



WFM Council Minutes
Copenhagen, Denmark
October 25-26, 2003

Friday, October 25, 2003

1. Opening

James Christie, Council Chair, welcomed Councillors, IS Staff, and observers, and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Proxies and Appointments

Martin Hagvall reported on behalf of the credentials, nominations and statutes committee, and requested submission of printed reports from Councillors and registration on the speakers list of those councillors prepared to present their reports.

Hagvall indicated 15 Councillors had been elected at Congress, and 10 more may be co-opted between Congress. Councillors were invited to nominate individuals for co-option.

Three organizations had submitted applications for Associate Organization status. The organizations were Consumer Unity and Trust (India); Federal Union; International School of Humanitarian Thought and Practice (India).

Lucy Webster carried a proxy vote on behalf of Tony Flemming.

Martin Hagvall introduced the 3 organizations that have applied to become Associate Organizations of WFM and invited Councillors to review the supporting document. The Three organizations are:

Consumer Unity and Trust

Federal Union

International School of Humanitarian Thought and Practice

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was modified to add Union of European Federalists and WFM cooperation, the control of small arms campaign and membership issues.

The agenda was approved as amended.

4. Minutes

Bruce Ritchie moved to accept the incoming Council Minutes from July 15th, 2002.

The minutes were approved.

5. IS Substantive Report 2003 Overview

William Pace reported that some changes had occurred at the International Secretariat since April, some as a result of the strategic planning process, and staff retreat, specifically the promotion of Ramin Shahzamani to the new position of Director of WFM Programs. Lenore Hickey, WFM Program Associate has announced her departure after nearly three years at the IS. Jayne Stoyles, former CICC Program Director, and Responsibility to Protect – Civil Society Program consultant, left for the birth of her daughter. Interviews are being conducting for her replacement. Jens Iverson, former Information Technology Associate moved to California, but has remained as a part-time consultant. Grace Ko, development officer, resigned in August to pursue her graduate degree at Columbia University. Rik Panganiban, former Membership Director, moved to Geneva, and worked as a consultant for the IS's European Commission Human Rights Internship program, as well as WFM's IS representative at several Geneva based fora. Spenser Lanning, and Gareth Mahon have joined the staff to assist with web development and other IT related issues. In August, Benjamin Bashein joined the IS as the new Development Officer. James Arputharaj traveled to Cancun on behalf of WFM to attend the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting. The Membership Director position, due in large part to the strategic planning process, was upgraded to a management position, to oversee WFM's multiple projects, especially since William Pace will need to spend more time in the Hague office over the coming year. The IS is currently mapping functions, realigning staff and consultants so that there are clearer lines of tasks, responsibilities and supervision.

Keith Best expressed appreciation and thanks for the current and departing IS staff. James Christie indicated that the EC has met some of the staff in New York, and stated that the IS staff is an extraordinary group of people and WFM is blessed to have them. He requested that the attending IS staff relay the message to New York, including their best wishes to departing staff.

6. Council Chair's report

James Christie summarized his remarks from his written report to Council. He emphasized the future of the organization, especially relating to the nature of membership, Member organizations and Associate Organizations, noting in some areas there are none, and that others are inactive, however, there are many organizations that are doing great work. The IS is mapping ways of better servicing the membership, some of which includes better communication through e-mail and listserv.

T. Marcel announced that the Czech UEF would like to join WFM as an AO, but did not have paperwork.

7. IS Substantive Report

William Pace reported that the IS Staff are presently situated on several floors and has been looking to consolidate everyone within one office space. One main criteria is to stay close to the United Nations.

There are now consultants working in The Hague, Brussels, Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Philippines and the IS would like to expand in Africa, and Asia. Thus there is WFM representation on almost all

continents, most of which relates to ICC work, but over time representatives have received training and become acquainted with WFM.

Staci Alziebler discussed the two-day staff retreat and the strategic planning process earlier in the year. The purpose of which was to prioritize what is done between the many projects, and to conduct an internal review. The process was opened to staff. The process was well received by the staff and issues that needed to be addressed were identified. During the retreat, staff gained insight into the WFM mission, history, the Executive Committee, and the Council.

