external review in 1996. Members serve in an individual capacity and are appointed by the Executive Board after consultation with the ICSU Membership. In addition to its advisory role, CSPR has devolved responsibility for establishing various ad hoc scoping and review committees and managing the grants programme.

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Decision
- To note the ToR and role of CSPR within the broader context of ICSU and its history.
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5. Overview of ICSU activities
5.1. Introduction and overview of ICSU activities
Lucilla Spini recalling the principal objectives of ICSU (as per Statutes II.3) presented an overview of ICSU activities, including research programmes, interdisciplinary bodies, scientific committees and observing systems and data/information bodies. In this context, the CSPR was informed that ICSU participated in international science initiatives in two ways: by establishing its own interdisciplinary
bodies or by lending its support to joint initiatives that have multiple sponsors/partners. The presentation reported key issues to be discussed by the CSPR Members on given activities. These issues are reported according to the agenda items as per below.

5.2. Future Earth
Following the overview by Lucilla Spini on the establishment and the development of Future Earth, a new 10-year interdisciplinary initiative on Earth system research for sustainability, the CSPR Members were informed that the Interim Secretariat would be closed at the end of April 2015, and was in the process of handing over all operations to the new Permanent Secretariat under the leadership of Paul Shrivastava, the newly appointed Executive Director of Future Earth. The Colleagues from the Future Earth Interim Secretariat were thanked by the CSPR for their excellent work. Following the update on Future Earth, a number of issues were discussed:

Future role of ICSU with regard to Future Earth: Previously, ICSU played a critical role in the establishment of Future Earth, and it is currently co-chairing the Governing Council composed of members of the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability; but it should identify how it could maintain its strong role upon completion of the co-chairing mandate.

It was highlighted that ICSU should further reflect how its Unions could contribute to Future Earth; as through the expertise of ICSU Unions and National Members, ICSU could focus on areas that could make breakthroughs in the sustainability field.

Research Agenda: It was mentioned that some areas were not strongly emphasized in the Future Earth research agenda, which, however, would be critical in achieving sustainable development, for instance energy. As most scientific input would likely come from hard sciences (for instance, nuclear fusion), nexus between energy, environment and materials would be critical. However, it was also noted that the human dimension should also not be neglected. Members also referred to scientific capacity-building to undertake co-design, co-production and co-delivery of knowledge, as another area for ICSU’s focus within the context of Future Earth.

Mechanisms of involving new entities in Future Earth: It was mentioned that a number of research programmes, projects, and Unions would like to contribute to Future Earth and become part of its community. While it was mentioned that Future Earth had developed mechanisms for involving projects (from the Global Change Programmes), it was still not clear how other programmes could join Future Earth. Therefore, the importance of establishing clear and transparent mechanisms for new entities to engage with Future Earth was noted.

Linkages with the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The importance of linking Future Earth activities with the post-2015 development agenda process was emphasized. The CSPR was informed about the dialogue between the Future Earth Task Force on SDGs and ICSU Secretariat.

Linking global, regional and national levels: Considering that there are no unified global solutions that can be applied universally, the importance of linking different levels - global, regional and national - was highlighted. Future Earth should have a different focus at different levels and should ensure its implementation at the national level, through the engagement of national scientific groups. In this regard the role of Future Earth National Committees was underlined as an important component of the structure. Regional efforts by the ICSU Regional Offices in building scientific communities should also be recognized and fostered.

5.3. Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)
Following the information in the presentation by Lucilla Spini, Fumiko Kasuga provided an update on ICSU’s and IRDR’s work at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) that was held in Sendai, Japan, on 14-18 March 2015. The conference adopted the Sendai Framework for Action
2015-2030 which recognizes the strong role of science in supporting disaster risk reduction from the local to the global levels.

ICSU, through the Science and Technology Major Group, brought together in Sendai nearly 400 delegates from a wide range of organizations and networks active across all disciplines and sectors. ICSU organized a number of working sessions and regularly released news items. Acknowledgements were made to the ICSU Secretariat for its excellent work in this process.

5.4. Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment
Following the presentation by Lucilla Spini on the programme “Health and wellbeing in the changing urban environment: a systems analysis approach” including latest development concerning the new IPO hosted by China, the Xiamen Expert Workshop, and the proposed development of a Collaborative Strategic Research Plan, the CSPR Members were invited to provide recommendations on how to advance the implementation of the programme.

