

**9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICSU**  
**Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS)**  
Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales ACCEFYN  
Universidad Nacional de Colombia  
16-17 November 2010

**Meeting Report**

**Present:** Bengt Gustafsson (Chair), Ashima Anand, Ruth Arnon, Alexander Kaminiskii, Peter Mahaffy, Sylvia Rumball, John Sulston, Ovid Tzeng, David Vaux, Moisés Wasserman

**ICSU Secretariat:** Roger Pfister (*ex officio*), Carthage Smith (*ex officio*)

**Guests:** Mahabir P. Gupta (RCLAC), Qin Jiuyi (CAST, day 1 only)

**Apologies for absence:** Fatma Attia, Carol Corillon, Akilagpa Sawyerr, Maurice Tchuente, Jiansheng Zhang

**1. Welcoming remarks and introductions**

The CFRS Chair expressed his thanks to M Wasserman for hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> CFRS meeting and for having taken the lead in organising the “Forum Science Communication” following the CFRS meeting, providing a platform for exchange with the scientific community of Colombia and thereby increasing ICSU’s visibility in the region.

In that context, Mahabir P. Gupta from the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCLAC) was welcomed as a guest to the CFRS meeting on both days. He also was representing the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, whose offices were in the process of being transferred from Brazil to Mexico.

J Zhang was prevented from attending due to a problem with travel arrangements. In his absence, Qin Jiuyi, Director of the Division of International Organisations at the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), was invited to join the meeting for day 1.

R Pfister was formally welcomed as the CFRS Executive Secretary. After his introductory participation at the Singapore meeting in July, he had been operative in supporting CFRS’ work since 1 October 2010.

Following a decision at the previous CFRS meeting, the Secretariat made a final effort to contact Professor Mario J. Molina, who had been selected to serve the Committee, but had not responded to previous invitations. He had again failed to respond although he was on a list of potential speakers to be invited to the ICSU General Assembly in September 2011.

**Decisions**

- to thank M Wasserman for hosting the CFRS meeting;
- to welcome MP Gupta as a guest to the meeting;
- to formally welcome R Pfister as the CFRS Executive Secretary;
- to delete M Molina from the CFRS membership list.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

Members were reminded that the agenda and meeting report were public reports, while the individual meeting documents are confidential.

**Decisions**

- to adopt the agenda;
- to note that meeting documents are confidential.

**3. Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> CFRS meeting and matters arising**

The Committee took note of the report of the previous CFRS meeting in Singapore. All issues that arose from that meeting would be dealt with at the relevant agenda items during the current meeting.

**Decision**

To note the meeting report.

**4. Report from the Executive Board and process for CFRS Statements**

The Executive Board approved the revisions to Statute 5, proposed by CFRS following the Singapore meeting, with only one minor suggested modification, replacing “gender, sex” by “gender, sexual orientation (Annex 1). It further agreed that the new wording should be circulated to ICSU Membership for consultation after the 9<sup>th</sup> CFRS meeting.

The Executive Board agreed also with the CFRS recommendation that ICSU should develop a policy for soliciting and accepting “external funds”.

The Executive Board thanked CFRS for its careful consideration of the individual cases, recognising that these are often politically sensitive, and for taking balanced and appropriate measures. It was noted CFRS was developing criteria to help decide when individual cases should be considered.

**Decisions**

- to note the Executive Board’s feedback;
- the Secretariat to circulate the new wording of Statute 5 to ICSU Membership for consultation.

## 4.1 Guidelines for the Production of ICSU Statements

At previous meetings and in discussions with the Executive Board, it had become apparent that both the criteria and process for producing CFRS statements needed to be clarified. ICSU had already developed standard rules on the issuance of statements and these provided a starting point for considering CFRS statements.

The discussion in the Committee revolved around CFRS continuing to issue statements as a category of its own, although possibly with a disclaimer that these were not formal ICSU policy statements. The possibility was raised of introducing a distinction between advisory notes, memos and statements.

