

SCAR Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting

Washington, USA, 9-11 July 2007

Provisional Annotated Agenda (REVISED JUNE 21)

Documents will be either Working Papers (WP) essential to the meeting, and/or on which some decision may be required, or Information Papers (IP)

It will be advisable for the Members of EXCOM to familiarise themselves ahead of time with the contents of WP 07, the Annual Report for 2006, which reviews progress with and plans for most of SCAR's activities.

Opening formalities 0900

The President will welcome Members of the Executive Committee, Chief Officers and Secretariat. The President will introduce the new Executive Officer, Dr. Mike Sparrow, and observers (A. Klepikov and V. Rachold). The Secretariat will draw attention to logistical arrangements.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

*The President will invite the Executive Committee to amend or approve the agenda (**WP 01a, and WP 01b**) and timetable (**WP 02**), noting that item 9 – Interactions with COMNAP – will have to be taken before the Executive Committee meets with the COMNAP Executive Committee at 1800 on Tuesday July 10; Chief Officers will not be involved in that meeting).*

*The EXCOM meeting will be using primarily documents listed in **WP 03**.*

*The President will remind participants that SCAR now has an Implementation Plan (**WP 04**), which incorporates a list of actions from all recent SCAR management meetings. Progress against the actions from the relevant section of the Implementation Plan will be reviewed against the appropriate agenda item.*

Action: EXCOM to amend or approve Agenda and Timetable

2. Science

2.1 Report of the Cross Linkages Workshop

*Maurizio Candidi, as Chairman of the Cross-Linkages Meeting in Rome (November 2006) will be invited to present a brief report on the highlights of the meeting, with reference to **WP 05**. The attention of EXCOM is drawn to the list of actions at the end of **WP 05**, which define the future work programme.*

Action: EXCOM (i) to note the report and approve the development of specific cross-disciplinary activities as listed in the Action List to the Rome Cross-Linkages Report, and (ii) to suggest other such activities as may seem appropriate.

2.2 Report of the Chief Officers' Meeting

The Chairman of the Chief Officers' Meeting in Washington (July 2007) will be invited to present a brief report on the highlights of the meeting, which immediately precedes the EXCOM meeting. The agenda for the CO's meeting (WP 06) shows what topics will be addressed. A written report (WP 07) may be tabled.

Action: EXCOM (i) to note the report and approve the development of specific activities recommended by the Chief Officers' Washington Meeting Report, and (ii) to suggest other such activities as may seem appropriate.

2.3 Highlights, Progress and Plans: SCAR Standing Scientific Groups

The COs for each SSG will be invited to provide brief reports on plans and progress of their action and expert groups, with reference to the SCAR Annual Report for 2006 (WP 08), including appropriate supplementary information, and drawing attention to the need for specific actions by EXCOM or the Secretariat.

2.3.1 SSG on Geosciences (WP 35)

Alessandro Capra, CO for SSG-GS will be invited to report, noting attempts made to forge links with the International Year of Planet Earth.

2.3.2 SSG on Life Sciences (WP 36)

Ad Huiskes, CO for SSG-LS will be invited to report. Particular attention will be drawn to the plans for a High Predators Expert Group that will replace the current Birds and Seals Groups, with reference to WP 09

2.3.3 SSG on Physical Sciences (WP 37)

Maurizio Candidi, CO for SSG-PS will be invited to report. Particular attention will be drawn to the plans for a Pan-Antarctic Observing System (PAntOS), with reference to IP 01

Action: EXCOM (i) to note the reports and approve the development of specific activities, and (ii) to suggest other such activities as may seem appropriate.

2.4 Highlights, Progress and Plans: SCAR Scientific Research Programmes

The SSG COs responsible for each SRP will be invited to provide brief reports on plans and progress, with reference to the SCAR Annual Report for 2006 (WP 08), including appropriate supplementary information from the SSG reports (WP 35, 36, 37), and drawing attention to the need for specific actions by EXCOM or the Secretariat.