A concern was raised regarding the Proposal for the Development of a Collaborative Strategic Research Plan. For some CSPR members it was not clear what it was expected from them: to provide comments to the proposal, or to provide a formal advice to EB. However, for CSPR it could be difficult to review the proposal without its close involvement in the proposal development process. On the other hand, no major objection on the proposal was raised. This discussion also highlighted the importance of clarifying the issue of co-sponsorship with respect to roles and responsibilities.

It was stated that the CSPR should continue to guide the programme towards implementation.

**Decisions**

− To acknowledge the work of the Future Earth Interim Secretariat.
− To note the progress in implementing the IRDR Programme.
− To note the progress in implementing the Urban Health programme, to commit in providing further guidance on implementation, and to welcome the generous support provided by China to host the IPO.
− To note the proposal to extend the term of office for the Urban Health SC members for an additional year.

6. Open-floor discussion on agenda item 5
Key discussion points are reflected in the agenda item 5 above.

7. Introduction and update on ICSU activities including reviews
7.1. Observing systems (GCOS, GOOS, GTOS and GEO/GEOSS)
Lucilla Spini introduced three ICSU co-sponsored global observing systems: Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), and Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS), also by referring to the related partnerships (via MoUs) with UN agencies. Reference to relevant ongoing developments in GEO/GEOSS, (e.g., new GEO/GEOSS implementation plan) was also made in this context.

The proposal for a review of ICSU’s role in the observing systems was endorsed by the 30th ICSU General Assembly. However, the CSPR, at previous meetings, decided to postpone the review of the observing systems until after the GCOS review carried out by WMO. CSPR Member, Martin Visbeck, represented ICSU on the review panel. The GCOS review report has been issued, and the ICSU and GCOS Secretariats have been liaising towards the implementation of follow-up actions, and including the signature of a new Memorandum of Understanding.

Reviews of GTOS and GOOS are also planned. CSPR members agreed that it was important to carefully consider how to pursue the review of these bodies. The GOOS and GTOS co-sponsors should be involved in deciding on the process (including timing and leadership) for the review. However,
CSPR members agreed that it was difficult to make suggestions on the review process due to lack of information. The Secretariat was tasked to compile progress reports from GOOS and GTOS to enable definition of the procedures for the GTOS and GOOS review at the next CSPR Meeting in October 2015. Concerns about the current status of FAO-hosted GTOS were raised.

It was highlighted that these observing systems are very important for sustainable development, and collaboration between the observing systems was critical to their success. CSPR members agreed that during the review process each observing system should be assessed on how it interacted with other observing systems. ICSU should also try to foster networking of all these systems, ensure closer interactions among them, as well as to help in expanding the systems. However, the difficulty of mapping all the actors for the Secretariat was recognized.

This was also the opportunity for the CSPR to emphasize the need to develop a standard review protocol that ICSU could use to assess its initiatives.

7.2. Scientific Committees – Joint Review of SCOR and SCAR
At its meeting in September 2013, the CSPR decided to review jointly SCOR and SCAR starting in April 2015. At its last meeting in January 2015, the committee adopted the work plan, and the terms of reference for the review, and discussed possible chairs.

The CSPR endorsed the proposal to appoint Peter Liss as Chair of the SCAR/SCOR Joint Review Committee, and noted the process and the schedule for the review. Considering that the scientific committees were planning internal reviews, the need to ensure that internal and external reviews would not clash was stressed. Potential linkages between the scientific committees and Future Earth should be explored during the review.

CSPR members agreed that if during the review it would become apparent that the scientific committees were dysfunctional, there should be a possibility of closing them down. To allow this, review questions should be carefully designed. As per the above agenda item, the CSPR emphasized the need to develop a standard review protocol that ICSU could use to assess its initiatives.

7.3. Data and Information Bodies (e.g., CODATA, WDS)
Lucilla Spini introduced to CSPR members ICSU’s Data and Information bodies: World Data System (WDS); Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA); International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP); and Scientific Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science (IUCAF). This agenda item introduced the nominations for the WDS Science Committee, reported in agenda item 9.1 below.

Decisions:
- To task the Secretariat to compile progress reports from GOOS and GTOS to enable definition of the procedures for the GTOS and GOOS reviews at the next CSPR Meeting in October 2015.
- To note progress on the SCAR/SCOR Joint Review process, including ToRs and Work-Plan.
- To endorse the proposal to appoint Peter Liss as Chair of the SCAR/SCOR Joint Review Committee.
- To explore the development of a standard review protocol that ICSU could use to assess its initiatives.

