Report of SCAR Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting, St Petersburg, Russia
0900-1800 July 7, 2008

In attendance: C.Rapley, A.Meloni, C.Kennicutt, S. Marenssi, C.Summerhayes (from 1600: M. Candidi, T. de Bruin, H. Brolsma, A. Huiskes, A. Capra)

Opening formalities:
The President opened the meeting at 0900 on July 7, 2008, explaining that the task was to review the agenda for the delegates meeting.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks for the Delegates

It was agreed that the President should (inter alia):
(i) invite a senior member of the hosting organisation, the Russian Academy of Sciences, to provide a welcome address.
(ii) welcome all, including observers representing CEP, COMNAP, IASC, IACS, IAU, Romania, and Venezuela, representatives of the host organisation and the local organising committee, and present apologies from CCAMLR, SCOR, IUPAC, URSI, IUBS.
(iii) present apologies from Chief Officer of SC-ATS – Steve Chown, and from VP Zhanhai Zhang, and from Pakistan (maybe also Peru and India – both awaiting authorization)
(iv) call for one minute’s silence to honour Edith Fanta of Brazil, and those who died in the AWI helicopter crash.
(v) use the SCAR Secretariat PowerPoint presentation to review SCAR’s progress and plans.
(vi) explain the outline of the meeting, and ask Delegates to focus attention mainly on Working Papers, with minimal attention to Information Papers. That means limiting the time of speakers addressing IPs, and limiting discussion time on IPs.
(vii) suggest that for the parallel sessions the national delegates should attend the admin sessions to ensure that the major agenda items regarding SCAR’s organisation and finance get the appropriate level of attention, leaving the alternate delegates, the union members and the observers to focus on the science session.

2. Membership

Applicants will be given 3 minutes to make their presentation, then will be asked to leave while their case is discussed.

We have received expressions of interest from Venezuela and the Czech Republic.

3.2 Revised Election Procedure

The President will explain the need for a revision to the election procedure. There is a need to streamline the procedure bearing in mind the shortening of the meeting to its present 3 days, so as to allow less time for elections and more for business. In addition now that we are a company we need a process fitted for our new
organisation, not something typical of a club where proceedings can be more leisurely. We have taken legal advice on this matter.

The Executive Director will use a PowerPoint presentation to explain the proposed new election procedure (include a flow chart). The Executive Officer will distribute sample nomination and ballot forms. Examples will be available to demonstrate the old election scheme.

3.3 Finance Committee

Chuck Kennicutt would stand down from the Finance Committee, which would be chaired by Sergio Marenssi.

4. Reports, Recommendations and Reviews of SCAR Science Groups

SSG Chief Officers reported on progress.

SSG-PS will have IPICS as an Expert Group. They propose to start AAA as a new SRP in 2010, at which time ICESTAR will become an Expert Group.

In SSG-LS Kathy Conlan (Canada) is the new Chief Officer, Gary Steele (NZ) is the Deputy CO, and Deneb Karentz (USA) is Secretary. The key items of business were that:

(i) the Code of Conduct for Fieldwork was amended with the help of COMNAP, and is now ready to be an Information Paper for the ATCM/CEP in 2009.

(ii) the Seals and Birds groups merged into the Birds and Marine Mammals Expert Group. Donna Patterson (USA) is CO, and the Deputy CO is Marthan Bester (SA). The Group has 2 years to sort out what needs integrating between birds and seals, and there will be a big meeting on that topic either late this year or early next. They will review their draft ToRs, and make rules of procedure for data handling, then SSG-LS will review their progress in 2010 to see how they are doing. The group will be connected to CCAMLR’s top predators group. The group is proposing to underspend in 2008 and 2010, and to overspend ($14k) in 2009, in order to meet its programme of meetings.

(iii) there is a recommendation to change the CRP Action Group to an Expert Group because it is now a 9-country group doing a substantial multi-year research programme.

(iv) the Expert Group on human biology and medicine will follow up on data on possible pathogenic microbiota (from a Russian paper given to a past ATCM/CEP meeting). They will also look at seabirds as vectors for Lyme disease.

(v) a code of conduct is needed for subglacial aquatic structures; this should be devised by a small cross SSG action group.

(vi) planning is moving ahead for the 10th Biology symposium. Sapporo, Japan, 27-21 July 2009.
(vii) SCAR MarBIN is now connected to GBIF.