### Decisions

- the Secretariat to develop a guidance note on the formulation of CFRS standpoints and to circulate it among CFRS members for consultation prior to the next CFRS meeting.

## 4.2 Statement on Gene Patenting

At its previous meeting, CFRS had recommended that the ICSU Statement on Gene Patenting (2002) be revised. The Executive Board agreed with this and accepted CFRS' offer to propose a revised text.

Due to both the complexity and length of the current statement, the Committee decided to delegate this work to a virtual working group composed of J Sulston (lead), R Arnon, S Rumball, A Sawyerr and D Vaux. They would compile a first revised draft version that would subsequently be circulated to the heads of the relevant ICSU union members, namely in the domain of biosciences. The Secretariat would facilitate this process. This finalised version would then be submitted to the Executive Board for approval, and thereafter be circulated to the entire ICSU membership. The entire process should ideally be concluded before the next CFRS meeting in May 2011.

In the meantime, the current statement would remain on the ICSU website, but a disclaimer was to be added to indicate that the statement was outdated and that CFRS is in the process of reworking it. Once the new version was online, the old statement would be archived on the website

### Decision

- to form a virtual working group to develop a revised version of the Statement on Gene Patenting, including consultation with relevant ICSU union members;
- the Secretariat to add a disclaimer on the ICSU website whereby the 2002 statement is outdated and in the process of being reworked.

## 5 Statements

### 5.1 WCRI Singapore Statement

The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI) in Singapore in July 2010 issued a consensus statement. This attracted considerable media attention. The Ex-

Executive Board considered the statement at its recent meeting and agreed that it should be publicised on the ICSU website, associated with CFRS activities, but that it should not be formally endorsed by ICSU.

The Committee discussed the statement's contents, how it might be disseminated effectively among the scientific community and a possible involvement in the organisation of a future 3<sup>rd</sup> WCRI.

### *Contents*

There was a common understanding that ICSU and its Members need not necessarily agree with every detail of the statement's wording, but that it lays out important general principles for research integrity and should be endorsed by CFRS. This also reflects CFRS' strong engagement in the organisation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> WCRI. The statement was normative and could be adapted to national or regional specificities and serve different purposes, from stimulating discussion to helping the development of practical guidelines.

### *Dissemination*

The Committee considered it to be of prime importance to disseminate and thus promote the essence of the Singapore Statement among the scientific community. Apart from distributing the document on the occasion of scientific meetings whenever possible, to students in particular, three main activities were decided upon:

- to send a letter signed by the CFRS Chair and Deputy Executive Director to ICSU's membership before the end of 2010, asking them to consider and publicise the Singapore Statement by, *inter alia*, having the document discussed at council meetings of academies and international unions, and by having put it on their websites;
- to involve the ICSU Regional Offices to take the message into their regions through appropriate measures;
- to establish an on-line discussion forum linked with the online version of the Singapore Statement so as to promote a discussion among the scientific audience. To nurture the forum, initial comments by CFRS members could be posted. Apart from stimulating the debate on controversial points, the forum would also serve as a platform to exchange experiences made with the statement's implementation and to collect constructive input for a 3<sup>rd</sup> WCRI.

### *3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity*

C Smith reported that the initiators of the 2<sup>nd</sup> WCRI – the US Office of Research Integrity (ORI) and the European Science Foundation (ESF) – were looking for organisations to contribute to a 3<sup>rd</sup> WCRI, planned for 2013. ICSU-CFRS had been approached because its contribution to the second edition had been greatly appreciated. Members expressed considerable interest in assisting with the next WCRI. The Committee identified two issues that should be centre stage in such a follow-up conference: to evaluate the experiences made with the implementation of the Singapore Statement, and to look at research integrity from an institutional and science system perspective, i.e. item 13 in the Singapore Statement ("Research Environments"). This would go beyond the level of individual responsibility to institutional integrity. Attention should be paid to the role of policy makers, university leaderships, industry, international organisations and institutions involved in the ranking of universities and publications. Research incentives and evaluation as well as reward processes and their effect on research conduct was an important area for exploration. The focus of

attention would thus no longer be the enforcement role of research integrity officers, but rather the role being played by their employers and funders and systemic issues relating to the scientific practice. Such a focus should also be reflected in some of the planned CFRS workshops, such as the one on “Private sector-academia interactions” (see 10.4) in such a way that they might feed into the 3<sup>rd</sup> WCRI.