8. Open-Floor Discussion on agenda items 7.1-7.3 (to feed into brainstorming session on next day)
Key discussion points are reflected in the agenda item 7 above.
9. Nominations for Science Committee members

9.1. World Data System (WDS)

The CSPR was informed that the current WDS Scientific Committee was appointed in June 2012. It comprised 13 members instead of 12 because the EB granted an exceptional additional seat in June 2012 to cover the health sciences. WDS was now seeking renewal and appointment of new members for its Scientific Committee. The CSPR was requested to choose to renew a maximum of 8 Members and appoint 4 new members.

The CSPR agreed that expertise, gender and geographic balance should be considered when appointing and reappointing members of the WDS SC. It was discussed that the comments made by the WDS Secretariat were not helpful, and in most cases confusing. Therefore, the table with nominations and comments should be presented in a clearer way in the future.

Upon extensive discussion on the geographical balance, the CSPR members recommended the following set of candidates to the EB for (re)appointment on the WDS SC. It was agreed that the proposal to be submitted to the EB by the Secretariat should also inform the EB of the issues with geographical balance and should thus include a “vacant post” for an expert of the LAC region. The proposal is reported below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>WDS Data Centre / Service Director</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Renewal (Chair) (1st term as appointed mid-term)</td>
<td>Prof. Harrison Sandy</td>
<td>UK Australia</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Renewal (1st term as appointed mid-term)</td>
<td>Dr. Claudia Emerson*</td>
<td>Canada Portugal</td>
<td>Canadian</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Renewal second term</td>
<td>Mr Hugo Wim</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>South African</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>No / applying WDS member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Renewal second term</td>
<td>Prof. Li Guoqin</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Yes**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Possible new member / alternative</td>
<td>Prof. Iyemori Toshihiko*</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Yes**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Possible new member</td>
<td>Dr. Chambodut Aude</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Yes**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Possible new member</td>
<td>Dr. De Sherbinin Alexander</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Yes**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Possible new member</td>
<td>Dr. Diedhiou Arona</td>
<td>France Senegal</td>
<td>French and Senegalese</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Possible new member</td>
<td>Dr. Dillo Ingrid</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>No / applying WDS member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Possible new member</td>
<td>Prof. Faustman Elaine*</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Possible new member</td>
<td>Prof. Kitchin Rob</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Possible new member</td>
<td>Dr. Sorvari Sanna</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Finnish</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vacant / member from the LAC region
* Expertise in health data
** At least a 1/3 of the members have to be a WDS Data Centre or Service Director

**Decisions:**
- To **recommend** the above list of candidates and composition (including vacant post for LAC) for the WDS SC for EB approval at its next meeting (April 2015).
- To **note** the importance of staggering tenures to ensure continuity in the committee.

9.2. Update on CFRS nominations-process
The CSPR was informed that the CFRS meeting took place on 26-27 March 2015 at the ICSU Secretariat. A call inviting nominations for the CFRS membership had been sent to the ICSU community and the deadline was 19 December 2014. The Secretariat received 32 nominations (some with multiple nominators). The Executive Board at its meeting in April would decide on the final slate of nominations.

The CSPR Members were informed that since October, 2010, the activities of CFRS had been very generously supported by a dedicated Executive Secretary (50% FTE) provided by the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT). This arrangement would come to an end in September 2015, and a new host organization was being sought. A call for hosting proposals was sent in October and the deadline was 23 January 2015. The Secretariat received one offer from the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) Egypt for a period of one year. The Board would be looking at this issue and, in the meantime, the Swiss Academy agreed to extend their current offer for six months.

Within the framework of CFRS role in the upcoming 4th World Conference on Research Integrity; the CSPR suggested furthering linkages between CFRS and the IAP/IAC, given their work on research integrity.

**Decision:**
- To **note** progress on the CFRS nominations-process and on the activities conducted by the CFRS.

10. Summary of key points discussed on day 1
Key points discussed on day 1 were summarized by Jinghai Li at two levels:

**Strategic level:** ICSU needs to clarify its mission and position, as well as its engagement with Unions. ICSU does need to further address socio-economic and development issues, on the other hand, activities in promoting excellence of science should be strengthened.

**Operational level:** Due to limited resources, a system approach should be applied to ICSU operation and to the implementation of its programmes. While programmes should ensure scientific excellence, all programmes should be mission-oriented.

It is important to ensure that ICSU programmes and scientific committees contribute to ICSU visibility; they should not be working independently. Regional Offices should also be working on implementing ICSU strategy.

