23 July 2007

95th MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ICSU

25-26 April 2007
Rome

DECISIONS

Present: Cynthia Beall, Giovanni Berlucchi, Catherine Bréchignac (Agenda item 7 partial, and items 9-13, 15, 16), Ana María Cetto, Hernan Chaimovich, Michel Denis, Roger Elliott (Agenda items 1-10, 15 and 16), Fu Congbin, Francis Gudyanga, Bryan Henry, Goverdhan Mehta, Khotso Mokhele, Sergio Pastrana, Uri Shamir, and Thomas Rosswall (ex officio)

Secretariat: Tish Bahmani Fard, Laurie Geller, Leah Goldfarb, Carthage Smith

Regional Offices: Alice Abreu, Nordin Hasan, and Sospeter Muhongo,

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

All Members of the Board attended the meeting, but Catherine Bréchignac and Roger Elliott were only able to attend on 25 April.

The President noted that this was the first meeting that Catherine Bréchignac had attended since formally assuming office as President-Elect and that Jane Lubchenco's term of office as Past-President had now ended. The Board expressed its great appreciation to her for her many notable contributions to ICSU.

**Decision**
To send a letter to Jane Lubchenco expressing the Board's appreciation for her contributions to ICSU.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Some items on the Agenda were taken out of order but this report follows the ordering of the Agenda as originally distributed.

**Decision**
To adopt the Agenda.
3. **Decisions of 94th Meeting of Executive Board and Matters Arising** (not treated elsewhere)

The Decisions of the 94th Meeting of the Executive Board were approved by Members in November and posted on the ICSU website. Any matters arising were dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.

**Decision**

To note the Decisions of 94th EB Meeting.

4. **Decisions of February Meeting of Officers** (not treated elsewhere)

The Decisions of the February meeting of the Officers were approved by Members in March and have been posted on the ICSU website. One slight amendment was agreed by the Board under Agenda Item 7.1. The Board requested that a proposed definition of policy on International Years (endorse, support, sponsor) be circulated to them by e-mail for the next EB meeting (item 10) and that Item 20 (a carbon neutral ICSU) should be pursued.

4.1 **Subvention from France**

As was reported in the Decisions of the Officers February meeting, a letter dated 5 March had been received from François Goulard, Deputy Minister for Higher Education and Research, confirming the subvention of €500 000 per year for ten years and the rent free attribution of the building at 5 rue Auguste Vacquerie. A contract for the subvention for 2007 was signed at the end of February.

4.2 **Move to new building**

There had been no new developments since the report found in the Decisions of the Officers February meeting.

4.3 **Communications with National Members**

After discussions at the last Board meeting, the Ordinary Members on the Board nominated by National Members had proposed to send a letter to ICSU's National Members. The Officers had discussed this and had agreed that any special action required from individual Board members in communicating with the ICSU membership should be discussed by the Executive Board.

It was pointed out that the National Members now met regionally in between General Assemblies and attendance of members of the Executive Board would ensure better liaison with the Board. It was stressed that a number of avenues for interaction with ICSU were open to Members and direct contact with the members of the Board was simply one more. The Executive Board agreed that the letter proposed by the Ordinary Members on the Board nominated by National Members should be sent.

**Decision**

To note the Decisions of Officers' February Meeting; and to agree that the ordinary members of the Board nominated by the National Members would send a letter to the National Members.
5. **Report of CSPR Meeting and Matters Arising** (not treated elsewhere)

The CSPR met on 10-12 February 2007. The report from this meeting was provided, and the CSPR Chair gave an oral report highlighting the most significant outcomes of the meeting. The specific matter of the CSPR’s discussions about working with the social sciences was discussed separately on the EB Agenda.

In particular, the CSPR Chair highlighted the seriousness of SCOPE's financial problems. It was agreed that a review of SCOPE was urgent.

**Decision**

To note the report of the CSPR meeting; and to ask the CSPR to initiate a SCOPE review.

