The Regional Dimension: Report on the Regional Office for Africa

Francis Gudyanga

Member, ICSU Executive Board
Member, ICSU Regional Committee for Africa
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE

• Founded in 1931
• NGO representing a global membership that includes both national scientific bodies (103) and international scientific unions (28)
• Coordinates interdisciplinary research to address issues relevant to science and society
• Universality of Science Principle
Progress since 27th GA

- Letters sent to all National Members in Africa inviting them, to host the Regional Office (May 2003)
- Offers received from Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe
- Meeting of ICSU National Members in Africa (February 2004) recommends that South African proposal be accepted
- ICSU Executive Board accepts recommendation for location and appoints Interim ICSU Regional Committee for Africa (February 2004)
Regional Meeting for Africa

- Organized in October 2004 in Harare with participation of many countries, Scientific Unions and Interdisciplinary Bodies
- Objectives to agree on initial priorities
- Meeting programme focussed on:
  - setting the stage
  - building on experiences
  - shaping the future
  - the regional dimension
  - from words to action, and
  - defining the agenda
Proposed Activities for the Regional Office

- Dissemination of information
- Establish a data base of experts
- Encourage capacity building
- Promote indigenous and traditional knowledge
- Promote centres of excellence
- Increased participation of African scientists in ICSU programmes
- Strengthened collaboration with key partners (TWAS, UNESCO, AAS, NASAC, NEPAD, etc.)
Memorandum of Agreement

Between ICSU and the National Research Foundation of South Africa signed during the Harare meeting:

- Significant financial support from the host country (€700 000 per year) for a total of six staff
- Office space and in kind support from NRF
- Agreement for 10 years with evaluation mid-term
ICSU Regional Committee for Africa

appointed by the ICSU Executive Board:
Chair: Gabriel Ogunmola (Nigeria)
Members: Ayite-Lo Ajavon (Togo)
          Manuel Chenene (Mozambique)
          Francis Gudyanga (Zimbabwe)
          Khotso Mokhele (South Africa)
          Dominic Makawiti (Kenya)
          Mary Stravens (Seychelles)
          Vincent Titanji (Cameroon)

Ex Officio: Thomas Rosswall (Executive Director, ICSU)
            Sospeter Muhongo (Director, ICSU Regional Office)
The ICSU Regional Committee for Africa

Front Row (from left to right):
Gudyanga, Ogunmola, Muhongo, Stravens, Titanji

Back Row (from left to right):
Ajavon, Rosswall, Chenene, Mokhele, Makawiti
First Meeting of Regional Committee

• Gabriel Ogunmola elected Chair
• ICSU membership in Africa should double within one year
• Budget for first year approved
• Draft business plan for first year developed
• Submission of input to Commission for Africa noted
Office established

• The post of Director was advertised widely
• Ca. 70 applications received and 5 interviewed
• Professor Sospeter Muhongo, University of Dar es Salaam appointed Director
• Additional staff seconded from NRF and francophone and lusophone staff members will be sought
Website established

ICSU - Regional Office for Africa - Mozilla Firefox

Getting Started | Latest Headlines

GLOBAL SITE | AFRICA | LATIN AMERICA | ASIA | ARAB REGION

ICSU in Africa
Vision
Mission
Objectives
Resource Centre
Secretariat for Africa
Upcoming Events

LATEST NEWS

UN General Assembly urged to strengthen worldwide capacities in Science, Technology, and Innovation: PDF (16/09/05)

Regional Office for Africa launched (01/09/05)

Inauguration Ceremony of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa: statement from the Director (Sospeter Muhongo) PDF (30/08/05)

http://www.icu-africa.org/events.htm
Second Meeting of Regional Committee

Based on the ICSU Draft Strategic Plan, our priority areas identified:

- Health and Human Well-being
- Sustainable Energy
- Natural and Human-Induced Hazards
- Global Climate Change
Operational Strategy

- Well-functioning Regional Office
- Data base of African experts
- Identification of African scientists in diaspora
- Capacity building
- Gender balance
- Promotion of Indigenous knowledge and skills
- Outreach (advocacy) activities
- Strategic partnerships
- Fund-raising
Inauguration Ceremony

Honourable Mosibudi Mangena, Minister for Science and Technology of South Africa officiating at the launch of the Regional Office on 1 September 2005
The ICSU ROA very visible at the General Assembly
Chairman of the RCA report at the GA
Two members of the RCA elected to the ICSU Executive Board: Khotso Mokhele (South Africa) as VP for SPR and Francis Gudyanga (Zimbabwe) as Ordinary Member representing National Scientific Members.
The Way Forward

• Preparation of project documents for the four priority areas
• Identification of key partners, including ICSU Scientific Unions
• Additional scientific staff employed
• Next Regional Committee meeting in January 2006
• Next Regional Meeting for Africa mid-2006