93rd MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ICSU

21-22 April 2006

Paris

DECISIONS

Present: Giovanni Berlucchi, Catherine Bréchignac (Agenda Items 1-7 and 10), Ana María Cetto (Agenda Items 1-11 and 13.1), Hernan Chaimovich, Michel Denis, Roger Elliott, Fu Congbin, Francis Gudyanga, Bryan Henry, Goverdhan Mehta, Khotso Mokhele, Sergio Pastrana, Uri Shamir, and Thomas Rosswall (ex officio)

Apologies for absence: Jane Lubchenco

Invited: Pierre Godet (Agenda Item 9)

Secretariat: Tish Bahmani Fard, Gisbert Glaser (Agenda Item 7), Mustapha Mokrane (Agenda Items 9.4 and 10), Natacha de Marchi (Agenda Item 9), Sospeter Muhongo, Carthage Smith

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

All Members of the Executive Board attended the meeting with the exception of the Past-President, Jane Lubchenco, from whom apologies were received.

Pierre Godet, ICSU's legal auditor (Commissaire aux Comptes), attended for Agenda Item 9 on Finance.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Some additions were made to the Agenda under Any Other Business, Agenda item 12.2 on IGBP, WCRP and ESSP was withdrawn and certain items were taken in a different order. These Decisions follow the order of the Agenda as distributed.

Decision
To adopt the Agenda.
3. Decisions of 28th General Assembly and Matters Arising
   (not treated elsewhere)

   3.1 Evaluation of 28th GA and comments received

   In the main, comments received on the Assembly were positive. Some suggestions for
   improvement were received (for example, a more organized poster session) and some
   criticisms which required a response from the Board. Surprisingly little comment was
   received on the electronic distribution of the *circa* 1400 pages of the GA file.

   Concern was expressed at the number of decisions which had been taken by
   acclamation. Whilst it was agreed that formal balloting should be kept to a minimum
   and the decision-taking process kept as simple as possible, it was felt that this could be
   done by a show of hands for, against, and abstentions.

   **Decision**
   To note comments, respond to IMU’s criticisms and to all who had sent comments.

   3.2 Venue for 29th and 30th General Assemblies

   In addition to the three invitations to host the 29th General Assembly presented in
   China (from Egypt, India and Peru), invitations had been received from Italy and
   Mozambique. No expressions of interest for the 30th General Assembly had been
   received.

   **Decision**
   To accept the invitation from the Scientific Research Association of Mozambique to
   host the 29th General Assembly in 2008; and
   to agree that the 30th General Assembly in 2011 should be held in Europe.

4. Decisions of 92nd Meeting of Executive Board and Matters Arising
   (not treated elsewhere)

   All matters arising from the 92nd Meeting of the Executive Board were dealt with
   elsewhere on the Agenda and the Decisions had already been approved by Board
   Members electronically.

   **Decision**
   To note the Decisions.

5. Decisions of February Meeting of Officers
   (not treated elsewhere)

   With the exception of the two items below, any matters arising from the meeting of the
   Officers which required the attention of the Board were dealt with elsewhere on the
   Agenda.
5.1 Negotiations with French authorities on support for the Secretariat and move to new building

Since the EB meeting in October, representatives of the Secretariat had visited the proposed new building on several occasions and the Officers also visited it at the time of their meeting in February. In general, it could house the ICSU Secretariat and provide space for possible future expansion. It would, however, be necessary for several staff to share offices, but some rooms were large and this should not be a major problem. It would be necessary to remove a few internal walls to provide both a meeting room and a library/lunch room. It would not be possible to provide space for all the bodies currently housed at the Hôtel de Noailles.

The building was in a rather poor state of repair and, in a letter to the Académie des Sciences, the Executive Director outlined work that should be completed prior to a move. It was also pointed out that the occupants of the Hôtel de Noailles had spent more than €200,000 on repairs and improvements over the past few years. In addition, France was granted a rebate on its dues in exchange for a new contract for the building that would transfer all responsibility for external upkeep to the owner of the building (the Académie de Paris). This never happened.

The Officers at their meeting in February agreed to accept the offer of the proposed new building, subject to the Board's previous stipulations and to adequate renovation of the building by the French authorities, and requested the Executive Director to write to the Minister of Higher Education and Research confirming this. The building was transferred from the Ministry of Culture to the Ministry of Education on 1 January. An agreement would now be developed between ICSU and the Académie de Paris, which would stipulate the conditions under which ICSU would be housed in the building. It would also specify responsibilities of ICSU and the Académie de Paris for the upkeep.

