

**‘Re-Building Africa’ -  
Science & Technology Interventions for Sustainable Development  
Submission by the International Council for Science (ICSU) to the  
Commission for Africa**

**December 2004**

In its *Consultation Document* entitled “*Action for a strong and prosperous Africa*”<sup>1</sup>, the Commission for Africa states:

*(This) is a **consultation** document, designed to help focus on priorities and test the relevance and realism of ideas. It is a work in progress. ....It suggests some possible areas in which the Commission would like to receive recommendations for action. Are they the right ones? ..... Do you have other suggestions? What would your priorities be? We need your reactions.*

ICSU, in close consultation with the ICSU Regional Committee for Africa<sup>2</sup> on behalf of (the soon to be established) ICSU Regional Office for Africa tables the following *submission* based on the conviction of the cardinal and crucial role of prioritised science & technology (S&T) interventions – singularly and collaboratively – in realising a programme of equitable and sustainable development on the African continent, especially within and supportive of the parameters of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the NEPAD initiatives, the AU – and in terms of its *own* strategic policies and plans as set out below.

## **Introduction**

The main objective of ICSU is *strengthening international science for the benefit of society*. As a multi-lateral body with close association to various UN bodies and agencies such as UNESCO, it mobilises the knowledge and resources of the international science community to

- (i) identify and address major issues of importance to science and society
- (ii) facilitate interaction of scientists across disciplines and among nations
- (iii) promote participation of all scientists regardless of nationality, race, religion, ethnicity or sex
- (iv) provide independent, authoritative science advice.

Since its inception in 1931 ICSU<sup>3</sup> has worked to coordinate *interdisciplinary research to address issues of relevance to science and society, actively defend freedom in the conduct of science, promote access to scientific data and information, and facilitate science education and capacity building*.

<sup>1</sup> November 2004. See [www.commissionforafrica.org](http://www.commissionforafrica.org) for details.

<sup>2</sup> See annex 1 for membership details.

<sup>3</sup> For the genesis of ICSU, its statutes and constituencies, see [www.icsu.org](http://www.icsu.org)

51, boulevard de Montmorency, 75016 Paris, France

Tel: +33 (0) 1 45 25 03 29 Fax: +33 (0) 1 42 88 94 31 E-mail: [secretariat@icsu.org](mailto:secretariat@icsu.org) [www.icsu.org](http://www.icsu.org)

**Secretariat:** Prof. Thomas Rosswall, Executive Director

**Officers:** Prof. Jane Lubchenco (USA), President • Prof. Goverdhan Mehta (India), President-Elect • Prof. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa (Japan), Past President  
Prof. David Parry (New Zealand), Vice-President for Scientific Planning and Review • Prof. Peter Tyson (South Africa), Vice-President for External Relations  
Prof. Ana Maria Cetto (Mexico), Secretary General • Prof. Roger Elliott (UK), Treasurer

In the recent past this crucial role was underscored during the *World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)* in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002. Here ICSU, as one of a few international civil society bodies, not only participated in and made contributions to the preparatory commission meetings, but was able to make invaluable contributions and presentations on the importance of S&T for sustainable development to the main governmental fora during the summit.<sup>4</sup> ICSU has been officially recognized by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development as the voice of international science and is responsible, through the Science and Technology Major Group, to the follow-up actions after WSSD. ICSU, building on the competencies of its National Members in 103 countries, its 27 International Scientific Unions and its 20 Interdisciplinary Bodies, were able to argue and demonstrate the crucial importance of adequate public funding for S&T in order to make meaningful contributions to sustainable development. Noteworthy too, is ICSU's continued commitment to the realisation of sustainable development goals, particularly in developing countries. Through its National and Union Members, as well as its Interdisciplinary Bodies, ICSU has engaged in numerous activities to inform national, regional and international policies and practices in order to ensure sustainable economic, environmental, social change and growth.

