

# Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Annual Work Report 2017



**INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN





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## Message from the Director of the Regional Office, Dr. Manuel Limonta

In the second semester of 2016, the transfer of our office from Mexico to the new headquarters in El Salvador was completed. This transfer required an important effort by our team. The office moved to El Salvador without any other member besides me, which constituted a great challenge to establish and develop the work programs. At the beginning of 2017, the office was able to achieve a stability that made it possible to carry out the outlined programs. Although it should be noted that for different reasons of an administrative nature, we were not able to locate a Science Officer, but the secretariat was able to comply with the programs and tasks drawn from the effort and dedication of the team members and also, by a joint work carried out with much enthusiasm that allowed us to make up for the absence of the Science Officer.

2017 has been a year of significant growth in our work, which has shown an increase in important activities at the new ICSU headquarters in El Salvador. Between the second semester of 2016 and all of 2017, we managed to include other programs to reach eight, which is a respectable figure compared to the four programs that we worked during our time in Mexico. The programs included are: Urban Health, International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA), Open Data, and Scientific Diaspora.

One of the programs that we are working on is the Urban Health Program, which is very important for our region and it has achieved a working group that includes the main ministries and labor organizations of El Salvador. Such working groups allow an integral multidisciplinary work that is reaching the municipalities, and that we estimate is a true working platform that will be useful to be applied in other countries of the region, which is the purpose of this program that we have organized starting in El Salvador.

The main activities carried out in this 2017 are the following:

### Activities & Participants

#### Organized by ICSU ROLAC

- Open Data Meeting, January, Panama. Dr. Manuel Limonta, Lic. Oscar Reyes, and representatives of 12 countries.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Regional Committee, April, Cuba. ROLAC Secretariat, and members of the Regional Committee.
- Writing of Journal Articles and Oral Presentations Workshop, March, El Salvador. Barbara Gastel, NCONACYT, ROLAC Secretariat.
- Meetings of the Urban Health Working Group, El Salvador. ROLAC Secretariat, and members of the Urban Health working group of ICSU ROLAC.
- Workshop on Facilitating Understanding, Scientific Collaboration and Project Management in the Region, May, El Salvador. Dr. Manuel Limonta, Salvadoran Researchers.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Regional Committee Meeting, September, El Salvador. ROLAC Secretariat, and members of the Regional Committee.
- Workshop on Establishment and Development of Projects and Economic Aspects, May, El Salvador.
- Workshop on Polymeric Materials and their Applications, July, El Salvador. Dr. Manuel Limonta, Salvadoran Researchers.

- TWAS-TYAN Young Scientists Conference in coordination with ICSU ROLAC and TWAS ROLAC, July, Brazil. Dr. Manuel Limonta, Lic. Oscar Reyes.
- Second International Workshop on Urban Health, September, El Salvador. ROLAC Secretariat, and members of the Urban Health working group of ICSU ROLAC, 560 participants.
- Disaster Risk Reduction Meeting, November, Costa Rica. Dr. Manuel Limonta.
- Workshop on “Gender Gap in Science: a New ICSU Project Occupies a Central Theme”, November, Colombia. Dr. Liliam Álvarez, Lic. Karla Rodríguez.

#### Activities not Organized by ICSU ROLAC

- Guided Visit in the Agroindustrial Technology Park, February, El Salvador. ROLAC Secretariat.
- Fifth Regional ICSU ROLAC Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, March, Canada. Barbara Carby, Chairwoman of ICSU ROLAC DRR SC.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee on Planning and Review, April, France. Dr. Juan Jaén, Chair of the ROLAC Regional Committee.
- Meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), April, Belgium. Dr. Manuel Limonta, Dr. Décio Gazzoni, Chair of the ICSU ROLAC Sustainable Energy SC.
- Science, Technology and Innovation in the Caribbean -Strengthening Cooperation, May, Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Manuel Limonta.
- Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research Meeting (IAI), June, Colombia. Dr. Manuel Limonta.
- El Salvador Launches Urban Health Model, June, El Salvador. Ministry of Health of El Salvador. ROLAC Secretariat.
- Meeting of Communications Officers, June, France. Lic. Oscar Reyes.
- 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the History of Science and Technology, July, Brazil. Dr. Manuel Limonta.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee on Planning and Review, October, France. Dr. Juan Jaén, Chair of the ROLAC Regional Committee.
- Meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology of the OAS, November, Colombia. Dr. Manuel Limonta.
- General Assembly of ICSU and Merger between ICSU and ISSC. October, Taipei. Dr. Manuel Limonta, Dr. Juan Jaén, Lic. Karla Rodríguez,
- Expansion and Strengthening of Scientific Networks, November, Mexico. Lic. Claudia Marroquín.
- Workshop on the Knowledge-Action Network of the Future Earth Program, December, China. Dr. Manuel Limonta.
- Meeting of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), December, Italy. Dr. Manuel Limonta.

In 2017, at the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of ICSU in China, Taipei, the merger between ICSU and ISSC was discussed. Our impression is that this merger will strengthen the work in Latin America and the Caribbean with the new organization that will be established, the International Science Council (ISC). For the work of our region, I must highlight the support of El Salvador through the Vice Ministry of Science and Technology, as well as the dedication to the work of the members of our Regional Committee to the different tasks that we are facing.



## Message from the Chair of the Regional Office, Dr. Juan Jaén

For the Regional Office and for the Regional Committee, 2017 was a year of coping with change. Although the ROLAC office moved from Mexico to El Salvador in August of 2016, a couple of months later the office began functioning. The staff of ICSU ROLAC was formed by: Manuel Limonta, Regional Director; Karla Rodríguez, Administrative Officer; Claudia Marroquín, Liaison Officer; and Oscar Reyes, Communications Officer. The Regional Committee was composed of members from the scientific community of the region with diverse backgrounds. Juan Jaén, (Chair, Panama), Lilliam Álvarez (Cuba), Ana Rada Tarifa (Bolivia), German Poveda (Colombia), Paloma González (Liaison with El Salvador), Kit Fai Pun (Trinidad and Tobago), Hernán Thomas (Argentina), Elisa Reis (Brazil) and Ernesto Marinero (El Salvador). In addition, Erlinda Hándal Vega, Vice Minister for Science and Technology of El Salvador, has been invited to participate in these meetings.

During 2017, the Regional Office worked closely with Committee members as well as with partner institutions in the region and within the ICSU family, in countless meetings, workshops and other activities. Significant progress in the implementation of the science plans related to ICSU ROLAC's scientific priority areas: Urban Health, Disaster Risk Reduction, Biodiversity, Sustainable Energy and Mathematics Teaching has been made. Following the region needs, new priority areas such as Urban Health, Open Data, and the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) were adopted as an initiative of the Committee. Scientific Diaspora was also added.