#### **Decisions**

- to endorse the WCRI Singapore Statement as a CFRS consensus statement;
- the Chair and Deputy Executive Director to write to ICSU members and urge them to consider the Singapore Statement and to involve the Regional Offices in this regard;
- the Secretariat to establish an online discussion forum on research integrity;
- the Secretariat to contact the initiators of a 3<sup>rd</sup> WCRI, expressing CFRS’ strong interest in being involved in its organisation.

## **5.2 Science communication: a Bogotá statement?**

As one of the products of the “Forum Science Communication” that was to take place immediately after this meeting, it was proposed that CFRS develop a Bogotá statement to outline the key freedom and responsibility issues relating to science communication. Correspondence among the Committee’s members prior to the current meeting had resulted in a first draft proposal.

The discussion considered different facets of the relationship between the media and journalists and the scientific community regarding the aspects of freedom and responsibility. Integrity, transparency and honesty should be guiding principles in communicating scientific findings to the public. Communication must take place both ways, scientists presenting their findings on the one hand, while also being prepared to take into consideration and respond to the public’s needs.

In further advancing the statement, CFRS agreed on the need to integrate issues, with which it had been confronted previously, and new issues that were likely to be raised at the “Forum Science Communication”. For this purpose, Committee members agreed to convene a short meeting at the end of the Forum.

#### **Decision**

To meet at the end of the “Forum Science Communication” to consider a possible statement on science communication and a process for developing this further.

## **5.3 Science and human rights**

It was agreed at the previous CFRS meeting that the partially developed directory of human rights instruments relevant to science, originally compiled as a basis for a statement on the matter, should be re-structured. A revised version of this resource document was now provided for consideration by CFRS. The instruments were organised according to their binding force and, therein, grouped in the categories “multilateral”, “regional” and “national”.

Committee members considered it to be a useful resource, serving both as a reference tool and also placing CFRS' work in a wider framework. The following adaptations to further improve its usefulness were proposed:

- to retain only the multilateral and regional documents, as CFRS's work is informed by arrangements on these two levels;
- to add an explanatory introduction to the collection of documents or to each document, indicating the origin and (legal) relevance and point out the universality aspect, with reference to Statute 5.

The Secretariat was requested to consult the ISCU Regional Offices and Committees for additional documents from their regions. This updated list, would then be made available on the ICSU website, allowing users to provide their comments and feedbacks. It was further suggested that the documentation might serve as useful input to future CFRS workshops

#### **Decision**

- the Secretariat to adapt the list of documents;
- the Secretariat to consult the ICSU Regional Offices and Committees;
- the Secretariat to then make the compilation available online.

#### **5.4 Publication/author bias**

D Vaux introduced two documents as a basis for discussion:

- his preliminary paper on bias in publishing that was circulated for the previous CFRs meeting, in which he concluded that double-blind peer review was a measure that might help reduce publication bias;
- the report "Peer review in scholarly journals: perspective of the scholarly community – an international study", based on a survey conducted on behalf of the Publishing Research Consortium that concluded, among other findings, that there was strong support for double-blind peer review.

The Committee confirmed its view that author bias is a serious issue, not only with respect to gender, but also concerning authors' institutional affiliation, especially if non-Anglo-Saxon. It was proposed that someone from the publishing research consortium, with operational experience of publishing and managing peer review processes, be invited to discuss with CFRS at its next meeting.

#### **Decision**

- D Vaux to contact the publishing research consortium to see whether the report had led to any changes in practice;
- the Secretariat to identify a suitable publishers' representative to be invited to the next CFRS meeting.