6. **Social Sciences**

Many recommendations for strengthened involvement of social sciences were put forward in the planning and review process that led to the development of the ICSU Strategic Plan. In addition, the 28th General Assembly passed a resolution calling for strengthened input of social sciences in ICSU. This issue had been a major focus of discussion at the last two CSPR meetings. Background papers were commissioned from two groups of CSPR Members and the Secretariat. Heide Hackmann, Secretary-General of the International Social Science Council (ISSC), and Gudmund Hernes, President of ISSC, attended the CSPR meeting and gave presentations on their mandate and plans to reform the ISSC. The CSPR welcomed preliminary feedback and guidance from the EB on the following ideas raised in the CSPR discussions, before final recommendations were made:

1. ICSU should take maximum advantage of the positive changes that are taking place in the ISSC and assist in any appropriate way to ensure success in the revitalisation of the ISSC.

2. ICSU could consider encouraging a small number of ISSC Unions and Associations which were considered key to the implementation of the ICSU Strategic Plan to apply for ICSU membership. Included in this group could be International Political Science Association, International Sociological Association and the International Union for the Study of Population.

3. Alternatively, ICSU could enlist the support of the three bodies mentioned above in the implementation of the ICSU Strategic Plan without encouraging them to apply for ICSU membership. A close working relationship between ICSU and these bodies would enable ICSU to know the bodies better, and *vice versa*, and assist ICSU to determine what an appropriate long term relationship with these would be.
4. ICSU could consider it sufficient to simply continue working with the ISSC and its key Unions and Associations in an ad hoc manner to improve ICSU’s ability to identify the best social science researchers and scholars who could assist in the implementation of the ICSU Strategic Plan.

5. ICSU could take greater advantage of the experiences of those of its National Members whose mandate included social sciences and humanities in mobilising good social sciences input into its activities.

These views and ideas could be considered singly, as some were mutually exclusive, or in various combinations.

The Board was reminded that it did not have to wait for the CSPR's recommendations before taking action.

**Decision**
To endorse, in particular, recommendations 1, 4 and 5.

7. **Reports of CFRS Meetings**

The new standing Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS) met for the first time in November 2006 and subsequently in March 2007. The reports from these two meetings were provided for consideration by the Executive Board. Much of the committee’s work to date had been in defining its future workplan. It had also had to respond on several specific cases relating to breaches of the Principle of Universality. The CFRS was a Policy Committee and as such it formally reported to the Board.

At the 1st committee meeting several issues were identified for which the input of ICSU Members was considered to be important. All Members and Interdisciplinary Bodies were subsequently consulted for their views, but the response rate was extremely disappointing (12 responses in total). Thus, the committee’s proposed work-plan had to a large extent been developed by the committee ‘in isolation’ with its agreed terms of reference as the starting point.

One specific area that CFRS did consider, and which had implications for ICSU policy, was the visa situation for scientist’s visiting the USA. It was noted that access for scientists from and to different countries varied enormously and that in some cases it was easier to obtain an entry visa for the USA than Europe. This view was reinforced in the limited input provided by Members, in which reported visa problems were associated with several different countries and not specifically the USA. One of the challenges in assessing this was that quantitative data on visa refusals for scientists was not available for most countries (with the notable exception of the USA).

It was clear from the first two meetings that the CFRS had many ambitious ideas and plans and that if these were to be realised additional resources would need to be provided. The ICSU Secretariat did not currently have the capacity to cope with the new work and methods of working that the CFRS was keen to undertake. The Chair, Bengt Gustafsson, had had promising preliminary discussions with the Royal Swedish
Academy of Sciences regarding additional support in the form of a dedicated secretariat function. At the same time it was important that this Policy Committee did not operate independently from the ICSU Secretariat and Executive Board.

Decisions
To encourage all ICSU Members to recognize their own responsibilities in relation to the Principle of Universality and to work with CFRS accordingly; to endorse the workplan for CFRS up until the General Assembly in 2008; to back the CFRS chair in his efforts to obtain support from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for the establishment of an office for the Committee; and to rescind the current practice of not organizing ICSU meetings in the USA, whilst continuing to closely monitor the visa situation.

