MEETING OF OFFICERS OF ICSU

26 July 2008

ICSU Secretariat
5 rue Auguste Vacquerie
75116 Paris, France

DECISIONS

Present: Catherine Bréchignac, Ana María Cetto, Roger Elliott, Goverdhan Mehta, Khotso Mokhele and Thomas Rosswall (ex officio)

By conference call: Hernan Chaimovich (Agenda item 6)

Secretariat: Tish Bahmani Fard, Patricia Ocampo-Thomason (Agenda items 6-12), and Carthage Smith

1. Welcome and Opening of the Meeting

Apologies for absence were received from Hernan Chaimovich who had been prevented from attending the meeting at the last moment. A conference call with him had been scheduled to discuss Agenda Item 6.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Goverdhan Mehta

Decision
To adopt the Agenda.

3. Decisions of 97th Meeting of Executive Board, May 2007

There were no matters arising from the Decisions of the 97th Meeting of the Board requiring the attention of the Officers which were not found elsewhere on the Agenda.

Decision
To note the Decisions.
4. General Assembly

4.1 29th General Assembly

4.1.1 Annotated Agenda with Proposed Decisions

The Annotated Agenda for the General Assembly was considered in detail by the Officers and some revisions were made. The Officers agreed that voting at the Assembly should be by general agreement by a show of hands (raising each delegations' ballot book) and, if the President so judged, the votes would be counted. If requested, voting would be by secret ballot. The Officers asked the Secretariat to ensure that the different voting methods be clearly indicated in the Introductory Notes to the GA.

**Decisions**

To approve the Annotated Agenda with revisions;

to agree that the messages from key partners at the opening session should be 3 minutes each and the Presidential address 15-20 minutes;

to agree that an Officer or EB Member should be assigned responsibility for each segment of the GA, the Secretariat to propose the schedule for this, taking account of any preferences expressed, to the Officers for approval;

to agree that voting at the Assembly should be by general agreement by a show of hands (raising each delegations' ballot book) and, if the President so judged, the votes would be counted; and

to agree that only the admission of new Members and the elections of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Executive Board required a secret ballot, although Members could request a secret ballot on other items from the floor.

4.1.2 Document on next ICSU Strategic Plan

One of the decisions of the 28th General Assembly was “to request the Executive Board to present plans to the 29th General Assembly (2008) for the development of a Second Strategic Plan for ICSU, 2012-2017”

Following a brainstorming session at the CSPR meeting in April, the Vice-President for Scientific Planning and Review made a presentation to the Executive Board in May on the planning for the next Strategic Plan. It was agreed that the ideas raised by both the CSPR and the Board should be incorporated into a brief discussion document for presentation to the General Assembly in October. The Vice-President and Secretariat had developed such a document and this was considered by the Officers who suggested, *inter alia*, that this should include mention of young scientists.

**Decision**

To approve the document for presentation to the 29th General Assembly subject to some minor further editing and the mention of young scientists.
4.1.3 Union and National Members fora

The Officers reviewed the draft programmes of the Unions and National Members fora at the General Assembly, which had been prepared by Bryan Henry and Sergio Pastrana in collaboration with the other Ordinary Members of the EB and in consultation with the Secretariat and suggested some revisions to these.

**Decision**

To propose revisions to the draft programmes for the Unions and NMs fora at the GA which will be transmitted to the conveners of the two fora.

4.2 31st General Assembly

On 16 April, Members were invited to submit invitations to host the 31st General Assembly of ICSU in 2014. To date one invitation had been received from China: Taipei, and IUPAB had expressed interest in hosting the Assembly in Australia at the time of the 2014 IUPAB Congress in Brisbane. The Executive Board would need to decide on its recommendation to the GA at its 19 October meeting.

**Decision**

To ask the Executive Director to solicit additional invitations to host the 31st GA.

5. Finance

5.1 Budget results at 31 May 2008

The net result after the first five months of 2008 was slightly lower than at the end of 2007. At the same time, the General Fund had increased by about €130k, due to the surplus of the previous year.

With regard to the 2008 budget, payments of membership dues were satisfactory. There was as yet no further information regarding the possible contribution from UNESCO. The documents required to enable the transfer of the special contribution from France had been submitted.

With regard to expenditure, there were no major surprises.

**Decision**

To note the satisfactory financial situation on 31 May 2008.

5.2 Report on the 3rd electronic General Assembly

Following approval of the 2007 accounts by the Executive Board in May, they were sent to all ICSU Members for approval via an electronic General Assembly, which was convened on 30 June.

**Decision**

To note the approval of the 2007 accounts by Members.
5.3 BNP Paribas policy on foreign payments

Two recent incidents, regarding normally routine financial transactions, suggested that ICSU’s current bank, BNP Paribas, was adopting policies that might make some future operations difficult for ICSU. These policies might also be considered to contradict the Principle of Universality of Science.