## 6. ICSU/CFRS Website

A prototype of the new ICSU website was presented online to the Committee members, highlighting the potential for increased visibility and inter-active portrayal of CFRS's work. The principal improvements to the site were the following:

- integration of the Regional Offices websites and aligning their outlook with that of the main ICSU website;
- particular content can be linked/tagged to different menus, thus breaking the hitherto hierarchic and static structure;
- news can be rated and commented on by users;
- by using a CMS application, the website can be updated/moderated by various users, no longer only the ICSU webmaster, thus increasing the turnover of new information available;
- the Member Zone will facilitate the exchange of documents among the Committee's members, thereby facilitating its work.

It was emphasised that CFRS does not occupy much space on the current website, but there is huge potential for growth. The new site offers plenty of opportunities to accommodate new ideas. For example, newsworthy issues from CFRS meetings could be exploited to promote blogs. CFRS and its work should be more visible and easier to find on the new website.

Prior to the new website coming online, which was planned for January 2011, the Secretariat would revise the texts currently used to describe CFRS and its role. It was agreed to use the WCRI Singapore Statement as a pilot for interaction with the public.

### **Decision**

The Secretariat to open a blog/discussion forum on the Singapore Statement, when the new website is operational.

## 7. ICSU Foresight

CFRS discussed the ICSU Foresight Analysis "What will the Future of International Science be in 2031?" at its 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in November 2009 and identified several key factors or drivers that were likely to have a major influence on science over the coming decades. These had been combined with similarly identified drivers from other consultations to generate four potential scenarios for the future. CFRS was now asked for input on these scenarios. It was noted that a "success scenario" would be developed at a dedicated workshop in April 2011, the draft of which will be put to CFRS at its next meeting for comment.

In the discussion, the following points were raised for further consideration in refining the four scenarios:

- classic scientific problems, which are not necessarily interdisciplinary in nature;
- military aspects are also drivers for scientific advancement, not only obstacles;
- educational aspects;
- rephrasing the labels for the different scenario axes;
- the potential for interventions to limit population growth and consumption;

- links between science and religion;
- role of the scientific community as a whole in tackling future challenges and the role of ICSU to strengthen and complement these efforts.

#### **Decision**

To note that the final scenarios, taking into account the input of CFRS and other parties, will be presented for consideration at the next meeting.

### **8. ICSU Strategic Plan, 2012-2017**

The first ICSU Strategic Plan covered the period 2006-2011 and proposed the establishment of CFRS. A first draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Plan was recently considered by both the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) and the Executive Board, and was now presented to CFRS for input. Members were invited to comment on the plan and use the opportunity to influence the document as a whole, while paying particular attention to the current section 4.1 "Principle of Universality".

Committee members proposed that the following be considered for a revised ICSU Strategic Plan:

- emphasise CFRS' role in also promoting responsibility as part of the Principle of Universality;
- involve the Regional Offices in promoting of the Principle of Universality;
- ensure a greater visibility for ICSU's role as a seeding agency for research programmes;
- consider establishing closer contact with other multilateral academic bodies;
- stronger cooperation with the International Social Science Council (ISSC).

Looking forward to the General Assembly in 2011 and the next six years, it was recognised that there was a need to update the CFRS work plan. This should be informed by an evaluation of the CFRS workshops held so far.

#### **Decision**

To consider the CFRS work plan at the next meeting with a view to up-dating it.

### **9. Individual cases**

A draft guidance document had been prepared. This outlined possible source(s) through which individual cases are reported to CFRS, criteria for CFRS as when to consider individual cases and a list of potential actions.

Committee members proposed that CFRS make its offer of assisting in individual cases more visible to the scientific community. The Secretariat was requested to draw up a draft text to this effect and for publication on the website.