Ramin Shahzamani reported on the strategic plan. During the strategic process three areas of focus were identified: WFM IS objectives, programmatic issues and organizational issues. In planning the WFM IS objectives, it was determined that projects should be categorized into one of the following Action/Position/Research objectives. Action objectives are those to which substantive resources can be devoted. During the initial planning and based on current financial and human resources, the IS determined that only two major projects and several minor projects can be carried out at one time. The two major projects identified in 2001 were: 1) the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) project and 2) the Global Environmental Governance (GEG) project. The GEG project did not develop as planned due to the lack of political will and the poor outcome of the Johannesburg summit on sustainable development. Since then, there has been an opportunity to focus on a new project called the Responsibility to Protect – Civil Society. Both ripeness of the issues and funding opportunities have allowed the IS to move forward, thus it has become the second major project. Developing a second major project was deemed important, due to concern that the International Justice work had taken off and overwhelmed other programs.

The smaller projects that the IS has identified fall within the following programmatic areas: Global Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development, Strengthening and Democratizing the United Nations and the European Union Human Rights Internship Program.

Under position objectives to which resources are applied as permitted, the following programmatic areas are pursued: promoting Rule of Law, Defending Human Rights; International Peace and Security; Strengthening and Democratizing the United Nations; International Democracy and Democratization of Multilateral Institutions; Global Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development; Promoting Federalism and Constitutional Democracy; Education, Research and Publications. The Council was referred to the *Action Update* for more detail under each programmatic area.

Under programmatic issues the IS is looking at redistributing staff responsibilities to match the needs within its programs, strengthening membership and public outreach and its means of communication.

Under organizational issues, the IS identified and made recommendations to address management issues such as the need for additional management support, need for additional support in the Financial office, need to reallocate human resources and expand the development office

Fundraising

Funding for the organization is relatively secure for the next 2-3 years. Financial reports and audits are done faster than usual. The IS has been successful in expanding its funding base through new projects and will continue to focus on that issue.

WFM Offices

WFM IS is co-located in New York and The Hague and as indicated earlier has representation in most continents. The IS is looking to relocate the NY office to consolidate its four small offices into one contiguous space.

Discussions

William Pace emphasized that the strategic plan was an internal management tool, directed by the EC request for a 2-3 year plan of how to implement what was recommended by Council.

Keith Best noted that this analysis is a very important process and should be an annual event to examine and reevaluate the status of projects.

Bruce Ritchie congratulated the IS on its work, and recommended a new Member and Associate Organization outreach committee and that Ramin Shahzamani should assume primary responsibility.

Bente Nielsen recommended that it would be beneficial if all Member and Associate organizations developed a strategic document and assess their ability to work with the IS on particular projects. FN-Forbundet thought R2P, Millennium Development goals could be mutual projects.

Member and Associate organizations were encouraged to make use of the Action Update, advocacy packages, listservs, and give input on how to liaise with the IS more effectively.

Discussion ensued regarding the CICC project, its continuation, and validity, and WFM IS representation in other countries, primarily the Hague, where the Head of Office when hired would assume WFM, as well as CICC responsibilities. The arrangement with WFM IS consultant, Jayne Stoyles, working out of World Federalist Movement – Canada's office could serve as a model for consideration for further collaboration by Councillors.

Credentials, Nominations, Statutes

Lucy Webster recommended Council to co-op new Council member so they could participate in the discussions. Martin Hagvall of the Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee initiated the process.

The following four individuals were co-opted as Councillors:

Etsuo Miyoski

Peter Luff

Manjy Rani Mukherjee

Roy Breivik

IS Substantive Report (cont'd)

William Pace presented the Action Update and highlighted the work of the IS in each programmatic area.

Promoting Rule of Law, Defending Human Rights The International Criminal Court

WFM continues to serve as the Secretariat for the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court. The CICC works on attaining universal ratification of the Rome Statute, adoption of implementing legislation, working to support the Court in its initial stages and holding States Parties to their obligation to uphold the integrity of the Rome Statute against the pressure of signing article 98 agreements with the United States.