8. International Polar Year (IPY)

The global launch of the International Polar Year took place in Paris on 1 March. The launch was also celebrated simultaneously with national events in many countries around the world. The Paris event attracted a great deal of media attention and a summary of the main coverage was provided for information. The IPY had now firmly established its own identity and momentum and many organizations were associated with various aspects of it. One of the challenges for ICSU over the next two years would be to continue to be visible and recognized as the initiator and co-sponsor of the IPY.

The ICSU-WMO Joint Committee for the IPY would continue to oversee the implementation of the programme over the next two years. Many IPY-related events were being planned including three major Conferences:

- Open Science Conference, St Petersburg, July 2008 (with SCAR and IASC);
- IPY Science Conference, Oslo, mid-2010
- IPY Science and Policy Conference, mid 2012 (venue tbd)

The planning for these was already underway and ICSU had expressed its desire to be recognized as a co-sponsor. The Board was now asked to formally endorse this position. At this stage no financial commitment was requested for these events.

Decision
To agree that ICSU should co-sponsor the three main IPY events (2008, 2010, 2012).

9. Global Environmental Change Programmes

9.1 International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP)

The Board agreed in October 2006 to accept the United Nations University as a third sponsor of the IHDP in addition to ICSU and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and to approve in principle the MoU between ICSU, ISSC and UNU. Towards the end of 2006 it became clear that the UNU wanted to make substantial revisions to the MoU, which were not acceptable to ICSU and the ISSC. After several iterations
and much diplomatic negotiations, a revised MoU was developed, which was agreed to by the IHDP SC in March. Since the Secretariat of IHDP was supposed to move to the UN campus in Bonn before 1 January, the delay in agreeing to the MoU became problematic. The Executive Director had now signed an MoU between the three partners and requested that this action be approved by the Board.

The Constitution of IHDP needed to be changed to be consistent with the MoU but there had not yet been any time to prepare a revised Constitution for approval by the three sponsors.

9.2 International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)

The Executive Director of IGBP, Professor Kevin Noone was appointed by the Board for a 3-year period, which ended on 1 September 2007. The appointment was renewable and the Officers of IGBP had recommended that Professor Noone be appointed for an additional period of one year.

**Decisions**

To approve the Memorandum of Understanding between ICSU, ISSC and UNU regarding sponsorship of IHDP; and
to extend the appointment of Professor Kevin Noone as Executive Director of IGBP for one year.


Human Health was a new priority area for ICSU in its Strategic Plan 2006-2011. Much of the initial impetus for this came from the Unions, many of whom had been working together in a loose coalition since 2002 to try and develop a Science for Health and Wellbeing (SHWB) initiative. The CSPR was entrusted with taking forward this area, including liaison with the Unions. To achieve this, an *ad hoc* Scoping Group was established in February 2006. This group subsequently met twice before submitting a final draft report to the CSPR for consideration at its meeting in February 2007. This report, together with the views of the CSPR, was provided for consideration by the Board.

The main recommendation from the Scoping Group, which was endorsed by the CSPR, was that ICSU should initiate the planning for a new interdisciplinary initiative – “Towards a Systems Analysis Approach to Health and Wellbeing in the Urban Environment”. In order to progress this, it was proposed that a Planning Group be established to oversee some specific preliminary work that was considered necessary before a full programme plan could be developed. The aim was to make significant progress on this before the General Assembly in 2008.

The report from the Scoping Group had been sent to all ICSU Members and Interdisciplinary Bodies in order to solicit their preliminary views. The Unions had also discussed this topic at their meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting.
In the light of the recommendations from the CSPR and the input from Members, the Executive Board was asked to consider the Scoping Group report and decide on ICSU’s future actions in this area.

**Decision**

To request CSPR to establish a Planning Group in consultation with the InterUnion initiative and ICSU membership, to take forward the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Scoping Group.