Regarding the criteria to be applied, there was consensus that CFRS should become involved in those cases where an individual faces problems as a result of the active conduct and/or practice of science. Persecution of a scientist that is mainly related to the individual's political engagement, and not related to his/her profession and re-

sponsibility as a scientist, would not normally be appropriate for CFRS action. At the same time, CFRS should follow developments in countries or regions with recurrent or multiple cases of politics hampering individuals in the free conduct of science, and respond accordingly. Here it is important to connect with the work of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies, whose focus is much wider compared to that of CFRS. Consultation with C Corillon on final criteria was seen as essential.

#### **Decisions**

- the Secretariat to draft an online text that suitably describes CFRS' role regarding its assistance in individual cases;
- the Secretariat to consult with C Corillon on case criteria and present a revised proposal to CFRS at its next meeting.

#### 9.1 Update on past cases

*Jameel Zayed, Israel:* Further enquiries had been made with the UK Royal Society on J Zayed, a Cambridge PhD student who had been prevented from entering Israel. Whilst opposing any boycotts against Israel, and awaiting the setting up of a UK Human Rights Committee, the Royal Society had not pursued this case to date.

*IGU regional conference in Tel Aviv:* CFRS communicated its support to the President of the International Geographical Union (IGU) in maintaining his stance to resist calls for a boycott of the meeting. In appreciation of CFRS' continued interest in the matter, the president responded that the boycott calls probably had affected attendance, resulting in a few more than 500 participants, rather than the one thousand expected. Also, there was no Palestinian participation and only one Israeli Arab. At the same time, several sessions were held on political geography, many of which focused on the Israeli-Palestinian questions.

*Ernesto Bustamante, Peru:* CFRS conveyed its full support to the President of the Peruvian Academia Nacional de Ciencias for their pronouncement in support of E Bustamante, who was being prosecuted as part of a defamation case.

*Ali Mohammadi, Iran:* CFRS enquired with UNESCO, under whose auspices the Jordan-based SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) Project was running, about their actions in this case. The response was that a message of condolence had been written to the Iranian Minister of Science.

*Aquila case, Italy:* Support was expressed to the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) for their statement with regard to the free conduct of science and the responsibility of scientists. The union had appreciated this support.

*Cuban cases:* CFRS had expressed to the Academia de Ciencias de Cuba its satisfaction with recent positive developments regarding the relocation of a number of imprisoned academics closer to their homes. There had been no response from that academy.

*Turkish cases:* CFRS had expressed its continued concern to TUBITAK, the Turkish ICSU member and representative, about the imprisonment of Dr Mehmet Haberal and his colleagues. There had been no response.

*UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences:* on 30 September, CFRS wrote to the UNESCO Director General, expressing support to postpone the awarding of this prize and asking for UNESCO to dissociate itself from the prize. While there had been no formal response, the recent UNESCO Board meeting had decided not to make the award.

#### **Decision**

- J Zayed: J Sulston, in his capacity as a member of the Royal Society's Human Rights Committee, to initiate a letter of enquiry to the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities to obtain further information on this case;
- IGU conference: no further action required at this stage, but CFRS to continue to monitor the situation in this region;
- E Bustamante: no further action required at this stage, but CFRS continues to monitor the situation;
- A Mohammadi: no further action required at this stage;
- Aquila case: no further action required at this stage;
- Cuban cases: no further action required at this stage;
- Turkish cases: continue to monitor the situation;
- UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences: CFRS takes note that UNESCO, on 21 October 2010, put the prize on hold indefinitely.

### 9.2 IUPAC 11<sup>th</sup> Eurasia Conference (Jordan)

The past President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) had written to the ICSU president-elect, informing him that the 11<sup>th</sup> Eurasia Conference on the Chemical Sciences was to take place at the Dead Sea in Jordan in October 2010 without any Israeli representation among the more than 100 invited speakers. In the light of Israel's proximity to the conference location, the quality of chemical research in Israel and the purpose of the meeting to bring together scientists from Europe and Asia, it was suggested that this was intentional to exclude Israeli scientists.

According to CFRS enquiries, IUPAC was aware of this complex issue and there had been in considerable correspondence about it. Feeling that the matter was fully in their hands, they did not seek any CFRS involvement at this point.