### **ICSU Regional Offices in Developing Countries**

A Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries (**COSTED**) was established in 1966 to analyse problems of developing countries and how science and technology could be utilised in addressing these. On evaluation in 2001, the **COSTED** structure was found to be inadequate to meet the diversity of regional needs. As such, at its General Assembly in Brazil in 2002, it was resolved to establish four Regional Offices for developing countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab Region, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Offices<sup>5</sup> are to enhance the participation of developing country scientists and regional scientific organisations in ICSU's inter-disciplinary, multiple-agency programmes and activities, and to assist ICSU strengthen science and capacity building in developing countries through South-South and South-North collaboration.

For the Sub-Saharan Africa Region, a Regional Office will be established at the National Research Foundation (NRF)<sup>6</sup> of the Republic of South Africa. An agreement (MoU) to this effect was signed by ICSU and the NRF on 11 October 2004. The office is scheduled to be launched on April 1, 2005 in Pretoria, South Africa in the presence of members of the ICSU Executive Board, the ICSU Regional Committee for Africa, representatives of the South African government<sup>7</sup>, African scientists, various agencies and other interested parties.

### **S&T for Africa's Development**

In what may be considered an opportune moment for S&T in Africa, ICSU's establishment of a regional office on the continent will of necessity see it and its International Unions working in close conjunction and, where necessary and possible, collaboratively with current continental initiatives underway in the NEPAD Secretariat, for instance. That NEPAD and virtually all governments in Africa have recognised and accepted the important role that science and technology plays in the

---

<sup>4</sup> A summary report on the WSSD contributions by ICSU and its associated sister bodies is available at [www.icsu.org](http://www.icsu.org) as No. 11 in the ICSU Series on Science for Sustainable Development..

<sup>5</sup> For a general description, see annex 2.

<sup>6</sup> The NRF is a South African statutory body serving a research support agency function for government. See [www.nrf.ac.za](http://www.nrf.ac.za) for further details.

<sup>7</sup> As ICSU is able to provide only limited assistance to the Regional Office, it is noteworthy that the South African government has made substantial direct and indirect financial support available for the establishment of this office, its staffing and activities.

socio-economic development of their respective countries, is shown in the following extensive quotations:

*1.1 The attainment of sustainable development goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and of related initiatives, such as the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) requires renewed political and financial commitments to the development and application of S&T at national, regional and continental levels.*

*1.2 Science and technology will play an important role in Africa's efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, fight such diseases as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, reverse environmental degradation, and increase the pace of industrialization.*

*1.3 It was in recognition of this important role of science and technology, that the Secretariat of NEPAD in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Republic of South Africa convened the Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology in Johannesburg 6-7 November 2003 to formulate (an) outline of an action plan to promote the development and application of science and technology.<sup>8</sup>*

The above-mentioned document continues with a brief needs analysis – and the concomitant challenges to be faced in addressing these. It states:

*NEPAD recognizes that science and technology are central to its goals of promoting economic recovery, poverty reduction, better human health, good governance and environmental sustainability in Africa. One of its overall objectives is to bridge the technological divide between Africa and the rest of the world. It calls for the formulation and implementation of measures to: "promote cross-border co-operation and connectivity by utilizing knowledge currently available in existing centers of excellence in the continent"; and "generate a critical mass of technology expertise in targeted areas that offer high growth potential, especially in biotechnology and geo-science."*

*Challenges facing the development and application of science and technology in Africa include the following:*

- *weak links between science institutions and private sector*
- *relatively low or limited public and private sector expenditure on research and development (R&D)*
- *outdated science and technology policies in most countries*
- *limited public understanding of science and technology*
- *'brain drain' associated with African scientists, engineers and technicians leaving the continent to work in other regions of the world; and*
- *weak and thinly spread R&D institutions or centres*

ICSU agrees with the above assessment and, as regards its own mandate and activities, would add the following:

- *extremely poor national representation on the African continent to ICSU and to its associated International Unions<sup>9</sup>*

---

<sup>8</sup> Quotations are from the NEPAD document 'Ministerial Conference on Science & Technology – Outline Plan of Action' as adopted in Johannesburg, November 6-7, 2003

<sup>9</sup> Number of African countries currently adhering to ICSU is only 13.