11. External review and key challenges
Heide Hackmann presented key outcomes and challenges of the external review. The discussion that followed focused also on both basic and applied research, and in particular the difficulty of raising funds for basic research was emphasized. ICSU should work with funders to encourage them to support basic research. In addition, it was discussed that ICSU should be more proactive in global
policy for science. Therefore, ICSU should strengthen its capacity to undertake this task and could consider making statements on policy for science issues, learning from the G7 experience.

The importance of communicating the benefits of basic science to the public was highlighted. It was stated that public education about the importance of science should be part of ICSU strategy. Linkages with Nobel Prize winners should be established in order to raise the importance of basic science. At the same time it was agreed that there was no sharp distinction between basic and applied science, both were equally important, and the key focus should be on good science. Therefore, ICSU should promote balanced funding for both and should try to address the existing knowledge divide. As there is a big distinction between how scientists, policy makers and the public see the science, the opinion gap needs to be addressed.

A number of suggestions were made concerning what ICSU could do on science popularization and awareness-raising:

- To organize TED science talks: ICSU members could be asked to identify top early career scientists to deliver inspiring talks on the value of science.
- To contribute to the UNESCO World Science Report by preparing a paper/statement on the value of science.
- To establish create awards/prizes, e.g. for young scientists, and/or for science/policy makers.
- To identify visionary people who strengthened national science systems and write inspiring pieces about them in journals.


The implementation status of the ICSU Strategic Plan II was discussed. In order to foster implementation in the remaining years (2015-2017), it was suggested to take the following issues into account:

- The Unions Meeting in 2016.
- A renewed grants programme (see agenda item 12.2 below).
- Relevant recommendations from the external review.
- Links with outside bodies and a full list of partners.

Considering that ICSU had its first strategic plan in 2006, it was suggested to compare ICSU performance before and after the strategic plans.

**Decision:**

- To **include** the listed points in the table on the implementation status of the ICSU Strategic Plan II.

12.1. International processes (e.g., post-2015 development agenda, post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, HLPF/ECOSOC, and Habitat-III)

Lucilla Spini informed the CSPR about current and upcoming UN processes to shape a more resilient and sustainable world beyond 2015. An update was provided on the ongoing activities related to the (i) Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals; (ii) World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR); and (iii) UNFCCC Negotiations. Information on the “Habitat III” process was also presented.

The CSPR was informed that ICSU also continues its work on mobilising the scientific input to the definition of the post-2015 development agenda (e.g. contributing to the monthly UN negotiations, development of the “Review of Targets for the Sustainable Development Goals: The Science Perspective”). On the other hand, CSPR Members were informed that the UN process is very complex, and, that the role of science in this process is not very prominent: currently science has a voice as a
civil society, which often limits the importance of the statements. To strengthen the visibility of science in this process, ICSU is exploring synergies with the UN Scientific Advisory Board and other organizations. In this context, the importance of reaching out to relevant people at the national level, such as members of permanent delegations was emphasized. The CSPR members were requested to help ICSU identify channels to reach out to permanent delegations and ministries concerning the post-2015 period. Some CSPR members volunteered to speak to their country Permanent Delegates about ICSU activities on post-2015/SDGs.

While the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) was already discussed in agenda item 5.3, this was the opportunity to highlight that a scientific conference that took place in Tokyo before the WCDRR Sendai Conference should be considered as a positive example of developing a scientific input into policy process.

Within the context of the upcoming climate change negotiations, the CSPR Members were also informed about a side event that ICSU would convene on 6 July 2015, bringing together the leadership of ICSU co-sponsored research programmes, international scientific committees and networks, and leading science advice practitioners. This event would take place just ahead of the “Our Common Future Under Climate Change” Conference (Paris, France, 7–10 July). As a result of this side event, ICSU would develop the key science messages that could be fed into the UNFCCC/COP21. The CSPR members were also invited to identify other events that could be associated with the “Our Common Future under Climate Change” Conference.

Decisions:
− To note progress on ICSU activities on international post-2015 processes, including upcoming ICSU side event at “Our Common Future Under Climate Change” Conference.
− To support ICSU in identifying channels of communications at the national level (e.g., permanent delegations to UN/UNESCO), concerning the post-2015 development agenda.

12.2. Grants Programmes
The ICSU Secretariat suggested modifying the existing grants programme in order to foster inter-disciplinary research collaboration between ICSU Unions. CSPR Members were informed that a concept note was being developed and would be presented to CSPR Members in the near future.

