99th Meeting of Executive Board
Maputo, Mozambique
25 October 2008

DECISIONS

Present: Catherine Bréchignac, Bryan Henry, Dov Jaron, Reiko Kuroda, Hans Ott, Bruce Overmier, Sergio Pastrana (Item 1), Kari Raivio, Uri Shamir, Maurice Tchuente, and Thomas Rosswall (ex officio)

Apologies for absence: Fu Congbin, Maurizio Iaccarino, Goverdhan Mehta, Abdul Hamid Zakri

Secretariat/Regional Offices: Alice Abreu, Tish Bahmani Fard, Maureen Brennan (Item 1), Paul Cutler, Andrew Achuo Enow (Item 1), Gisbert Glaser, Leah Goldfarb, Nordin Hasan, Hizamddin Jaafar (Item 1), Frédérica Kostadinoff (Item 1), Bongani Mahlalela (Item 1), Mustapha Mokrane (Item 1), Howard Moore, Sospeter Muhongo, Daniel Nyanganyura (Item 1), Patricia Ocampo-Thomason, Kathy Potgieter (Item 1), Rohini Rao (Item 1), and Carthage Smith

By invitation: Deliang Chen

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

The President welcomed the Members of the Board and staff present and each introduced themselves briefly.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Decision
To adopt the Agenda.
3. **Decisions of 98th Meeting of Executive Board and Matters Arising**  
(not treated elsewhere)

Any matters arising were treated elsewhere on the Agenda.

<table>
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<th>Decision</th>
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<tr>
<td>To note the Draft Decisions of the 98th meeting of the Executive Board although these were not yet approved by the Members of the Executive Board 2005-2008.</td>
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4. **Role and Responsibilities of the Board**

4.1 **Role**

According to the Statutes, the Executive Board was responsible to the General Assembly. It oversaw the operations of ICSU; recommended the directions and priorities of ICSU to the General Assembly, taking into consideration the recommendations of the appropriate Committees; and implemented and communicated ICSU's policies and views between sessions of the General Assembly.

Board Members were reminded that whilst they were elected by the General Assembly based on nominations from National Members and Scientific Unions, they did not represent either the Union/National Member nominating them or the clusters of Union Members proposing them for election. The affiliation (country or Union) given after their names was for information purposes only.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>To note the roles of Executive Board Members and Officers.</td>
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4.2 **Conduct of Board Meetings**

Board Members were expected to take an active part in Board discussions and assist in implementing General Assembly and EB decisions. It was essential that discussions in the Executive Board were open and constructive and thus confidential. Once decisions were made, dissenting views should not be reported outside the EB. Dissenting views could be noted in the Decisions of the meeting, although this had so far never happened. The approved EB decisions were made publicly available on the ICSU website.

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<tr>
<td>To note that the discussions at Board meetings were confidential and that only the formally agreed decisions should be reported outside of meetings.</td>
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4.3 **Liability**

The opinion of the ICSU auditors concerning the legal liability of members of the Executive Board was provided for information. ICSU had an insurance policy which covered EB Members for misconduct or injury caused to third parties.

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<tr>
<td>To note liability of EB members.</td>
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4.4 Rules for Travel on ICSU Business

The rules for travel were given on the third page of the Travel Claim form which was found in the Member Zone of the ICSU website. Reimbursement of expenses (air tickets and so on) could be made in advance of the meeting upon receipt of an invoice. Originals of air tickets and all other expenses had to be submitted after the meeting. Members were encouraged to use the most economical fares possible.

ICSU's insurance policy covered EB Members travelling on ICSU business but on a nominative basis. If such coverage was required, the Secretariat needed to be informed well in advance of the proposed trip.

Decision
To note ICSU travel rules.

5. Relationship Executive Board-Officers-CSPR-Secretariat

In the past some concern had been expressed about the clarity of the respective roles of the Executive Board, the Officers, the CSPR and the Secretariat, alone and in relation to each other.

The role of the EB is given in Statute 28, that of the Officers in Statute 31 b) and Rules of Procedure 5.1-5.4, of the CSPR in Rule of Procedure11.1 a) and of the Secretariat in Statute 29 and Rule of Procedure 5.5.