2.4.1 Antarctic Climate Evolution (ACE) (Alessandro Capra)

2.4.2 Antarctica and the Global Climate System (AGCS) (Maurizio Candidi); among other things it was noted that AGCS had developed a Climate Status Report for ATCM, as a first step in preparing a Climate and Environment Review for XXX SCAR.

2.4.3 Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic (EBA) (Ad Huiskes)

2.4.4 Interhemispheric Conjugacy Effects in Solar-Terrestrial and Aeronomy Research (ICESTAR) (Maurizio Candidi)

2.4.5 Subglacial Antarctic Lake Environments (SALE)(Chuck Kennicutt)

Action: EXCOM (i) to note the reports and approve the development of specific activities, and (ii) to suggest other such activities as may seem appropriate.

2.5 Plans for Reviews of SRP Performance for 2008

*The Executive Director will be invited to present the plans for the review of SRP Performance that will be required by the Delegates in 2008, drawing attention to **WP 10**.*

Action: EXCOM to approve the SRP Review plans, modifying them as appropriate.

The Executive Director will note that by July 2008 the SRPs will be 4 years old and it will be time to rotate membership and, in some cases, change chairpersons. One possibility is that Scientific Steering Committee members be asked in confidence to suggest who possible new chairs and new members might be, and that their suggestions then be ranked and rated much as we do for fellowship candidates.

Action: EXCOM to approve a mechanism for rotating SSC members and replacing chairpersons.

2.6 IPY: Progress and Plans:

*The IPY was formally launched on March 1, 2007. The President will review progress with and plans for the implementation of the IPY, with reference to **IP 02** “The Scope of Science in the International Polar Year”, and to the minutes of the March 06 meeting of the ICSU/WMO Joint Committee (**IP 03**). Discussion on SCAR’s links to IASC in the context of the IPY will be postponed to agenda item 2.7.3. Discussion on data and information management will be postponed to agenda item 3.1. The SCAR Open Science Conference in St Petersburg is to be the first of a suite of IPY Conferences; the report on this topic will be taken under agenda item 7.1.*

Action: EXCOM to note progress, and suggest such actions as appear appropriate.

2.7 Relations with Scientific Organizations: ICSU, SCOR, IASC, WCRP, IGOS-P, IPICS, SCOSTEP, Others (including a possible Union of Polar Sciences)

2.7.1 ICSU

*The President will note that SCAR (as an Interdisciplinary Body of ICSU) has been invited to provide input to a review of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) by ICSU and IGFA (the International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research). A primary goal is to determine the added value of the ESSP (which brings together several of ICSU’s major environmental research programmes), and to consider the links between the ESSP and ICSU’s related activities, notably those of the Interdisciplinary Bodies, like SCAR. The President’s letter to ICSU on this topic will be **IP 04**.*

Action: EXCOM to note progress.

The Executive Director will remind EXCOM that the International Astronomical Union will formally apply for membership of SCAR at the XXX SCAR meeting in Moscow.

Action: EXCOM to note progress.

2.7.2 SCOR

The Executive Director will remind participants that SCAR was invited to attend the SCOR Projects Meeting in London in December 2006. This reflects the close linkage that has developed between SCAR and SCOR following creation of the Joint SCAR/SCOR Oceanography Expert Group. The meeting provided SCAR with an opportunity to call formally for Principal Investigators and Funding Agencies to support the collection of bathymetric data from cruises in the Southern Ocean, in such a way as to fill gaps in coverage, for the benefit of the development of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Southern Ocean (IBCSO), which is a SCAR Expert Group and also a component of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO). This call will be relayed to SCAR and SCOR Delegates by means of a joint letter. The report of the meeting will be available on the SCOR web site. Highlights were to be submitted to EOS as a meeting report. SCAR and SCOR will have a joint planning meeting for a Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) in Bremen (1-3 October 2007) (IP 05). This will be a contribution to the IPY.

Action: EXCOM to note progress.

2.7.3 IASC

The Executive Secretary of IASC (attending as an Observer) will be invited to participate in the discussions.

The Executive Director of SCAR will provide a brief report on the development of links to IASC, with reference to WP 11, and especially to the links with IASC listed in the Annex to WP 11.