### 11. Regional Offices

#### 11.1 Africa

The Director of the Regional Office, Sospeter Muhongo, reported on progress, the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the Regional Committee held in the Seychelles on 5-6 March 2007, and on the Science Plans which were being prepared and should be published in June 2007. He referred to the financial problems the ROA was currently facing and said that the MoU for the office needed updating in light of the lessons learned since the office first started.

The Board was requested to extend membership for three years of those members of the Regional Committee who were appointed until the end of 2007.

#### 11.2 Asia and the Pacific

The Director, Nordin Hasan, reported on progress and the outcomes of the 3rd meeting of the Regional Committee held in Tehran on 6-7 March 2007 and on the plans for the Second Regional Consultative Forum to be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in November 2007. Two Science Plans were in preparation.

The Board was requested to extend membership for three years of those members of the Regional Committee who were initially appointed for a period of two years only.

#### 11.3 Latin America and the Caribbean

The Director, Alice Abreu, reported on progress and the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the Regional Committee held in Rio de Janeiro on 16-17 April 2007. The next Regional Committee meeting would be held in, and financed by, Mexico and the fourth in Chile. She also reported on the inauguration event for the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean on 18 April and expressed the hope that the Science Plans for this Office would be ready by the time of the ICSU General Assembly, with a mid-term report available at the end of 2007.

#### 11.4 Arab Region

As was noted in the Decisions from the Officers meeting in February, the Executive Director would visit Amman in May. It was hoped that this visit would result in a firm offer from Jordan to host the Regional Office for the Arab Region.
A First Regional Consultation was tentatively planned to be organized in Tunisia in the latter half of 2007. It was hoped that funding for this event would be provided by the UNESCO Field Office in Cairo within the funding that was part of the UNESCO-ICSU Framework Agreement.

**Decisions**
To note developments in the Regional Offices for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean;
to re-appoint M. Chenene, F. Gudyanga, D. Makawiti, K. Mokhele and G. Ogunmola to the ICSU Regional Committee for Africa for 2008-2010;
to appoint M. Shamsher Ali, M. Baghirov, M. Hoshi, M. Kaosa-Ard and K. Zhang to the ICSU Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific for 2008-2010;
to express thanks to the Government of Brazil for its generous support of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; and
to request the Executive Director to continue efforts to establish a Regional Office for the Arab Region and to organize the first Regional Consultation towards the end of 2007, possibly in Tunisia.

12. **Policy Committee on Developing Countries (PCDC)**

The Executive Director reported on the discussions at the 4th meeting of PCDC on 18 April held in conjunction with the inauguration of the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Rio de Janeiro. The Board expressed concern that the PCDC lacked a clear role and focus and felt that the Chairs of the Regional Committees should have a more central role if the Committee was to continue. It was agreed that the PCDC should hold a meeting in April 2008 as planned and should present revised Terms of Reference to the General Assembly. A small sub-group of the EB should be formed to help develop a proposal for restructuring the PCDC.

**Decisions**
To note the discussions at the 4th PCDC meeting; and
to agree to appoint a small sub-group of the EB to develop proposal for revision of ToR and composition of PCDC.

13. **Implementation of ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011**

The Executive Director provided an update on the implementation of the ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011.

As reported to the meeting of the Officers in February, the current work situation at the Secretariat was not sustainable. There were three options to address this situation, which were not mutually exclusive:

- Increase staff (see Agenda Item 23)
- Decrease number of governance meetings
- With regard to matrix activities, postpone, slow-down/scale-down activities, terminate or change direction on activities.
ICSU needed also to be prepared for new activities not foreseen when the Strategic Plan was approved and must also learn from experience. For example, both the IPY launch (without the Communications Officer) and the Lindau Young Scientists Conference had taken a disproportionate amount of staff resources.