#### **Decision**

P Mahaffy to monitor this case with IUPAC.

### 9.3 IUGG Workshop (USA)

The IUGG Secretary General informed CFRS that five scientists from Greece, India, Mexico and Ukraine could not attend a Workshop organised by the union's Working Group on Electromagnetic Studies of Earthquakes and Volcanoes (EMSEV) at

Chapman University, California, on 3-6 October 2010, since they did not get their visa in time to attend.

**Decision**

The Secretariat to follow-up with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) on these 5 cases.

#### 9.4 Javad Rahighi (Iran)

The Institute of Physics (UK) informed CFRS about the case of J Rahighi, a physicist from Iran with an engagement in the Jordan-based SESAME Project, in August 2010. According to the substantial documentation that CFRS obtained, he was exposed to restrictive measures denying him access to the European Union, because of purported links with Iran's atomic energy programme. Since 2008, J Rahighi had unsuccessfully tried to challenge this situation by taking his case to the Committee on International Freedom of Scientists of the American Physical Society (APS) as well as the relevant legal and political instances of the European Union.

It was recognised that despite the documentation, this was a difficult case for CFRS to pursue. It was not clear why Dr Rahighi was on the EU 'black list' and how his research interests might relate to this. This was a case in which IUPAP might be in a better position to assist.

**Decision**

The Secretariat to follow-up with the Secretary General of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP).

#### 9.5 Zoreh Ghayourmoradi (Iran)

Two female scientists from Iran had been accepted to present a poster at the Annual Conference of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 9-13 August 2010. Initially, the Swedish Embassy in Iran did not grant them entry visas. After an intervention of the chair of the local organising committee, one of them was issued a visa, while the other, Z Ghayourmoradi, was not. Part of the reason appeared to be that the Swedish embassy suspected she might not return to her home country given that she was not married.

Due to the urgency of the matter, the CFRS Chair intervened with the Swedish authorities, and, even though Z Ghayourmoradi still was not granted a visa, it appeared that the Swedish Embassy would reconsider its policy for future cases.

**Decision**

No further action required.

#### 9.6 Pham Minh Hoang (Vietnam)

In September 2010, the case of Pham Minh Hoang, a Vietnamese mathematician, was brought to the attention of CFRS by the International Mathematical Union (IMU).

PM Hoang was arrested by the Vietnamese authorities apparently because of his signing a petition against a controversial bauxite-mining site in the country. Having been notified of this case by the IMU, the Secretariat enquired with the ICSU Regional Office and Regional Committee as well as with the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies for more information.

This being an apparently isolated case of a scientist having been arrested for purely political reasons, CFRS did not consider it to be within the Committee's remit.

#### **Decision**

The Secretariat to renew its enquiry with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

### 9.7 Colombian case

CFRS was briefly informed about the case of a Colombian scientist from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia who was awaiting trial on terrorism charges. This case had recently attracted considerable media attention. In the absence of any documentation, CFRS agreed that it was inappropriate to discuss or take a stance on this matter.

## 10. Workshops

### 10.1 Sharing of scientific data: focus on developing countries (USA)

The preparation of this workshop was well advanced, and the date has been fixed for 18-19 April 2011. The meeting was to be organised jointly by the Board on International Scientific Organizations in collaboration with the US Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), the Board on Research Data and Information of the National Academy of Sciences and CFRS.

On behalf of CFRS, B Gustafsson planned to participate in the symposium and present a paper. In addition, the Secretariat suggested inviting Barbara Andrews – Deputy Director of the Center for Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology University of Chile as well as a member of ICSU's Strategic Coordinating Committee on Information and Data (SCCID) – to join the symposium's planning group.

Further names of presenters being proposed during the CFRS meeting were Luis Manuel Peña, the ICSU Regional Director for Latin America, and Lam Sam Kit, Malaysia. M Wasserman also expressed an interest in attending on behalf of CFRS. In the light of the earlier discussions (see 5.1 and 5.2) it was agreed that the aim should be to produce a CFRS statement.