- *under-developed (and often bureaucratically ‘hampered’) intra-African mobility of scientists – and, as such,*
- *poorly developed scientific networks and partnerships*

By and large African countries have understood that they cannot develop all requisite science capacities on their own and have therefore, encouraged the establishment of linkages with both regional and international organizations. One such international organisation is the International Council for Science, ICSU.

### **This Submission**

The purpose of this submission is to seek assistance in accelerating the momentum of the said ICSU science initiative on the African continent. Apart from urging the **Commission for Africa** to include a component on the role and importance of S&T for sustainable development in its final report, ICSU wishes to urge the **Commission for Africa** to pay special attention to and *provide targeted support* in three closely inter-related areas of science and technology for sustainable development in Africa:

- (i) The Regional Office
- (ii) Membership of African Countries of ICSU and its Scientific Union
- (iii) Specific scientific programmes.

### **Regional Office**

At the First ICSU Regional Meeting<sup>10</sup> for Africa held in Harare in October 2004, it was agreed that the strategic activities to be considered by the Regional Office would include:

- Collecting and circulating information to scientists via a website and by email
- Contributing to and establishing a database of African experts in all scientific fields and building on existing databases – to be executed in collaboration with ICSU International Unions, the NEPAD Secretariat et al
- Encouraging and improving capacity building in Africa through the creation of a ‘Young Scientists’ programme
- Creating an enabling environment for the progress and contribution to development of indigenous and traditional knowledge
- Promoting the establishment of centres of excellence for research in strategic and prioritised fields – to be executed, again, in collaboration with appropriate partners, higher education institutions and national governments
- Increasing African (scientific) participation in international programmes through networking or regional scientific organisations with ICSU and its partners such as UNESCO and TWAS<sup>11</sup>, for strengthening of science and its development in the region
- Increasing and facilitating intra-African mobility of scientists
- Development and maintenance of scientific networks and sub-regional partnerships on the continent.

In order for the Regional Office to realise these activities, the support provided by ICSU and the South African government would have to be substantially augmented.

---

<sup>10</sup> The Final Report of this meeting is available at [www.icsu.org](http://www.icsu.org) and included as annex 3.

<sup>11</sup> Third World Academy of Science based in Trieste, Italy.

## Membership of African Countries in ICSU and its Scientific Unions

It has been established that membership of African countries in ICSU and its Scientific Unions or other relevant scientific organisations is limited due to the cost of membership subscriptions – largely having to be met in foreign currencies. Assistance here will ensure that scientists in African countries are enabled to actively participate in the varied and relevant global science developments and initiatives.

## Specific Scientific programmes

A variety of programmes are being proposed for the Regional Office. The strategic activities mentioned above and the list below are not exhaustive, but these are representative of the type of interventions needing urgent attention.

- African capacity building in S& T
- Development partners for African S&T capacity building and utilisation.
- That the African continent does not remain a victim of the digital divide
- S&T inputs into agriculture, farming, land reform, for example
- Adding value to African capacity and resources utilisation
- African S&T partnerships in reducing global threats of human activity and climate change
- Managing Africa's wealth responsibly to reduce poverty
- Monitoring and combating natural disasters on the African continent
- African contribution to Global Initiatives
- Africa's sustainable development and the Global Environment.

These then are but some of those key and strategic areas which the Regional Office will be tasked to address over the next few years. ICSU is convinced that by means of a strategy of multiple, integrated and coordinated interventions – whether singularly or jointly – it and its associated International Unions, its sister bodies and institutions such as the Commission for Africa can meaningfully contribute to negating Afro-pessimism by ensuring and facilitating ***a rounded programme of individual, institutional, national and regional capacitation*** by virtue of the involvement of African scientists and post-graduate students in inter-disciplinary scientific programmes designed to contribute towards contributing to and ensuring an equitable and sustainable future – for this and coming generations.

