

Organizing Partner Governance Reporting Form

International Council for Science (ICSU)

Co-organizing Partner of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group

Report for United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

(Division for Sustainable Development- Major Groups Programme)

I. Governance

1. How many OPs facilitate engagement of your Major Groups constituency into the UN Sustainable Development agenda? **Number** 3

2. Please describe the process within which you were selected or elected as organizing partners for your Major groups

ICSU (www.icsu.org) has 120 National Members (e.g. most existing National Academies of Science) covering 140 countries, as well as 30 disciplinary International Scientific Union Members (e.g. International Union of Forest Research Organizations) to provide the disciplinary backbone of the organization. All members meet every three years in a General Assembly. At the upcoming 2014 ICSU General Assembly in Auckland (New Zealand), members will again have to agree or not for ICSU to continue to coordinate the contribution of the global scientific community to UN sustainable development fora and to arrange for the representation of the scientific community in these fora (MGs' system), as it was decided in previous ICSU General Assemblies.

a. Are OPs **selected** **or elected**

b. Make sure to describe:

- i. how you ensure regional and thematic facilitation within your sector.
- ii. how you ensure global coverage

Through regular consultations of national member organizations and other scientific institutions in each geopolitical region. These consultations often have a thematic focus (e.g. energy, biodiversity, etc.) These regional consultations cover all geopolitical regions and thus ensure global coverage. ICSU's Regional Offices for Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean take responsibility for these consultations in their respective region.

3. How did you coordinate with other OPs in your Major Group to ensure a fair division of labor?

Division of labour is discussed from time to time with our two partners ISSC and WFEO. Our partners often encourage ICSU to take the lead.

4. Please indicate whether you maintain regular coordination with other Major Groups sectors OPs **Yes** **No**

- a. *If yes, describe how you reach cooperate with other sectors including through the development of a joint work plan, as appropriate.*

Regular efforts to coordinate with other Major Groups do exist through participation in the regular conference calls of MGs ' Organizing Partners, convened by UN-DSD, as well as by forming clusters of Major Groups for achieving specific deliverables (e.g. joint statements). The Scientific and Technological Community Major Group quite often forms a cluster with Business and Industry, and Local Authorities.

II. Outreach

5. Please explain how you identify and reach out to new member organizations and regional networks within your Major Group, to ensure appropriate engagement at the regional and international level and how you brief these new organizations on how to engage with the UN intergovernmental process on sustainable development.

Contact details of the persons responsible in ICSU, ISSC and WFEO for the S & T Community Major Group process are provided on our websites, as well as the UN website. Organizations interested in becoming involved in the process get full information on how to do so. Moreover, ICSU's Regional Offices pursue appropriate outreach activities within their regions.

- a. *Do the OPs cover all regions of the world? Yes No*

- b. *If not, how do you specifically reach out to regional networks?*

6. Please explain how you assess new requests for Major Groups membership and the process for new organizations to join.

By conducting a fact checking of whether this organization (i) is a legally registered, established entity with a clearly defined scientific (and/or technological) mission; is of generally recognized standing within the scientific community at national and /or international levels; (iii) represents a sizeable community of full-time practicing scientists; and (iv) has a scientific activities portfolio relevant to sustainable development and the post-2015 global development agenda . If this assessment is positive, ICSU (or ISSC or WFEO) will give the requesting organization green light for joining our MG and include this organization in our mailing list, etc.

7. Please describe activities your organizations conducted to maintain an accurate and up-to-date understanding of sustainable development processes and the work of the CSD and HLPF, and other relevant processes since the lead up to Rio +20 (2011).

ICSU participated in all CSD meetings since 2002, including in 2010 – 2012 when CSD acted as the preparatory committee of Rio+20. As co-organizing partner, ICSU provided written input, including scientific policy briefs, and oral interventions at the meetings, and co-organized side events. In 2011, we convened together with UNESCO, five regional workshops on science and technology for sustainable development. In Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, ICSU and UNESCO, in cooperation with ISSC and WFEO, also organized a five-day Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development. Since Rio+20, ICSU has actively participated in the OWG process and in the second HLPF meeting, as well

8. Please describe the process you use to provide constituents with timely and appropriate background information and understanding about logistics and process to ensure their effective engagements. Please provide links to this information if possible.

Updated information about the UN sustainable development fora and related Major Groups activities is communicated to constituent bodies and dedicated research communities (e.g. Future Earth) on a regular basis through circular mails, the ICSU Newsletter and the ICSU website.