The work of ROLAC office has been well considered and recognized by ICSU Headquarters and in the ICSU Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) meetings. Urban Health(UH) has become a landmark for ICSU ROLAC. There have been several meetings with the UH working group, and presentations at international Urban Health workshops. An integral UH model was developed using the Salvadoran experience. This scientific based model is a good start in the search of solutions of the severe UH problems in different countries of the region.

ICSU ROLAC was present in the intricated merging process of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) to become the International Science Council (ISC). Our regional office and several focal points were present at ICSU's 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Taipei, in which members of ICSU and ISSC overwhelmingly voted to endorse the historic merger. A new organization has arisen: The International Science Council (ISC) which will have a whole new range of capacities, resources, and networks. The International Science Council will be officially launched at a General Assembly in Paris, France in July 2018. The mission of the ISC will be to serve as the worldwide voice for science, providing leadership in initiating, fostering, and arranging global initiatives on issues of genuine open concern.

The Regional Committee acknowledges the leadership of the Regional Office, the generous support of the Salvadoran government, and the Vice Ministry of Science and Technology of El Salvador. Some of the Regional Committee members will finish their term soon and will have to be replaced in accordance with ICSU rules. Being myself one of those who will not be reelected, I would like to express my gratitude for the continuous dedication, support, and commitment of ICSU ROLAC staff and Regional Committee members. It has been a wonderful experience working with you all. I encourage you to continue working hard to strengthen science for the benefit of society in Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of the new organization, International Science Council (ISC), we are committed to becoming the vehicle for the global voice of science in the region.





Young Scientists ICSU/TWAS Meeting, San Salvador, El Salvador

# ICSU ROLAC

## Annual Work Report 2017





## VISION

The long-term ICSU vision is for a world where science is used for the benefit of all, excellence in science is valued and scientific knowledge is effectively linked to policymaking. In such a world, universal and equitable access to high quality scientific data and information is a reality and all countries have the scientific capacity to use these and to contribute to generating the new knowledge that is necessary to establish their own development pathways in a sustainable manner.

## MISSION

ICSU's mission is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. To do this, ICSU mobilizes the knowledge and resources of the international science community to:

- Identify and address major issues of importance to science and society.
- Facilitate interaction amongst scientists across all disciplines and from all countries.
- Promote the participation of all scientists—regardless of race, citizenship, language, political stance, or gender—in the international scientific endeavour.
- Provide independent, authoritative advice to stimulate constructive dialogue between the scientific community and governments, civil society, and the private sector.

## PRIORITY AREAS





## Urban Health

Urbanization presents opportunities and risks, as well as enormous challenges to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the inhabitants. The recognition of this imperative led the International Council for Science (ICSU) and its various Regional Offices, including that of Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) to promote the research on the subject and to emphasize the need to study urban dynamics. ICSU ROLAC follows the international scientific programme, approved by the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly which proposes a new conceptual framework for considering the multi-factorial nature of both the determinants, and the manifestations of health and wellbeing in urban populations.

### Meetings of the Urban Health Working Group

The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Council for Science (ICSU ROLAC) has organized several meetings on the Urban Health agenda. Urban Health is one of the recently added priority areas of the Regional Office. In 2016, the Regional Office organized the first Urban Health Workshop on October 11-12, which included the participation of experts in the field of Urban Health around the world, such as Dr. Franz Gatzweiler, executive director of the ICSU Urban Health international program; Dr. José Siri from the United Nations University and LAC-URBAN HEALTH. The workshop was attended by 340 participants, including distinguished representatives of the governments such as ministers, advisers, representatives of the education system, authorities of the National University and associations related to the environment and health. As a positive result, a working group of Urban Health was formed to continue the development of the Urban Health agenda in El Salvador and the region.

The first Urban Health working group meeting took place on March 20, 2017. Fifteen people attended, including the Vice Minister of Science and Technology of El Salvador, Dr. Erlinda Hándal; the Vice Minister of Health, Dr. Julio Robles Ticas, the Vice Minister of Environment, Dr. Ángel Ibarra; the Regional Director of ICSU ROLAC, Dr. Manuel Limonta, and several representatives of institutions such as the Ministry of Health and Welfare of El Salvador, Ministry of Public

Security and Justice, Ministry of Housing and Territorial Development, National University of El Salvador, COAMSS / OPAMSS, media members, and the Secretariat of ICSU ROLAC. The agenda included a brief introduction of each participant, followed by presentations from different institutions upon the work done in the Urban Health agenda. Then, it was possible to ask and discuss about the actions carried out in the different fields of each institution. Finally, it was agreed to assign a person from each institution to continue the follow-up of the discussion of this first meeting, and also to have a second meeting in the coming days.

The second meeting of the Urban Health working group was held on March 31, 2017. Attended by nineteen people, all participants of the previous meeting and new participants of INDES, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Transportation. In this second meeting, it was possible to continue the debate of the previous meeting and listen to the presentations of the new participating institutions. The results of this meeting were the creation of a matrix of problems, efforts and solutions related to the topic of Urban Health, and also the agreement to organize a regional workshop on Urban Health in San Salvador on a date to be confirmed. Likewise, during the year 2017, at least eight more meetings of the Urban Health working group were held. Primarily, at the meetings of the third quarter of 2017, the Second International Workshop on Urban Health in El Salvador, which was held in San Salvador on September 27 and 28, 2017, was conceived, planned, and organized.





## El Salvador Launches Urban Health Model

Dr. Manuel Limonta and the members of the ICSU ROLAC Secretariat attended the launch of the Urban Health Model of El Salvador. The event took place on June 19, 2017 at the Sheraton Presidente Hotel in San Salvador, El Salvador; and it was presided by Dr. Violeta Menjivar, Minister of Health; Dr. Julio Robles Ticas, Vice Minister of Health; Lic. Hernan Luque, from the PAHO; and Dr. Manuel Limonta, Regional Director of ICSU ROLAC. The main objective of this Urban Health Model is to modify the environment where people live, work, and entertain themselves to influence the social determinants of health. The inter-sectorial participation was highlighted as a key element for the improvement of the environment, public transport, road safety, the promotion of physical activity, and the reduction of tobacco and alcohol consumption, which definitely have an impact on the reduction of chronic noncommunicable diseases. During his speech, Dr. Limonta affirmed that El Salvador's model stands out due to its intersectoral projection, a scientific method that distinguishes it among the group of countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. He also recognized the political will of El Salvador to face the challenges of Urban Health with the application of scientific methods.

## Second International Workshop on Urban Health

The Second International Urban Health Workshop was held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from September 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The activity was organized by ICSU ROLAC, the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the Ministry of Health of El Salvador and the Urban Health Working Group of ICSU ROLAC. The objective of the workshop was to learn about the state of urban health in different countries of the region, and to facilitate and encourage the interaction of experiences and cooperation ties between the participants of the event. In addition, this workshop also represented a great opportunity to share the Salvadoran Model of Urban Health with the different urban health initiatives of other countries in the region. The main table at the opening of the activity was composed by Dr. María Isabel Rodríguez, former Minister of Health and current adviser to the presidency of El Salvador; Dr. Julio Robles Ticas, Vice Minister of Health of El Salvador; Lic. Hernán Luque, representative of PAHO / WHO in El Salvador; and Dr. Manuel Limonta, regional director of ICSU ROLAC.

