

INTER-ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS - (ICSU)

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ICSU is a non-governmental organization, founded in 1931 to bring together natural scientists in international scientific endeavour. Its national membership comprises 95 multidisciplinary bodies (scientific research councils or scientific academies) and 25 international single-discipline Scientific Unions, to provide a wide spectrum of scientific expertise enabling members to address major international, interdisciplinary issues which none could handle alone. ICSU also comprises 28 Associates, including ISPRS.

ISPRS joined the International Council of Scientific Unions in 1994, following the necessary procedures for gaining appropriate recommendations from sponsoring member organisations. It addresses topics such as global problems and sustainable development, and has a publication outlet, ICSU Press. It is the peak scientific body representing the majority of international scientific bodies of the natural sciences.

Possible ISPRS Contributions to ICSU

After attending the General Assembly in September 1996, Council realised that the role that ISPRS could play in ICSU was in the provision spatial information for such programs as IGBP (International Geosphere Biosphere Program), which is a major international research program under the aegis of ICSU. IGBP, together with the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) and the International Dimensions of Global Change Program (IHDP), provide the focused international scientific effort needed to address the uncertainties relating to natural and man-made global changes. The issue of global mapping and studies of global change are the focus of several working groups of ISPRS in Commissions IV and VII. Cooperation with members of ICSU in such programs as IGBP and IHDP are goals of these ISPRS WGs. Such cooperation with ICSU will lead to a greater application of the skills of ISPRS researchers in the important programs being undertaken by ICSU on global change.

At its Council meeting in Brazil in September 1997, ISPRS decided to seek full membership of ICSU. The application is now being considered by ICSU.