9. Please describe the frequency of briefings to constituencies on UN process and Major Group involvement. How are these briefings organized, and what is the primary means of engagement (e.g. Conference calls, in person meetings, newsletters etc.)?

General briefings in circular letters are provided roughly every six months, while the ICSU Newsletter is published quarterly. Briefing notes on activities related to specific thematic issues are circulated ahead of the UN events dedicated to these themes. Conference calls with members of our networks are organized whenever needed. Convening of in person meetings remains exceptional.

III. Reporting

10. Please describe, step by step, how you develop your Major Groups position papers.

Please include how:

- a. *you consult with regional groups*
- b. *coordinate among the various OPs*
- c. *achieve consensus or account for minority reports*

Position papers of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group are developed by
>>> requesting input from thematic and regional groups, as well as individual partner organizations
>>> preparing a draft based on the inputs received
>>> circulating the draft to thematic and regional groups, and partner organizations, including OP partners
>>> preparing final version of document with all three OPs involved
If full consensus on all parts of the text is not achieved, we allow for inclusion in the document of “minority” text.

11. What is the standard that you apply for any Major group statement presented in intergovernmental processes and submitted to UN-DESA? How do you gauge whether it represents a broad range of views in your constituency?

Views expressed in any of our Major Group's statements have normally been developed through consultation of constituents much ahead of the UN meeting, soliciting natural and social scientists coming from all parts of the world who are experts on a given theme (e. g. energy or biodiversity).

12. Please describe the process by which how you ensure fair participation and speaking opportunities of various organizations within your constituency.

Any constituent organization of the S&T Community MG is free to send participants. For ICSU supported participants in meeting, we select among those organizations/experts bringing a broad coverage of scientific expertise for the specific UN meeting and having been involved in respective international scientific committee work and/or internationally coordinated scientific research. Individuals must be capable of presenting a broad range of views prevailing in the international scientific community. On the spot in any UN meeting, we agree with partner organizations who will speak on behalf of the MG.

13. Please describe how you organize your constituency to provide expert advice, presentations, best practices, and position papers to quickly respond to expert-based sustainable development request. Please list any working groups, committees, or list of experts you have set up.

ICSU (co)sponsors a number of globally coordinated, international research programmes (www.icsu.org). The new flagship initiative is the 10-year *Future Earth – research for global sustainability* programme. Related programmes include the Integrated Research on Disaster Reduction (IRDR) and the Urban Health and Human Wellbeing (UHWB) programmes. All programmes have established dedicated committees and/or working groups, lists of projects and lists of experts. ICSU draws on this broad constituency for providing expert advice, best practices, position papers and presentations to the different UN processes in the area of sustainable development.

IV. Communication

14. The Secretariat is trying to ensure transparency and inclusivity through the use of the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.

How frequently are you posting information on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform? **Once per week** **Once per month** **less than once a month**

15. How could the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform be made more useful for your constituency?

16. Please describe if and how you have used social media to support the UN outreach strategy. How frequently do you engage with our social media platforms? Please indicate the name and contact information for your social media contact.

After Rio+20, we mostly promoted our own input to the OWG (e.g. in the form of policy briefs) through ICSU social media channels. We would however welcome closer collaboration and are keen to help support the UN outreach strategy through our channels. ICSU's social media contact is Johannes Mengel, Communications Officer/Web Editor, johannes@icsu.org.

VI. Coordination with UN-DESA

17. Please describe how you coordinate with the Division for Sustainable Development to facilitate the regular participation of Major Groups throughout the intergovernmental process?

The ICSU focal point for our activities as OP is in permanent email contact with colleagues in the Division for Sustainable Development and participates regularly in the monthly conference calls organized by DSD with OPs of all Major Groups.

18. Have you participated in all monthly conference calls to get information on ongoing processes and to update the Secretariat on ongoing activities over the last year?
Yes **No** If no, please provide an explanation.

It is exceptional that the ICSU focal point misses one of the conference calls.

19. How have you instilled in your constituencies, policies relating to appropriate behavior and conduct at the United Nations not only between members of other Major Groups, but with UN staff and security?

Members of the ICSU delegation at each UN meeting receive beforehand information on Major Groups on-site coordination, UN protocol, logistics and security.

20. Do you plan on nominating your organization to continue to serve as OP for the next two year term?

Yes **No** If no, please provide an explanation.