

**Terms of Reference for the Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science.**

Under the aegis of the Executive Board, the Committee has both policy development and management responsibilities relating to the Principle of the Universality of Science. This encompasses the rights of scientists both to freely associate and to freely pursue their science and the responsibilities incumbent in these rights.

1. To monitor and advise the ICSU Executive Board and Members on issues relating to the Universality of Science;
2. To work with the ICSU Members actively to promote the Principle of Universality; to act as the 'corporate memory' and international reference point on these issues; to ensure exchange of best practices between members;
3. To advise Members and, in consultation with the ICSU Executive Director and Secretary General, take action as necessary in relation to breaches of Universality;
4. To ensure close liaison and appropriate partnerships with the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies and with other international and national committees on human rights; and, to work with these bodies to provide quantitative analyses that can inform policy development;
5. To liaise with other ICSU interdisciplinary bodies and committees, in areas such as access to data, information, and research materials, which impact on the Principle of Universality;
6. To establish dialogue and shared understanding with the international scientific community beyond the immediate ICSU family, including the private and government sectors;
7. To prepare and disseminate information and educational materials that raise awareness of the Principle of Universality, for scientists, policy makers and the broader public;
8. To undertake any other such actions as are appropriate for promoting and securing the Principle of Universality.

**International Council of Science Statute 5: the Universality of Science**

“The Principle of the Universality of Science is fundamental to scientific progress. This principle embodies freedom of movement, association, expression and communication for scientists as well as equitable access to data, information and research materials. In pursuing its objectives in respect of the rights and responsibilities of scientists, the International Council for Science (ICSU) actively upholds this principle, and, in so doing, opposes any discrimination on the basis of such factors as ethnic origin, religion, citizenship, language, political stance, gender, sex or age. ICSU shall not accept disruption of its own activities by statements or actions that intentionally or otherwise prevent the application of this principle.”