



**5th meeting of the ICSU
Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science
(CFRS)**

Southern Sun Hotel, Maputo,
Thursday, 17 & Friday, 18 October 2008

Meeting Report

Present: Carol Corillon, Bengt Gustafsson (Chairman), Sylvia Rumball, Peter Schindler, John Sulston, Ovid Tzeng, David Vaux, Moises Wasserman, Kan Zhang

ICSU Secretariat: Carthage Smith (*ex officio*)

Apologies for absence: Najia Ariguib, Ruth Arnon, Ana Maria Cetto (*ex officio*) Peter Mahaffy and Peter Anyang 'Nyong 'O

1. Welcoming remarks

The meeting was taking place in Maputo, Mozambique, immediately prior to the ICSU General Assembly.

Members were informed that Bengt Gustafsson would be arriving late for the meeting and Sylvia Rumball was elected to Chair the meeting in his absence.

2. Adoption of agenda

<p>Decision</p>

<p>To adopt the agenda</p>

3. Report of the previous CFRS meeting and matters arising

Matters arising meeting 4

It was noted that there were several issues referred to under matters arising at the previous meeting that had still to be addressed: item 10, the project description on the history of the Principle of Universality (P Schindler); item 4, the reporting template for visa issues (Secretariat), and; item 14 the workshop with Pugwash. The actions on these items remained unchanged and would all be reported on at the next committee meeting.

Members were updated on the decision of the Executive Board regarding proposed changes in the wording of the Principle of Universality. The Board agreed that, as the current wording had been revised and approved after lengthy debate at the 28th General Assembly, no new changes should be proposed to the 29th General Assembly. However, it invited CFRS to consider revising statute 5 to more explicitly include scientific responsibilities, with a view to

presenting this to the 30th General Assembly. Options such as splitting the statute, e.g. into 5a on freedoms and 5b on responsibilities, should be explored and input sought from the ICSU membership.

Decision

To note the meeting report and affirm the relevant actions from the 4th CFRS meeting; to include revision of statute 5 – the Principle of Universality – in the CFRS work plan, 2009-2011.

4. Research Integrity

4.1 ICSU Statements

Following discussions at the previous meeting in relation to scientific publications, two CFRS position statements had recently been published:

- Statement of publication practices and indices and the role of peer review in research assessment (July, 2008);
- Statement on promoting the integrity of science and the scientific record (September, 2008).

These statements had been published in the name of CFRS and had not been subject to formal approval by the Executive Board and/or prior consultation with the ICSU Membership. Committee members discussed whether such mechanisms might be used to ratify already published CFRS statements in the future and thus increase their potential impact.

4.2 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity

ICSU had been a co-sponsor of the first World Conference on Research Integrity (Lisbon, 2007) and a second conference was now being considered for Asia in 2010. The Deputy Executive Director had attended a planning meeting for this event in Singapore in September. This meeting included the other main sponsors – the European Science Foundation and US Office of Research Integrity and local hosts. CFRS members noted the importance of carefully defining the audience(s) for the Conference and organising it accordingly. Decision-makers in Universities and research institutes were important targets.

It was also reported that another meeting on Research Integrity, bringing together research agencies in Europe, was being planned for Madrid in November. The Deputy Executive Director would attend this event to present CFRS activities and plans.

4.3 OECD guidelines

The OECD Global Science Forum had established a co-ordinating committee for facilitating international research misconduct investigations. It was developing a set of principles and guidelines for conducting investigations and an associated ‘boilerplate’ text that could be inserted into international agreements. It was suggested that ICSU might play an oversight role in ensuring adoption of these guidelines. However, it was noted that the ICSU Members were mainly not the Institutes that dealt with international research agreements.

Decision

To note the publication of two CFRS statements;
 to request the Secretariat to explore a process for ratification of CFRS statements;
 to support continued ICSU involvement in the planning for the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity;
 to consider the OECD guidelines on research integrity and international collaborations when they become available.

5. Statement on scientific freedom and responsibility and the Israel-Palestine conflict

J Sulston

At the previous meeting, considerable concern had been expressed about the situation of Palestinian students who had been awarded Fulbright scholarships to study in the USA but were unable to leave Palestinian territories and obtain travel visas for security reasons. Following the meeting the Chairman had written to the Prime Minister of Israel to express the concern of the international science community.