#### **Decisions**

- the Secretariat to propose to the US-NAS that Luis Manuel Peña and Lam Sam Kit be considered as possible presenters;
- the Chair to present insights from the symposium at the next CFRS meeting with a view to producing a CFRS statement.

## 10.2 Knowledge divide (China: CAST / China: Taipei)

O Tzeng and Q Jiuyi orally presented the latest thinking regarding plans for this workshop. In discussion it was proposed that the topic should cover the issue in a broader sense, including aspects of collaboration between research institutes and laboratories and the training for scientists from developing countries. A potential focus could be on strengthening science in the least developed countries, which might also be of interest to ICSU's Regional Offices. At the same time, it was important to maintain a freedoms and responsibilities perspective, which was unique to CFRS. It was proposed that an exchange of ideas should be sought with the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS).

### Decision

The organisers to provide written documentation on the purpose and scope of the proposed workshop for the next CFRS meeting.

## 10.3 Science in contemporary wars (Sweden)

The CFRS Chair updates members on the state of progress in organising this workshop, planned to be held in Sweden in 2013. A number of potential partners and funders had been approached and expressed interest.

### Decision

The Chair to continue to pursue negotiations and update CFRS at its next meeting.

## 10.4 Private sector-academia interactions (Sweden)

The CFRS Chair updated members on progress in organising this 3-day long workshop, which was planned to be in Sweden, possibly in November 2011. The problems raised at the previous CFRS meeting with regards to focus and participation had now been resolved, and the major part of funding was secured. The challenges still to be met were the inclusion of civil society and finding the right mix between speakers of industry and academia.

The Chair and several CFRS members met at the end of the CFRS meeting to discuss the outstanding issues and to sharpen the focus of the planned workshop.

### Decision

The Chair to continue planning, taking into account the committee's views, and inform CFRS about progress at its next meeting.

## 10.5 Science and policy (Denmark)

This workshop was planned for August 2012, and the CFRS Chair provided an update on its organisation.

The workshop would be organised jointly with the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters. The CFRS Chair had introduced the Committee's viewpoints in a

working group established for that purpose. At previous meetings, a general outline of the workshop had been developed, raising a number of important issues on the responsibilities involved in providing science advice. A range of topics to be discussed during the planned three-day symposium, with participation from policy-makers and academia, had been identified. The focus would be on the experiences gained from both sides in dealing with subjects related to “climate and environment”. The need to include a non-OECD perspective was clearly recognised.

**Decision**

The Chair to continue planning and inform CFRS about progress at its next meeting.

**10.6 Science and anti-science (Norway)**

The CFRS Chair updated members on progress in organising this workshop, planned to be held in August 2011 and to be hosted by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. The subject originally set out had been modified from “Science – anti-science and religion” to “Science and anti-science”.

**Decision**

The Chair to remain involved and inform CFRS of progress at its next meeting.

**10.7 Other**

China: CAST repeated its offer to host a future CFRS meeting and organise a workshop in association with this. It was noted that in the light of the current timetable for workshops, this would not be possible before 2013.

Adjoined to the next CFRS meeting in Berne, Switzerland, on 25-26 May 2011 (see 12.1) it was proposed that there be a workshop on 27 May. The Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) proposed the subject of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) system – an integral part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – and its advocacy for non-commercial research to be given a special and privileged status therein. The aim was to ensure that non-commercial research is not hindered by ABS regulations. A paragraph to that effect had been integrated in the ABS protocol that was adopted at the summit on biodiversity in Nagoya, Japan, on 30 October 2010. However, since important questions could not be resolved in detail in the process leading to the protocol, the participation of the scientific community in future conferences and activities for its implementation was considered to be crucial. The proposed meeting would be one contribution. This subject was clearly related to the freedom of scientists to access information and research materials. It also related to the responsibility of scientists to ensure open and equitable access to research results and benefits.