The President will report on the result of a meeting with the IASC President in Stockholm on June 6, with reference to WP 34. Discussions on the way in which SCAR and IASC will take responsibility for managing the IPY legacy led to the proposal presented in WP 38. There is an initial budgetary implication of around \$5,000 per year in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

Action: EXCOM will be asked (i) to note the links to IASC; and (ii) to approve, add to, or modify the proposed links with IASC, especially concerning the IPY legacy.

The President will expand on his ideas for a ‘Manhattan Project’ to improve models of ice sheet dynamics in relation to sea-level change, with reference to IP 06, a paper by Jim Hansen, Director of the Goddard Institute for Space Sciences, in New York. The paper highlights the possibility of a 5 m sea level rise by 2100, in contrast to the IPCC forecast of 1 m max for ‘business as usual’. As proposed in WP 39, SCAR and IASC and others could organise a significant workshop on this topic, bringing together modellers and observers, as part of the Open Science Conference in 2008. Alternatively it may be appropriate to create a new SCAR SRP focusing on this topic, or to charge ISMASS with

developing this topic as a major focus for the future. There is a significant budgetary implication, which may justify use of the \$10,000 allocation for major meetings in 2008.

Action: EXCOM will be asked to advise on SCAR's role in the promotion of pan-Antarctic or bipolar modelling of ice sheet dynamics in relation to sea-level.

2.7.4 WCRP

The Executive Director will introduce this item. SCAR sponsored the attendance of Eberhard Fahrback (Co-Chair of the SCAR/SCOR EG-OCEAN) at the meeting of the CLIVAR/CliC/SCAR Southern Ocean Implementation Panel in Buenos Aires (14-17, Nov 2006). SCAR continued working closely with the WCRP Office in Geneva, and with the CliC Office in Tromso, on the development of the IGOS Cryosphere Theme (agenda item 2.7.5, below).

Action: EXCOM to note progress.

2.7.5 IGOS-P

The Executive Director will report on progress with the 137-page "Cryosphere Theme Report" developed for the Partners for an Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS-P) by SCAR, CliC and the space agencies, as a contribution to monitoring of the environment from space and from Earth. ICSU is one of the IGOS-Partners, and SCAR Represents ICSU in developing the Theme report. The final draft (IP 07) has been edited and is now available from http://cryos.ssec.wisc.edu/cryos/docs/cryos_theme_report.pdf. This document was approved at the May 30 meeting of the IGOS-P, and will soon be printed for wider distribution (in June 2007). The report is the design for implementation of CryOS, the Cryosphere Observing System. Several SCAR groups will be involved in monitoring progress. SCAR financially co-sponsored the 3rd IGOS-P Cryosphere Theme workshop in Nordwijk, the Netherlands, 16-18 October 2006.

Action: EXCOM will be asked (i) to note progress, (ii) to recommend that the SSG-PS takes responsibility for overseeing relevant aspects of implementation of CryOS in the Antarctic, for instance through ISMASS, EGPPE, ASPeCt, AGCS etc., (iii) to recommend that SCAR draw the attention of the Parties to the Antarctic Treaty to the report, and to the need for parties, national agencies and funding agencies to support the implementation.

2.7.6 IPICS

The Executive Director will introduce this item. Eric Wolff, Co-Chair of on the SCAR co-sponsored International Partnership for Ice Core Science (IPICS) remains a member of the ACE Steering Group, keeping us connected to IPICS activities. Dorte Dahl Jensen of the Niels Bohr Institute gave an IPICS progress report at the Arctic Science Summit Week in Hanover USA (March 2007). She noted that ice core data showed that the global temperatures of the last interglacial (125-140,000 years ago) were about 3°C higher than today's, and that this increase was accompanied by a sea level some 1-3 m above today's. This should give us pause for thought when considering the pronouncements of the latest IPCC report (see also agenda item 2.7.3, above).

Good progress is being made in attracting the funds to attack two of the five main IPICS objectives, namely:

- (i) **The oldest ice core:** A 1.5 million year record of climate and greenhouse gases from Antarctica (a time period where Earth's climate shifted from 40,000 year to 100,000 year)
- (ii) **The last interglacial and beyond:** A northwest Greenland deep ice core drilling project (a deep ice core in Greenland recovering an intact record of the last interglacial period).