With regard to the last bullet, the Officers had considered the following options:

- **Delay items**: IGBP and WCRP Reviews
- **Postpone items until after the GA**: Review of private sector interface, IPR, Science Education Review
- **Slow-down or scale-down**: CFRS (Secretariat somewhere), Strategic Data Committee given more limited mandate, IPY would need far less involvement from the ICSU Secretariat in the operational phase
- **Stop or change priorities**: Mid-term report for presentation in April, GEOSS, World Science Forum, UNESCO Framework Agreement cannot lead to new activities
- **New items**: SCOPE Review, THORPEX

The Officers agreed to delay the reviews of IGBP and WCRP, and postpone private sector interface, IPR International Observatory and review of science education until after the 29th General Assembly. The Officers also requested the Secretariat to develop a time line for 2008-2011 with similar resolution to the current 2006-2008 in order to clearly show the continued process of implementing the Strategic Plan over six years for presentation to the Board at its 96th meeting.

### Decision
To note progress in implementation of the ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011.

14. Closed Session

15. Finance

The Committee on Finance (CF) met in Paris on 20 April and an oral report of this meeting was made to the Executive Board. The major item on the CF agenda was consideration of the prepared accounts for 2006 in the presence of the Commissaire aux Comptes (external auditor). As in 2006, following approval by the Board, the closed accounts would be sent to all ICSU Members for approval at an electronic General Assembly on 30 June.

The CF also considered in detail the revised budget for 2007 and this was presented for approval by the Board.

### Decisions
To note the report of the Committee on Finance and, in particular, to agree that provision for staff retirement indemnities should be incorporated into the accounts; to close the 2006 accounts and request the Secretariat to send them to all Members for approval at an electronic General Assembly; and to approve the revised budget for 2007, which should also be sent to Members for information (Annex 1).
16. **Working Group to Review Dues' Structure**

The Working Group had finalized its draft Report and this was provided for the Board's consideration. The Report, together with the Board's comments as necessary, would be sent to Members for review and it was important that it be made clear that the amounts given in the Report were examples based on the principles of the proposed new structure and were not those which would be applicable in 2010. Review comments would go back to the Working Group, which would then finalize its report for presentation at the General Assembly.

The EB recommended to the Working Group that it should review its proposal to increase Scientific Associates' dues to €1 000 since this was the same as the Minimum Subscription for Members. It proposed that these should be maintained at €500. The Board further recommended to the Working Group that it should amend the title of column H in order to avoid misunderstanding and should balance with column A, and that it should remove the different options for banding. Members needed to be informed of when this new structure, if adopted by the GA in 2008, would come into effect.

The Board noted that recommendations 12 and 13 of the Working Group's report were outside its remit, and agreed to address recommendation 12 only if Members requested this as part of the general consultation on the Dues Report.

**Decision**

To send Report to Members with EB's comments three months after eGA had taken place; to agree to set up a small sub-group of the Board to look at the question of weighted voting if Members requested this.

17. **Review Committee on the Grants Programme**

At the 28th General Assembly in 2005 it was agreed that the grants programme should be reviewed with some urgency. This was stimulated by a major reduction in the funding available from co-sponsors, the US State Department and UNESCO, as well as a reduction in the ‘free money’ available to ICSU. The CSPR was entrusted with the review and established a Review Committee, which met in November 2006. In addition to the information and statistics provided by the Secretariat, relating to the past performance of the programme, a major contribution was supposed to be the input from Members and Interdisciplinary Bodies. Unfortunately only 10 Members and no Interdisciplinary Bodies responded to a number of specific questions that the CSPR had formulated to inform the review. Thus the review was carried out in the absence of substantive input from most Members and Interdisciplinary Bodies as to the value that they attached to the programme.

The final draft report of the Review Group was considered by the CSPR at its meeting in February 2007. The overall conclusion that the past programme had largely met its aims and been ‘good value for money’ was accepted. However, the proposal that a new and more focussed programme should be implemented was subject to considerable debate. One key conclusion of the review was that a viable programme would require a minimum of €500k p.a. but that in the longer term more funding would be required.
Subsequent to the review, discussions had taken place with UNESCO and it had become clear that the maximum amount that might be available from them under the new Framework Agreement was $150-225k p.a. In the discussions about the content of a new Framework Agreement, a new grants programme focussed on developing new and truly collaborative activities between ICSU Union Members and Interdisciplinary Bodies and UNESCO had been proposed. Such a programme would be governed by the two sponsors jointly and ICSU and UNESCO would provide equal amounts of funding. The CSPR requested the Executive Director to continue discussions with UNESCO along the lines of a joint grants programme with priority. It was recognized by both the Review Group and the CSPR that this was a policy issue, on which the ICSU Executive Board would need to make a decision.