Key changes to the grants programme that were suggested include:
• To increase the grant from 30,000 to 100,000 Euro;
• To consider funding the same projects over several years;
• Several Unions should be part of any proposal;
• Each project proposal should contribute to the implementation of ICSU strategic priorities.

The CSPR Members unanimously agreed that the new approach should be a more effective vehicle to foster inter-disciplinary research collaboration among Unions. Public outreach, science education were listed as potential topics for the first call. Annual activities of ICSU should also be considered under this program so as to attract interest from all unions and members.

Decisions:
− To modify the grants programme in order to foster inter-disciplinary research collaboration between ICSU Unions.
− To develop a concept note describing key elements of the new grants programme.

13. New Ideas and Activities:
13.1. Science International
The initiative “Science International” was presented to the CSPR by Heide Hackmann. This initiative would bring together the leadership of ICSU, of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP, IAC and IAM), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) to focus on a contemporary global science and technology (S&T) policy challenge.

CSPR Members were asked to identify key S&T policy challenges that the initiative could focus on in the future. Big Data was discussed as a potential topic for the first meeting that would take place by the end of 2015, in a low or middle-income country. A short concise document with joint perspectives on the issue will be a key output of the meeting. Given that the first meeting would focus on big data, it was suggested to look closely at previous work done by CODATA, WDS, Microsoft, and the Royal Society. ICSU also should ensure involvement of the Unions in this context. It was highlighted that the outcome document could potentially be submitted also to the IAP Assembly in 2016.

It was recommended that before the meeting, a follow-up to the Trieste February 2014 Meeting was required to understand better how closely ICSU and IAP could interact and to agree on the topic of the meeting.

Concerning available resources, it was stated that participating organizations would be expected to support their own participation. The host country would also be expected to provide some support. These meetings will be attended only by invitation.

To identify a potential host, launching an open call was suggested. In case of several bids, applicants could be informed about a possibility of hosting future meetings.

Decisions:
− To endorse the “Science International” initiative.
− To identify key science and technology (S&T) policy challenges.

13.2. Sida Proposal
Katsia Paulavets presented an overview of the Sida proposal to the CSPR. The CSPR Members acknowledged the importance of the proposal for promoting integrated research in Africa and LAC region and for fostering research collaboration within each region. If the proposal is funded, it was suggested to develop regional reports on sustainability, building on the outcomes of the programme.

Decision:
− To note the progress on the development of the Sida proposal.

14. Brainstorming Towards the Third ICSU Strategic Plan (SP-III):
A number of suggestions/comments were made concerning the development of the next strategic plan:
− Regional inputs, including inputs from the MENA region, should be sought to ensure the alignment of global and regional priorities from the outset.
− The format of the SP-III plan should take into account a Result-Based Management approach; and a clear distinction between the strategy and the implementation plan should be made (incl. identification of a series of activities).
− The SP-III should include key issues from the external review and related follow-up activities (incl. Early Career Scientists strategy, “Science International”).
− The framework of ICSU programmes should be redefined, taking a more integrated/systems approach.
− Long-term and short-term perspectives should also be taken into account during the development of the next plan.
The Secretariat was requested to develop a process for the next CSPR meeting, also recommending to the EB to set up an ad-hoc group tasked to develop a new strategic plan.

**Decisions:**
- To request the Secretariat to develop a process for the development of the new plan, to be discussed at the next CSPR meeting in October 2015.

**15. Chair’s summary and discussion**
The Chair summarized the discussion by recalling some of the key issues discussed, including:
- Focus on scientific excellence.
- Policy for science.
- Changing environment in which science is operating.
- Systems approach and integration of ICSU programmes.
- Response to the external review.
- Setting up a process and an ad-hoc group for the development of the next strategic plan.

**Decision**
- To request the Chair to report the outcomes of the meeting to the EB at its April meeting.

**16. The Evaluation of the meeting**
The Chair and Members agreed that the meeting was successful. Discussions were open and straightforward; sufficient time was allocated for brainstorming. The Chair encouraged Members to give to CSPR first priority and to attend all future meetings. The Chair thanked all the CSPR Members and the ICSU Secretariat. The excellent preparation of the meeting was appreciated.

**17. Dates and place of Next Meetings**
The dates for the 30th CSPR Meeting were approved and the meeting will be held at the Secretariat on 12 and 13 October 2015.

**Decisions**
- To approve the dates for the 30st CSPR meeting (12-13 October 2015).

*End of the meeting*