1. In January, the bank refused to handle a dues payment (€1000) from Iran. The initial discussions with the bank suggested that this was due to a government directive prohibiting all banks on French territory from processing any financial transactions with Iran. However, it was subsequently clarified in writing that it was a new policy of BNP Paribas which did not necessarily apply to other French banks.

2. In May, a bank transfer for reimbursement of expenses (~€2000) to Mohamed Hassan was blocked by BNP Paribas because his name was considered to be ‘dubious’. The bank requested personal information, including his full name, date of birth and nationality, before it would make the transfer. From subsequent discussions with the bank it appeared that they had now taken on a ‘policing’ role for all transactions in order to protect themselves from possible prosecution. Written clarification of this policy and the basis for identifying someone as suspicious had been requested.

The Officers agreed that the difficulties caused to a Member in paying its dues were unacceptable but it was not clear to what extent this type of policy was restricted to BNP Paribas and whether or not the situation would be better with any other bank and a change would involve a considerable upheaval for the ICSU finance office. This would need to be assessed before making any firm decision to move the ICSU accounts.

**Decision**

To request the Treasurer and Secretariat to explore the situation with other banks, with a view either to moving ICSU’s accounts or opening an additional account.

6. PCDC

As decided by the 97th Executive Board the Vice-President for External Relations and the Secretariat had prepared a draft document outlining the future of the PCDC.

The PCDC has made efforts to fulfil its policy function and provide useful advice to the Executive Board. At the same time experience and recent consultations showed that there was a clear need for a platform for exchange of experiences among the Regional Offices and for coordinating regional and global activities. It was proposed that:

- an annual meeting of the ICSU Officers and Regional Committee Chairs and Directors be convened with a focus on strategic coordination;
- The Policy Committee on Developing Countries (PCDC) be put in abeyance;
- in preparation for next strategic plan, CSPR carry out a forward looking strategic review of the role of ICSU in relation to science and technology in developing countries.
The primary goals of the annual meeting of the ICSU Officers and Regional Chairs/Directors would be:

1. To provide a stronger link and platform for discussion between ICSU global (EB, CSPR and Secretariat) and ICSU regional (Regional Offices and Regional Committees)

2. To ensure integration of regional and global priorities in developing and implementing ICSU Strategic Plans.

3. To provide a platform for exchange of experiences among Regional Offices

The Officers also agreed that a strategic review on the role on ICSU in relation to S&T in Developing Countries will be valuable in preparation for the next ICSU Strategic Plan. Such a review would consider the roles of the Regional Offices and the PCDC. The latter Committee should be put on hold pending the outcomes of the review.

Decisions:

To propose to the EB that:

- an annual meeting of the ICSU Officers and the Chairs of the Regional Committees and the Directors of the Regional Offices be convened with a focus on strategic coordination;

- the Policy Committee on Developing Countries (PCDC) be put in abeyance;

- to request to CSPR, in preparation for next Strategic Plan, to carry out a forward looking strategic review of ICSU’s role in relation to science and technology in developing countries;

- to ask the new Executive Director and new Secretary-General to develop a Management Plan for the Secretariat and the Regional Offices for consideration by the Officers; and

- to send the Regional Offices governance structure document (discussed in the EB 97th meeting) to the first annual meeting between ICSU Officers and Regional Chairs/Directors in 2009.

7. Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in Science (CFRS)

The CFRS held its fourth meeting in June and a report of the meeting was provided. There were two items that required particular attention by the Officers

7.1 Blue book

A draft of a new CFRS booklet – Freedom, Responsibility and Universality of Science – was discussed by the Executive Board in May. The Board’s collective comments, together with the responses to a consultation with Members, were considered by the CFRS in June and a revised draft of the booklet was produced. Because of time limitations, this version had not been sent back to Members for comment.

7.2 Proposed change to Statute 5
In the context of revising the ‘blue book’ to reflect the responsibilities as well as the freedoms of scientists, the CFRS was also proposing a change to the wording of Statute 5. Changes to the wording of the ICSU Statutes had to be agreed by the General Assembly and the current wording of Statute 5 was agreed, after long debate, at the last General Assembly.

Whilst the Officers appreciated the time and thought the CFRS had given to the principles embodied in Statute 5, they felt that there was insufficient time to further develop and consult with Members on this proposal before the GA in October. It was suggested that consideration might be given after the GA to developing two separate Statutes: one on ethical conduct and another on responsibility.

**Decisions**

To note the report of the 4th CFRS meeting;
to send the revised "blue book" to the EB for approval and publish this in time for distribution at GA; and
to refer the proposed change to Statute 5 to the new EB in 2009 and inform CFRS of this.