Given the reservations expressed by the CSPR as to the future viability of a grants programme because of the limited funding available, the draft review report had not been circulated to Members. It was noted by the CSPR that, depending on the decision of the Executive Board, an explanatory note would need to be added to the report before it was sent out.

At the Unions' meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting very strong support had been expressed for reinstating a grants programme. For many Unions this was considered as an essential mechanism for interacting with ICSU.

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<tr>
<td>To agree to reinstate a grants programme;</td>
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<tr>
<td>to request the Executive Director to continue discussions with UNESCO with the goal to develop a new joint programme;</td>
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<tr>
<td>to ask the CSPR to develop Terms of Reference for a new grants programme and a timeline for its implementation; and</td>
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<td>to request the Secretariat to draft a note giving the EB's recommendations and explaining the overall financial and strategic considerations to be annexed to the report which should be made available to Members.</td>
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18. Unions' Meeting April 2007

The Unions meeting took place immediately prior to the Executive Board and all Board members, except Catherine Bréchignac, attended. It was felt that the meeting had proved a good forum where areas not only of concern but also of common interest were explored and the meeting had been relatively well attended. The procedure for appointment to ICSU committees had been one of the areas of concern and the EB would consider further the suggestions from the Unions. One possibility, in the case of the CSPR, would be to appoint this Committee only at the first EB meeting in the year following the Assembly. This would allow the new Vice-President for Scientific Planning and Review to attend the February meeting of the CSPR to get a feeling for the committee and of those members continuing. The appointments could then run for a three year period from April to April.
Decision
To compile suggestions from Unions and other members and send to CSPR and EB for consideration at their next meetings; and
to agree that appointments to the CSPR should run for a three year period from April to April starting in the year after the GA.

19. Meeting with Italian ICSU Committee

Some 14 representatives of Italian National ICSU Committees attended this hour-long session and joined the Board for lunch, despite the fact that it was a long weekend in Italy. The discussions were positive and it was felt that the Italian National Committee for ICSU, having been restructured, would now be able to play a stronger role in ICSU affairs.

Attilio Boriani, Chair of the National Committee, announced that Italy would be sending a formal invitation to hold the 30th General Assembly in 2011 in Italy.

20. Young Scientists Conference on Global Scientific Challenges: Perspectives from Young Scientists

Attendance at the ICSU Young Scientists Conference, which was organized as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations, had been good with 142 participants from 71 countries, including 13 Unions and 66 National Members. Several Board members had also attended. One of the aims of the Conference was to include the next generation of scientists in a consideration of some of the major generic issues that were on ICSU’s agenda. There had been great enthusiasm at the conference and various ways of keeping these young scientists engaged were discussed, although it was pointed out that young scientists did not stay young very long and such activities should not be institutionalized. Several Unions already had young scientists events and the Regional Offices could also explore how to fully include young scientists in their activities.

The conference had been ICSU’s first carbon-neutral event.

Decision
To express the Board's appreciation to the Secretariat for all their efforts to make the conference a success; and
to further express its thanks to the Organizing Committee.

21. 29th General Assembly

21.1 Draft Agenda

Although the Statutes only call for the Agenda to be sent to Members three months in advance of the General Assembly, in practice this had always been sent at least one year in advance in order to allow Members time to consult and send their inputs to the Agenda.
21.2 **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee consisted of the President and six other Members and was appointed by the Executive Board. Although the Statutes only stipulated that the Nominating Committee be appointed one year in advance of the General Assembly, it was preferable that this be done earlier in order that the call for nominations could be sent out in sufficient time to allow Members a reasonable consultation period. The EB was asked to appoint the members of this Committee. Two meetings of the Committee would be necessary, one after 20 April 2008, when nominations must be received, and one at the Assembly. Members of the Nominating Committee were not eligible for election.