Action: EXCOM to note progress.

2.7.7. SCOSTEP

Maurizio Candidi will be invited to provide an update on progress with ICSU's Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), the CAWSES programme (Climate and Weather of the Sun-Earth System), which is connected to ICESTAR, and the aspects of the International Heliophysical Year that are relevant to SCAR.

Action: EXCOM to note progress.

2.7.8 A Possible International Union of Polar Sciences

Past President Jörn Thiede will introduce this topic, with reference to **WP 12**.

The President, Chris Rapley, will provide an additional perspective stemming from his meeting with the IASC President on June 6, with reference to **WP 38**.

Action: EXCOM will be invited to agree on a possible way forward.

3. Data & Information

3.1 Highlights, Progress and Plans: JCADM

Taco de Bruin will be invited to report on progress with and plans for JCADM, including the revised terms of reference, with reference to **WP 13**. The report will include observations on progress in populating the Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) of the Global Change Master Directory (GCMD), and the related funding situation. The report will also note progress in developing the Data and Information System (DIS) for the IPY, and comment on its relevance for SCAR. EXCOM will be invited to note that by mutual agreement between the SCAR and COMNAP Secretariats JCADM has not been reviewed by external experts this year; the next such review will take place before XXX SCAR.

Action: EXCOM will note progress, and approve JCADM plans and budget, modifying them as appropriate.

3.2 Progress and Plans: SC-AGI

The Executive Director will report on progress with and plans for the new Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographical Information (SC-AGI), with reference to **WP 14**. Considerable effort has gone into re-establishing this group (formerly the Expert Group on Geographical Information and building up its membership ready for a first meeting in Buenos Aires in September 2007. The Chairmanship has changed recently, and the web site will be relocated.

Action: *EXCOM will note progress, and approve SC-AGI plans, modifying them as appropriate.*

4. Antarctic Treaty Organisations

4.1 XXX ATCM, Delhi, May 2007

The Executive Director will be invited to report on behalf of Steven Chown on progress with SCAR's involvement with the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and associated Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP), with reference to WP 15. SCAR was represented at XXX ATCM by the President, the Executive Director and the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System (SC-ATS), Professor Chown. SCAR presented 3 Working Papers and 8 Information Papers; all were on time save the IP relating to the SCAR Lecture. The President gave the SCAR Lecture, on Climate. Dr David Carlson of the IPY international Project Office was a member of the SCAR delegation and presented a paper on the IPY to the ATCM; Professor Rapley presented a digest of the same paper to the CEP. The ATCM approved two Resolutions involving SCAR, one on the need to invest in observing systems as part of the IPY legacy (WP 15c), and one on the need to improve the collection of data on the Giant Petrel (WP 15b). Climate change was very much a hot topic, and the SCAR Climate Paper (SASOCS) and the SCAR Lecture on Climate Change were very well received. Norway's proposal to put Climate on the agenda was accepted. In future, ATCM will consider issues related to Climate Research, while CEP will consider issues related to Climate Impacts.

Action: *EXCOM will note progress, and comment as appropriate.*

4.2 XXXI ATCM Kiev, June 2008

On behalf of Steven Chown, the Executive Director will be invited to report on plans for SCAR's involvement with the XXXI ATCM meeting in Kiev (2-15 June 2008), with reference to WP 15. Professor Lou Lanzarotti has been invited to deliver the SCAR lecture, on Sun-Earth Interactions, with special reference to SCAR's ICESTAR programme. The Executive Committee will need to agree on the programme of SCAR Lectures for the next few ATCM meetings. Members are invited to come to the meeting with their ideas on this topic.

Action: *EXCOM will approve plans for SC-ATS activities, modifying them as appropriate, and suggest a programme of SCAR lectures for the future.*

4.3 CCAMLR

The Executive Director will report briefly on the outcomes of the 25th meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (October 2006), referring to WP 16, and noting that he attended that meeting in Hobart along with the SCAR Observer to CCAMLR, Dr. Graham Hosie of the Australian Antarctic Division. Dr. Hosie will attend the 26th CCAMLR meeting in Hobart in October 2007.

