

CODATA 2010 Conference
Tuesday 26th October

Discussions on Strategic Planning for Data and Information Issues

Background to Morning Sessions:

At the 29th ICSU General Assembly in Maputo in 2008 the following decisions were approved that directly address scientific data and information issues:

- 16.1 *To confirm that ICSU will continue to assert a strategic leadership role in relation to scientific data and information;*
- 16.2 *to establish a new ICSU-World Data System as an Interdisciplinary Body to replace the WDC and FAGS;*
- 16.3 *to request CODATA to focus its efforts on implementation of the three main initiatives in its strategic plan;*
- 16.4 *to establish an ad hoc Strategic Coordinating Committee for Information and Data for three years, renewable for one further period of three years; and*
- 16.5 *to note the recommendation that Members of ICSU are encouraged to establish committees or commissions, where these do not already exist, focusing on data and information issues.*

Further, concerning ICSU Strategic Plan 2012-2017, the following decision was approved at the same meeting:

- 19.3 *to request the Executive Board to engage with Members in developing a second ICSU Strategic Plan 2012-2017, for approval at the 30th General Assembly.*

Resolution II: In the context of the discussion about the International Polar Year (IPY) and the report of the Strategic Committee on Information and Data (SCID), ICSU shall take a leadership role in developing basic principles for forward planning at all stages of research projects and programmes, for data identification, sharing, availability and long-term preservation, noting that data management should be an intrinsic element of programme reviews.

Resolution III: Recognizing that modern information and communications technologies are revolutionizing the conduct of scientific research and education, all efforts must be made within the international scientific community to improve internet capabilities in scientific, technical and educational institutions in Africa and around the World.

We are now within one year of the 30th ICSU General Assembly in Rome. A report of the World Data System and a report of the *ad hoc* Strategic Committee on Data and Information will be presented to the delegates. The second ICSU Strategic Plan 2012-2017 will also be presented for approval.

Given the issues addressed in the decisions in Maputo and the discussions that will take place in Rome in 2011, CODATA decided that it was timely and opportune to bring together at its 22nd International CODATA Conference the major players leading these activities and initiatives.

The aim is to highlight these issues in an international forum which brings together participants who work with scientific data and information for-research, education/training; policy making and decision making purposes.

Simultaneously it is envisaged that these sessions will facilitate ICSU and CODATA to explore even further and identify additional reciprocal benefits for co-ordinating collaboration between their organizations.

Structure of Tuesday morning Sessions:

Keynote Presentations:

Kari Raivio, Vice-President for Scientific Planning and Review, International Council for Science, ICSU, will give a keynote presentation on the importance of data and information in the context of the ICSU Strategic Plan 2012-2017

This will be followed by:

Jean Bernard Minster, World Data System, International Council for Science, ICSU, who will present the activities of the new ICSU- World Data System.

A high level panel discussion will then follow.

Among the objectives of this panel discussion are:

1. Give clear examples of good practice in scientific data and information management (and the consequences of the lack thereof);
2. Generate active participation by the panel and attendees;
3. Establish objectives, directions and motivation for constructive improvements;
4. Provide motivation and means to set aside old ideas and practices;
5. Promote collaboration on implementation of new ideas in scientific data management and application;
6. Prepare for a larger role for CODATA in the next ICSU Strategic Plan.

The Panel will be Chaired by:

Roberta Balstad, Chair of the ICSU Committee that produced the Priority Area Assessment Report on Data and Information, published in 2004

Other members of the Panel are:

Ray Harris, Chair of the *ad hoc* Strategic Committee on Information and Data

Andrew Kaniki, Knowledge Fields Development Directorate NRF, SA,

Krishan Lal, President of CODATA

Coleen Vogel, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (*IRDR*) program.