21.3 **Local Arrangements**

Khotso Mokhele, Thomas Rosswall, Tish Bahmani Fard and Maureen Brennan visited Maputo in March to meet with the local organizers of the Assembly. The delegation received a very warm welcome with extensive media coverage. Two meetings with the Minister for Science and Technology were held and the enthusiasm for holding the ICSU General Assembly in Mozambique was impressive. The Conference Centre was modern and well-equipped and would be used exclusively for the ICSU General Assembly for the duration of the GA. Cooperation with the local organizers would remain close at all stages of the preparations.

It was suggested that the Unions' and National Members' fora held immediately prior to the Assembly should not run in parallel but be held one after the other, thus allowing those Unions, who so wished, to attend the National Member session and vice versa.

**Decisions**

To approve draft GA Agenda, with the addition of an item looking ahead to the next Strategic Plan;

to agree to send suggestions for membership of the Nominating Committee to the Executive Director by 4 May;

to ask the President and Executive Director to establish a slate for the Nominating Committee and send this to the EB for approval; no reply from members by the deadline given would be taken as tacit consent; and

to note progress in organization of Assembly.

22. **Applications for National Membership**

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

Department of Science and Technology of Lesotho
Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology - Marine Park Authority (currently National Associate)
As discussed at previous meetings of the Board, the Royal Society of the UK had now transferred Euros 9,000 to ICSU which had been used to settle the dues and arrears of six National Members in Africa.

**Decision**
To admit the Department of Science and Technology of Lesotho and the Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology - Marine Park Authority as National Scientific Members; and to thank the Royal Society for their generous support of certain ICSU National Members in Africa.

23. **Representation at General Assemblies of Unions and Interdisciplinary Bodies**

Board members were invited to review Unions and IB meetings in 2007-2008 and express interest to represent ICSU in events where an ICSU representative had not yet been identified. The Secretariat would then contact the Union/IB and inform them of ICSU representation at their meetings and request an opportunity for ICSU to address the meeting.

**Decision**
To agree ICSU representation at Unions and Interdisciplinary Bodies General Assemblies (and equivalent) in 2007-2008 (Annex 2).

24. **Interaction with Key Partners**

24.1 **UNESCO**

The Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director had met with Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General, and Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences to start a discussion on the next Framework Agreement. ICSU had also submitted an analytical report on activities under the current Framework Agreement and received comments on this report from UNESCO.

The discussion focused on three possibilities for collaboration within the context of the Framework Agreement:

1. A revised grants programme that would focus on collaboration between ICSU Unions and Interdisciplinary Bodies with UNESCO. Such a programme should be funded 50-50 by the two sponsors and decisions should be made jointly. Any such consideration must take into account the review by the CSPR of the grants programme;

2. Funding for joint initiatives, such as DIVERSITAS. ICSU stressed that any such initiatives must be central to the ICSU Strategic Plan and ICSU would have relatively little opportunity to start activities in the period 2008-2011 not foreseen in the current Strategic Plan. In addition to DIVERSITAS, such joint activities might include expansion of the current work on follow-up of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, where ICSU, UNESCO and UNU had jointly appointed a Committee. The Hazards and Disasters Planning Group might conclude that ICSU
should seek other sponsors, e.g., UNESCO, for a new programme. However, it was too early to define such opportunities and further considerations could only be made in conjunction with review and consideration of reports from the ongoing planning.

3. It was assumed that part of the funding would be used for regional collaboration. There were already good contacts between UNESCO and ICSU Regional Offices in the three regions, and this should be strengthened by using modest sums of funding from the Framework Agreement.

The Officers decided to propose to UNESCO that the Framework Agreement should focus on a new grants programme and regional collaboration.

The report from the review of the UNESCO Science Sectors was provided for information.

24.2 IAP

The Executive Director attended the IAP General Assembly in December, where the IAP Strategic Plan was adopted. He made a plenary presentation of the ICSU Strategic Plan, which was received with great interest.