Dr Edith Fanta, Chair of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee, has accepted an invitation to join the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) planning meeting in Bremen in October 2007.

Action: EXCOM will note progress, and approve plans, modifying them as appropriate.

4.4 Other Interactions

Participants will be invited to inform EXCOM about other significant interactions between SCAR and other scientific bodies.

5. Capacity Building, Education and Training: Progress and Plans:

5.1 Strategy

The Executive Director will introduce this item. The SCAR Strategy for Education, Training and Capacity Building has been published as SCAR Report 27, and is also on the Education and Training Web Page. SCAR Members were invited to nominate candidates for the Capacity Building Education and Training (CBET) Committee, but few had done so. Members of the IPY Education and Outreach Committee have been invited to consider joining the SCAR CBET Committee, but few have evinced any interest. The new Executive Officer will be tasked with taking forward the development of the CBET Committee, and with monitoring the progress of the International Antarctic Institute (IAI), of which SCAR is an Associate Member.

The Executive Director drafted a Powerpoint presentation on CBET to be given by Chuck Kennicutt at the Malaysian IPY Launch (March 20-23). As Chuck was caught in a blizzard in New York, the talk was eventually given by Azizan Abu Samah, a member of the CBET Committee.

SCAR has been asked to contribute funds to an IPY proposal to get two young international students from 'developing countries' (e.g. from Malaysia or Chile) to attend the training course offered by Gateway Antarctica (Canterbury NZ). This would constitute both a contribution to IPY and to the activities of the IAI. The budgetary implication would be around \$5000 in 2008.

Action: EXCOM will be invited to note developments and suggest ways forward.

5.2 Fellowship Programme

The Executive Director will introduce this item. Members had been asked to contribute extra funding to the SCAR Fellowship Programme; only South Africa had done so (\$2000 in 2006/7).

SCAR has 5 current Fellows (2006-7)(see <http://www.scar.org/awards/fellowships/fellowships0607.html>), all currently active so no final reports are available yet (for reports from previous years' Fellows see the SCAR web site).

The 2007-8 season Fellowship announcement was made on April 3rd. It included an announcement that, as agreed by the Delegates, 2 Fellowships will be available for the joint SCAR-International Polar Foundation (IPF) IPY programme "The 6th Continent Initiative", under which Fellows will work on Antarctic bases or research vessels, as well as carrying out a project at a major polar research institution.

The results of the competition for Fellowships for 2007/8 were as follows: (i) 22 applications were received, 8 of them being for IPY 6CI fellowships; (ii) all were examined by the Fellowship Review Panel; (iii) the Executive Director will report on the Panel recommendations, which will include a short list of 6 particular candidates to EXCOM (WP 40).

The budget available is \$30,000 from the Fellowship Fund, plus \$2,000 from South Africa. An addition of a further \$5,000 is suggested - see the proposal in 5.3, below.

Action: EXCOM to decide on the Fellowship awards for 2007/8.

5.3 Young Scientists

SCAR sent one of its current Fellows (Veronica Fuentes, Argentina) to represent SCAR young scientists at ICSU's meeting on "Global Scientific Challenges: Perspectives from Young Scientists" (Lindau, Germany, 4-6 April 2007). In addition SCAR and IASC invited two young researchers to join the Scientific Organising Committee for the next Open Science Conference.

The Executive Director and the new Executive Officer attended an IPY Youth Committee meeting at the British Antarctic Survey on June 15, where the Director gave a talk on SCAR. Posters on SCAR and on the CLIVAR/CLIC/SCAR Southern Ocean Implementation Panel were made available. 90 young scientists from around the world attended the meeting, and were encouraged to participate in future SCAR meetings and activities.

There has been no response yet to SCAR's invitation to Members to second a young scientist for a short period to work in the SCAR office to learn about international scientific coordination. It is suggested that the funds allocated for this purpose (\$5,000) be allocated to the current round of SCAR Fellows.

Action: EXCOM will note progress, and approve plans, modifying them as appropriate.

6. Outreach and Communication: Progress and Plans

The Executive Director will report on this item.