Executive Board (EB)

The Executive Board had overall responsibility for the affairs of ICSU between General Assemblies. Its focus was on policy issues

It was important that major issues were discussed with the relevant staff members present. Closed sessions were routinely held at the end of each meeting, but should not address issues where staff input was important.

The current practice was that the EB met twice a year and this was foreseen in the budget. Formal auditing requirements meant that one meeting must be in April/May and the second meeting was usually held in late October – early November. One meeting was usually in Paris and the venue for the other meeting should be selected based on strategic considerations. The EB could also be convened by a decision of the President in case of particular urgency, provided at least 30 days' notice was given.

Officers

The role of the Officers was clearly regulated in the Statutes, but because of the pace of developments of issues, the Officers had to make decisions on issues which would normally be handled by the EB. There was now no major difference with regard to the types of issues on the agenda between meetings of the EB and Officers. The Officers normally met twice a year.
The Officers were responsible for the day-to-day affairs of ICSU between meetings of the EB. They met as often as was deemed necessary, normally twice a year. One of the Officers’ meetings would be held jointly with the Regional Directors and Chairs of Regional Committees.

The frequency of meetings for both the EB and the Officers needed to take into account (i) number of issues to be addressed, (ii) time for the Secretariat to prepare documentation and (iii) funding.

The description of the duties of individual Officers were found in Rules of Procedure 5.1-4.

Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR)

An ICSU external review was conducted in 1995. As a result of a recommendation that ICSU should become more strategic, the CSPR was established in 1999. It had played a crucial role since its establishment and had increased its number of meetings from one to two per year. It was responsible for most planning and review activities and was instrumental in preparing the Strategic Plan 2006-2011. It also decided on the ICSU grants programme. Members were appointed by the EB based on nominations received and additional proposed names.

Ideally certain issues should first be discussed by the CSPR and then by the EB/Officers. However, some issues were initiated by the EB and then the role of the CSPR was less clear. One such example was the planning for the IPY. Ideally the CSPR should discuss major programmatic issues before they were put to the EB.

The CSPR had review functions and had recently undertaken reviews of the global environmental change programmes and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment. DIVERSITAS would be reviewed in the next three-year period. There was a statutory need for reviews of all ICSU Interdisciplinary Bodies. Previously this was more regulated but discretion was now given to the CSPR to initiate such reviews. The results with the CSPR recommendations were presented to the EB for decision.

The grants programme, for which the CSPR was responsible, had been reviewed and a limited programme had been put in place.

Secretariat

The role of the Paris Secretariat was to manage the day-to-day work of ICSU and the EB and Officers had repeatedly stressed the importance of priority setting. The Secretariat had currently 12 full-time staff and two part-time senior advisors. An additional Administrative Officer, to replace Elisabeth Merle who retired in July, would be hired in January 2009 with particular responsibility for supporting the Executive Director.

The Executive Director was responsible for keeping the President and Secretary-General updated on developments and conference calls could be arranged regularly to fulfil this function. Other Officers and EB members were briefed as necessary. Every attempt was made to avoid EB decisions by e-mail or conference call, although this might sometimes be necessary.
Decisions
To note the respective roles and relationships of the different bodies; to note the roles and responsibilities of the Officers; and to ask the two Vice-Presidents to report to the next meeting of the Board on how they envisaged their respective roles.

6. Relations with the Regional Structures

ICSU had established three Regional Offices (Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. A fourth Regional Office for the Arab Region was anticipated.

The Regional Offices were guided by Regional Committees appointed by the EB based on nominations received from National Members in the region. The Regional Committee was responsible for making strategic decisions to be implemented by the Regional Office. The EB appointed the Director of the Regional Office in consultation with the host institution.

Staff of the Regional Offices were part of ICSU staff, although appointed and employed by the host institution. The Directors worked under the guidance of the Regional Committees and were responsible to the ICSU Executive Director.

Decisions
To note the functions of ICSU Regional Offices and Regional Committees and their relationship to the Executive Board and ICSU Secretariat; and to agree that a small group consisting of the Secretary-General, the Treasurer, the three Regional Directors, assisted by the Secretariat, should draw up a document outlining the legal aspects of the functioning of the Regional Offices and review the Statutes with a view to inclusion of the Regional Offices; this group should report back to the next meeting of the Board.