The SSG-GS re-elected Alessandro Capra (Italy) as Chief Officer, P OBrien (Aus) as deputy chief officer, and Mike Ambrery (NZ) as secretary.

The group noted the following key items:

(i) there is a joint proposal with SSG-PS for an Action Group on “GPS and Space Weather”. This will use GPS data to compute ionospheric and tropospheric parameters. It is a product of the 2006 cross-linkages workshop.

(ii) a POLENET (SERCE) planning group is proposed, and an additional document explaining the programme goals will be provided for the delegates. EXCOM agreed that the money for the POLENET (SERCE) programme planning group should come from the SSG budget, and recognised that this meant it would likely be much less than the $10,000 requested.

(iii) SCAR should be included in the IPCC process as an observer in WG 1. EXCOM noted that this carried a budgetary implication that was not yet clear.

(iv) the SSG feels that it does need detailed national reports in geoscience (of up to 10 pages).

(v) the SSG is proposing a new Action Group, with SSG-LS, on cold seeps and hydrothermal mounds.

(vi) the SIGE Action Group should be changed to an Expert Group (SIeGE) under Ross Powell, in relation with ANDRILL.

(vii) The 4-yearly SCAR ISAES Meeting (Sta Barbara, August 2007) was a resounding success and the volume has been published on line and in hard copy. There is a $24k carry forward that should be retained until the 2011 meeting of this group.

(viii) the overall budget for 2009 will be $26k ($8k as new budget and $26k carry forward), and $17k for 2010. Including budget for POLENET PPG and GPS – Space Weather interSG AG.

The Executive Director will provide all delegates with hard copies of SSG reports ahead of time.

The SSG Chief Officers will be asked to report recommendations in standard format following the model from the last delegates meeting.

Noting the rather low attendance at the SSG Plenary meetings, EXCOM agreed that there should be no parallel sessions overlapping the SSG plenaries at the next SCAR science business meeting, so as to encourage full attendance in SSG Plenaries.
EXCOM agreed that in seeking candidates for election to officers (for any SCAR function) it must be made plain:
(i) that there is a need to commit time and effort to the task,
(ii) that fast responsiveness is required in terms of e-mail communication,
(iii) that officers of groups are responsible for ensuring that messages from the EXCOM and Secretariat are distributed to group members, and for telling the Secretariat what is going on in the various groups;
(iv) that officers are responsible for ensuring that subgroups know what money is available to them, how to obtain that money, and that the money is spent in a timely fashion and appropriate manner.

4.4 JCADM

Taco de Bruin reviewed the JCADM report, requesting that with cessation of COMNAP funds at end 2008 JCADM should become a SCAR Standing Committee. EXCOM agreed with this plan.

JCADM had been reviewed with satisfactory results.

AMD retrievals are growing rapidly. From 500/month in March 2007 (start of IPY) up to 7000/month, indicating that AMD is now being used extensively.

JADM has just published its first 1st JCADM newsletter; it is working on new web site; and it has elected new officers (Kim Finney as CO and Helen Campbell and Shulamit Gordon as Deputy COs).

EXCOM noted that SCAR MarBIN funds will soon dry up, and that Belgium is seeking funds to continue it.

Taco introduced a PowerPoint diagram suggesting the JCADM should be moved within the SCAR structure to come under the Delegates Committee on Science. This would reflect reality in that this is where it reports anyway at Delegates meetings, and JCADM is intimately linked in to the SSGs and SRPs. The management committee would then be the Delegates Committee on Science and Data. EXCOM agreed this could be introduced as a discussion item at the Delegates meeting.

It was recognised that the draft data and information strategy needs more work, not least to tease apart the elements that belong in the strategy and the parts that belong in a phased implementation plan. It is also essential that the scientific community is engaged fully in finalising the strategy. To that end, the President will suggest that a task force comprising two Vice Presidents, the Chief Officers of the SSGs and the officers of JCADM be formed to revise the data strategy for consideration by the next meeting of EXCOM, and to consider the development of a phased implementation plan. EXCOM wondered about the budgetary implications of having a strategy review group – this could be combined with the cross SSG linkages group (same people would attend that meeting).

One of JCADM’s longer term objectives is to try to make access to data easier. This does not require the creation of new central data centres; currently JCADM is recommending widespread use of WDCs.
The removal of COMNAP funds is a serious blow, and it is hoped that SCAR can make up the difference ($3300/year).