6.1 History Group

As noted in the Annual Report for 2006 (WP 08), the SCAR History Group met in Santiago, Chile (September 2006), to discuss "Multidimensional exploration of Antarctica around the 1950s". Holding the meeting in South America facilitated the participation of colleagues from the region. A follow-up meeting will be held at Byrd Polar Institute, Columbus, USA, in October 2007. A final report will be presented to the Delegates in St Petersburg, 2008. Reports of the three History Group meetings will be published separately.

Action: EXCOM will note progress, and approve plans, modifying them as appropriate.

6.2 Web Site, Publications etc

6.2.1 Web site

The External Recommendations provided by the SSGs and approved by the SCAR Delegates at XXIX SCAR were published on the relevant SSG web pages.

For consistency of image and presentation, the three SSG web pages were transferred to the Secretariat, which will continue to update and maintain them.

Action and Expert Groups were reminded of the need to create and maintain their own web pages. Some have yet to do so.

Hits on the web site maintained a high profile.

Action: EXCOM will note progress, and approve plans, modifying them as appropriate.

6.2.2 Publications

Apart from ACE, the SRPs declined to provide short synopses for the Antarctic Science Journal, on the basis that their work is already being publicised elsewhere. In addition it did not prove feasible to compile selected papers from the Open Science Conference for Antarctic Science Journal. However, the Editor of the Journal has been invited to be an observer on the Scientific Organising Committee for the St Petersburg Open Science Conference, so as to ensure that publication goals are arranged and met for XXX SCAR.

Action: EXCOM will note progress, and approve plans, modifying them as appropriate.

6.2.3 Brochure

A Draft Brochure has been prepared (WP 17). WP 17 contains proposals for numbers and costs. .

Action: EXCOM is invited to approve the budget for and publication of the brochure.

6.2.4 National Interactions

The President wrote to both India and Pakistan suggesting that discussions be held with these two Members at some time in the margins of the ATCM meeting in Delhi (or en route to or from Delhi). Two meetings took place with India in the margins of the Delhi meeting; one took the form of a discussion between the President and Executive Director and two senior officials from the Indian National Committee for SCAR; the other was a SCAR-India science seminar at which a number of presentations were given. The prospect of raising India's involvement in SCAR now seems quite high. It had not been feasible to arrange a visit to Pakistan.

It did not seem feasible for the President or Executive Director to visit Members in South America during the current year. However, it was pleasing to note that (i) a SC-AGI meeting is being planned for Argentina, and (ii) the SO Implementation Panel and

SCAR History Groups had both recently held meetings in South America (the first one in Argentina, the second one in Chile).

The invitation of Malaysia for SCAR to be represented at the launch of the Malaysian IPY programme in March 2007 had been accepted (see paragraph 2 in item 5, above). Aside from Azizan Sameh, SCAR was represented at these meetings by John Turner (AGCS), Pete Convey (EBA), and Michael Stoddart (CAML).

Action: EXCOM will note progress, and approve plans, modifying them as appropriate.

7. Organisation and Management

7.1 XXX SCAR, St Petersburg and Moscow

*A representative of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) (Alexander Klepikov) will report on progress with the organisation of XXX SCAR, with reference to **WP 18**.*

*Chuck Kennicutt will refer to **WP 19** in reporting on the progress made by the Scientific Organising Committee (SOC) for the Joint SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference, the theme of which will be “Polar Research – Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year”.*

Chief Officers will indicate their requirements for meeting facilities for the SCAR Science Week, to facilitate planning by our Russian hosts.

The Executive Director of IASC (Volker Rachold) will be invited to comment on the developments for the joint Open Science Conference.

The Executive Committee will be invited to note that ICSU has decided that it intends to formally sponsor the three IPY Conferences (2008, 2010, and 2012), of which the SCAR/IASC meeting is the first. It is envisaged that WMO, as the other IPY sponsor, will also wish to sponsor the Conference. As a result we have been asked to “give due recognition to ICSU and WMO in the conference publicity and materials and in the meeting agenda”. We have also learned that “the ICSU Vice-President, Khotso Mokhele – former CEO of NRF in South Africa – has reserved the meeting dates in his diary and so ICSU should be represented at the highest level”. We can take it that this means we need to reserve a spot in the Opening Ceremony for Mr Mokhele to speak. Presumably he will do so on behalf of both ICSU and WMO, but that remains to be seen (Executive Director is in discussion with WMO about this).