Some concern was expressed that a formal agreement to provide ICSU with €500,000 per year from 2007 and for at least 10 years would not be received until the current building had been sold. The Prime Minister's office had decided that the building should be sold in 2006. It was explained that the French Government could not provide written confirmation of the actual amount of the subvention before the Hôtel de Noailles had been sold. However, the letter from the Ministère de l'Education nationale, de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche stated that they were in dialogue with relevant Ministries to find modalities that would ensure that ICSU would receive the requested support. A new formal agreement will be established between the French Government and ICSU.

Move to new building

Inspection of computer network, telephone system, etc., had not yet been done but the Secretariat had been told that the systems were in order. It is expected that relatively little new furniture would have to be acquired and that current light fixtures could be used also in the new building. However, detailed planning had not yet been done and a cost estimate was not yet available.

In addition to ICSU, IUBS, CODATA, COSPAR, DIVERSITAS/ESSP, SCOPE and ICSTI were currently housed in the Hôtel de Noailles. However, the building was
originally offered to ICSU and the French Government did not consider that they had any responsibility for the other organizations. There were no written agreements between ICSU and the ICSU bodies for use of the building, and the only costs to them had been a charge for their portion of electricity, heating, cleaning, etc., (“common charges”).

The other occupants of the Hôtel de Noailles had been informed that they could not all be housed in the new building and that the Officers had agreed that the space available should be offered to CODATA and SCOPE. Both had accepted this offer. In arriving at this decision, the Officers considered that priority should be given to the Interdisciplinary Bodies with which ICSU worked most closely and for which the space would be adequate. Bodies moving in with ICSU would sign a formal agreement outlining their rights and responsibilities. A specific clause would be included specifying the delay for ICSU to give notice, should it require extra space.

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<td>To note the status of the negotiations.</td>
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5.2 US Visa Procedures

On 9 February, the ICSU President was rudely refused a visa to attend a scientific meeting in the USA. The subsequent publicity in the mainstream and scientific media led to a number of other eminent scientists, particularly from India, going public with their own experiences of being refused visas to the USA.

Since 2002, when tightened US visa regulations were introduced in response to national security concerns, the ICSU National Member in the USA – US NAS – had been working extremely hard to try and ‘loosen’ these restrictions. This had had some impact, in that the number of reported cases of scientists with problems had been reduced significantly over the past two years. The US NAS had also established a dedicated service that had dealt with over 2000 individual cases.

Whilst scientists themselves did not always follow the guidelines and application timelines for visas, the recent case of the ICSU President illustrated very clearly that there remains a serious problem for scientists wishing to attend meetings in the USA. This appeared to be particularly directed at nationals from certain countries and scientific areas and was clearly contrary to the Principle of the Universality of Science.

In response to the incident with Professor Mehta, a letter was sent to the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and an ICSU press release was issued. Members were informed of these actions. It should be noted that, following intervention by the US NAS, a formal apology had been communicated to Professor Mehta by the US Ambassador to India and a visa was issued without any further formalities. However, this did not mean that the broader problems had been resolved for other scientists.
Decision
To agree to ask the Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science (CFRS) to follow up on the issue of problems in obtaining scientific visas to visit the USA;
to remind members that the guidance note on "Advice to Organizers of International Scientific Meetings" is available on the ICSU website; and
to inform members that the ICSU Secretariat is currently not organizing meetings in the USA because of the difficulties encountered.

6. Report of CSPR Meeting and Matters Arising
(not treated elsewhere)

The following items discussed by CSPR were noted:

- The review of the MoU with IOC and WMO regarding sponsorship of the Global Ocean Observing System;
- The consultation with Members and Interdisciplinary Bodies regarding a possible ICSU sponsorship of the WMO THORPEX – a World Weather Research Programme. This will be on the agenda for decision at the 94th EB.
- The continued efforts to link global change and development research
- Possible follow-up activities to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Establishment of a Planning Group on Natural and Human-induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters
- Establishment of an Ad hoc Scoping Group on Human Health
- The establishment of a process for review of the grants programme

Decision
To note report from CSPR 11th Meeting.

7. UNESCO

The President met with the Director-General of UNESCO during the World Science Forum – Budapest in November 2005. The two major items for discussion were general concern about ICSU-UNESCO collaboration, which had already been expressed in a letter from Jane Lubchenco to Koichiro Matsuura, and the assessment of the UNESCO Natural and Social Sciences Sectors as decided by the UNESCO General Conference in 2005.