4.5 Cross Linkages between SSGs and SRPs

EXCOM agreed that the two cross-linkages workshops (2005 and 2006) had been useful in stimulating cross-disciplinary research. Maurizio Candidi will present the case for the next Cross SSG meeting to be held either late in 2008 or early in 2009.

4.6 King George Island Science

A workshop to discuss how the coordination of science might be improved for the benefit of SCAR programmes was held on July 6. A set of recommendations was developed, and will be presented by the Executive Director as part of paper WP 12. EXCOM was pleased to hear that the recommendations seemed acceptable to those representatives of national operators on KGI who attended the workshop.

4.7 Progress Against Past SCAR Recommendations

EXCOM accepted that there had not been time to prepare paper WP 13.

**Action E-1: Past recommendations to be reviewed by the Secretariat working with SSG Chief Officers for a paper to be presented to EXCOM in 2009.**

5. Reports on and Reviews of SCAR Scientific Research Programmes

EXCOM was pleased with the excellent progress of the SRPs as reported in the external reviews.

EXCOM especially welcomed the lengthy review of Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) produced by AGCS working with EBA. This would be a landmark volume. The draft document has been widely circulated for comment. Its executive summary was presented to ATCM and CEP, and very well received. It is hoped to publish the final report early in 2009. Last year’s climate report has been accepted for publication in Reviews of Geophysics.

6.1 IPY

45% of proposals got major funding; 28% got partial funding; 26% no data; a few withdrew. Total in new funds US$400 million. There are problems in developing the legacy for data. Can a SCAR/IASC develop a mechanism for managing education and outreach legacy. Norway suggests holding a stakeholder workshop to examine possibilities for maintaining IPY legacy. Do we agree?

There is much discussion of how the IPY legacy will/could/should develop. SCAR and IASC are together jockeying for pole position. The BipAG group will report on its ideas for taking this matter forward (see item 6.2).

SCAR and IASC are now co-sponsors of the second IPY conference, which will take place in Oslo in June 2010. This may draw some participants away from the XXXI
SCAR meeting (in BA). The longer the gap we can create between the IPY conference and the SCAR meeting, the better.

Observing systems are an important legacy element. EG Oceans is holding a SOOS workshop in St Petersburg and has won $25,000 funding from NOAA. WCRP is now a co-sponsor of SOOS.

6.2 The IASC/SCAR Bipolar Action Group

Action E-2: Executive Director to advise BipAG at its meeting on July 9 about the implications of the possible rapid decline in funding for the IPY-JC and IPY-IPO, so that BipAG could consider the implications for SCAR in their report to the Delegates.

6.2.2 Links with IASC

EXCOM noted with approval:-

(i) SCAR and IASC developed Letter of Agreement with IACS.
(ii) SCAR and WCRP developed MoU with IASC.

These tie all 4 ICSU polar bodies (SCAR, IASC, IACS and WCRP) together and will be signed in the Plenary in St Petersburg.

Bipolar Action Group formed between SCAR and IASC to advise on further joint activities, and on options for the IPY Legacy (see above).

SCAR and IASC gave joint presentation on bipolar activities at ASSW in March and at IPY HAIS in May. Joint SCAR/IASC Open Science Conference is well underway.

SCAR also signed a joint MoU with IASC for co-sponsorship of APECS.

IASC and SCAR are co-sponsoring the ice sheet and sealevel workshop led by ISMASS, and the Early Career Scientists Workshop in St Petersburg, and co-sponsored the high latitude climate meeting in October 2007 in Seattle.

7.1 Report of Standing Committee on ATS

In Steve Chown’s absence the Executive Director would report on progress with the past two ATCM/CEP meetings.

SCAR’s reports were very well received, as was the SCAR lecture, and there were positive accolades all round. CEP Director will be represented in Moscow by Hugo deCleir (Belgium).

For 2009, SCAR agreed to provide papers on:

1. persistent organic pollutants;
2. biodiversity and environmental domains analysis;
3. alien risk assessment;
4. conservation planning assessment;
5. management plan considerations;
6. bioprospecting;
7. aliens in Antarctica;
8. climate change update;
9. SCAR annual report;
10. IPY report (on behalf of IPY-IPO)

We need to crystallise ideas on future SCAR Lectures.