The opening conference was given by Vice Minister of Health, Dr. Julio Robles Ticas, who spoke about the improvements in the health system of El Salvador and also about the new model of Urban Health, which includes approximately 12 representatives of ministries and other organizations, working closely and coordinated with objectives on this model. Lic. Hernán Luque, representative of the Pan American Health Organization, spoke on the theme: "Urban Health in Latin America." Then, Dr. Jorge Aragón, Dr. Miguel Ayala and Dr. Patrick Dely, from Guatemala, Paraguay and Haiti, respectively, presented the current challenges and successful experiences of Urban Health in their countries.

In the afternoon session, the participants heard Dr. Juan Vela, former Minister of Higher Education of Cuba, and also Dr. Adalberto Val, who spoke on “Environment and Quality of Life”. At the end of the day, the audience was able to hear presentations from the Ministry of Health and also from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. Finally, the presenters and participants could have a discussion session that concluded with a summary of the day and the conclusions were presented by Dr. Manuel Limonta. On the second day of this workshop, attendees could listen to Dr. Mario Matamoros, from Honduras, and seven presentations from the following institutions: COAMSS / OPAMSS, UES, INDES, SECULTURA, INJUVE, MINED, and MOP, all of them governmental institutions of El Salvador. Soon after, all attendees and presenters were divided into three working groups that discussed the following questions:

What is the status of the integration of Urban Health work in the countries of the region?

What are the difficulties that prevent a better collaboration in Urban Health?

How could collaboration in Urban Health in the region be improved?

What could be the future actions, in the short, medium and long term, that will be developed in the Urban Health agenda?

After the group discussion, a representative of each work team presented a summary of the discussion held within the group. The final conclusions were given by Dr. Julio Robles Ticas and Dr. Manuel Limonta, who thanked the special guests, presenters, assistants, and organizations for participating in this two-day workshop.



Urban Health Meeting. San Salvador, El Salvador

## Workshop of the Knowledge-Action Network of the Future Earth Program

From December 2 to 4, 2017, the Institute of Urban Environment, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and ICSU, through its Urban Health and Well-being Program, organized the “Knowledge-Action Network Workshop on Future Earth” in the city of Xiamen, China. Around 30 health experts, representatives of cities and key actors of the urban health agenda committed to knowledge and actions to make cities healthier and more sustainable, were invited to exchange challenges and opportunities to improve health outcomes in urban environments. Dr. Manuel Limonta, Regional Director of ICSU ROLAC (El Salvador, C.A) was invited to this meeting and was asked to present the Salvadoran Model of Urban Health. In this meeting, presentations were made from representatives of different countries, and at the end of these two days of work there was a press conference with Chinese television channels, and in the development of it, it was commented by Dr. Franz Gatzweiler that the Salvadoran Model of Urban Health was a coherent model to take into account in the conception of country models. At the end of the conference, the Salvadoran model proved to be a model that can offer important results for a country like El Salvador and for other countries as well.

## Mathematics Education

ICSU ROLAC has a unique priority area among the ICSU family: Mathematics Education. This important priority is widely recognized as essential to scientific capacity building in the region. We strongly believe that any scientific development requires mathematical basis and that the involvement of all citizens in the progress of their countries, requires knowledge and ways of thinking that mathematics provide. In that sense, ICSU ROLAC has carried out several activities promoting interaction among countries of the region, setting standards for mathematics teaching, building capacity on problemsolving, and disseminating good practices among educational authorities in the region.

## Gender Gap in Science: a New ICSU Project Occupies a Central Theme

From November 20 to 24, 2017, two important events took place at the University of Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia: “Workshop on Professional Skills for Young People in Science and Engineering” and a regional meeting entitled “A Global Approach to the Gap between Gender in Mathematical and Natural Sciences: How to measure it?”. The first activity brought together



around 60 participants and aimed to provide tools to those who are beginning a career in science or engineering for a good professional development with a gender perspective. While the second activity sought to assess the gender situation in science worldwide and proposed lists of good practices that contribute to greater gender equality. Dr. Liliam Álvarez, who coordinates the subject of mathematics in the Regional Committee of ICSU ROLAC, Ambassador for Cuba of the Committee of Women Mathematics of the IMU; and Lic. Karla Rodríguez, Administrative Officer, participated representing the ICSU ROLAC Secretariat.

## Disaster Risk Reduction

It is known that Latin America and the Caribbean is a place prone to disasters, whether natural or man-made. ICSU ROLAC recognizes such reality and that is the reason Disaster Risk Reduction is one of its priority areas. The Secretariat seeks to contribute to better and more effective understand disaster risk and disaster risk management in the Latin American and Caribbean region, promoting research in an integrated interdisciplinary framework.

### Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas

ICSU ROLAC participated in the Fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas through the chairwoman of the Steering Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction, Dr. Barbara Carby. The main focus of the Fifth Regional Platform for DRR in the Americas was to discuss how governments, ministers, leaders of civil society, technical and scientific institutions, the private sector, and the media could promote the implementation and measurement of the expected results of the Sendai Framework in the Americas. More than 1,000 delegates were received, including policymakers, professionals, experts and disaster risk managers.

### Meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Members of ICSU ROLAC participated in the meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The regional director of ICSU ROLAC, Dr. Manuel Limonta, and Dr. Decio Gazzoni, chair of the Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction of ICSU ROLAC, were invited by Dr. Erlinda Hándal, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of El Salvador. In this activity, it was possible to participate in an important space for regional political dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean with the European Community. In this meeting, Dr. Decio Gazzoni, who is the chairman of the Sustainable Energy Steering Committee of ICSU ROLAC,

was the expert in charge of presenting the theme for Latin America and the Caribbean. Also, ICSU ROLAC organized for this event the presence Prof. Gerard Salem, expert on the subject of urban health who presented the topic at the meeting. These two presentations gave scientific support to Latin America in this conclave.