The President and the Executive Director also met with the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, Walter Erdelen, during the Conference. The Executive Director had followed up the discussions with Walter Erdelen and Maciej Nalecz, Director of the Division for Basic and Engineering Sciences, and it had been agreed that UNESCO funding for the grants programme would be made available also in 2006. The review of the grants programme would be one input for discussions on the third Framework Agreement 2008-2013 between UNESCO and ICSU. UNESCO had informed ICSU of the level of financial support to be made available through the UNESCO Regional Offices in 2006-2007.
UNESCO had proposed collaborating with ICSU in the follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and details were currently being worked out.

The UNESCO General Conference in 2005 decided to review the Natural and Social Science Sectors. The first meeting of the Review Committee took place in February and the Executive Director met with the Committee during an informal dinner. The Committee was chaired by Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO.

The second meeting of the Committee would be held at UNESCO on 10-12 May 2006, and ICSU had been told that it would be invited to a hearing on one of these days. The President and President-Elect, as well as the Vice-President for Scientific Planning and Review, had been asked to block these dates. (Subsequently only the Vice-President for Scientific Planning and Review, the Executive Director and Ordinary Member of the Board, Uri Shamir, were invited to a hearing on 11 May as the three experts from the natural sciences.)

It was important that the EB agree on the key messages that ICSU should deliver on this occasion.

**Decision**
To agree on the major points to be presented to UNESCO Review Committee.

*After discussion of this Agenda item, the President of ICSU and the Director-General of UNESCO had a short closed meeting followed by a lunch at which they were joined by the Members of the Board, Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, and Maciej Nalecz, Director of the Division for Basic and Engineering Sciences.*

8. Implementation of Strategic Plan

The CSPR had been requested by the Executive Board to prepare an implementation plan for the strategy. As the implementation would develop over a six-year period, it was concluded that a timeline or activity matrix would be a more useful document than a written implementation plan.

The CSPR discussed an activity matrix summarizing activities under the control of the CSPR, as well as those which are guided principally by the Executive Board.

**Decision**
To adopt the matrix as a ‘rolling document’ for overall planning and follow-up purposes, noting that individual projects have their own, more detailed plans (see Annex I).
9. **Finance**

9.1 **Report of CF meeting and Matters Arising**

The Committee on Finance met on 14 March and the report of its meeting was provided. In the light of a positive report from the Treasurer the CF considered the prepared annual accounts, budget for 2006 and dues payments and the portfolio investment.

In considering its terms of reference, the distinction between the ‘prepared annual accounts’, which is what the CF had to consider and the ‘audit report’, which was prepared by the Commissaire aux Comptes, was noted.

9.1.1 **Dues and Arrears**

In relation to dues, it was noted that Iraq was the only Member with two successive years of accumulated arrears, although it was agreed that, given the conflict situation within this country, it merited special consideration. Such consideration should not be extended to the two Associates which had also accumulated arrears: the International Cell Research Organisation (ICRO, 4 x $500) and the International Federation of Science Editors (IFSE, 2 x $500).

### Decisions

To note the report from the CF and approve the amended Terms of Reference; to maintain the full Member status of Iraq whilst the most appropriate organization to represent the country is identified; and to remove the Associate status of ICRO and IFSE.

9.2 **Audited Accounts**

The main item on the agenda for the CF meeting was the prepared accounts for 2005 and accompanying management letter from F. Bardin, chartered accountant. An operating surplus of €257k was made in 2005 due to increased income and stringent spending controls. The overall result, which included cancellation of provisions for arrears, was a surplus of €328k.

The specific issues raised by F. Bardin were discussed by the CF and appropriate actions agreed in the presence of P. Godet, who was then handed the accounts to prepare his audit report, which was presented to the Board.

### Decisions

In the light of the audit report, to request the Executive Director and Treasurer to prepare a brief Management Report for Members; and to close the 2005 accounts and send them, together with the Management Report, to Members for approval.
9.3 Revised budget for 2006

A draft budget for 2006 was approved by the EB in April 2005. This was presented to the GA, but due to time constraints no update was made at that time. Thus, it was necessary to revise the budget for 2006 taking into account the US$/€ exchange rate, expected payments of dues at parity and the need to include costs for activities not foreseen in April 2005.

The 2005 results showed a positive balance of €328,482. This was due to payments at parity by many Unions and National Members, a favourable change in the $/€ exchange rate, delays with the establishment of Regional Offices, staff salary freeze and careful budgeting and spending. In addition, the General Fund stood at €640,000. Thus, it was possible to propose a budget for 2006 with excess expenditure over income and still expect an increase in the General Fund by the end of the year.

With regard to income, the funding from UNESCO had been confirmed.

It was proposed that the post of Communication Officer be advertised immediately. In the previous budget, this post was foreseen as of 1 January 2007. However, in view of the 75th Anniversary, ICSU needed to strengthen its outreach activities.