**Reminder:**
- Robin Bell (US) Subglacial lakes (2004)
- Steve Chown (SA) biodiversity (2005)
- Chris Rapley (UK) climate change (2007)
- Louis Lanzerotti (US) space weather (2008)

**Potential topics:**
- Peter Barrett (NZ) the geological perspective on climate change from recent drilling
- Jane Francis (UK) paleobotanical evidence for climate change
- John Turner (UK) the SCAR climate change study
- John and Jane (UK) to present together on "Antarctica's Critical Role in Past, Present and Future Climate Change"
- John Storey (AUS) Astronomy and astrophysics
- New infrastructure
- Why Antarctic matters to the rest of the world

### 7.2 Report on interactions with CCAMLR

With Edith’s death there will be no CCAMLR attendee (Denzil Miller was invited to nominate someone, but declined as notice was too short)

EXCOM noted that at CEP meeting it was proposed that there will be a joint CCAMLR-CEP workshop in 2009 to address improving cooperation between them; issues of common interest might include, though may not be limited to:

- Climate change research
- Ecosystem and environmental monitoring
- Protected areas and spatial management measures
- Species requiring special protection
- Marine pollution
- Biodiversity and non-native species

The aim would not be to addresstheses issues in substantive detail, but rather to focus on the development of mechanisms for practical co-operation which may be specific to these issues. It is not clear to what extent SCAR might be involved

### 7.3 Report on Interactions with ATCM/CEP
EXCOM agreed that Clive’s report (WP 23) makes some excellent recommendations for how to improve this important science-policy interface. EXCOM accepted that there is a significant budgetary implication (doubling the SC-ATS budget).

EXCOM noted the report’s key recommendations:
- Prepare paper for ATCM/CEP on SCAR’s role and capabilities;
- Interact with CEP to establish how SCAR may respond to CEP plans;
- Get SSG input to SCAR’s topics for ATCM/CEP;
- Inform ATCM/CEP about SCAR’s products and services, and develop service level agreements on SCAR’s products and services;
- Consider developing an Antarctic report card (a la Arctic);
- Re-engage with evaluating (the science of) management plans;

8.1 SCAR’s 50th Birthday Celebration

David Walton cannot attend to present a report on progress with the SCAR Anniversary Book. His report will be presented by the Executive Director. EXCOM noted that Delegates should be asked to comment on the draft chapters (IP 8), and on all future chapters.

Action E-3: David Walton and Peter Clarkson to seek input and feedback from national committees and delegates on each of the chapters of the proposed SCAR Anniversary book.

8.2 SCAR Awards

The President should remind delegates that we rely on national committees to nominate candidates for SCAR medals; there have been very few such nominations.

EXCOM agreed that it might be helpful to form a small sessional task force to consider how to make the SCAR medals more prestigious.

Action E-4: Chuck Kennicutt to give Tony Meloni some examples of advertising medals in the journals.

It was agreed that the awards of Certificates of Appreciation should take place at the end of the Delegates meeting.

8.3 SCAR Fellowships

The President should remind delegates that we rely on national committees to nominate candidates for SCAR fellowships (we generally get between 20 and 25 candidates per year).

EXCOM considered the cases made by the Awards Committee and, bearing in mind the need for balance between the disciplines, agreed a slate of three candidates for fellowships, with one going to each SSG. The candidates are listed in IP 10. EXCOM noted that IPF will support a 4th Fellow under the 6th Continent Initiative (an IPY Project co-sponsored by SCAR), but at no cost to SCAR.
Action E-5: Executive Officer (i) to examine the grant requests to see how they could be reduced to meet the $30,000 total limit, and to negotiate this with the candidates concerned, for final approval by the Executive Director by end July; (ii) to notify the successful and unsuccessful candidates; and (iii) to arrange with IPF for the award of the 6CI Fellowship.

EXCOM agreed we need to further encourage delegates to support the fellowship programme financially (S.Afr gave $2000; nobody else gave anything). We also need to focus on this topic as a means of raising external funds (which tend to be available for ‘education’).

8.4 New SCAR Legal Status

SCAR is now a Company and Charity. The revised Memorandum and Articles of Association are on the SCAR web site at http://www.scar.org/about/constitution/. All Members are now required to sign the new Memorandum and Articles of Association that replace the old Constitution.

EXCOM recognised that some delegates found difficulties with the wording of the request to sign as a Member of the newly constituted SCAR. The President will table a proposed resolution to these difficulties, based on our understanding of the membership processes in ICSU and SCOR.