24.3 IAC

The President represented ICSU at the annual IAC Board meeting in January as an Observer and gave a brief report of the meeting.

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<tr>
<td>To note the response of the UNESCO Director-General on the recommendations of the Science Review;</td>
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<tr>
<td>to note the IAP Strategic Plan;</td>
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<tr>
<td>to note the draft decisions of the IAC Board in January 2007; and</td>
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<td>to add ISSC to list of Key Partners for which updates are regularly provided at EB meetings.</td>
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25. Secretariat

The Executive Director would retire at the end of 2008 or early 2009 and the Search Committee would consist of the President, President-Elect and the Secretary-General. It was important to start the search for his successor early enough to ensure that the new person could start in January 2009. One month overlap between the outgoing and incoming Executive Directors would be convenient. The Executive Board needed to discuss the profile of the candidate and define a timetable for the search process. The Executive Director was appointed by the Executive Board on the recommendation of the Officers.
After consultation with the Secretary-General and Treasurer, the Executive Director had appointed Frédérica Kostadinoff as Administrative Officer (75%) from 1 February 2007. For the remaining 25% of her time, Frederica acted as the gardienne paid by the French Academy of Sciences. She would have a small apartment in the new building on rue Auguste Vacquerie.

Elisabeth Merle was on sick-leave for ca six months. Her tasks would be performed by Frédérica Kostadinoff during her absence.

Laurie Geller had decided to return to the US after four years with ICSU. The post had been advertised, more than 200 applications received and six candidates interviewed. In consultation with the Secretary-General and Treasurer, Paul Cutler had been appointed to start on 1 August. His primary duty would be the CSPR, but he would also take on responsibility for the implementation of other components of the ICSU Strategic Plan.

The Officers had approved that one additional Science Officer be hired. Patricia Ocampo-Thomason would start on 1 June with primary responsibility for contacts with the ICSU Regional Offices. She would also be assigned other duties to be decided on in consultation with other scientific staff members.

## Decisions

To note the addition of new staff to the ICSU Secretariat; and
to express the EB's and CSPR's appreciation to Laurie Geller for her important contributions to ICSU.

### 26. Dates and Places of Next Meetings

Future meetings of the Board and related meetings are:

**2007**
- 10 October (Wednesday) Committee on Finance, Paris
- 11-12 October (Thursday-Friday) 96th Executive Board, Paris

**2008**
- 13-14 January (Sunday-Monday) Officers (starting with lunch on Sunday and finishing in the afternoon of Monday)
- March/April Committee on Finance, Paris (*N.B. these dates were decided after the meeting*)
- 28-29 April CSPR, Paris
- 23-24 May Executive Board, Rio de Janeiro

## Decision

To note the dates of future meetings.
27. **Any Other Business**

27.1 **Social Science Conference**

The proposal to organize a conference on social sciences was rediscussed (see Agenda item 6), as was the form such a conference might take. It was stressed that in the lead-up to the General Assembly, the Secretariat could not be too involved in such an initiative.

**Decision**
To explore possibility of holding a conference on social sciences which might be announced at the General Assembly.

27.2 **Natural and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters**

The General Assembly in 2008 would decide whether to launch a Programme on Natural and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters. In the meantime, Lloyds of London had proposed to fund a Planning Office for this at Canadian $100 000 per year for ten years. If the programme were approved the Planning Office would become the Programme Office. Other Canadian institutions had also been approached with regard to additional funding.

**Decision**
To accept the proposed funding for a Planning Office provided there were no restrictions attached.

28. **Evaluation of Meeting**

The Board agreed that four days of meetings was long but that the meetings and the documentation had been well prepared.

**Decision**
To express its thanks to the CNR for the gracious and generous manner in which they had hosted the meetings in Rome.

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting at 14:55.

**Annexes**

- Annex 1 Budget for 2007 as approved by 95th Meeting of Executive Board
- Annex 2 Representation at meetings of Unions and IBs
- Annex 3 List of Follow-up Actions

Goverdhan Mehta

Thomas Rosswall