In the light of the concerns about infringements to the freedom of movement of Palestinian scientists and students, it had been agreed that the ICSU statement on Israeli Scholars from August, 2002 should be replaced. This original statement opposed a proposed boycott against Israeli scholars but was deficient in that it made no reference to the situation of their Palestinian counterparts. A more balanced statement had been drafted and, following consultation by email, it was presented now for approval by CFRS. Members proposed some minor amendments and agreed that, given the importance of this issue, the statement should go to the ICSU Executive Board for endorsement.

Decision

To note the letter to His Excellency Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister of Israel;
 to approve the statement on scientific freedom and responsibility and the Israel-Palestine conflict and recommend it to the Executive Board for approval.

6. Scientists in Contemporary Wars

The Chairman presented a revised version of the paper that had been considered at the 3rd CFRS meeting (October 2007) and which incorporated comments from members. The paper covered a very broad range of interesting issues but the audience was not clear. A number of detailed editorial changes were suggested and additional topics were identified that might be included. It was also suggested that the focus on armed conflicts be extended to human conflicts. However, there was recognition that not all of these issues could be combined in a single published article. A more tightly focussed paper was more likely to be published and to have an impact.

Decision

To agree that the paper should be condensed with a view to submitting it as a general interest article to *Science* or *Nature*;

to include this topic in the list of potential workshops to be organised with Members (item 11) .

7. Report on Washington meeting on Scientific Research Collections

It had been agreed at the previous CFRS meeting that Carol Corillon should represent the committee at an OECD meeting on research collections to be held in Washington in July. Carol now presented a report of this meeting, which explored options for ensuring international coordination and harmonisation for diverse scientific collections.

In discussion it became clear that the envisaged coordination function required a major investment and was mainly operational as opposed to policy-related. Whilst there were important issues relating to freedom and responsibility regarding research collections, this was only a small aspect of what OECD was proposing.

Decision

To keep a watching brief on this activity.

8. Science education/training and discrimination in the Netherlands

Following a report in *Nature* (see <http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080707/full/news.2008.938.html>), the Chairman had written a letter to the President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, in July, expressing concern about new legislation banning Iranian students from certain courses in the Netherlands. The principle concern, as expressed in the letter, was that ‘any legislation that enshrines discrimination on the basis of nationality in the selection processes of science represents a serious threat to the future of global scientific collaboration as a whole’. The Academy was encouraged to take appropriate actions to try to ensure that the new legislation was withdrawn or revised in such a way as to make it consistent with the Universality of Science. The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies had subsequently issued a statement on this issue in August.

The Academy had not formally responded to the letter but the Chairman informed members that via informal contacts he had been reassured that the legislation was being revisited.

Decision

To note the action taken.

9. Individual cases

Past cases

9.1 Igor Sutyagin

The cases of Igor Sutyagin and several other Russian scientists, who were persecuted after international collaboration in ‘sensitive’ areas of research, were considered at the 4th CFRS meeting. Members were informed that the Russian Academy had been contacted in relation to these cases but there had been no response.

There was considerable concern that Russian scientists might be excluded from international activities. It was noted that the Academy, which had historically been an active member of ICSU, would not be represented at the forthcoming 29th ICSU General Assembly.

9.2 Binyak Sen

Binyak Sen is a well-known Indian paediatrician, who had been charged with terrorist offences that related to his medical and human rights work. His case was considered at the 4th CFRS meeting, when it was agreed that the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) should be approached for its view. The formal response from INSA recognised the human rights concerns relating to this case but advised that 'publicly taking up this individual problem by ICSU would not effectively further the cause or help the individual'. At the same time an eminent Indian scientist, who had been made aware of the CFRS concerns, was pursuing the case through local contacts.

Recent informal communications with State Officials gave positive indications that his case would be satisfactorily resolved. However, in the meantime, he remained incarcerated in conditions that were both physically and psychologically distressing.

9.3 Fredy Peccerelli

Fredy Peccerelli was a forensic anthropologist in Guatemala, who was being subject to intimidation because of his work in documenting past human rights atrocities. At the 4th CFRS meeting it was agreed that the case should be brought to the attention of the Academy of Sciences in Guatemala and the ICSU Regional committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. Both bodies expressed their concern and a letter was sent to the French Ambassador of Guatemala in Paris on 31 July. There had been no response to this. It was noted that, in September, Mr Peccerelli had been awarded the New York Academy of Sciences Heinz R Pagels Human Rights of Scientists Award.