7. Policy Committee membership

7.1 Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR)

The EB had decided to extend the mandate of the current CSPR until June 2009 with a last meeting in February 2009. Previously, the mandate ended at the end of the calendar year of a General Assembly. However, to make it possible for the EB to fully consider CSPR membership, the EB had decided to prolong the service for each set of CSPR members by six months. Thus, new CSPR Members would be appointed at the EB’s 100th meeting in April 2009.

CSPR Members served a three-year term, with the possibility of a second. Of the 14 non-elected Members, three would complete their second term in 2009 (Michael Clegg, Ranjan Ramasamy, and Pierre Ritchie). A new slate would be proposed to the EB following the February 2009 CSPR meeting. CSPR meetings were normally held in February and September, and were timed to precede meetings of the EB.

EB Members examined the list of 17 nominations received from the ICSU family and considered (i) gaps in the list such as those in disciplinary coverage, and balance in geography, gender, and age, and (ii) particularly strong candidates. With respect to disciplinary coverage, consideration was given to the likely balance of ICSU activities
in the upcoming three years, which would include global environmental change, science education, ICSU’s role in science and technology in developing countries, reviews of the Regional Offices, and developing the second Strategic Plan.

EB Members observed the need for a better sense from the current CSPR on what went well and what was missing during the past three years of operation; the need for younger nominees, those with an appreciation of social science, engineering, information and communications technology, risk perception, and those from the Arab region; and the need to avoid substantial expansion of the current membership. In addition, it was noted that serving a second term for existing CSPR Members was not automatic—rather, it depended on such factors as balance of the group and likelihood of substantive contribution.

**Decisions**

To agree that EB Members submit and/or encourage others to submit additional nominations for CSPR Members using the appropriate form; that, as a matter of course, the Secretariat inform all nominees/nominators for CSPR and other ICSU groups of the outcome of the process; that, as a matter of course, short biographical summaries be sought for all CSPR Members and other ICSU groups for sharing on the Web; and to ask the incoming CSPR Chair to provide the EB at its 100th meeting with an overview of the Committee’s work plan and lessons learned by CSPR with respect to its composition while implementing the Strategic Plan 2006-2011.

**7.2 Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS)**

Following the decision on CSPR (see above), the 98th meeting of the Executive Board decided that the term of service for current CFRS members be extended until June 2009, which would incorporate one more meeting of the Committee. This allowed more time for the new Board to consider the submitted nominations and seek further nominations if necessary before agreeing on the final composition of this committee at its meeting in February/March 2009

All ICSU Members had been invited to submit nominations for CFRS membership in early August and the Executive Board was asked to give preliminary consideration to these. It was noted that the CFRS itself had identified a number of areas in which its current membership could be strengthened. These included representation from Africa, the Arab region and Russia, as well as the social sciences.

Board Members recognized the urgent need for greater support for the CFRS in order for it to implement its ambitious work plan, as presented at the General Assembly.

**Decisions**

To request the Secretariat to seek additional nominations to address the gaps identified by the CFRS; and to ask the Secretariat to write to the ICSU membership to solicit offers to support a secretariat for the CFRS.
7.3 Policy Committee on Developing Countries (PCDC)

The PCDC was established by the 27th General Assembly of ICSU in 2002 based on the recommendations from the COSTED Review Panel, which had proposed that the organizational structure of COSTED be replaced by a Policy Committee on Science and Technology for Development (name changed by the Assembly to Policy Committee on Developing Countries) and four ICSU Regional Offices.

In the light of the impressive progress made by the Regional Offices and after consultations the Executive Board proposed to the General Assembly that an annual meeting of the ICSU Officers and Regional Committee Chairs and Directors be convened with a focus on strategic coordination. It was also proposed that a forward looking review of ICSU’s role in relation to science and technology in developing countries be conducted and that a decision on the longer term future of PCDC would be dependent on the outcome of the strategic review, so in the meantime, the PCDC should be put on hold. This proposal was approved by the General Assembly.

**Decision**

To note the GA decisions on the Policy Committee on Developing Countries (PCDC).

7.4 Committee on Finance

The Committee on Finance (CF) was a sub-committee of the Executive Board and met twice a year, immediately prior to the Board meetings. It normally had six members, including the Treasurer and Executive Director, who were *ex officio*. Previously it had also included one non-Board member, who was familiar with French accounting practices.