Plans have been made for the SCAR Executive Director and IASC Executive Secretary to meet members of the Local Organising Committee and to visit the Conference facilities in St Petersburg, in company with Ed Sarukhanian of WMO (representing the IPY sponsors), on September 5 and 6. The Executive Director and Ed Sarukhanian will then visit the facilities for the Delegates meeting, in Moscow, on September 7.

Action: EXCOM will note progress, and approve plans, modifying them as appropriate, including the plan for the Executive Director to visit Russia to inspect the facilities for XXX SCAR and meet with the LOC.

7.2 50th Anniversary Celebrations

*The Executive Director will introduce this item with reference to **IP 11**. David Walton and Peter Clarkson are co-editing a book “**Science in the Snow: 50 years of international collaboration in Antarctica**”, which will have contributors from many past SCAR scientists dating back to the IGY, and which will address both the scientific highlights and the development of SCAR as an organisation. The draft should be ready for examination by the Delegates at XXX SCAR. IP 11 contains cost estimates for production, and a plan to recoup costs over time; there is an implication for the 2008 budget.*

Action: EXCOM will be invited to note developments, and to approve the funding plan.

7.3 SCAR Medals for 2008

The Executive Director will introduce this item. Nominations will be solicited from National Committees and the wider SCAR community at the end of 2007, and examined by an Awards Committee early in 2008. The awards for 2008 will be (i) the medal for excellence in Antarctic Research, and (ii) the medal for International Scientific Coordination. Normally, there would be no President’s Medal in 2008 (they are only awarded every 4 years, starting in 2006, so the next one would be due in 2010). However, bearing in mind that this IPY Conference will be a high profile affair, the Executive Committee may wish to reconsider this position and award the 2010 medal in 2008. Nominations will also be considered for Honorary Membership (for outstanding contributions to SCAR over a number of years), and for Certificates of Appreciation (for the provision of services to SCAR over long periods).

Action: EXCOM will be invited to suggest possible candidates for awards for 2008.

7.4 Revised Election Procedures

*The President will introduce this item, with reference to **WP 20**. Following suggestions made at the first meeting of EXCOM (19 July, 2006), some modifications had been made to the procedures for elections. These will be part of the revised Rules of Procedure (**WP 21a**) submitted for the consideration of the Delegates at XXX SCAR.*

Action: EXCOM will be invited to approve the revisions, with modifications as appropriate.

7.5 Revised Rules of Procedure for Expert and Action Groups

*Having consulted with the Chief Officers, the Executive Director has withdrawn suggestions for revisions to the rules of procedure for Action and Expert Groups. The Executive Committee will be invited to consider the present Rules of procedure for these Groups to see if any change is needed (**WP 21b** in order to make it clear what people in these Groups are supposed to do.*

Action: EXCOM will be invited to approve the revisions, with modifications as appropriate.

7.6 Revised Memorandum and Articles of Association

*The Executive Director will introduce this item, with reference to **WP 22** and **WP 23**. A working group led by Fred Davey (NZ) had been working with the Executive Director to amend the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association required to convert SCAR into a Company Limited by Guarantee, following suggestions made by the Delegates at XXIX SCAR.*

Action: EXCOM will be invited to approve the revisions, with modifications as appropriate,

7.7 SCAR's Legal and Charity Status

*The Executive Director will remind participants that ICSU requires all of its subsidiary bodies to have independent legal status, and that SCAR is now 3 years late in acquiring this. What SCAR is aiming for is the same as the status achieved by the other ICSU body in the UK, namely INASP, in Oxford. Delegates have approved the Memorandum and Articles of Association in principle. Once the revised Memorandum and Articles (**WP 22 and 23**) are approved by the Executive Committee, SCAR will be able to obtain the status of a Company Limited by Guarantee, following which it may apply for status as a Charity, which will confer certain financial benefits. The Executive Director will present a time plan for obtaining that status by January 1 2008.*

Action: EXCOM will be invited to note and approve the plan.