International Peace and Security Responsibility to Protect – Civil Society

The Responsibility to Protect Report by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) addresses many of the issues regarding State responsibility and the International Community's responsibilities to protect civilians during armed conflicts. WFM has been and will continue to conduct follow-up meetings to the ICISS's with various NGOs and other stakeholders.

Strengthening and Democratizing the United Nations

Security Council Reform – Pace indicated that WFM continues its work on addressing issues relating to lack of fair representation at the Security Council. WFM does not support the addition of permanent members because it will add to the lack of accountability.

Centrality of the United Nations – Primacy of the General Assembly

Pace reaffirmed WFM's position on strengthening the General Assembly to tackle overall policy issues within the UN system. However, he indicated some issues where more research, debate and papers are needed, such as one country one vote.

Strengthening the UN Economic and Social Council

Pace reiterated WFM's position that ECOSOC needs to be given the authority to deal with economic and social issues.

Expanding Citizen Rights

WFM continues to lead the NGO community in safeguarding and promoting NGO access to the United Nations. WFM continues to contribute to the Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society Relations.

International Democracy and Democratization of Multilateral institutions

Globalization

Pace pointed out that the positive sides of globalization, such as globalization of human rights, democracy and rule of law work to counter balance some of the negative aspects of globalization.

Parliamentary Assembly

Pace reported that for a long time, WFM has called for a parliamentary dimension to the United Nations, and that more work needs to be done by World Federalists on the different models. WFM is monitoring the Inter-Parliamentary Union's status and relationship with the United Nations.

Global Levis and Taxes

Pace pointed out that financial mechanisms need to support the work of international governance systems.

Global Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development

World Environment Organization

Pace reported that WFM continues to call for a World Environmental Organization that can advocate for environmental management and sustainable development.

Promoting Federalism and Constitutional Democracy

Regional Federalism – The European Union is federalism in practice. Pace noted that closer study of the dynamic changes that are taking place in Europe is required. A request for European members to share more information regarding the European Constitution.

Education, Research and Publications

WFM continues to work with Center for UN Reform Education (CURE) and Center for Teaching About the UN (CTAUN) to promote the work of the UN and create constructive dialogue to improve multilateral institutions.

Bridging the Digital Divide

World Summit on the Information Society – Rik Panganiban has represented WFM at the preparatory commissions leading to the summit to draw attention to democratic global governance. WFM will have a presence at the Summit and is working with FN-forbundant on a Task Force.

The Council was very appreciative of the detailed description of the projects.

Discussions

Simon Burrall recommended more IS staff interaction with Member Organizations so that projects could be linked more closely when appropriate. This interaction could take place either at Council meetings, or when Councillors are in New York. One World Trust will look at working with the IS on the R2P-CS project.

Aaron Knight noted that the CICC has received wide recognition for its work and the US World Federalist Association has received funding through Ford for its ICC project.

Sir Peter Ustinov remarked that the Rome Statute, and the subsequent creation of the ICC is astonishing and complemented William Pace's wonderful work in this regard.

Issues regarding UN Security Council veto of the permanent members arose. Although, WFM does not support the veto, some raised that there may be mitigating circumstances when the use of the veto maybe justifiable.

Membership and Outreach

The idea of individual members for WFM IS was raised. Also an increase in engagement and attainment of Associate Organizations, who may not completely accept WFM's vision was put forth. The IS requested guidance regarding reciprocal joining of other organizations in an association.

The issue of Member Organizations that have not been heard from for a long period of time was raised. Due to previous experience in this area Peter Luff was asked to correspond with the IS in this regard.

It was raised that UNA Finland should be approached for membership.

James Christie recommended sessional committees for 2004 to discuss veto, membership and other policy issues.

8. Financial Report

Staci Alziebler reported that the US tax forms had been filed a month earlier than in past years, and the internal audit for Fiscal Year 2002 was completed three months earlier than previous years. Financially, WFM was exceeding most income lines, and expense overages related to expenses covered by grant funds. The net surplus at the end of June 2003, was \$360,030.96, which would roll-over for use in the next quarter. Staci Alziebler further reported that the budget, which had been slightly over \$1 million U.S. dollars when she first started in 2001, had increased to over \$3 million U.S. dollars, but the infrastructure had not kept pace with the growth. To address this, WFM had hired a part-time person in the Hague office to oversee office management, and finances, as well as Dutch employment and regulatory laws. In New York, WFM was finishing second round interviews for an accounting assistant. Major efforts are underway with the new Development Associate to diversity WFM's funding base for other programs and projects, as well as unrestricted funding. Overall, the organization has been very successful, and to date has secured the majority of funding to cover the budget through early 2005.