**Decisions**

To appoint as Members of the CF: Bryan Henry (Chair), Dov Jaron, Sergio Pastrana, Hans Ott (*ex officio*) and Chen Deliang (*ex officio*); and to request the Secretariat to identify one more Member for the Committee with knowledge of French financial practices.

8. Appointment of Regional Committees

According to the procedures stated in the relevant Regional Office-Host Institution Agreements, ICSU Regional Committees were established by the Executive Board based on nominations received from ICSU National Members in the Region. In addition to this, standard rules of procedure were followed by the three Regional Offices.

**Decisions**

To agree that the Unions should be informed that they could nominate Members of the Regional Committees through the appropriate National Member; and to note the Standard Rules of Procedure for appointment of ICSU Regional Committees.
8.1 Asia and the Pacific

The terms of five members of the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (RCAP) would end in December this year. A call for nominations was issued by the Regional Office in July and the list of nominations was circulated electronically to the Regional Committee members and a short-list was agreed (electronically) for consideration by the EB.

**Decisions**

To reappoint Ali Akbar Moosavi Movahedi to serve from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011; to appoint Marshall Jayasuriya, Bruce Harold John McKellar and Jaime Montoya to serve from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011; and to appoint A.H. Zakri as EB liaison to RCAP.

8.2 Latin America and the Caribbean

The terms of four members of the Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (RCLAC) ended in December this year. Following the standard procedures a call for nominations was issued by the Regional Office in July and nomination received were discussed during the 5th meeting of the Regional Committee and the proposed reappointments were agreed by the Committee for consideration by the EB.

**Decisions**

To reappoint Juan A. Asenjo, Tara Dasgupta, Enrique P. Lessa and Maria del Carmen Samayoa Grajeda de Ariola to serve from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011; and to appoint Sergio Pastrana as EB liaison to RCLAC.

8.3 Africa

There were no proposals for changes in membership to the Regional Committee for Africa (RCA) at the present time.

**Decisions**

As a result of discussions held immediately after the Board meeting, it was agreed to appoint Uri Shamir as EB liaison to RCA.

9. Appointment of Scientific Committees

9.1 Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

The 29th General Assembly had decided to:

- establish a major new interdisciplinary programme of ten years’ duration entitled Integrated Research on Disaster Risk – the challenge of natural and human-induced environmental hazards (acronym: IRDR), in collaboration with other international organizations;

- recognise IRDR as an Interdisciplinary Body and request the Executive Board to establish, in consultation with other sponsors, a Scientific Committee for the programme, with members serving a three-year term, renewable once; and
• set up an International Project Office for the IRDR, subject to satisfactory negotiations with interested partners and the completion of an MoU between ICSU and the host organization.

In order to maintain the momentum of the initiative, and develop an implementation plan in a timely manner, the Executive Board was being asked at this 99th Meeting to appoint a Scientific Committee (SC) and approve the Terms of Reference.

The draft Terms of Reference (doc. EB99/9.1.2) had been developed by ICSU and the International Social Science Council (ISSC; a decision to cosponsor would be taken by the ISSC General Assembly in November 2008) after consultation with the Planning Group for the Programme.

A request had been sent to all ICSU National and Union Members, as well as Interdisciplinary Bodies, for nominations for membership of the Scientific Committee of IRDR. Copies of all nominations received by the deadline, along with proposals from the International Social Science Council (ISSC), were presented; the accompanying summary table, established in consultation with ISSC, carried recommendations on Committee composition that had been fully endorsed by CSPR (electronic consultation) and subsequently by the ICSU Executive Board at its 98th Meeting.

Discussion centred on the balance between the natural and social sciences, the need for disciplinary strength, and concerns over the geographical balance of members.