7.8 Improving SSG Business Meetings

*Chuck Kennicutt will introduce this topic with reference to **WP 41**. The topic was raised at the first meeting of the new Executive Committee, meeting in Hobart.*

8. Finance

8.1 Financial statements for 2006

*Peter Clarkson will present (i) the Statement of Income and Expenditure for 2006 (**WP 24**); (ii) the Bank accounts at 31 December 2006 (**WP 25**); and (iii) the National contributions for 2006 (**WP 26**).*

Action: EXCOM will be invited to note and approve progress.

8.2 Budgets for 2007 and 2008

*Peter Clarkson will present (i) the Budget for 2007 (**WP 27**), and (ii) the Budget for 2008 (**WP 28**).*

Action: EXCOM will be invited to approve the budgets.

8.3 Membership of SCAR

The Executive Director will introduce this item. Delegates at XXIX SCAR suggested that Belarus, as a new signatory to the Antarctic Treaty, be invited to join SCAR. This was pursued at XXX ATCM, in Delhi, in May 2007. The usual discussions were also held with Romania and Austria. All three countries as well as the Czech Republic were subsequently invited to submit applications in time for XXX SCAR. Malaysia is intending to apply for Full membership.

The International Astronomical Union has applied to join SCAR; the application will be formally submitted to XXX SCAR.

Action: EXCOM to note developments, and suggest alternatives.

8.4 Implementing SCAR's Financial Strategy

*The President will introduce this item, referring to **WP 29**, which is WP42 from XXIX SCAR. There had not been enough time for a substantive debate on WP42 in Hobart, hence the need to explore some of its aspects further at the present meeting, in particular:*

- (i) the need to raise additional voluntary contributions, if possible, recognising that those from Germany and the UK had come to an end after 3 years;*
- (ii) the need to raise additional voluntary support for the CBET programme, recognising that only \$2000 had been received to date;*
- (iii) the idea that SCAR should request a yearly cost of living increase of 3% to dues;*
- (iv) the need to modify the new rules of procedure (section 5.10);*
- (v) the need to form a Development Committee (Board of Donors).*

Action: EXCOM to consider these issues and decide how it wishes to proceed, for instance by modifying the Financial Strategy for XXX SCAR.

*The Executive Director will remind participants that as spelled out in section 3.2 of WP 42 from XXIX SCAR (**WP 29 for the current meeting**), 5 basic instruments had been considered necessary to establish SCAR's credibility as a 'professional organisation prior to attracting substantial new funding. These were: strategic plan; brochure; statement of achievements; implementation plan; scientific plans for the SRPs for the IPY. The strategic plan and plans for the SRPs had been completed before XXIX SCAR. The Statement of Achievements was approved by the Delegates at XXIX SCAR, pending modifications that had now been completed (see **IP 08**). The brochure had been presented at the present meeting as **WP 17**, and the Implementation Plan as **WP 04**. the final remaining element was obtaining charitable status, as noted under agenda item 7.7.*

Action: EXCOM will be invited to note and approve progress and plans.

*The Committee will also consider what there is to be learned from the ESF Polar Board financial strategy document presented by ESF at the Arctic Science Summit Week in March 2007 (**IP 09**).*

*If time allows, the Executive Director will table an outline action plan (**WP 42**) with time lines for implementing the provisions of the Finance Plan.*

9. Interactions with COMNAP (prior to evening meeting with COMNAP Executive Tuesday July 10)

*EXCOM will need to consider what topics it wishes to raise for its discussion with the COMNAP Executive. Discussions will be informed by the report of the joint meeting of the two executive committees in Hobart (**WP 30**), and a draft agenda for the present meeting (**WP 31**).*

Action: EXCOM will be invited to recommend what prior recommendations should be dropped.

10. Review of Progress Against Actions

The Executive Director will review progress against the combined action sheet (WP 32). If time allows, attention will be drawn to the review of progress against past recommendations (WP 33)

11. Any other Business

Closure of the Meeting 1700