It was also necessary to include costs for the 75th Anniversary. Funding for the costs of the celebration in Paris would be sought from the City of Paris. However, it would be necessary for ICSU to cover the costs if external funding was not available. The costs for a symposium on Science and Society could not yet be estimated, and external funding would be sought. However, some money had been budgeted to underwrite this event.

Costs for a move to new offices had been added to the 2007 budget and the budget for that year was thus not identical to the one approved by the GA. The year still showed an expected surplus.

The preliminary budget for 2006 was approved by the Officers in February. The CF also briefly discussed the budget and suggested minor changes, which had been incorporated.

Once approved by the Board, the budget would be sent to Members, for information, as part of the annual General Assembly.

Decisions

To approve the revised budget (Annex 2); and
to request the Secretariat to circulate the budget to Members, for information, as part of the electronic General Assembly.

9.4 Electronic General Assembly

In order to comply with French legislation, the audited ICSU accounts had to be approved by Members on an annual basis. Members were informed of this at the 28th General Assembly and were sent a formal letter of notification in January. The
Assembly would formally take place in Paris on 30 June 2006, although in practice Members would be asked to vote either electronically or by post during the period prior to this date.

The CF discussed the procedure for conducting the GA and expressed concern that it might be difficult to obtain a quorum (50% of each category of voting Members). It was agreed that the information and process should be made as simple as possible for Members and active follow-up was likely to be necessary from the Secretariat.

**Decision**

To request the Secretariat to conduct the electronic General Assembly.

### 10. 75th Anniversary of ICSU

The plans for celebrating the 75th Anniversary of ICSU, which takes place on 11 July, were discussed by the Officers in February. In addition to organizing two specific events, the importance of mobilising the broader ICSU membership was emphasised. A brochure and posters were in preparation and would be sent to all Members with a letter encouraging them to organise relevant activities.

#### 10.1 Anniversary Event in Paris

Following the Officers meeting, the President-Elect had approached the Académie des Sciences, which had agreed to host an ICSU science symposium on 4 July. This event would focus on selected themes in the ICSU Strategic Plan and would be targeted at the French scientific community. The French Minister for Higher Education and Research had provisionally agreed to attend.

Approaches had also been made to the Mairie de Paris, which had provisionally agreed to host an evening reception on 4 July, which would bring together both the attendees from the science symposium and Executive Heads of the key international Paris-based science organizations (UNESCO, OECD). In a decision taken after the meeting, the Officers agreed to also invite the Executive Heads of WMO and UNEP to this reception.

**Decisions**

To thank the Académie des Sciences for its support;
to request the Secretariat to organize an evening reception on 4 July in Paris and to work with the Académie des Sciences in the organization of a science symposium on the same day; and
to further request the Secretariat to invite the Members of ICSU (Union and National) and the Interdisciplinary Bodies to the Paris event (attendance at their own expense).

#### 10.2 Young Scientists Conference on Strengthening International Science for the Benefit of Society

The second anniversary event, which was discussed by the Officers, was to focus on young scientists and take place late in 2006, although it might be necessary to delay it until early 2007. In the light of the Officers discussion, a revised background briefing
for this event was prepared and a Planning Group of young scientists established. This group met for the first time on 4-5 April and a report on its deliberations was provided.

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<tr>
<td>To approve the preliminary plans for a Young Scientists Conference on Strengthening International Science for the Benefit of Society; and to ask Giovanni Berlucchi to pursue the possibilities of holding this event in Italy.</td>
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11. Regional Offices

11.1 Africa

The 3rd meeting of the ICSU Regional Committee for Africa was held in Pretoria on 25-26 January 2006. The Regional Committee decided on action in relation to the four priority areas: global change, hazards, sustainable energy, and human health. Four Planning Groups had been established to formulate a set of detailed objectives for the priority area based on the ICSU Strategic Plan for 2006-2011 taking note of past and ongoing planning efforts by ICSU internationally. Draft reports would be ready by 30 June 2006 for discussion at the ICSU Second Consultative Forum for Africa to be held in Pretoria on 25-27 September 2006.

It was expected that two more scientists and a Communications Officer would have joined the Office by July 2006.

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<td>To note the developments of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa and the priorities for action decided on by the Regional Committee.</td>
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11.2 Asia and the Pacific

On 15 December 2005, the Cabinet of the Government of Malaysia approved financial support for the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific amounting to a little over €100,000 per year for five years. The ICSU Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific held its first meeting in Kuala Lumpur on 16-17 January.

The Officers had approved a Memorandum of Understanding between ICSU and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia.