Having noted mention of “*pan-African institutions*”, “*scientists*”, “*higher education and training*”, “*science and technology*”, “*research*” variously in the Commission's consultation document, ICSU strongly supports the *inclusion of S&T as a cross-cutting, cross-sectoral 'factor'* in the Commission's final report. This would serve to underscore our belief, that with this submission, ICSU, for its part, can only but reinforce the importance of S&T for sustainable development, human progress – for the benefit of all!

This submission has been prepared by

Prof. Thomas Rosswall, Executive Director, ICSU, Paris

Prof. Gabriel Ogunmola, President, Nigerian Academy of Sciences

Dr. Francis Gudyanga, President, Research Council of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

Dr. Khotso Mokhele, President, National Research Foundation, South Africa

Supported by

Mr. Robert Kriger, National Research Foundation, South Africa

Paris, December 17, 2004

## Annex 1

### *ICSU Regional Committee for Africa*

1 December 2004

Ayite-Lo N. **AJAVON**  
Atmospheric Chemistry Laboratory  
FDS/Faculty of Sciences  
Universite de Lomé  
Box 1515, Lomé  
Republic of Togo  
Tel. (+228) 225 50 94 x 1305  
Fax. (+228) 221 8595  
Emails. [noajavon@tg.refer](mailto:noajavon@tg.refer),  
[sosshiyite@hotmail.com](mailto:sosshiyite@hotmail.com)

Manuel Luis **CHENENE**  
Co-ordinator, Scientific Council of the Scientific  
Research Association of Mozambique (AICIMO)  
2115 Acordos de Lusaka Avenue  
Box 4562, Maputo  
Mozambique  
Tel. (+258 1) 466725  
Fax. (+258 1) 302939  
Emails. [mchenene@hotmail.com](mailto:mchenene@hotmail.com),  
[chenene@zabra.ac.zw](mailto:chenene@zabra.ac.zw)

Francis P. **GUDYANGA**  
Chairman, Research Council of Zimbabwe  
P.O. CY294, Bank Chambers Building  
Harare  
Zimbabwe  
Tel. (+263 4) 860 321  
Fax. (+263 4) 860 350  
Email. [gudyanga@zarnet.ac.zw](mailto:gudyanga@zarnet.ac.zw)

Dominic W. **MAKAWITI**  
Kenya National Academy of Science  
P.O. Box 39450  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel. (+254 20) 311 714  
Fax. (+254 20) 311 715  
Emails. [deanmedic@uonbi.co.ke](mailto:deanmedic@uonbi.co.ke),  
[knas@iconnect.co.ke](mailto:knas@iconnect.co.ke)

Khotso **MOKHELE**  
President, National Research Foundation  
P.O. Box 2600  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel. (+27 12) 481 4028  
Fax. (+27 12) 481 4007  
Email. [khotso@nrf.ac.za](mailto:khotso@nrf.ac.za)

Gabriel B. **OGUNMOLA**  
President, Nigerian Academy of Science  
P.M.B. 1004  
University of Lagos Post Office  
Akoka-Yaba  
Lagos  
Nigeria  
Tel. (+234 2) 241 1332  
Fax. (+234 1) 791 6130  
Emails. [chemui@infoweb.abs.net](mailto:chemui@infoweb.abs.net),  
[president@nascience.org](mailto:president@nascience.org)

Mary **STRAVENS**  
Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and  
Technology - Marine Park Authority  
P.O. Box 1240  
Francis Rachel Street  
Victoria, Mahe  
Seychelles  
Tel. Office (248) 225114/115  
Mobile (248) 515603  
Email. [stravens@seychelles.net](mailto:stravens@seychelles.net)

Vincent Pryde Kehdingha **TITANJI**  
Biotechnology Unit  
University of Buea  
Box 63, Buea  
SW Province  
Cameroon  
Tel. (237) 775 6389 (mobile), 237 332 3074  
Fax. (237) 332 2272.  
Email. [vpktitanji@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vpktitanji@yahoo.co.uk)

