

## **International Council for Science**

### **Activities' Report - Year 2019**

**Mario Malinconico**

#### **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 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 2019 relevant for Italy and for CNR**

During 2019, the activities of ISC concerned mainly the structuring of roles and activities as follow:

- Response to Main Presidential Message from New President Daya Reddy.
- Candidatures submitted to Working Groups to ensure the development of initiatives and the selection of experts from the members.
- Responses to new members' subscription.
- Recipient of the ISC Annual science plan Advancing Science as A Global Public Good.
- Participation to events where ISC was deeply involved with its Presidency such as IUPAC100 Paris 8-11 July, World Science Forum Budapest 2019.
- ISC Secretariat requested to hold an ISC Officers meeting in Rome 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020. CNR proposal to hold a workshop on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for dissemination of ISC activities to Italian representatives.
- Response to the ISC National Membership Survey carried on by Alison Meston (ISC Communication Unit).

#### **3. Activities carried on as member within ISC during 2019 and impact on the Italian scientific community**

The activity in 2019 started soon after the nomination of the CNR. As ISC representative of CNR, we interacted with the ISC Secretariat responding to requests:

- for consultations: CNR input for the Consultation of the Membership for the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group (STC/MG) co-organized by the International Science Council (ISC) and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) Inputs towards the STC/MG Sectoral Paper for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF/July 2019)
- for Candidatures: proposed candidatures of CNR experts who provided CVs and filled the forms to New Working Groups WG Science Planning (No succeeded).
- For New membership: support for approval of proposed new Members (ISI, etc.)

The Activity was also pro-active in order to engage with the Secretariat and the New President to increase the value of Italian participation:

- Visit of Representatives to the Secretariat in Paris to discuss the situation of the membership in the frame of the new organization and ways to improve Italian visibility.
- Meeting with the President Daya Reddy in Paris within IUPAC100 celebration to discuss a possible invitation to the Governing Board in Italy in spring 2020.
- Meeting with UNEP Director General Gaetano Leone to discuss the possibility to develop a synergy with ISC (Italy as reference member) and UNEP in 2020. A mail exchange with Rosalia Santoleri regarding the invited participation of the ISC Delegate.
- Preliminary talks on establishing a National Committee to enlarge to Italian High Level Persons the possibility to communicate the Plan of ISC.
- Contacts with the Euro-ISC informal ISC Members'Group (October 2019 documentation of the European ISC Members Annual Meeting 2019) and invitation to attend the next Euro-ISC in Montenegro at The Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA) 10-11 September 2020.

#### **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, especially to tackle the need to develop **Interdisciplinary programmes** that will boost the role of sciences for socio-economic developments.

This interdisciplinary programme will need to respond both to Interest of UN and Italy, which is the case of a proposal to discuss the role of science to assist policy making in the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 workshop in Roma considering strategic efforts on Marine and Ocean Litter at global and country level.

In order to maintain and improve the internationalization of CNR, participation to ISC is not questionable, since ISC is the most relevant Global Union to address scientific and societal global challenges. This motivation is also supported by the close links between UNESCO and ISC.

#### **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, playing the role of hub in synergy with other Italian Research Organizations and Accademia dei Lincei, Accademia dei XL.

For future perspectives, as new nominated representative, this Italian Commitment will certainly be able to enhance national involvement in the new ISC organization.

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

Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs as well as leading UN initiatives are to be identified and involved into the next ISC programme. A list of science highly relevant people - Italian experts can continue with ISC in the near future.

Relevant to Marine Litter and Oceans:

GOOS - Rosalia Santoleri (CNR); UNEP Gaetano Leone; COI - CNR President  
ISMAR Stefano Aliani,

N:B: Check Previous Members: 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 2019 CNR Commission activities. Possibility to establish a CNR Commission, short summary about the 2018 CNR Commission activities.**

There is no an Italian ICSU or ISC Commission. I suggest to propose for 2020 an ISC Commission with the participation of eminent scientists and the Directors of CNR Departments.

**8. Notes**

Participation with a distinctive programme to EURO-ISC Group – next meeting Mantenegro 10-11 september 2020.

**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.

Pozzuoli, 04.07.2020

*Mario Malucconi*