The post of Director of the Regional Office had been advertised and seven candidates were interviewed in Kuala Lumpur by a Search Committee consisting of Anupam Varma, Chair, ICSU Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific, Mazlan Othman, Secretary General of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, and the ICSU Executive Director.

The ICSU Regional Office would be inaugurated on 18-19 September, hopefully in the presence of the Prime Minister, and a planning Conference on Hazards and Disasters would be organized in conjunction with the inauguration. The Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific and the PCDC would also hold meetings in conjunction with this event.
Decision
To express its appreciation to the Malaysian Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Y.B. Dato' Dr. Jamaluddin Bin Dato' Mohd. Jarjis and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia for their engagement and support in the establishment of an ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

11.3 Latin America and the Caribbean

Following the tentative decision by the EB, the Executive Director had written to all National Members in the region asking for their approval of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences as host for the Regional Office. The Members were also asked to nominate candidates for the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Executive Director visited Brazil on 14-15 February for discussions with the Academy and representatives of the Government of Brazil, the Deputy Minister for Science and Technology and the Vice-President of CNPq. As a follow-up, the Executive Director had written to the Deputy Minister requesting that the Brazilian financial support be increased from US$50,000 to at least $100,000 per year for three years.

The First Regional Meeting and the first meeting of the Regional Committee would take place on 16-17 October in Panama.

Decisions
To appoint the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean by e.mail when additional nominations had been received; and
to stress the importance that the Regional Office should receive at least US$ 100,000 per year to ensure that it can perform its tasks efficiently.

11.4 Arab Region

The President, Secretary-General and Executive Director had had discussions with representatives of the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan, which was still keenly interested in hosting the ICSU Regional Office for the Arab Region. The Secretary-General had also discussed this with the Jordanian Minister for Science and Technology, who expressed support for Jordan as the host country.

The Secretary-General of the CNRS of Lebanon visited ICSU in December, and they were also interested in hosting the Regional Office, but funding might be a problem. The Executive Director discussed this with the Secretary-General of the Kuwait Association for the Advancement of Science, Professor Al-Shamlan, the Ambassador of Oman to UNESCO, and the President of the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) in the United Arab Emirates.
The Executive Director had planned to visit the region in February (Jordan, Kuwait, Dubai and Oman). However, the dates were not suitable for the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan and they proposed a postponement until March. Despite several messages, it was impossible to get a response regarding suitable dates and alternatives in April and May had been proposed.

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<td>To request the Executive Director to continue efforts to obtain a firm commitment from a country in the region.</td>
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12. Review of IHDP

In 2004, IHDP asked for an external international assessment. This review was carried out by the two sponsors of the programme, ICSU and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). The CSPR was the ICSU body taking the lead in organizing the assessment. The final report from the review was now available and had been discussed by the CSPR. It was also considered by the IHDP Scientific Committee at its recent meeting on 27-20 March.

The CSPR decided:

- to express thanks to the Assessment Panel for its report;
- to note the overall importance of social sciences for ICSU as expressed in the resolution from the 28th General Assembly;
- to note the importance of IHDP as a partner in the Earth System Science Partnership, where projects are developed with the full involvement of natural and social science;
- to request the IHDP to consider the recommendation that a broader suite of relevant social sciences should be involved;
- to request IHDP to further explore how the policy relevance of its work can be strengthened and how mechanisms can be put in place to communicate its findings to relevant stakeholders; and
- to pay special attention to the role of IHDP in the planned evaluation of ESSP.

The Executive Director reported on the discussions by the SC-IHDP.

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<tr>
<td>To note the report; and</td>
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<td>to request the CSPR to ensure that the IHDP responds appropriately to the recommendations.</td>
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13. Membership of ICSU Bodies

13.1 Procedure for nominations for ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies (IBs) and 
*ad hoc* committees

Since 2003, a number of improvements had been made to the process for soliciting nominations and making appointments to ICSU committees. This had included, for example, the development of a standardized CV template and the introduction of a more
standardized process for renewal of Policy Committees and existing scientific advisory committees associated with ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies. During the preparation of the Strategic Plan a large number of *ad hoc* planning and review groups were established in a relatively short period, which also required some flexibility.

In so far as was possible, Members were consulted prior to the establishment of any ICSU committee and the CSPR and/or Executive Board had agreed on the final membership. However, the timing had not always allowed for full consultation and the lists of nominations had frequently been inadequate. There had been particular problems identifying good nominees from developing countries, with the Arab Region being virtually absent from all ICSU committees, and in identifying good female nominees. Moreover, even when a committee slate had been agreed, it was not infrequent that several members declined to serve and so alternatives had to be identified *de novo*.