EXCOM agreed we now have to formally transfer the assets from the old SCAR to the new SCAR before we will be ready for business as a Company and Charity, so at present our new status is ‘dormant’. One key element in the transfer of assets is closing down the US bank account, which is proving time consuming and expensive to use (see Finance Strategy – WP 35. We hope to have these changes made in the fall, so could start operating in, say, October. We have appointed Accountants to assist us (the same firm that manages our salaries).

8.5 Rules of Procedure

The new rules are more or less the same as the old ones, and have been agreed by a subcommittee appointed by the President. The main exception is under Elections and Election procedures, for which there is a separate paper.

In the interests of time, and because this is a matter for EXCOM, and because the Secretariat has not quite finished working on them, the Rules of Procedure for Subsidiary Bodies will not be presented. They will be finalized later in the year for EXCOM to approve.

8.6 Partnerships

EXCOM was pleased to see that we just got a €30,000 ICSU grant for a 2009 summer school for ice sheet modelling

9.1 Report on SC-AGI (Antarctic Geographic Information)
The SC-AGI Chief Officer reported a number of improvements. The number of national reps had increased to 25; in addition there were now 19 people responsible for names and 6 for GIS. More are needed to cover all SCAR Members.

A new web site is also needed. There were 2.8 million hits on the SCAR map catalogue in the past year, and up to 320,000 visits to a single map reference.

The SCAR Gazetteer is now hosted at AAD. It is linked to the map catalogue, and to the biology databases, making it increasingly useful for GIS purposes.

SC-AGI now has a joint project with GEBCO for undersea feature names.

EXCOM agreed that on the basis of the available evidence, SCAGI had performed well and therefore the Delegates should be asked to confirm its establishment as a Standing Committee, rather than reversion to an Expert Group.

9.2 History Group

EXCOM agreed this group provides a useful tie into the history of Antarctic science community. Since they have been productive (all results published as special issues), it would seem we have nothing to lose by offering continuance.

9.5 Report of XXX SCAR Science Week, St Petersburg

EXCOM noted that the arrangements for SCAR Science Business Week had been very good for the most part, with only some minor glitches, like the mistiming of some evening meetings in the programme book. See also the note about SSG Plenaries in agenda item 4. The ice-breaker reception had been lavish and very much appreciated by participants.

Action E-6: Executive Director to get a report from Alexander Klepikov on the statistics of the meeting, for presentation to Delegates.

EXCOM noted that WP 29 suggests how the Secretariat could manage the conference process in such a way as to keep registration costs down. It would involve hiring someone part time, and recouping costs through registrations, but with no profit element. The post could be used to manage not only OSCs, but also other major SCAR meetings in intervening years (like 10th biology symposium and 11th earth sciences symposium, and 8th glaciological symposium) as well as major workshops, with registration fees continuing to offset salary support. This should become a self-supporting position. If we are to use it for the 2010 meeting we will need to hire someone in mid 2009. However, if we hire someone sooner they could also assist with the Biology Symposium in 2009. Initially, salary would have to come in advance from the endowment fund, as a loan. EXCOM agreed this proposal seemed eminently sensible as a means of standardising the approach to major meetings, and lowering registration fees, in a cost neutral way.

9.6 Progress in Implementing the SCAR Strategic Plan
EXCOM agreed that a new Strategic Plan, for 2011-2016 should be developed for approval at XXXI SCAR.

**Action E-7:** the Executive Director should draft a plan for developing a new strategic plan (2010-2016), for discussion at EXCOM in 2009.

EXCOM agreed that it would be useful to review SCAR’s Products and Services.

**Action E-8:** Executive Director and Chief Officers to develop a process to review SCAR products and services, for consideration at EXCOM in 2009.

**9.6.1 Communications and Publications**

EXCOM agreed that Delegates should be asked to consider what items needed to be kept on the Members web page. There would seem to be more to be gained from more transparency and letting the public know what we are doing.

Latest average of web hits for 5 months in 2008 was 118,725, more than 22,000 higher than the average for 2006 in the run up to the Hobart meeting.

There has been no time to do as suggested at EXCOM and develop plans for producing popular publications in Antarctic Science.

Copies of the brochure will be in all OSC registration packs.

Ties and lapel pins will be available for sale in Russia.

**9.6.2 Capacity Building and Education**

EXCOM welcomed the Letter of Agreement with IASC on the co-sponsorship of APECS.