James Arputhuraj moved for acceptance of IS report. It was accepted unanimously.

Keith Best thanked Staci Alziebler and Edward Chobanian for exceptional financials, noting that it was comforting to see numbers that are close to budget, and that tax forms have been filed far in advance of the deadlines.

Discussion

The issue of standing committees that never meet was raised. Lucy Webster suggested breakout committees that meet in between Council meetings. Ramin Shahzamani indicated that the technology exists to meet electronically, through chat rooms, or listservs.

Council endorsed WFM to work with UEF and for discussions to continue at the next session.

James Christie adjourned the meeting for the day.

October 26, 2003

James Christie, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

9. Other Business

Barbara Walker presented an Action Issue from WFM IS and the Committee for Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN). The Action Issue is a tool that Member and Associated Organizations can use to teach about the UN and its work in their particular region.

Nicola Vallinoto encouraged WFM IS to participate in the World Social Forum in January 2004 in Mumbai, India.

Lucio Levi reported on the Federalist Debate which currently has 255 subscribers. He requested Member and Associate Organizations to promote and disseminate the publication. In addition to the existing editing committee Lucio asked for volunteers to help for editing English documents. The following individuals volunteered: K. Best, L. Webster, J. Sutter, K. Hamilton, J. Christie.

10. Resolution on UEF/WFM Cooperation

Andreas Bummel introduced a motion on a “UEF/WFM Cooperation”. The motion states that: (please note the numbers indicate the order of recommended amendments which are listed below)
The advance of European integration, the achievement of a constitutional treaty and the enlargement in particular, opens new perspectives and necessities of federalist action on the European level. The creation of an EU foreign minister and steps to further strengthen the Common Foreign and Security Policy calls for efforts of the federalist movements to influence the alignment of Europe’s emerging foreign policy. It is time to commence efforts through which a central concept of the federalist strategy in Europe and the world shall be realized: a united Europe striving for worldwide integration. (2) (3) (5) (6) The strengthening and democratization of the United Nations and the system of world institutions therefore must become part of the foreign policy agenda of the EU. It is the task of the federalist movement to foster and to promote this development.

Bearing in mind the common foundation of the UEF and WFM in 1947 in Montreux, the rapprochement of the movements at the occasion of the common 50th anniversary in 1997 and the admission of UEF as associated member of WFM in 1998, (4) it is time for the two movements to return to their common roots and to integrate federalist efforts in Europe and the world through (1) a full membership of the UEF within the WFM and a coordination of the activities of WFM member organizations and associated organizations in Europe.

Andreas Bummel moved to accept, Lucy Webster seconded.

Friendly amendments

(1) add *steps toward* ~~through~~ a full membership of the UEF.

Andreas Bummel moved the amendment, Lucy Webster seconded.

(2) *As a first step of the transformation of the UN into a world institution with a world court of justice, as world government, and a world parliament.*

Guido Montani moved the amendment, Rolf Haegen seconded.

Bruno Boissiere indicated UEF was pleased to be an Associate Organization of WFM. However, there is some reluctance to becoming a Member Organization. Discussion on the resolution as amended ensued.

(3) “*transformation of the UN into a World Federation*” substituted for “institutions.”

T. Marcel recommended amendment. Guido Montani removed his amendment. and seconded this amendment. .

Andreas Bummel recommended that the Council endorse WFM working with UEF, particularly in relation to UEF meeting in Geneva.

(4) “*as well as the joint public meeting on UN Day 2003 in Copenhagen,*” it is

Andreas Bummel recommended the amendment. Lucy Webster seconded. Consensus.

(5) “*a world court of justice*”

Lucio Levi recommended the amendment. Guido Montani moved the amendment T. Marcel seconded.