There was some muted criticism as to the transparency of the nomination and appointment process at the 28th General Assembly. Some Members perceived that even when they did nominate good candidates these were frequently not selected, with no explanation being given. There was also some confusion in the process for finalizing the membership of the CSPR and the role of individual Board Members in proposing additional nominees.

It was perhaps inevitable given the variety of ICSU Members, and the number of variables that have to be balanced in selecting any one ICSU committee, that the process was rarely completely linear. Nevertheless, in the light of the experiences of the past three years, the Secretariat had prepared a draft note on procedures and criteria for consideration by the Executive Board.

**Decision**
To endorse the procedures and criteria for appointments to ICSU Committees and to publicize these on the website (Annex 3).

13.2 **Working Group to Review Dues Structure**

The 28th General Assembly requested that a review of the ICSU dues structure be conducted with some urgency. The draft terms of reference for this review were approved at the Officers meeting in February and were subsequently sent to all Members for comment and nominations for the Dues Review Working Group. The Officers proposed that the Treasurer and Chairman of the Committee on Finance, as well as the Executive Director, be Members of the Group. Board Members were asked to consider the nominations from Members and appoint the Working Group.

**Decisions**
To approve the finalized Terms of Reference; and to appoint the Chair and other Members of the Dues Review Working Group (Annex 4).
13.3 Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science (CFRS)

The establishment of a new Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science was postponed at the previous Board meeting because of a lack of nominations from Members. It was agreed that the SCFCS should continue its term until July 2006, whilst additional nominations were solicited from Members. A reasonable number of nominations had now been received and the Board was asked to consider these and appoint the new Committee.

In addition to the usual criteria, consideration was given to ensuring some continuity between the SCFCS and the new Committee and links with other science and human rights networks and activities.

Decisions
To appoint the Chair and other Members of the CFRS (Annex 5); and to thank the outgoing Members of the SCFCS.

13.4 WDC Panel

The membership of the World Data Centre Panel was considered by the CSPR at its meeting in February. In formulating its advice to the Board, the CSPR considered the broader strategic context for the WDCs and the probability that the Panel itself might eventually be incorporated into some other structure. The CSPR recommendation was that Hartmut Grassl and Bernard Minster should be appointed Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the WDC Panel.

Decisions
To appoint Hartmut Grassl and Bernard Minster as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the WDC Panel; and to thank Ferris Webster, Alexei Gvishiani and the Panel Secretary, Anne Linn, for their contributions to the Panel’s work.

14. Observing Systems - GEOSS

The Strategic Plan underlined the importance of the chain: scientific research ↔ monitoring and observations ↔ assessments ↔ policy. ICSU’s primary focus had been on planning and coordination of research, but for research in, for example, global change to be successful, it was also necessary to have access to monitoring systems that provided data on the changes in key variables.

In 2003, as a follow-up to the G8 meeting in Evian, an initiative was taken to develop a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The plan was approved at the Third Earth Observation Summit in February 2005. The planning was led by the Group on Earth Observations consisting of Member States and a number of Participating Organizations, including ICSU. The Secretariat was located at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva. At the 2nd GEO Meeting in December 2005, it was decided to set up four Committees, one of which was on Science and Technology. It was proposed that Germany, South Africa and ICSU co-chair this Committee. From the point of view of the scientific Participating Organizations, it was
essential to have strong input from the scientific community to the planning process. To ensure that appropriate links were developed and maintained between the political process and the international science community, the CSPR agreed that ICSU should accept this challenge. This would, at least initially, be handled by the ICSU Secretariat.

The first meeting of the GEO Science and Technology Committee took place in Paris on 19-20 April, and the Executive Director reported on the outcome.

**Decision**

To accept to co-Chair the GEO Committee on Science and Technology.

### 15. Sustainable Energy

The ICSU Strategic Plan specified sustainable energy as a high-priority topic for ICSU to address in the coming years. A major new energy report currently being prepared by the InterAcademy Council might provide a basis for identifying an array of future ICSU activities in this area.

Meanwhile, a planning effort to establish an International Science Panel on Renewable Energy (ISPRE) had recently been completed. As a follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and the Renewables 2004 Summit in Bonn, the German Government offered funding to the Fraunhofer Institute to explore the idea of establishing ISPRE. ICSU was, in turn, asked to oversee this planning effort, and to consider serving as an institutional home for ISPRE. An *ad hoc* Planning Group was appointed to develop a formal proposal for this activity and the Executive Board was asked to consider this proposal for approval.