### 8. Interactions with Key Partners

#### 8.1 UNESCO including WCS+10

ICSU had not yet received a draft of the new Framework Agreement. The Executive Director had met Walter Erdelen to discuss future collaboration both generally (WCS+10) and specifically (co-sponsorship of the hazards programme).

One follow-up to this discussion was agreement to have a second planning meeting for WCS+10 hosted by UNESCO. ICSU had not been able to participate in the first meeting organized in Budapest. It was decided to arrange the second meeting on 11 July and that Roger Elliott would represent ICSU. The meeting was later postponed and the new date was 1 August.

The Officers felt that if this was truly to be the WCS+10, ICSU and UNESCO must play leading roles to ensure that the focus was international and not just European; social scientists should also be involved. However, this would entail a major effort on the part of ICSU.

**Decision**

To note lack of progress regarding the Framework Agreement and the status of the preparations for WCS+10.

### 9. Dates and Places of Next Meetings

The dates of the remaining meetings in 2008 are:

**13-25 October** ICSU General Assembly and Associated Meetings
18 October  CFRS
19 October  Executive Board (2005-2008)
20 October  Scientific Forum: Science in Africa (organized by Regional Committee for Africa and local hosts)
21 October  National and Union Members' Fora and Business Meetings
           Evening: Opening of the General Assembly
           Meeting of Nominating Committee
22 October  General Assembly
           Evening: Meeting of Resolutions Committee
23 October  General Assembly
           Evening: Meeting of Resolutions Committee
24 October  General Assembly
25 October a.m.  Executive Board (2008-2011)
25 October p.m.  CSPR
25 October evening  Joint dinner EB and CSPR

**Decisions**

To agree that Members of the EB needed to arrive in Mozambique in the evening of 18 October at the latest; and
to agree that the Secretary General would attend the CFRS meeting on 18 October, if possible.

**10. Any Other Business**

**10.1 Staff**

The Officers noted that Elisabeth Merle had left ICSU in July after 18 years of service.

**10.2 International Sociological Association (ISA)**

The Officers were informed about an *Ad hoc* Session at the First ISA Forum of Sociology being organized by the ISSC and the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. The main theme of this session was Social and Natural Science Collaboration: from Problems to Solutions and it would be chaired by the ICSU Executive Director.

**Decision**

To express their appreciation to Elisabeth Merle for all her dedicated work over many years and wish her all the best for the future;
to note involvement of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in the First ISA Forum of Sociology.
11. Evaluation of Meeting

The Officers agreed that the meeting had been a good and productive one.

12. Closed Session

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting at 16:05.

Annex 1: List of Follow-up Actions

Goverdhan Mehta  Thomas Rosswall
## FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item/Action</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4.1 29th General Assembly</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Fu Congbin re Dues recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ask Patricio Sande if the Centre has voting machines and to ensure PowerPoint</td>
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<td>Done</td>
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<td>available for Opening Session</td>
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<td>Ensure clear instructions on voting in Introductory Notes</td>
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<td>Inform key partners 3 minutes only for message</td>
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<td>Assign EB responsibilities each segment of GA</td>
<td>TR/CS</td>
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<td>Introduce new ED at beginning of GA in SG's Report</td>
<td>AMC</td>
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<td>Prepare outline of SG's report</td>
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<td>Done</td>
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<td>Send Dues Report and EB's recommendations to WG</td>
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<td>Inform candidates for Officers of maximum 7 minute presentation and include info on GA</td>
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<td>Write NMs and Unions urging more nominations</td>
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<td>Mention problem of clusters in Rule of Procedure 7.2 and need for change</td>
<td>President-elect</td>
<td>At GA</td>
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<td>Consult Members concerning hosting 31st GA</td>
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<td>Ensure visa letters faxed to embassies of EB Members</td>
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<td>Add Young Scientists to outline of next Strategic Plan and incorporate Officers</td>
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<td>suggested revisions</td>
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<td>Propose revisions to draft programmes for Unions and NMs fora at GA to EB Members responsible</td>
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<td>Explain procedure electronic GA at GA</td>
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<td><strong>5. Finance</strong></td>
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<td>Explore the situation with other banks</td>
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<td><strong>7. CFRS</strong></td>
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<td>Send revised &quot;blue book&quot; to EB and publish in time for distribution at GA</td>
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<td>Refer proposed change to Statute 5 to new EB in 2009 and inform CFRS</td>
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<td><strong>9. Next Meetings</strong></td>
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<td>Secretary General to attend the CFRS meeting on 18 October, if possible</td>
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<td><strong>10. AOB</strong></td>
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<td>Send latest ICSU presentation to GM/CB</td>
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