#### *Ex officio*

Thomas **ROSSWALL**  
Executive Director  
International Council for Science (ICSU)  
51, boulevard de Montmorency  
FR-75016 Paris  
France  
Tel. (+33 1) 4525 0329  
Fax. (+33 1) 4288 9431  
Mobile (+33) 6 30 48 77 98  
Email. [thomas.rosswall@icsu.org](mailto:thomas.rosswall@icsu.org)

## **Annex 2**



**ICCSU**

International Council for Science

# Regional Offices

## ICSU Regional Offices

The ICSU 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (September 2002) decided to establish four ICSU Regional Offices for Developing Countries to replace the ICSU Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries (COSTED). This decision was based on recommendations from a review of COSTED. The following description of the functions of the Regional Offices and their *modus operandi* was decided on by the ICSU Executive Board at its 86<sup>th</sup> meeting (February 2003).

### Functions of the Regional Offices

The ICSU Regional Offices will promote the further development and strengthening of science in the context of regional priorities and bring the science of developing countries closer to ICSU. The Offices will support the work of ICSU and its Scientific Unions, National Members in the Region, Interdisciplinary Bodies and Joint Initiatives as well as its partners such as UNESCO and TWAS. The Offices must work in association with networks in the region and help to strengthen them where appropriate. Realistic plans should be developed for how a small Regional Office can further promote issues of importance to science and society taking the ICSU Mission Statement as a point of departure. Regional priority setting will be necessary for a successful launch of this new initiative.

The Regional Offices shall:

- Promote increased participation of developing country scientists and regional scientific organizations in ICSU programmes and activities; and
- Assist ICSU in strengthening science and capacity building in developing countries through South-South and North-South collaboration;

The Regions could consider that some of the following types of activities would also be appropriate functions for the Offices: (i) Collect information on locally developed strategies and priority needs, and scientific expertise within the regions and share this information with ICSU and its partners; (ii) Assist ICSU and its members in their strategic planning for activities in the regions and ensuring that their plans and activities are well linked to the science community in the regions, relevant networks and organizations and reflect regional priorities; (iii) Develop and maintain links with national and regional scientific institutions, societies, academies and governments, including current National Members, in order to strengthen ICSU collaboration with them; (iv) Help facilitate the adherence as ICSU National Members of institutions in countries of the region, where these do not yet exist. This would preferably be done in close collaboration with the InterAcademy Panel for International Affairs (IAP) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS); (v) Facilitate the free flow of scientists and scientific knowledge across borders; (vi) Provide support and help with co-ordination, if needed, to scientific networks in the region and initiate new networks, where this has been identified as a regional priority; (vii) Assist the ICSU family in identifying scientists for membership of committees and participation in activities within the ICSU family through the establishment of a data base of experts; (viii) Upon request, act as focal point for regional programme activities of ICSU and its members; (ix) Ensure efficient information transfer from ICSU and its family members to the scientific community in the region; and (x) Share information and develop collaborative partnerships with UNESCO Regional Offices for Science as well as with other major ICSU partners such as TWAS, the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNISO) and the Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS).

Priority setting will involve a consultative process of National Members and key organizations in non-member countries. As a first step, four regional workshops will be organized in 2003-2004. Regional Committees will then be established, and based on the results of the workshops, a five-year strategic plan should be established.

A yearly workplan and budget will be decided on by the Regional Committee, which should properly reflect the priorities of the region. It is necessary that the workplans for the Regional Offices are both visionary and realistic. The core support from ICSU and the host institution/country should serve as a basis for the initiation of targeted activities and additional external support should be sought. However, it is essential that the workplans of the Regional Offices be developed primarily on the basis of a vision and strategy and not based primarily on the availability of external funds.

Further suggestions can be found in the Report from the COSTED Review Panel.