The Renewable Energy Policy Network (REN21) had expressed interest in developing a close relationship with ISPRE, possibly including shared Secretariat facilities and fund-raising efforts. This matter would be considered at the next meeting of the REN21 Steering Committee in May 2006. It was suggested that a formal relationship with REN21 would ensure that ISPRE efforts were responding to the needs of a well-defined, policy-relevant audience.

The CSPR considered this proposal at its meeting in February, within the broader context of other international energy initiatives and ICSU’s potential longer-term interests in this priority area. The CSPR recommendation was that the proposal should be approved subject to it more clearly defining the unique niche of ISPRE and effective links being established with the technology community and REN21. The proposal had been revised to take account of the former and discussions were ongoing with the potential partner organizations.

Discussions were also ongoing with the German Government for one-year additional funding. External funding was essential to move ISPRE forward, as there was no funding in the ICSU budget for 2006 or 2007.
**Decisions**
To approve efforts to move ahead in establishing ISPRE as an ICSU-sponsored activity, conditional on REN21 becoming a co-sponsor;
to request the Executive Director to develop a proposed MoU between ICSU and REN21 for the establishment of ISPRE;
to request the Secretariat to explore the idea of having ISPRE be co-sponsored by the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS), in order to ensure adequate linkages with engineering communities; and
to thank the Members of the *ad hoc* Planning Group.

16. **Terms of Reference of PCDC**

The ICSU Policy Committee on Developing Countries was established by the 27th General Assembly in 2002. It had met twice and reported to the 28th General Assembly. The 92nd meeting of the EB decided to prolong current membership for an additional three years. The 3rd meeting was planned to be held in conjunction with the inauguration of the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in September 2006.

The Officers at their February 2006 meeting decided to ask the EB to revisit the Terms of Reference of the PCDC in light of the launch of Regional Offices and the establishment of Regional Committees.

**Decision**
To agree that no change was necessary to the Terms of Reference for PCDC at the present time; and
to ask the PCDC to consider these at its next meeting.

17. **Membership**

17.1 **Applications for National Membership**

According to Statute 28 f), the Executive Board was empowered to admit new National Scientific Members or Associates in between sessions of the General Assembly. Three applications had been received requesting admission as National Scientific Members from:

- Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (a National Associate since 1986)
- Ethiopian Science and Technology Agency (ESTA)
- Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts

**Decision**
To admit Bangladesh and Ethiopia as National Scientific Members; and
to clarify the situation of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts versus the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.
17.2 Request to change adhering body from Jamaica

A letter had been received from the Scientific Research Council of Jamaica stating that the membership of Jamaica should be transferred to the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST). More information, including the Statutes of the NCST, had been requested but not yet received.

**Decision**

To agree to change in adhering body in Jamaica, providing the information requested, when received, does not contraindicate such a change.

17.3 Scientific Associate Status

The International Commission for Acoustics (ICA) had applied for admission as a Scientific Associate. It had previously applied for admission as a Scientific Union Member but the 90th Meeting of the Executive Board in April 2005 decided:

"to agree that a *prima facie* case for admission of the ICA as an International Scientific Union Member of ICSU had not been made at this time and that the application was premature; to further agree that admission to Associate status could be considered if the ICA so desired; and to request the Secretariat to so inform the ICA."

**Decisions**

To instruct the Secretariat to ascertain from those Unions most closely related to the ICA whether there are any objections to the application; if there are none, to ask the Secretariat to ascertain if there is adequate support from Members for the application; and, if so, to agree to admit the ICA as a Scientific Associate.

18. Interaction with Key Partners

18.1 Membership of UN University Council

An invitation had been received from the Director-General of UNESCO to submit nominations for Members of the UN University Council. Ten new Members need to be appointed.

**Decision**

To suggest the Vice-President for External Relations, Hernan Chaimovich, as a candidate for the UNU Council; and to request the Secretariat to consult by e.mail on such matters in the future.

18.2 Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was the official body within the UN system designated to review and monitor progress in implementation of the action plans from World Summits in Rio (1992) and Johannesburg (2002). The CSD operated
on two-year cycles of work, with specific focal themes for each cycle. For the CSD 14/15 cycle (to be held in 2006/2007) the focal issues were Atmosphere/Air Pollution, Climate Change, Energy, and Industrial Development.

As on previous occasions, the UN had invited ICSU and the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) to act as co-organizers of the Scientific and Technological Community, one of nine ‘Major Groups’ representing various sectors of civil society that participated in the work of the CSD. (The other Major Groups were: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous People, Farmers, NGOs, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, and Business and Industry.) The objectives of ICSU in this role were to ensure a sound scientific foundation for the policy discussions, and to ensure due recognition of the fact that ongoing S&T efforts were a critical foundation for success in meeting most sustainable development goals.