## Disaster Risk Reduction Meeting

UNESCO, FLACSO, ICSU ROLAC and representatives of several countries of the LAC region met in Costa Rica from November 14 to 15, 2017 at FLACSO facilities. Some of the participants from FLACSO were Dr. Allan Lavell, and Dr. Alonso Brenes. Then, Dr. Zelmira May represented UNESCO, and Dr. Manuel Limonta, ICSU ROLAC. The objective of the meeting was to analyze and agree on actions in relation to risks disasters reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean. One of the highlights of this meeting was the discussion about the increase, in frequency and intensity, of events such as hurricanes and earthquakes in the region, as well as the need to have an analysis on the subject in order to carry out joint efforts and actions to face these adverse events. One aspect discussed was the forensic study of disasters (FORIN) and our organization was projected, along with these countries, in the line of bringing this issue to discussion in different nations and take advantage of these discussions to improve our ability to address these events. In addition, the possibility of starting to launch the FORIN book in the region, sponsored by ICSU ROLAC with the participation of FORIN's book authors and subject experts, was discussed. This FORIN book, written by well-known authors from our region and other places, was translated into Spanish and in El Salvador a reprint was made in 2016. With these books and with the participation of the authors, it has been scheduled to be launched in different places, starting in San Salvador, El Salvador.

## Open Data

The digital revolution has created an unparalleled explosion in the capacity to obtain, store, use, and immediately transmit complex data volumes, having of course a deep impact in science. Having such scenario before us, it prompts opportunities and challenges we have to face, and ICSU ROLAC's response to that scenario is to push the Open Data agenda in the region as one of its priority areas.

## Open Data Meeting

Continuing with the efforts of the Regional Office to establish the LAC Open Data (OD) platform, a meeting was organized on January 12 and 13, 2017, in which it was possible to gather high-level experts in data, data policies, and data management. The meeting was organized by ICSU ROLAC and co-organized with ICSU CODATA and had two main objectives: to prepare a roadmap for the LAC initiative and prepare a wider stakeholder meeting later in the year. The following participants attended the meeting: Simon Hodson (CODATA); Alberto Cabezas (Red Clara and LA Referencia); Patricia Muñoz (CONICYT); Paola Azrilevich (MINCYT); Jorge Tezón (CONICET); Lorena Carlino (CONICET); Guillermina Actis (CONICET); Wouter Schallier (CE / ECLAC); Omar López (SENACYT); Manuel Limonta (ICSU ROLAC); Juan Jaén (ICSU ROLAC); and Oscar Reyes (ICSU ROLAC). It was also possible to have the remote participation of Carrie Seltzer from NSF and Holm Tiessen from IAI.

The first day of the meeting went smoothly and the proposed agenda for the activity was accepted. Next, the panel of experts focused its attention and efforts to present the previous and current initiatives in the region in the area of Open Data. Attendees could hear about the ICSU-CODATA African experience; Argentina: Where Open Access is Law; OD Current State by LA Referencia; Research Data: Implementation of Policies and Strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean by UN / ECLAC; Research Data Management by CONICET; and others. Once the presentations were concluded, the panel of experts was able to discuss and exchange their experiences and identify other regional initiatives. It was also possible to talk about common parameters for the initiative and the road map. Finally, the first day ended with a brief discussion on principles, stakeholders, practices and future actions. On day two, January 13, attendees discussed more in depth the key parameters for the LAC initiative, and also about the costs and funding sources for such an effort. Then, it was possible to start organizing practical issues for a future stakeholder meeting, such as possible participants, location, date, etc. It was also possible to address more sensitive issues such as standard best practices, preparatory materials and assign responsibilities to the people present at the meeting (including those who participated remotely). Finally, the group reviewed the agreements and briefly summarized what had been discussed in this productive two-day meeting.



Open Data Meeting. Panama City, Panama.

## INGSA - International Network for Government Science Advice

This priority has just been added to our region. The purpose of this priority is to gather emerging and established scientists, policy makers and key actors living or working in Latin America and the Caribbean to enhance their capacity to provide scientific advice for policy-making at all levels of government.

### First Latin American Workshop on Scientific Advice

Scientists, policymakers, and key stakeholders in Latin America met in Buenos Aires to discuss ways to provide scientific advice and design practices to work at the interface between science and policy. The International Network of Government Science Advice, together with ICSU ROLAC collaboration, held the first Capacity Building Workshop in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on June 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The workshop gathered around 60 emerging and established scientists, policymakers and key stakeholders living or working in Latin America to improve the capacity to provide scientific advice for policy formulation at all levels of government. The workshop had the presence of Sir Peter Gluckman, INGSA Executive Director, and Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of New Zealand; Prof. Carlos Abeledo, from CONICET; Magda Gual, from AAAS; and Dr. Manuel Limonta, ICSU ROLAC regional director.



INGSA Meeting. Buenos Aires, Argentina.





## OTHER EVENTS

### TWAS-TYAN Young Scientists Conference

The TWAS Young Affiliate Network held its first TWAS TYAN conference from August 22 to 24, 2017. The conference brought together emerging scientists from more than 30 countries, and took place at the Rio Othon Palace Hotel, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. More than 80 young scientists from five regional TWAS offices attended the meeting. The main objective of this event was to create links between early career scientists and promote international collaboration. Dr. Manuel Limonta, regional director of ICSU ROLAC participated in this meeting, and at the inauguration, and he was acknowledged as one of the main promoters of this activity, along with Dr. Luiz Davidovich, president of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. The meeting was chaired by Yin Li, TYAN chair. Besides the participation of Dr. Manuel Limonta, MA. Oscar Reyes, from ICSU ROLAC, also participated in this meeting and was invited to give a talk entitled "Promoting Scientific and Technological Development in LAC". In particular, contact networks could be established to allow access to joint collaboration projects.

### Workshop on Writing Journal Articles and Giving Oral Presentations

The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Council for Science (ICSU ROLAC) and N-CONACYT from El Salvador organized a five-day workshop entitled: "Writing Articles in English for Indexed Journals and Giving Presentations: Skills for Success" which aimed to provide researchers in El Salvador with the knowledge and skills necessary to facilitate the communication of their research internationally.

The workshop was directed by Dr. Barbara Gastel, a specialist in writing and editing. She is a professor of integrated biosciences, humanities, medicine and biotechnology at the University of Texas A&M. The activity was widely accepted and included the participation of around 40 people, including researchers, university professors, representatives of government institutions and representatives of public and private universities.

This five-day workshop had a combination of lectures, discussions and exercises. In this sense,

the participants could listen to the updated theory about the writing of scientific articles and also apply that theory into practice when carrying out discussions, individual exercises, pairwork and group discussions. Participants were able to cover topics such as: approaching a writing project; authenticity and precision; ethics; the structure of a scientific document; publication of a scientific document; references; writing concisely; preparation of oral presentations; and much more.

### Establishment and Development of Projects and Economic Aspects

From June 26 to 30, 2017, Dr. Rafael Núñez, professor of the Institute of Higher Education of Cuba; and 10 Salvadoran researchers met at the workshop entitled “Establishment and Development of Projects and Economic Aspects”. The activity was carried out in the facilities of ICSU ROLAC and was organized by ICSU ROLAC and the National Center for Scientific Research of El Salvador (CICES). The main objective of the workshop was to train CICES researchers in the tasks related to the preparation and analysis of investment projects. The workshop was characterized by interactive and constant participation, and practical exercises at the end of each topic.