New cases

9.4 Adeleh Divsalar

Peter Schindler reported on the case of Adelah Divsalar, an Iranian post-doctoral student who had been awarded a fellowship to attend an IUBMB conference in Athens in June/July. She had been refused a visa by the Greek embassy in Tehran. The Academy of Athens was prompted to contact the embassy but on June 24, after a meeting with the consular official at the Embassy, it became clear that Mrs Divsalar would not be granted a visa. The reasoning behind this was not explained to her.

It was not clear whether this unfortunate case was mainly a result of administrative failures or was a reflection of a more general tightening of barriers for Iranian scientists wanting to enter Europe (see item 8). In the latter case, it would be important for CFRS to address the policy issues that were threatening the Principle of Universality.

Decision

To follow up with the Russian Academy in relation to the case of Igor Sutyagin;
 to recommend to the Executive Board the appointment of a suitable Russian scientist as a member of CFRS;
 to contact the Indian National Science Academy again regarding Binyak Sen and to request Carol Corillon to continue to closely monitor this case and advise CFRS should future interventions be warranted;
 to note the actions taken with regard to Freddy Peccerelli and to continue to monitor this case;
 with regard to the case of Adelah Divsalar, to note the apparent discrimination against Iranian scientists and students coming to Europe and to monitor their situation more closely.

10. Issues raised by committee members

10.1 European Association of Science Editors (EASE) Conference on Integrity in Science Communication

An invitation had been received for ICSU/CFRS to contribute to a meeting of the European Association of Science Editors on 16-19 September, 2009, in Pisa, Italy. The meeting title was “Integrity in Science Communication”. Members agreed that the topic was of interest in the light of the committees recent work and statements in this area. Although the meeting was limited to Europe, it would potentially attract an interesting audience for CFRS to engage with.

10.2 AAAS initiative on Human Rights

AAAS was creating a Science and Human Rights Coalition that would be formally established in January 2009. The proposed coalition was a broad-based effort to mobilise scientific organisations and scientists in the service of human rights through science. Members could be either scientific associations/societies/networks or affiliated individual scientists. While the initial focus was on the USA, the aim was to reach out internationally. From a CFRS perspective, the coalition potentially provided an opportunity to network with similarly interested organisations and to obtain assistance for the committee’s activities, e.g. in organising workshops.

10.3 Magna Charta of University Observatories for Human Rights

The Magna Charta Magna Charta Observatory of Fundamental University Values and Rights is a non-profit organisation based in Bologna, founded by the University of Bologna and the European University Association (EUA). It aims to gather information, express opinions and prepare documents relating to the respect for, and protection of, the fundamental university values and rights laid down in the Magna Charta Universitatum signed in Bologna in 1988 by 388 Rectors of worldwide main universities. The CFRS Chairman reported on his recent correspondence with the Observatory, which was keen to develop a more global remit.

Decision

To agree that a CFRS member will attend the EASE Conference if it can be fitted into his/her schedule and if there is an opportunity to make a presentation;

to request the Secretariat to explore further the value of CFRS being formerly associated with the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition;
to ask the Chairman to continue to keep a watching brief on the development of the Magna Charta University Observatory.

11. The CFRS work-plan, 2009-2011

In line with the action agreed at the fourth CFRS meeting, a workplan for the committee's activities, 2009-2011, had been developed. This had been commented on and agreed by email and the final version was to be presented to the 29th ICSU General Assembly that followed the current meeting. Members expressed their satisfaction with the workplan, which was ambitious but achievable, provided that additional support could be secured.

Decision

To note the agreed work-plan for the next three years

12. Key messages for the General Assembly

The Chairman would be presenting the committee's activities to date and its future workplan to the 29th ICSU General Assembly and he gave a brief overview of his proposed presentation for feedback from members. Some minor changes in wording and emphasis were proposed.

Decision

To approve the Chairman's presentation for the 29th ICSU General Assembly.