## **Location**

The Regional Offices should be located in prestigious and strong national or regional host institutions that can provide a scientific and administrative home, including some core financial contribution as well as a significant in-kind support.

The ICSU Secretariat will contact all National Members in the regions, and possibly other institutions, soliciting offers to host the Regional Offices. It is important that they are located in countries/institutions acceptable to the science community of the region. Thus, the four regional workshops will be crucial in this respect. In addition, the ICSU Secretariat is using various opportunities to discuss this with countries/institutions, which may have a potential interest in hosting an ICSU Regional Office.

The Regional Office for Asia is a special case, as the Executive Board and the General Assembly have agreed to propose to INSA and the Government of India that a Regional Office be established in Chennai, India. Such an establishment is contingent on the successful conclusion of ongoing discussions with the Indian National Science Academy and the Government of India and a formal decision by the Indian authorities.

## **Governance**

The ICSU Executive Board will appoint Regional ICSU Committees based on nominations received from National Members in the regions and in close consultation with those members. EB may wish to add a few additional scientists from the region to ensure good coverage of the various disciplines as well as the representation also of scientists from countries without a National Member Organization. The Chair of each Regional Committee will be appointed by the Committee itself. The Executive Director of ICSU will serve as an *ex officio* member. The host country/institution will also be invited to appoint an *ex officio* member of the committee.

The ICSU Regional Committees are responsible for promoting the objectives and functions of the Regional Offices. The Regional Committees will develop strategic plans and approve annual workplans and budget for the Offices. The Regional Committees shall report to the ICSU Executive Board annually before the end of March. At the same time, an annual budget and audited accounts for the previous year should be submitted.

The Regional Offices will have a Director appointed by the Executive Board in close consultation with the Regional Committees and she/he is responsible to the Regional Committee. The Regional Directors are responsible for keeping the ICSU Secretariat fully

informed of the activities of the Offices. It is the responsibility of the ICSU Secretariat to help facilitate information flow between the ICSU family and the Regional Offices.

It is important that the core financial support from ICSU and the host country/institution be primarily used to initiate activities in a catalytic fashion. A minimum of two full time staff will be necessary, and the funding for the salary of the Director will come from the ICSU core support. No size fits all, and the Regional Offices will develop differently as the regions have special characteristics and different needs.

The roles and responsibilities will be regulated in a Constitution for the Regional Committee, which will be approved by the ICSU Executive Board in consultation with the Regional Committee and the host government/institution.

The four Chairs of the Regional Committees serve as *ex officio* members on the ICSU Policy Committee for Developing Countries, but the Policy Committee has no oversight function in relation to the Regional Offices. It can, however, decide to offer comments to the ICSU Executive Board on the functioning of the Regional Offices.

## **Funding**

The Regional Offices will receive core funding of US\$25,000 per year from ICSU for the period 2003-2005. It is anticipated that this level of support will continue contingent on the successful development of the Offices and their programme of work.

It is expected that the host country/institutions supports the Regional Offices by making staff and premises available to the Offices. Additional support for programme activities from the host country/institution should also be foreseen. It is expected that ICSU National Members outside the region will wish to contribute financially in a similar manners as they have done for COSTED. In addition, the Director is responsible for fund raising for additional activities and specific programmes.

## **Agreement with host country/institution**

A formal agreement should be negotiated between the host country/institution and ICSU. It is anticipated that the Regional Offices will be based in existing scientific institutions in the host country and that they will not have their own legal identity. Thus, all staff except the Regional Director will be employed by the local institution and the terms of employment will be similar to other staff in that institution. The host country/institution is expected to contribute financially to the running of the Offices. They will have the possibility to nominate an *ex officio* member on the Regional Committee.

ICSU and its partners have many offices supported by national governments, but where the responsibility for the activities of the office rests with the ICSU body served by the office. It is important that the rights and responsibilities of the host government/ institution and ICSU be clearly defined in an agreement. These will vary between Offices and have to be negotiated on a case by case basis.