### Workshop on Polymeric Materials and Applications

The Regional Office of the International Council of Science for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Vice Ministry of Science and Technology organized the workshop entitled “Polymeric Materials and Applications”, which was held at ICSU ROLAC facilities, from 24 to 28 July, 2017. This activity was carried out in a joint effort with the Agroindustrial Technology Park. The five-day course was given by Dr. Dionisio Zaldívar Silva and Dr. Rubén Álvarez Brito, both experts at the highest level of the University of Havana, Cuba. About 15 chemical researchers from the Sectorial System of Salvadoran Agroindustrial Innovation were able to participate in the activity.



## ICSU FAMILY

### General Assembly of ICSU and Merger between ICSU and ISSC

230 representatives of ICSU's global membership of scientific academies and unions representing 55 countries gathered in Taipei for the tri-annual 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. Before the official opening of the General Assembly, Unions and National Members met for half a day to discuss key concerns and recommendations related to the merger. It covered issues ranging from strategy and statutory issues to discussion on the possible merger with the International Social Science Council (ISSC). From the Unions, these included requests for clarification on dues in a future, merged organization, strengthened participation of Unions in flagship programmes, among other things. The International Federation of Societies for Microscopy became a full Scientific Union Member, bringing the total number of Union members to 31.

At the same assembly, the members of ICSU and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) took a final decision to merge the two organizations to become the International Science Council (ISC). The Founding General Assembly will take place in France, in the second half of 2018 and will include an International Science Summit.

*“Over the two days of intense discussions, members wrangled over and debated a number of contentious issues, notably on membership categories and voting procedures. At the end of the second day, members voted overwhelmingly (ICSU 97.6%, ISSC 90%) to merge and form the International Science Council in 2018.”*

Source: ICSU website



## Communications Officers Meeting

On June 20 and 21, 2017, the communications officers of all the ICSU offices were summoned to a workshop meeting, held at the ICSU headquarters in Paris, France. The meeting had several objectives, among which was the discussion of a new communications strategy with global, integrating, and coherent characteristics in all the ICSU sites.

Likewise, the meeting served as a practical workshop in which the new ICSU website was presented, and its operation. The meeting was attended by Heide Hackmann, executive director of ICSU; Johannes Mengel, Denisse Young and Victoria Yates; Bongani Mahlalela (ICSU ROA); Sharizad Dahlan (ICSU ROAP); and Oscar Reyes (ICSU ROLAC).

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, the meeting of the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) was held in Paris, France, to which the chairs of the regional committees of the three ICSU offices were invited: Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This meeting took place within the framework of the preparations that ICSU and ISSC are carrying out for the possible merger between both entities. In the meeting, it was possible to hear the perspectives of the chairs and the regions. Dr. Juan Jaén was the representative of ICSU ROLAC in this meeting, as president of the regional committee of ICSU ROLAC, a position he has held since the second meeting of the RCLAC in 2016.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review

Dr. Juan Jaén, president of the Regional Committee of ICSU ROLAC participated in the second meeting of the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR), activity that took place on October 9 and 10, 2017 in Paris, France. At this meeting, the merger process between ICSU and the ISSC could be followed up, and final preparations for the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of ICSU which was carried out in Taipei. In addition to discussing issues related to the merger, Dr. Juan Jaén was able to make a report of the activities of the ICSU ROLAC office in which he presented aspects such as: main institutional changes (location, personnel, financing, etc.); discuss scientific plans, including priority themes and objectives; main impacts achieved; workshops, and publications; collaboration with the ICSU membership, programs and other interdisciplinary bodies; collaboration with regional and global partners, networks; among others.



## OUTREACH

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Guided Visit to the Agroindustrial Technology Park,

On February 2017, Claudia Marroquin, Karla Rodríguez, and Oscar Reyes, all members of the ICSU ROLAC Secretariat, accepted the kind invitation of Dr. Erlinda Hándal, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of El Salvador, to have a guided visit at the Agro-Industrial Technology Park (PTA, by its Spanish acronym), with the objective of learning by first-hand about the progress that El Salvador has made with respect to PTA. The USAID Project Director of Higher Education for Economic Growth, Dr. Reina Durán de Alvarado and the USAID Project Manager of Higher Education for Economic Growth MSc. Sandra Lorena Duarte also participated in the meeting. The meeting was organized by the authorities of PTA, including Ing. Juan Carlos Peña, Manager of Technology Parks; Licda. Rebeca María Batista, Coordinator of the PTA; Dr. Carlos Miranda, Chemical Investigator of the PTA; and MSc. Elías Miranda, Head of Corporate Communications and Management Relations of Technology Parks.

First, PTA authorities presented relevant data on the origin, operation and projects of the institution, especially in the development of prototypes of products for the industry. Ing. Juan Carlos Peña stressed that the development of different products created by this institution is the clear example of a closed research cycle, although the end of the cycle is not done by the state, but by the industry, which finally seeks advice from the PTA. In summary, the PTA is assigned the task of solving different problems, performing laboratory tests and following all the necessary procedures for the creation of products. In addition, it was possible to try different prototypes of products developed by the PTA, such as: cookies, chips, snacks, and a drink called Biofortik, whose formulation and production is completely in charge of the PTA. Then, after the meeting and presentation of the PTA authorities, it was possible to participate in a guided tour of the facilities where the Biofortik drink is produced.

During the tour, the different stages of the production process could be observed and, at

the same time, the technicians of each area could talk about the different processes that are carried out to complete the production cycle. Approximately, the following processes can be listed: reception of the raw material and its cleaning process, when the raw material is received, verifying that the quality standards are met and washing it with water and sodium hypochlorite at 1%; drying and roasting, once the raw material is clean, it is taken to the kilns, where the moisture is removed and roasted for the next process; grinding, in this stage, the dry grain is milled; weighting and packing, the product is weighed (5lb/2268g). Finally, the product is ready to be used.

## Science, Technology and Innovation in the Caribbean - Strengthening Cooperation

From May 2 to 4, 2017, the conference “Science, Technology and Innovation in the Caribbean - Strengthening Cooperation” was held in Trinidad and Tobago, an activity organized by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), a grouping of twenty countries: fifteen Member States and five Associate Members. Presenters included the honorable Dr. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, responsible for science and technology in CARICOM, Prof. Harold Ramkissoon, who has a great track record of science and technology in the countries of the Caribbean community. Also, Prof. Jeremy McNeil, co-chairman of IANAS, Prof. Manuel Limonta, and other participants. Dr. Manuel Limonta was invited to this important meeting as a developer of science and technology in the Caribbean for the work done in Cuba and also taking into account his responsibility at the head of ICSU ROLAC.

In this meeting, Dr. Limonta talked about the articulation of ICSU ROLAC in this community of the Caribbean from the different programs and the willingness to exchange and cooperate multilaterally with this development effort in the Caribbean, and also participated in all deliberations and discussions that took place in this meeting.