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<tr>
<td>To approve the Terms of Reference for the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme (IRDR);</td>
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<td>to appoint Richard Eiser (non-renewable) and Gordon McBean (Chair) (non-renewable) to serve from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2011;</td>
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<tr>
<td>to appoint Harsh Gupta (non-renewable), William Hooke (non-renewable), David Johnstone, Michel Lang, Allan Lavell (non-renewable), Hormoz Modaressi, Maria Patek, Ortwin Renn, Steven Sparks (non-renewable), Astri Suhrke, Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, and Coleen Vogel, (Vice-Chair) to serve from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2012;</td>
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<tr>
<td>to note that the final decision on appointments is to be made by ICSU with the other sponsor of the IRDR, the International Social Science Council (ISSC); and</td>
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<tr>
<td>to request the ICSU and ISSC Secretariats to seek additional proposals to fill the identified disciplinary gaps and improve the geographical balance of members.</td>
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9.2 Ecosystem Change and Human Well-being (ECHW)

It was hoped that a slate for the Scientific Committee for this new programme could be presented. This had not been possible, primarily because most of the key partners were busy preparing for an Intergovernmental Consultation on a Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The meeting would be held in Kuala Lumpur on 10-12 November and ICSU would be represented by the Executive Director and the Director for the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

A summary of nominations received was provided and the EB was asked for guidance in the development of the final slate. The final composition would be decided jointly by ICSU, UNESCO and UNU.
**Decision**
To note progress in preparing a final slate for composition of the Scientific Committee for ECHW.

10. **Review of General Assembly**

10.1 **Process**

This was an opportunity for Board Members to identify any process issues from the General Assembly that could be improved in future Assemblies. It was noted in particular that, although the time frame for receiving, preparing and presenting resolutions was very tight, only a final, checked version of these should be set before the Assembly for approval.

The Board expressed the hope that there would be follow up activities to the regional workshops which took place prior to the GA in Mozambique and noted that two were underway on water and biotechnology.

Members were informed that the outcome of the General Assembly would be presented to a meeting of all African Ministers in December.

**Decision**
To note the process for GA Resolutions; and
to agree that their should be more scientific content at future General Assemblies.

10.2 **Priorities**

No issues were highlighted as needing immediate priority action.

10.3 **Dates of 30th General Assembly in 2011**

Board Members may wish to state their general preferences for dates for the Assembly in 2011 in order that the Secretariat may discuss these with the Italian hosts and then circulate possibilities to members to see if there are any major objections to the period proposed.

**Decision**
To agree that each Board Member would send their availability in October 2011 for the 30th General Assembly to the Assistant Executive Director, bearing in mind that seven days needed to be set aside for this.

11. **Applications for Admission as National Members**

Two applications were presented to the Executive Board for decision from:

- Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic
- Lao National Science Council, Lao PDR
Decisions
To admit the Academy of Sciences of Dominican Republic as a National Member; and to admit the Lao National Science Council, Lao PDR, as a National Member of ICSU, subject to receipt of a signed statement of compliance with ICSU’s Statutes and Rules of Procedure (this document was received shortly after the meeting).

12. EB participation in Unions/IB General Assemblies

Board members reviewed the Unions and IB meetings in 2009 and 2010 and agreed on EB representation at those meetings. The Secretariat would 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 on ICSU representation at Union and Interdisciplinary Bodies General Assemblies (and equivalent) in 2009 and 2010 (see Annex 1).

13. Dates and Places of Next Meetings, including Officers Meetings

The Executive Board and Officers will need to agree on dates for their meetings in 2009 and the first half of 2010. It had been suggested that the second meeting of the Board in 2009 should be held in conjunction with the meeting of the newly appointed CSPR and that a meeting of Officers be held in conjunction with the World Conference on Science +10 event in Budapest in November 2009.

Decision
To agree on the following dates for the next meetings of the Committee on Finance and the EB:
25 April 2009 CF, Paris
26-27 April 2009 100th EB meeting, Paris; and
to agree that each Board Member would send their availability for a meeting in October 2009 in Rio de Janeiro and for the first meeting of the Board in 2010 in Paris to the Assistant Executive Director.

14. Any Other Business

Decision
To agree that each Board Member would send a brief biographical résumé to Mustapha Mokrane (mustapha@icsu.org) for inclusion on the ICSU website.

15. Evaluation of Meeting

No particular comments or criticisms were made.

16. Closed Session

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 13:30.

Annex 1 List of Union and Interdisciplinary Bodies General Assemblies (and equivalent) in 2009 and 2010
Annex 2 List of Follow-up Actions

Catherine Bréchignac Thomas Rosswall