(6) “*democratic world parliament*”

Barbara Walker recommended the amendment. Guido Montani moved the amendment. T. Marcel seconded.

William Pace recommended acceptance of original resolution and dropping politically charged wording.

Keith Best recommended using the wording “in accordance with the principles and policies of WFM.”

John Sutter recommended addition of “democratic world parliament, democratic world government, and world court of justice”.

Resolution as amended:

Amended Resolution on UEF/WFM Cooperation

The advance of European integration, the achievement of a constitutional treaty and the enlargement in particular, opens new perspectives and necessities of federalist action on the European level. The creation of an EU foreign minister and steps to further strengthen the Common Foreign and Security Policy calls for efforts of the federalist movements to influence the alignment of Europe’s emerging foreign policy. It is time to commence efforts through which a central concept of the federalist strategy in Europe and the world shall be realized: a united Europe striving for worldwide integration. *As a first step, the transformation of the UN into a World Federation with a democratic world court of justice, a democratic world government, and a world parliament* therefore must become part of the foreign policy agenda of the EU. It is the task of the federalist movement to foster and to promote this development.

Bearing in mind the common foundation of the UEF and WFM in 1947 in Montreux, the rapprochement of the movements at the occasion of the common 50th anniversary in 1997 and the admission of UEF as associated member of WFM in 1998, *as well as the joint public meeting at United Nation’s Day 2003 in Copenhagen*, it is time for the two movements to return to their common roots and to integrate federalist

efforts in Europe and the world through *steps toward* full membership of the UEF within the WFM and a *closer* coordination with of the activities of *UEF and* WFM member organizations and associated organizations in Europe.

General discussion on content and effect of the amended resolution ensued. John Sutter seconded. The amended resolution failed by a majority vote.

Bruno Boissiere recommended the addition of the following paragraph to the end of the resolution:

“Soundings will start immediately between representatives of the UEF bureau and the WFM Executive Committee to examine conditions for a successful integration of the above mentioned efforts in Europe and the world”

The final resolution, which was moved by Lucy Webster and seconded by Bruce Ritchie read as follows:

Final Resolution on UEF/WFM Cooperation

The advance of European integration, the achievement of a constitutional treaty and the enlargement in particular, opens new perspectives and necessities of federalist action on the European level. The creation of an EU foreign minister and steps to further strengthen the Common Foreign and Security Policy calls for efforts of the federalist movements to influence the alignment of Europe’s emerging foreign policy. It is time to commence efforts through which a central concept of the federalist strategy in Europe and the world shall be realized: a united Europe striving for worldwide integration. The strengthening and democratization of the United Nations and the system of world institutions therefore must become part of the foreign policy agenda of the EU. It is the task of the federalist movement to foster and to promote this development.

Bearing in mind the common foundation of the UEF and WFM in 1947 in Montreux, the rapprochement of the movements at the occasion of the common 50th anniversary in 1997 and the admission of UEF as associated member of WFM in 1998, as well as the joint public meeting at United Nation’s Day 2003 in Copenhagen, it is time for the two movements to return to their common roots and to integrate federalist efforts in Europe and the world, through steps toward a full membership of the UEF within the WFM and a closer coordination with of the activities of UEF and WFM member organizations and associated organizations in Europe.

Soundings will start immediately between representatives of the UEF bureau and the WFM Executive Committee to examine conditions for a successful integration of the above mentioned efforts in Europe and the world

The resolution passed with 29 for, non-against, and 2 abstentions.

Other Business Continued

James Arputharaj talked about the Small Arms Campaign of the South Asian Federalists which has launched a 1 million cases campaign to draw further attention to the issues. James Arputharaj informed members that only 0.2% of small arms are in the hands of terrorists, and that most small arms are dealt legally and 88% come from the 5 permanent members of the Security Council.

William Pace remarked that the small arms campaign is the kind of practical initiative that Member and Associated Organizations can get involved in.

11. Reports by Member and Associated Organizations

Due to lack of time, the Council Chair asked members to make 10 minute presentations and to submit their reports electronically to the IS to post on the WFM website.

World Federalist Movement – Canada

Karen Hamilton reported on behalf of the World Federalist Movement – Canada.