ICSU had submitted a CSD-14 Discussion Paper on behalf of the S&T community, which would be distributed as an official UN document to all CSD participants. ICSU’s National and Union Members, as well as its Interdisciplinary Bodies, were invited to provide input to this report. A delegation of prominent scientists and engineers was currently being assembled to participate in the CSD meeting sessions; and a side-event focused on climate change science was planned.

In addition, a weekend meeting with the other Major Groups was being organized, an effort developed in response to a recommendation from ICSU’s Advisory Group on S&T for Sustainable Development. One of the goals of this meeting was to provide a platform for the different groups to share perspectives about critical gaps in knowledge and technical capabilities, and to develop common agreement on priorities for future R&D efforts. For CSD-14, this discussion would focus on the issue of energy R&D.

| Decision |
| To note input from the Science and Technology Community to CSD-14. |

18.3 InterAcademy Panel (IAP)

Hernan Chaimovich and Sergio Pastrana had attended the IAP meeting in March at which the IAP Strategic Plan, which was in preparation, had been discussed.

| Decision |
| To request the CSPR to review the IAP Strategic Plan, when available. |

19. Sponsorship of Meetings

19.1 World Climate Conference – 3

The first World Climate Conference was organized in 1979 and the second in 1990. Both were co-sponsored by ICSU. The Secretary-General of WMO invited ICSU to also co-sponsor the World Climate Conference - 3 in 2008 or 2009. ICSU was also invited to nominate a representative on the Conference Committee.
**Decisions**
To co-sponsor the World Climate Conference – 3; and
to appoint the Executive Director as the ICSU representative on the Organizing Committee.

### 19.2 Resilience Alliance Open Science Meeting

ICSU had been approached by the Resilience Alliance to co-sponsor an Open Science Conference to be hosted by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science in April 2008. The Resilience Alliance was a network of institutions working with linked ecological and social systems. It was chaired by Brian Walker, who presented the ICSU Report on Resilience prepared for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to PrepCom IV of the WSSD preparatory process. Brian Walker was also a Member of the Advisory Group that prepared the report “Harnessing Science and Technology and Innovation for Sustainability” and he reported to the 28th General Assembly on this topic.

The report on science for sustainable development, as well as the ICSU Rainbow Series prepared for WSSD, challenged the international science community to: (i) integrate the ecological, economic and social pillars of sustainable development, (ii) make science more policy relevant, (iii) promote place-based research, (iv) promote participatory approaches, and (v) ensure that the North-South knowledge divide was bridged.

The report recommended that ICSU continue to stimulate activities towards these goals and co-sponsorship of the Resilience Alliance Conference was an important step in this direction. There are no financial implications for ICSU.

**Decision**
To co-sponsor the Resilience Alliance Open Science Meeting.

### 20. Dates and Places of Next Meetings

The next two meetings of the Board were fixed for:

- 25-26 October 2006  94th EB Meeting, Paris
- 23-26 April 2007    95th EB Meeting, in conjunction with the Unions' meeting, possibly in Italy

### 21. Any Other Business

#### 21.1 Unions' meeting 2007

It was agreed that planning for the Unions' meeting should be started.

**Decision**
To consult with the representatives from the Unions on the Executive Board by e.mail concerning plans for the April 2007 meeting of the Unions; and inform the Unions of the date and place of the meeting when finalized.
21.2 General Assemblies of Unions and Interdisciplinary Bodies

The Board noted proposed representation at the General Assemblies of the Unions and Interdisciplinary Bodies and that ICSU covered the costs of this if necessary. It was stressed that a representative should be sent only when there was a clear role for that person.

**Decision**
To request the Secretariat to contact the Unions and IBs and ask that ICSU be offered the possibility to give an appropriate presentation or, alternatively, that the President mention the ICSU 75th Anniversary in his/her plenary address.

21.3 Evaluation of Meeting

A brief evaluation of the meeting was held. It was generally felt that the Annotated Agenda was a useful document and that a brief review of all decisions taken/actions necessary at the end of each meeting would be helpful.

22. Closed Session

No closed session was held.

**Decision**
To agree that closed sessions would no longer be an automatic Agenda item and that if Members wished to have a closed session at any meeting, they could request the President privately to add this to the Agenda.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 13:00.

Annexes

Annex 1 Strategy Implementation Matrix  
Annex 2 Revised budget for 2006  
Annex 3 Procedures and criteria for appointments to ICSU Committees  
Annex 4 List of Members of Dues Review Working Group  
Annex 5 List of Members of CFRS  
Annex 6 List of Follow-up Actions

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