## Workshop on Facilitating Understanding, Scientific Collaboration and



Technology and Innovation Meeting, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

## Project Management in the Region

On May 30, 2017, Dr. Manuel Limonta held a four-hour seminar on project management with a selected group of researchers from El Salvador. The seminar took place at ICSU ROLAC facilities in San Salvador, El Salvador. Different participants of the Ministry of Education of El Salvador were able to attend this activity. These participants are listed as follows: Dr. Erlinda Hándal Vega, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of El Salvador; Dr. Santa Romero Jové, Lic. Ana Karina Cuchilla de Merlos, Licda. Carmen Elena Arias Rivas, Ing. David Alfredo Servellón Carpio and Lic. Agustín Umberto Albeño Martínez.

## Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research Meeting (IAI)

ICSU ROLAC was invited to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) 43rd meeting of the Executive Council (EC) - 25th Conference of the Parties (CoP) in Bogotá, Colombia. The meeting was held from June 12 to 15, 2017. The purpose of it was to promote dialogue among IAI member countries and begin co-designing research priorities for the next phase of the scientific program IAI-CRN4. The ROLAC Secretariat was represented by its regional director, Dr. Manuel Limonta. The IAI and ICSU ROLAC have an association agreement that provides a framework within specific areas that can be identified, and collaborative activities can be carried out in support of Future Earth on the issues of sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction.

## 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the History of Science and Technology

“Science, Technology and Medicine between the Global and the Local” was the theme of the 25<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the History of Science and Technology (ICHST), an activity that took place on the Praia Vermelha campus of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) from July 23 to 29, 2017. The event counted with the presence and participation of researchers from several countries. It had many activities such as conferences, thematic symposiums, plenary sessions and various cultural activities. Dr. Manuel Limonta, director of ICSU ROLAC, participated in this event representing ICSU headquarters. In this activity, he presented about the annual report of ICSU ROLAC and commented on the main activities of the headquarters, highlighting first of all the merger between ICSU and the ISSC that would take place in October 2017.



## Meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology of the OAS in Colombia

Dr. Manuel Limonta, ICSU ROLAC regional director, along with ministers and high authorities in Science and Technology of the Americas met for the activity entitled “Science, Technology and Innovation as Pillars of Transformation in the Americas” on November 2 and 3 in Medellín, Colombia, in which around fifty participants among ministers, deputy ministers, secretaries of state, presidents, directors and advisors of national organizations in the areas of science and technology, representing 35 member countries of the Organization of American States (OAS). This meeting featured presentations from different participants with topics of interest for the development of Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Expansion and Strengthening of Scientific Networks

Experts from countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region presented results of their research on several global change issues, such as climate, hydrology, oceans, atmosphere, biodiversity, and ecosystems, at the meeting of the Inter-American Institution for Global Change (IAI) of the Scientific Network Collaboration Program (CRN 3), which was held from November 29 to December 1, 2017, in Cancun, Mexico. This meeting was organized by the IAI. Lic. Claudia Marroquin, from the ROLAC Secretariat, was present in this important meeting and participated in the discussions and deliberations held in this three-day activity.

## TWAS Meeting

Dr. Manuel Limonta, Regional Director of ICSU ROLAC (El Salvador, C.A) attended the annual meeting of TWAS on December 13, as vice president of this World Academy of Sciences. The meeting was held in Trieste, Italy, at the ICTP, and it was chaired by Bai Chunli, TWAS president; Moctar Touré, vice president; Mohammed Hassan, vice president; Rabia Hussain, vice president; Khatijah M. Yusoff, vice president; and Manuel Limonta, vice president, as well as other members of the executive officers of this organization could attend the meeting and participate. In this meeting, Dr. Manuel Limonta presented about the coordinated work that is carried out between TWAS ROLAC and ICSU ROLAC in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, offering details of the meeting of young scientists of the TYAN, in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and the Urban Health workshop held in San Salvador (El Salvador), both activities organized by these two entities.



## GOVERNANCE

### ICSU ROLAC Regional Committee

ICSU ROLAC has a regional committee composed of recognized scientists of the region, meeting requirements such as gender, area of knowledge, nationality, among others, in order to be fair and inclusive. The regional committee is responsible for providing guidelines for the work of the office in the region, and at the same time is responsible for ensuring that these guidelines are carried out. Through the experience and connection networks of its members, the office extends its influence in the scientific and technological work of the region. For the first semester, the regional committee of ICSU ROLAC for the year 2017 constituted by the following scientists: Dr. Juan Jaén (chair of the Regional Committee); Dr. Liliam Álvarez; Dr. Ana Rada; Dr. Elisa Reis; Dr. Hernán Thomas; Dr. Germán Poveda; Dr. Kit Fai Pun; and Dr. Paloma González (liaison). Then in the second semester Dr. Ernesto Marinero was included as a response to the interest of the office for El Salvador to have a greater presence, and the name proposed by the Vice Ministry of Science and Technology, a proposal that was well received and approved.

The members of the regional committee meet twice a year, in different countries of the region. Although it should be mentioned that since the office was established in El Salvador, it was agreed to hold one of the two meetings in El Salvador, with the purpose of favoring El Salvador with these meetings and the presence of these specialists. In these meetings, issues related to the work of the office in the different priority areas, outreach activities, among others are discussed. Likewise, there are reports of administrative nature, and communications from the office. At the end of each of these meetings, two documents are written: the minutes of the meeting, and the list of agreements taken. Following is a page with all the members of the Regional Committee and a brief summary of the meetings held in 2017.

## ICSU ROLAC Regional Committee Members



Juan Jaén - University of Panama (Panama)



Liliam Álvarez - Cuban Academy of Sciences (Cuba)



German Poveda - National University of Colombia (Colombia)



Ana Rada Tarifa - Faculty of Medicine, Mayor de San Andres University (Bolivia)



Hernán Thomas - National University of Quilmes (Argentina)



Elisa Reis - Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)



Kit Fai Pun - The University of the West Indies (Hong Kong)



Paloma González (Liaison) - Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain)



Ernesto Marín - Purdue University (El Salvador)



## 21<sup>st</sup> Regional Committee Meeting

ICSU and ICSU ROLAC representatives as well as Cuban and Salvadoran authorities met in the 21<sup>st</sup> Regional Committee Meeting. The meeting was held on April 17-18, 2017 at the Hotel Nacional in Havana, Cuba. Besides having the attendance of five members of the Regional Committee (Dr. Juan Jaén, Dr. Liliam Álvarez, M.Sc. Ana Rada, Dr. Elisa Reis, Dr. German Poveda), ICSU ROLAC Secretariat members: Dr. Manuel Limonta, Lic. Claudia Marroquin, Licda. Karla Rodríguez and Lic. Oscar Reyes; the meeting was attended by Dr. Heide Hackmann, ICSU Executive Director, Geoffrey Boulton, CODATA Director, Dr. Fidel Castro Díaz-Ballart, Science Advisor for the Presidency; Dr. Ismael Clark, President of the Cuban Academy of Sciences; Dr. Juan Vela Valdés, Former Minister of Higher Education; Dr. Rolando Forneiro, Vice minister of Education; and Lic. Sergio Pastrana, former ICSU vice president.