World Federalists of Canada changed their name to “World Federalist Movement – Canada” and they have around 1000 members. WFM-Canada continues to work on publicizing issues on the International Criminal Court. It is deeply involved in the dialogues pertaining to “The Responsibility to Protect” report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty”. WFM-Canada also works on projects relating to democratizing global governance, and United Nations reform.

Movimento Federalista Europa - Italy

Lucio Levi reported on behalf of Movimento Federalista Europa.

While the European Convention was drawing up the European Constitution, the activity of the Italian federalists concentrated on a Campaign for a European Federal Constitution. Five objectives were pursued:

1. to include the Charter of Fundamental Rights, adopted by the European Council in 2000, in the Constitution;
2. to submit all European legislation and budget to the co-decision of the European Parliament and the Council and to majority voting within the Council;
3. to transform the European Commission into a Federal Government ;
4. to submit to these legislative and executive powers all European policies, including Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, and to endow the EU with adequate own financial resources;
5. to exclude the right of veto in the Convention and over the procedures for the adoption and revision of the European Federal Constitution.

Only the objective 1 has been fully reached, while the objectives 2 and 3 have been partially achieved.

Thousands of signatures were collected on the appeal to the Convention. Moreover in the Convention a document, drawn up by the Spinelli Institute for Federalist Studies, outlining the cornerstones of a Federal Constitution was circulated. It received numerous appreciations by the members of the

Convention.

Among the initiatives launched within the framework of the Campaign for a European Constitution, was a campaign on Article 1 of the European Constitution. It was proposed for the European Constitution to include language resembling Article 11 of the Italian Constitution: "Europe repudiates war as a means for settling international disputes and recognizes peace as a fundamental right of persons and peoples. Europe contributes to the creation of a peaceful and democratic international order; for this purpose it promotes and supports the UN strengthening and democratization process and the development of international cooperation." This campaign was supported by the Forum for Constitutional Democracy which operates within the European Social Forum and the Peace Round Table (a coalition of 500 global civil society movements and hundreds of local communities). Also this objective has not been achieved, since in the Draft Constitution peace is simply considered as an objective and not a value nor an individual right. But the campaign will continue, in order to amend the Constitution."

One World Trust – United Kingdom

Simon Burrell reported on behalf of One World Trust.

The organization produced "The Global Accountability Report", which has been well received internationally. One world trust is also working with British parliamentarians to focus on government accountability issues. They also are working on global climate issues.

World Federalist Association – United States

Aaron Knight reported on behalf of WFA.

WFA intends to merge with the organization Campaign for UN Reform (CUNR). The emerging organization will work on education and policy issues and will be able to lobby effectively. Polls of WFA and CUNR members have shown overwhelming support for the merger and a new name for the organization. The proposed name for the organization is based on feedback received from focus group. The proposed new name is "Citizens for Global Solutions". Members will vote for the merger and name change at the organization's annual meeting, which will take place in Boston in November 2003.

WFA has approximately 14,000 members and significant resources are spent on recruiting new members. Presently there are 9 staff members in Washington, DC and 5 in other cities of the United States.

WFA works on the following program areas: ICC, Responsibility to Protect, Peacekeeping.

WFA is intending to meet with WFM staff in the coming year to look at closer collaboration between the two organizations.

World Federalist Beweging Nederland (WFBN)

Paul Brendsen reported on behalf of WFBN.

WFBN has been working with other organizations to fill in gaps regarding UN education within the Netherlands. It has made efforts to improve its publications.

FN-forbudent – (United Nations Association – Denmark)

Bente Nielsen reported on behalf of FN-forbudent

FN-forbudent has been working on implementing UN Millennium goals. It has formed a Task Force for the World Summit on Information Society and produced a multilingual publication called "The Information Society is for all".

Two other papers produced by FN-forbundet most relevant to world federalists are: “Terrorism, International law and Human Rights” and “Policy Paper on UN-Reform – 1. Peace and Security”. FN-forbundet also works on disseminating and educating the Danish populous about the United Nations.

Ugandan World Federalists

Prince Simbwa reported on behalf of Ugandan World Federalists.

