

International Council for Science (ICSU)

Activities' Report - Year 2018

Enrico Brugnoli

1. Introduction

The International Council for Science was created during 2018 from the merging of ICSU and ISSC. It is a non-governmental organization with global membership of about 140 national scientific organizations, in addition to the 40 International Scientific Unions.

The main mission of ISC, as previously for ICSU, is to strengthen Science at international level for the benefit of the Society by mobilizing scientific knowledge and financial resources in a coordinated manner, to identify, address and solve the major problems for science and society.

It promotes collaboration and cooperation among scientists from all disciplines and from all countries, regardless of race, nationality, language, religion, political position and gender. It also promotes multidisciplinary approaches to global problems and provides high-level scientific advice to governments also to foster dialogue between science, policy, society and the private sector. ISC is the unique international organization coupling natural sciences with social sciences.

In fostering scientific excellence, the strategic plan of ISC identifies three priorities: i) international scientific collaboration, (ii) Science for Policy, and (iii) universality of science.

ISC also maintains its secretariat and headquarters in Paris, and the three Regional Offices (Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean).

2. Main activities carried on by ISC during 2018 relevant for Italy and for CNR

During 2018, the activities of ISC concerned mainly the merger of the two bodies, ICSU and ISSC. The founding assembly of the new Organization was held in Paris, with the appointment of the new President and the Governing Council.

All the research programs described previously have continued and are of great importance for Italy and the CNR.

3. Activities carried on as member within ISC during 2018 and impact on the Italian scientific community

As representative of CNR within ICSU before and then within ISC, I attended all the preparatory meetings, and the General Assembly (GA) of the new organization.

During 2018, the mandate as member of the Committee for Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) of ICSU, nominated by the ICSU President, was terminated.

Therefore, the activity in 2018 was limited to the GA, also pending the nomination of the new CNR representative.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

I surely believe that the membership of CNR in ISC is of primary and strategic importance. In order to maintain and improve the internationalization of CNR, participation to ISC is not questionable, since ISC is the most relevant Organism to address scientific and societal global challenges.

5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

Italy has always been very active in its membership within ICSU and it is important now to strengthen the participation to ISC in the interest of the country and of CNR.

For future perspectives, the new nominated representative will certainly be able to enhance national involvement in the new organization.

6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)

There are several Italian experts present in the various ICSU Programs and Thematic Bodies and they will continue with ISC at least in the near future.

GOOS - Rosalia Santoleri (CNR);

SCAR - Antonio Meloni (INGV), Silvano Onofri (UniTuscia) – Delegates;

Anna Maria Fioretti (CNR), Giovanni Macelloni (CNR), Paolo De Bernardis (UniRoma1), Silvio Greco (ISPRA), Carlo Baroni (UNiPI), Stefano Nativi (CNR) - thematic and alternate representatives.

WDS - Riccardo Smareglia (INAF);

COSPAR - R. D'Amicis (INAF).

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2018 CNR Commission activities

There is no an Italian ICSU or ISC Commission.

8. Notes (if any)

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9. Conclusions

The presence of CNR and Italy in ICSU is of paramount importance to maintain significant international relations and to follow policies on themes of primary relevance for science and society. After merging of ICSU and ISSC in ISC I strongly suggest to confirm the participation of CNR to the this Organism.

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