Day one of the meeting went on smoothly. At the very beginning of the meeting, the Chair of the Committee, Juan Jaén and Manuel Limonta, Regional Director welcomed all the participants of the meeting. Then, Cuban authorities welcomed participants as well and briefly presented about Science and Technology development in Cuba. Soon after, the attendees listened to Dr. Erlinda Hándal, Vice Minister of Science and Technology from El Salvador, present about the development of science and technology in El Salvador. Thereupon, Dr. Heide Hackmann presented about the ICSU-ISSC merger, followed by a question and answer session. Finally, the Regional Committee was able to hear about the evolution of ROLAC in El Salvador and about the work done in the priority areas and outreach activities in the November 2016- April 2017 period.





The second and last day of the meeting was very productive. Once the meeting started, Manuel Limonta and Heide Hackmann presented about the International Network of Government Science Advice (INGSA) and then discussed with the rest of the attendees about ICSU ROLAC's participation in the activity. Then, the RC members were able to discuss about fundraising, ways of identifying champions in the region, review overlooking responsibilities among the members, and ICSU ROLAC 2017 business plan. Afterwards, Geoffrey Boulton presented about "Realizing the Potential of Open Data and Open Science". Then, Karla Rodríguez presented the administrative report for the November 2016- April 2017 period, followed by the communications report for the same period, presented by Oscar Reyes. Later, the members of the Regional Committee were able to go over the list of agreements, give recommendations arisen from the general discussion, agree on place and date of the RCLAC22. Finally, the chair, Juan Jaén and Manuel Limonta wrapped up the meeting by thanking all attendees.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Regional Committee Meeting

ICSU ROLAC held its 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Regional Committee. The meeting was held from September 26 to 27, 2017 at the ICSU ROLAC facilities in San Salvador, El Salvador. The meeting was attended by the following members: Dr. Juan Jaén, Dr. Liliam Álvarez, M.Sc. Ana Rada, Dr. Paloma González; Dr. German Poveda, Dr. Kit Fai Pun, and Dr. Ernesto Marinero. The following members of the ICSU ROLAC Secretariat also participated in the meeting: Dr. Manuel Limonta, Licda. Claudia Marroquín, Lic. Karla Rodríguez, and Lic. Oscar Reyes. In addition to the attendees mentioned above, recognized experts were invited to the meeting: Dr. Erlinda Hándal, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of El Salvador; Dr. María Isabel Rodríguez, former minister of health and current adviser to the presidency of El Salvador; Dr. Juan Vela, member of the Urban Health Scientific Committee of ICSU; Dr. Luis Scheker, new president of the National Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic; and Dr. Hazel G.S. Marinero, of the Global Engineering Programs at Purdue University.



22<sup>nd</sup> Regional committee Meeting, San Salvador, El Salvador.

It was also possible to have online communication with Dr. Simon Hudson, from CODATA; Dr. Carlos Abeledo, INGSA; and Dr. Salvador Moncada, Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute. On the morning of the first day of the meeting, the participants of the Regional Committee and the guests were welcomed, and then the agenda of the meeting was approved without major changes. Then, Dr. Ernesto Marinero, from Purdue University, was received as a new member of the Regional Committee, this in response to the request of the Vice Ministry of Science and Technology of El Salvador to include the participation of a well-known scientist from El Salvador, to guarantee even more benefits for the host country. Shortly after this, Dr. Manuel Limonta presented to the attendees about the evolution of ICSU ROLAC in El Salvador, the work done in the priority areas and the outreach activities from the period of April 2017 to September 2017. During the presentation Dr. Limonta, the members of the regional committee could direct questions to the presenter and further analyze the details when necessary. Then, the minutes and the list of agreements of the previous meeting (RCLAC21) were approved, and a draft of the business plan for 2018 was presented and discussed. Later in the afternoon, members of the Regional Committee could discuss issues such as fundraising and the responsibilities distributed among the members of the Regional Committee. Finally, it was possible to have an online meeting with Lara Cowen in which the past, present and future initiatives of INGSA were discussed.

The second day of the meeting began with an online meeting with CODATA's Simon Hudson, who presented about Open Data's previous, present and future steps in the LAC region. Then, the Committee discussed about the ICSU General Assembly. After this point, the administrative officer and the communications officer presented their reports to the Committee. Later, the Committee heard Dr. Salvador Moncada talked about the scientific diaspora in the region, a topic recently adopted as a priority area in the ROLAC office. Later, the members of the Regional Committee were able to review the list of agreements, give recommendations arising from the general discussion, and agree on the place and date of the RCLAC23. Finally, the chair, Dr. Juan Jaén, and Dr. Manuel Limonta concluded the meeting by thanking all the attendees.

## About ICSU ROLAC

ICSU is a non-governmental organization with a global membership of national scientific bodies (122 Members, representing 142 countries) and International Scientific Unions (30 Members).

Our mission is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. To do this, ICSU mobilizes the knowledge and resources of the international science community.

The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean was founded in 2007 in Brazil, then it moved to Mexico where it remained for five years until mid-2016 when it moved to San Salvador, El Salvador for a period of five years. Under the leadership of the Regional Director, the secretariat co-ordinates and implements the scientific activities of the Regional Committee.

It also acts as liaison to ICSU headquarters in Paris.

From ICSU's National Members, 17 are from Latin America and the Caribbean. The eight regional priorities are:

- Sustainable Energy
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Mathematics Education
- Biodiversity
- Urban Health
- Open Data
- INGSA
- Scientific Diaspora

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Council for Science.

87 Av. Norte, #147 Colonia Escalón, San Salvador, El Salvador.

[www.icsu.org/regions/rolac](http://www.icsu.org/regions/rolac)

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### Secretariat Staff

#### Director

Manuel Limonta, Prof. Ph.D.

#### Administrative Officer

Lic. Karla Rodríguez

#### Liaison Officer

Lic. Claudia Marroquín

#### Communications Officer

M.A. Oscar Reyes



**INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN

## Financial Summary

EXPENSES AUGUST/2016 TO DECEMBER/2018		
ICSU ROLAC		
CONCEPT	BUDGET	SPENDING
Office materials and supplies	7.370.74	3.908,91
Basic services	11.033.06	6.615,03
General Services and Housing	581.993.05	416.684,86
Plane tickets and travel allowances	293.457.65	163.891,19
Consulting, studies, and investigations	6.193.80	6.193,80
Financial expenses	3.023.30	664,16
Expenses on furniture and other fixed assets	46.690.04	13.712,93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>949.761.64</b>	<b>611.670.88</b>

The execution of the expenses for said period was 64% in relation to the budget assigned from 2016-2017. It is also relevant to mention that ICSU ROLAC's tenure in El Salvador started on August 2016, a period in which the office was establishing itself along with the director, who assumed the job without a work team until it was formed later on, still without a Science Officer, who had not been assigned for different administrative reasons not depending on the office. At the end of 2017, however, a Science Officer was found.