Ugandan World Federalists participated in seminars on “federal systems and political successions”. It is to reach out to other organizations in Africa to put forth a federalist agenda, and has cooperated with Amnesty International and other Human Rights organizations. Major focus has involved collaborating with En Verden to set up a conference in April 2004 to discuss issues relating to a democratic African Union.

Prince Simbwa recommends future Council meetings to be held in Africa and expressed gratitude to Tony Fleming, Edward Chobanian and John Sutter for recommending Ugandan World Federalists to become an Associated Organization.

En Verden - Norway

Kjartan Almaenning reported on behalf of En Verden

En Verden is reaching out to the youth and encouraging their membership within the organization. It has developed brochures to disseminate information and organized seminars, one of which focused on the role of the United Nations in creating peace in the Middle East. It is working in cooperation with FN-forbundet, several Swedish organizations and the Ugandan World Federalists on a number of thematic issues.

South Asian Federalists – Sri Lanka

James Arputharaj reported on the work of South Asian Federalists.

South Asian Federalists have nearly 2000 members and the organization functions by 40 dedicated fulltime volunteers. The organization focuses on promoting the Rights of the Child, conflict resolution and peace building.

Sri Lanka has adopted the Federalist model which has been pushed forward by the South Asian Federalists.

Credentials and Nominations Committee

Martin Hagvall recommended the approval of the three organizations that have submitted applications to become Associate Organizations.

Consumer Unity and Trust

Federal Union

International School of Humanitarian Thought and Practice

L. Webster moved to accept. K. Burdal seconded.

Approved by majority, there were 4 abstentions.

Discussions and Remarks

Sir Peter Ustinov thanked William Pace, James Christie and Keith Best for their exceptional work. He stated how encouraged he was by Prince Simbwas's report and Uganda's openness to federalism. Sir Peter Ustinov mentioned Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu as three great men who continue to shape the events in Africa and the world.

The issue of non-functioning Member and Associate Organizations was raised. Suggestions were made for the WFM IS to attempt re-establishing contact with these organizations, and developing a formal procedure for this process. It was suggested that by-laws should be looked at and recommendations made to the Council on how best to deal with this matter.

William Pace requested guidance from Council regarding expanding outreach to attract new Member Organizations and developing relationships with potential Associate Organizations.

Lucy Webster recommended and moved for acceptance of the following resolution:

The WFM Council meeting of October 2003 hereby resolves to encourage the staff and officers of WFM to adopt a flexible interpretation of the long-standing WFM policy opposing the use of the veto in the UN Security Council. This resolution is intended to allow WFM representatives to recommend negative votes in the Security Council under carefully selected circumstances, and to study systems of Security Council reform that could possibly include retention of the veto.

Bruce Ritchie seconded. Approved by consensus.

Keith Best moved for the Council to accept the creation of a WFM Policy Review and Development Committee. The Committee would consist of Council members, although outside expert opinions could be sought and it would attempt to be geographically diverse. The issues to be considered by this committee would be put forth by the Executive Committee, the Council and the International Secretariat. The IS was asked to send out a letter to all Council members requesting submission of names to be considered for the committee.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Council meeting/Congress Meeting

Three Venues were offered to become hosts for the next Council meeting.

Movimento Federalista Europa – offered Ventotene, Italy

World Federalist Beweging Nederland – offered Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Ver. De Weltfederalisten der Schwiez – offered Laurus, Switzerland

An informal show of hands to revealed the following preferences: Amsterdam (19 votes), Ventotene (12), Laurus (3)

James Christie pointed out the next Congress is scheduled for 2006, however, the 60th anniversary of WFM will be in 2007. It was noted the Council could vote to hold the next Congress in 2007.

Bruce Ritchie the Chair of the venue sub-committee recommended invitations for the next Council in writing to be submitted to the IS and the sub-committee. The Executive Committee will vote during the teleconference in January, and thus requests proposals to be received by the end of November. It was recommended that the IS consult with FN-forbundet to develop a form to be filled out by organizations interested in hosting future Council meetings.

Sir Peter Ustinov gave special thanks to FN-forbundet for the great job they did in hosting the Council.

The Council thanks James Christie for Chairing the meetings so well.

James Christie thanked Council members and adjourned the meeting.