In discussion, it was proposed that the workshop programme be put together in consultation with DIVERSITAS and the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), and then be circulated to CFRS for comments. The ICSU Regional Offices could also provide valuable input.

## **Decisions**

- to note the generous offer of China: CAST to host a future CFRS meeting and workshop;
- to thank SCNAT for taking the initiative of organising the ABS workshop;
- to take part in that meeting on 27 May 2011;
- SCNAT to circulate a draft programme to CFRS members in due time prior to the actual workshop.

## **11. Forum “Science Communication”, 18-19 November**

### 11.1 Conference programme and CFRS roles

(<http://www.agenciadenoticias.unal.edu.co/foroicsu/ingles>)

A Forum on Science Communication took place on the 2 days following the CFRS meeting (see end of this report). CFRS members played an active part in this forum and M Wasserman expressed his appreciation and emphasised the importance for Colombian science of hosting this Forum with ICSU-CFRS

## **Decision**

To thank M Wasserman for his engagement and commitment in organising the two-day Forum at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

## **12. Dates of future meetings**

### 12.1 10<sup>th</sup> CFRS Meeting, Berne, May 2011

Bearing in mind the Swiss Academy of Sciences’ funding of the CFRS secretariat and its engagement on issues related to the Principle of Universality of Science, it was decided that the next meeting would take place in Berne on 25-26 May 2011.

### 12.2 30<sup>th</sup> ICSU General Assembly and Associated Meetings, Rome, 24 September – 1 October 2011

CFRS was scheduled to meet prior to the ICSU General Assembly on 27-30 September 2011. At its next meeting in May 2011, the Committee would discuss and decide on its presentation to the Assembly.

## **Decision**

- to hold the next meeting in Berne on 25-26 May 2011, hosted by the Swiss Academy of Sciences and followed by a workshop on 27 May;
- to confirm that the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting would be in Rome on 24 September, 2011 in association with the ICSU General Assembly.

## **13. Future CFRS membership**

C Smith informed Committee members about the rules governing CFRS membership. For eight members, their second three-year term was due to end after the first

CFRS meeting in 2012, while five members could potentially continue for a second term. The Executive Board would appoint the new membership in February 2012, taking into account proposals from ICSU's National Members and Unions, who would be invited to submit nominations towards the end of 2011.

In view of this high percentage of turnover, it was suggested to consider a staggered option. This could mean the extraordinary extension of membership for one year, or the stepping down of current members prior to 2012 and earlier appointment of new members. A new Chair would also be appointed to take over in mid 2012 – this would preferably be someone with a prior knowledge of ICSU and/or CFRS. C Smith invited all members to discuss their personal situation on the Committee with him privately, should they wish to do so.

As regards the scientific disciplines represented, an extension into the social sciences and humanities should be considered, for example taking on board scholars in philosophy, political science or science and technology studies. The distribution in term of regions should continue to be balanced insofar as this is possible.

#### **Decision**

The Secretariat to compile a profile of requirements for the future CFRS Chair and ordinary members.

#### **14. Any other business**

There was no other business

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#### **Thursday-Friday, 18-19 November: Forum “Science Communication”**

All CFRS members present at the 9<sup>th</sup> CFRS meeting, attended the two-day “Forum Science Communication: Responsibilities of the Scientific Community and the Media”, initiated by M Wasserman and organised by the Universidad Nacional de Colombia with, inter alia, ICSU support. B Gustafsson and D Vaux gave a keynote talk each in the panel “Responsibilities of scientists in communicating among peers”, and J Sulston in the panel “Communications by scientists to society”. CFRS members, namely A Anand, P Mahaffy, S Rumball and C Smith moderated discussions in all four sessions. Some 500 participants, mostly journalists, scientists and students, attended conference. It drew a great deal of media interest and several CFRS members were interviewed by local radio and television (see <http://www.agenciadenoticias.unal.edu.co/icsu>).

Subsequent to the conference, CFRS members met to draft a Bogotá statement on the relationship between science and the media, touching on the arising issues, which are related to freedom and responsibility.