# COMMUNICATIONS

The communications area of ICSU ROLAC has three main tools for creating bridges that may be beneficial for the scientists in the region and for the society as a whole.

- In the webpage <https://www.icsu.org/regions/rolac>, you can find all the events organized by ICSU ROLAC. There you can learn more about our priority areas and outreach activities. Moreover, you can get free access to our publications.
- The ICSU ROLAC Newsletter started in 2012 and goes out every four months –April, August, and December-; it is published in English and Spanish. You may find it in our webpage and receive it in your mail if you subscribe to our mailing list.
- For a more direct communication with the scientific and non-scientific community, we are active in Facebook ICSU LAC, Twitter @ICSU\_LAC, Flickr ICSU ROLAC and LinkedIn ICSU ROLAC. In there, we post information in real time and share information such as pictures, interesting news, and calls.





## BENEFITS OF JOINING ICSU

- All Members receive copies of ICSU publications: the electronic newsletter ICSU Insight, Annual Reports, as well as any other ICSU publications including serials.
- Members have access to the restricted Member Zone of the ICSU website and to the ICSU databases.
- Members have access to the activities and services of different committees of ICSU, in particular, the Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science helps solving various problems for scientists wishing to attend scientific meetings and provides advice to organizers of international meetings.
- Members gain access to the global scientific community and to the enormous network of scientists comprising the membership of ICSU
- Members gain the prestige provided by the ICSU umbrella.
- Full National Members have voting rights at the ICSU General Assembly, the highest ICSU's governance body, and thus participate in establishing guidelines and directives for ICSU activities.
- ICSU's International Scientific Unions and National Scientific Members meet every three years in the ICSU General Assembly. Members get an excellent cross-discipline opportunity for the exchange of ideas and also get access to a wide spectrum of scientific expertise. This enables Members to address major international, interdisciplinary issues, which they could not undertake alone.



## INTERDISCIPLINARY BODIES

### Thematic Bodies

COSPAR Committee on Space Research  
 IRDR Integrated Research on Disaster Risk  
 SCAR Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research  
 SCOR Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research  
 SCOSTEP Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics  
 URBAN HEALTH

### Global Environmental Changes Programmes

Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability  
 WCRP World Climate Research Programme

### Monitoring/ Observation Bodies

GCOS Global Climate Observing System  
 GOOS Global Ocean Observing System  
 GTOS Global Terrestrial Observing System

### Data and Information Bodies

CODATA Committee on Data for Science and Technology  
 INASP International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications  
 IUCAF Scientific Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science  
 WDS World Data System

### Data and Information

ICSU World Data System (WDS)  
 Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)  
 International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)  
 Scientific Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science (IUCAF)

## SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATES

AAS African Academy of Sciences

AASSA Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia

CIE Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage

IASC International Arctic Science Committee

IAHR International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research

ICA International Commission for Acoustics

ICO International Commission for Optics

ICIAM International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

ICLAS International Council for Laboratory Animal Science

ICSTI International Council for Scientific and Technical Information

IFIP International Federation for Information Processing

IFLA International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

IFSM International Federation of Societies for Microscopy

FIG International Federation of Surveyors

IFS International Foundation for Science

IIASA International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

ISDE International Society for Digital Earth

IUVSTA International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications

IWA International Water Association

PSA Pacific Science Association

4S Society for Social Studies of Science

TWAS The World Academy of Sciences

UIS Union Internationale de Spéléologie

## SCIENTIFIC UNIONS

The 31 International Scientific Union Members provide the disciplinary backbone of ICSU. They play a central role in bringing together scientists from all parts of the world to consider the issues of particular interest to individual disciplines.

AU International Astronomical Union  
 IBRO International Brain Research Organization\*  
 ICA International Cartographic Association  
 IGU International Geographical Union  
 IMU International Mathematical Union  
 INQUA International Union for Quaternary Research  
 ISA International Sociological Association  
 ISPRS International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing  
 IUAES International Union of Anthropological and  
 Ethnological Sciences\*  
 IUBS International Union of Biological Sciences  
 IUCr International Union of Crystallography  
 IUFoST International Union of Food Science and Technology  
 IUFRO International Union of Forest Research Organizations  
 IUGG International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics  
 IUGS International Union of Geological Sciences  
 IUHPST International Union of History and Philosophy of Science  
 and Technology  
 IUIS International Union of Immunological Societies  
 IUMRS International Union of Materials Research Societies  
 IUMS International Union of Microbiological Societies  
 IUNS International Union of Nutritional Sciences  
 IUPAB International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics  
 IUPAC International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry  
 IUPAP International Union of Pure and Applied Physics  
 IUPESM International Union for Physical and Engineering  
 Sciences in Medicine  
 IUPHAR International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology  
 IUPS International Union of Physiological Sciences  
 IUPsyS International Union of Psychological Science  
 IUSS International Union of Soil Sciences  
 IUTAM International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics

IUTOX International Union of Toxicology  
 URSI Union Radio Scientifique Internationale

## ICSU National Members in LAC

ICSU has 123 National Members covering 141 countries, 17 of them in Latin America and the Caribbean. These Members provide input, from a national, multidisciplinary perspective, on priority areas for future ICSU activities. They also play an important role in facilitating links with national governments and science agencies

- Argentina, National Scientific and Technological Research Council (CONICET)
- Bolivia, Academia Nacional de Ciencias de Bolivia (ANCB)\*\*
- Brazil, Academia Brasileira de Ciências (ABC)
- Caribbean, Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS)\*
- Chile, Academia Chilena de Ciencias
- Colombia, Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales (ACCEFYN)
- Costa Rica, Academia Nacional de Ciencias (ANC)
- Cuba, Academia de Ciencias de Cuba
- Dominican Republic, Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic
- El Salvador, Viceministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología de El Salvador
- Guatemala, Academia de Ciencias Médicas Físicas y Naturales de Guatemala\*
- Jamaica, Scientific Research Council (SRC)\*\*
- Mexico, Academia Mexicana de Ciencias (AMC)
- Panama, Universidad de Panama
- Peru, Academia Nacional de Ciencias (ANC)
- Uruguay, Comisión Consejo Nacional de Innovación Ciencia y Tecnología (CONICYT)
- Venezuela, Fondo Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación\*\*

\*National Associate

\*\* National Observer

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