**Action E-9:** Secretariat to invite APECS to next SCAR meeting as observer.

EXCOM noted that APECS is seeking funding from multiple sources to support a staff position to manage its affairs, and that a proposal for some support from SCAR would be presented to the Delegates. EXCOM also noted that APECS was proposing that SCAR make an Early Career Scientists Award, which could be in the form of a Fund in the region of $2000 to $5000. These matters would be questions for the Finance Committee meeting in Moscow.

**9.6.3 SCAR Services and Products**

Arrangements were made for SCAR services and products to be displayed through posters at St Petersburg. EXCM agreed there will be a need to have external reviews of these activities to seek improvement. Service level agreements are needed with providers to ensure we get what we need, and to raise the SCAR profile.

EXCOM agreed that we need to review our products and services not merely as the basis for developing service level agreements with service providers, but also to
develop coherent SCAR branding (much as we did by bringing the SSG web pages in to the main SCAR web site).

9.7 Status of National Reporting to SCAR

EXCOM noted that a number of national reports were still missing from the SCAR web site. The Executive Officer would be providing a report on national reports.

9.9 Links with COMNAP

COMNAP’s representative at the Delegates meeting will be Jose Retamales. COMNAP’s interactions with SCAR will be outlined in IP22.

10.4 Finance Strategy

EXCOM noted that Membership continues to increase slowly, and more Members elect to increase their level of contribution; there are almost no arrears. However, we can no longer rely on the management fee from Sloan. Income is on the decline from 2008 into 2010.

Fall in the value of the dollar is a serious problem because staff salaries are paid in sterling. This has caused admin costs to rise. It should be noted that our salaries are lower than SCOR’s.

We are also being affected by high bank charges from our US bank. It would make sense to consolidate all payments into a sterling account. Working with Barclays is far less time consuming than working with our American bank, so the move would save both on costs and on Secretariat time.

EXCOM agreed that the finance committee should examine the proposals for a number of cuts in expenditure. These will offset the effect of the fall in the dollar through 2009, but we shall start to cut into reserves in 2010 if no money comes in from Sloan.

EXCOM agreed the finance committee should examine the proposal to eliminate the US bank account (so saving both time and money);

EXCOM recognised that there might be difficulties in raising subscriptions from January 2010 to compensate for the fall in the value of the dollar, the lack of former double subscriptions from Germany and the UK, and the lack of Sloan income, and would wish the finance committee to carefully examine these proposals.

EXCOM noted that the actual budget for 2009 will depend on the extent of carry forward from 2008, which is a matter for discussion in relation to proposals from SSGs and SRPs. No carry-forward is proposed for Admin.

11.2 XXXI SCAR (Buenos Aires, 2010)
EXCOM agreed that bearing that June conference in mind, we must try to have the XXXI SCAR meeting as late as possible (late August/early September, or even later if a suitable venue can be found).

The Secretariat had been asked to examine different models for holding SCAR meetings to see if there were advantages to holding the business meetings, OSC and delegates meeting consecutively (as in Australia and Russia) or separately (as in Germany). EXCOM agreed it is cheaper for the Secretariat and Delegates to hold the meetings consecutively. This becomes even more germane, given the recent drastic rise in fuel costs and international travel. Fears that there would not be time between the science meetings and delegates meetings to consider the papers have proved groundless. This is in large part because papers can now be rapidly made available electronically, and also reflects the fact that the SSG and SRP budgets are allocated as block funds without line-by-line examination. Holding meetings back-to-back means Delegates do not have to travel long distances at great cost twice each biennium, where evidently once ought to be enough (there is also a lower carbon footprint).

12.1 Progress against actions

Action E-10: at the end of the Delegates meeting, the Executive Director to provide a list of the new actions

12.2 Other Business

EXCOM noted that at a previous EXCOM meeting it had been suggested that after completion of the proposed white paper on Antarctic Climate and Environment, SCAR should consider distilling this into a Science Declaration to give out in SCAR’s 50th birthday year, noting that Antarctica has gone from being seen as a peripheral regional concern to being seen as a central part of the Earth’s climate future. Do we wish to do this? EXCOM agreed that if the Delegates decide to go this route, a small group should be charged with the task intersessionally. There would not be time to do this effectively in the already busy meeting.

13. Closure of meeting

The meeting ended at 1800.

[should we change the form of the wording of the membership form]