## Annex

### Background to the 27<sup>th</sup> ICSU General Assembly Decision

Recognising an increased need for ICSU to take a strategic approach to the issues of science in and for developing countries, and responding to a resolution from the 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICSU, the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) decided to conduct a special in-depth review of the Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries (COSTED).

The CSPR set up an independent Review Panel of experts, selected to give a well balanced mix of geographical and disciplinary backgrounds. In addition to six outside experts, Professor Eric Odada, Member of the CSPR, was asked to serve on the Review Panel as liaison with CSPR. Professor Malin Åkerblom (International Science Programme, University of Uppsala, Sweden) was appointed Co-Chair together with Professor Odada.

The Review Panel Report was submitted to the CSPR in April 2002. The report was printed and widely distributed within the ICSU family and to key partners. The Review Panel recommended that:

- The COSTED Central Secretariat and Regional Secretariats are closed at some appropriate time between December 2002 and December 2003;
- Regional Offices for ICSU are established in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Arab Region with core funding from ICSU and are located in strong host institutions in a developing country;
- A Policy Committee on Science and Technology for Development is created as one of ICSU's standing committees to assist the ICSU Executive Board;
- A formal selection process is put in place before the end of 2002 to find host institutions for the ICSU Regional Offices that can provide them with visibility in the region and administrative and other support; and
- Discussions with the Government of India regarding the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the possible transfer of resources from the COSTED Regional and Central Secretariats are entered into as soon as possible.

At its meeting in June 2002, CSPR discussed the report and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations. The Committee also offered some additional comments:

- Preparations for the establishment of ICSU's regional offices should be initiated as soon as possible, ensuring the involvement of regional perspectives in this process; and
- Recognizing a need for further elaboration in the definition of the scope and function of the proposed Policy Committee, it was recommended that the Executive Board set up an *ad hoc* committee to define the ToR.

At its meeting in June 2002, the EB reviewed the Review Panel Report and its recommendations and, taking into account the comments from CSPR, it decided:

- To propose a resolution to the General Assembly to dissolve the COSTED/IBN Special Advisory Committee and establish ICSU Regional Offices for Developing Countries in Africa, Asia, the Arab Region and Latin America;
- To request the Secretariat to prepare a more detailed description of the concept of Regional ICSU Offices for Developing Countries including the *modus operandi* in relation to ICSU National and Union Members and the Board/ICSU Secretariat;
- To propose to INSA that the COSTED Secretariat should continue to serve as the Regional Secretariat for Asia until such a time as an agreement has been reached with INSA and the Government of India regarding the possible transfer of support from the COSTED Secretariat to an ICSU Regional Office for Developing Countries in Asia;
- To set aside up to US\$100,000 from the General Fund in support of regional consultations and priority identification process in the region where the establishment of regional offices was envisaged;
- To set up an *ad hoc* implementation committee following the General Assembly with the charge of ensuring the consultation process within the regions and with potential host countries, and an orderly transfer of the regional functions of COSTED into the new structure; and
- to establish a further *ad hoc* committee to develop the remit and terms of reference for an ICSU Policy Committee on Developing Countries and invite M. Hassan (chair), A. M. Cetto, E. Odada and G. Mehta to serve on the committee.

The General Assembly reviewed the report from the Review Panel and taking note of the decisions of the EB passed the following resolution:

- Expresses its appreciation to the members of the COSTED Review Panel;
- Further expresses its appreciation to the COSTED-IBN Executive Committee and Secretariat staff for the excellent work conducted over many years; and to the Indian National Science Academy and the Government of India for their generous support of COSTED since its inception;
- Decides to dissolve the Special Advisory Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries and International Biosciences and Other Scientific Networks (COSTED/IBN); and to set up a a Policy Committee on Developing Countries; and
- Further agrees to establish ICSU Regional Offices for Developing Countries in Africa, Asia, the Arab Region, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition to the support set aside by the EB for consultation meetings in the regions, the General Assembly decided to set aside US\$100,000 per year for 2003-2005 in support of the Regional Offices.