13. Date of the next meeting

Two sets of potential dates for the 6th CFRS meeting, in April or May, 2009, were established. Following electronic consultation with those members not present, the May dates were subsequently agreed. Peter Schindler kindly offered to host this meeting in Zurich but it was reaffirmed that every alternate meeting should normally be in Paris.

Kan Zhang presented an invitation from China CAST to host a future meeting of the Committee. It was also noted that the Pugwash workshop on Converging Technologies was still being planned and potentially for late 2009. In the light of the uncertainty, a decision on the dates and location of the 7th CFRS meeting was postponed until the meeting in May.

Decision

To agree that the next, 6th, CFRS meeting will be held in Paris on 18-19 May;
to note with gratitude the invitations from Switzerland and China

14. Any other Business

It was noted that an editorial had been published in the journal *Science* the previous day (*Science*, 322, 17 October 2008, p345) on US-Cuban Scientific Relations. This was written,

in their individual capacities, by a Cuban ICSU Board member, Sergio Pastrana, and a U.S. member of the Committee for Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR), Michael Clegg. It called for a new scientific relationship and expanded cooperation between the two countries.

The US-Cuba situation had been considered several times previously by CFRS dating back to discussion at its first meeting on legislation introduced by the State of Florida forbidding the use of research funds for collaboration between US and Cuban academics and institutions. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had recently won a legal case that overturned the ban on the use of private funds for visits to Cuba. However the restriction on the use of public funds was still in force. In light of the *Science* editorial, members considered it appropriate to raise this issue publicly and appeal for removal of this restriction in a letter to *Science*.

Decision

To agree that the Chairman should write a letter to *Science* as a follow-up to the editorial on US-Cuban Scientific Relations

Friday 18 October, pm

Forum with local teachers and students at Namaacha Teacher Training Institute

In collaboration with the Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO a half-day forum was organised to engage local academics and students in discussion of the freedom and responsibility of science. This event took place in Namaacha (~100km from Maputo) and was attended by ~250 students and teacher trainers who had been invited from different regions of Mozambique. A number of national and regional governmental representatives also attended. Carthage Smith, Bengt Gustafsson and John Sulston gave brief presentations, on behalf of ICSU and CFRS, which were followed by questions and debate. The full agenda for the forum is attached at [annex 1](#).

Decision

To express sincere thanks to the organisers and local hosts in Namaacha for arranging the forum

Annexes

Annex 1 Draft agenda: Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science
Workshop, Namaacha, 18 October, 2008

Annex 1

Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science Workshop, 18TH October, 2008.
Namaacha Teacher Training Institute
Provisional Agenda

8:30 -9:00H	Arrival and registration of participants	Workshop Protocol
	Opening Ceremony	Presidium
9:00 - 9:30H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choral group of Namaacha Teacher Training Institute ▪ Welcome remarks by the Director of Namaacha Teacher Training Institute ▪ Workshop framework – Secretary General of Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO ▪ Official Opening Address by Permanent Secretary of the Maputo Government 	
9:30-9:45H	Adoption of Agenda	Facilitator
9:45-10:30H	Introduction	Secretary General of Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO
10:30- 11:00H	Coffe break	
11:00- 11:30h	Applying appropriate agrarian research for well being of communities	Ms. Alsácia Atanásio, Ministry of Science and Technology
11:30- 12:00H	Discussion in plenary session	Participants
12:00- 12:30H	Responsible Conduct in the Health Science Research	Mr. Ricardo Thompson, Ministry of Health
12:30-13:00H	Discussion in plenary (questions and answers)	Participants
13:00-14:00H	Break for Lunch	
14:00 -14:15	What is ICSU, its role and objectives	Carthage Smith (ICSU, Deputy Executive Director)
14:15-14:45	General Presentation on Freedom and Responsibility in Science	Dr. Bengt Gustafsson (Astronomy, Sweden)

14:45-15:15H	Discussion in plenary session (questions and answers)	Participants
15:15-15:35H	Global Health and the Responsibilities of Science	Dr. John Sulston (Molecular Biology , Nobel Laureate 2000 Medicine)
15:35- 16:00H	Discussion in plenary session Dance Group Makwaela	Participants
16:00- 16:30	CLOSING CEREMONY	Her Excellency, Governor of Maputo Province
16.45-18:00	Reception for all attendees	