



Outgoing Council Meeting Minutes WFM 25th Congress

- APPROVED 7 NOVEMBER 2008-

Monday, 27 August 2007

Council Chair, Jim Christie opened the meeting with a few housekeeping items and thanks to the participants. He then asked all participants for a brief introduction.

Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved. The 2006 October Council Meeting Minutes were then adopted as circulated.

Executive Committee Chair Report

EC Chair, Keith Best, gave a summary of activities on behalf of the EC. He reviewed the April meetings at the International Secretariat (IS) in New York noting how useful it is for the EC to meet the staff and vice versa. Bill Pace shared that WFM is a well respected NGO player in the global arena. WFM has had enormous influence on international policy in regards to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The finances of the Movement were reviewed noting that a majority of funds come from project grants. In regards to membership there is a need to examine how the IS can be of better service to membership and potential members. There is also a need to build up the membership by attracting new members.

There has been an examination of the statutes of the Movement to ensure they reflect the goals and needs of the organization.

Council Chair Report

Council Chair, Jim Christie shared that he is constantly meeting those interested in learning more of the nature of world federalism, sharing that even the Dean of History at the University of Winnipeg recently asked for copies of the *Federalist Debate*.

Jim Christie shared that Lloyd Axworthy sends his greetings to the Congress.

Jim Christie recollected that when the Movement last met in Switzerland, it was a very fragile movement. There was a vision in broad strokes and grand ideas but little strategy to implement the vision. The Movement is still fragile, but we have found ourselves making solid progress because of the strategy being implemented by the IS and supported/endorsed by our MOs and AOs.

This has been accomplished through steps of "Incremental Federalism" – the same approach that was used to pioneer the European Union.

International Secretariat Report

Jim Christie introduced the report of the IS addressing that there has been a disconnect between MOs and the IS but encouraged members to take this opportunity and connect with IS staff and the work of the IS to ensure the federalist nature of relationships

Bill Pace read Hans Blix's message to the WFM Congress and introduced the 5 year report for the Movement that would be shared at the Congress on 28 August. He noted that the Global presence of WFM/CICC has been complementary to the offices of MO and AOs around the world. He expressed his thanks to the IS staff, especially to Lene Schumacher, Elisabeth Garrett and Staci Alziebler for their efforts in preparing these meetings.

Bill Pace shared some important efforts of MOs, AOs, and the IS including the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC by Japan, as well as the endorsement of a world federation by the Japanese National Diet. The work with the ICC has been a success and the ICC now has four formal situations: Northern Uganda vs. Lord's Resistance Army: *The Prosecutor v. Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen*; Democratic Republic of the Congo: *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo Lubanga*, a situation in Darfur, Sudan and most recently an investigation in to the situation in the Central Africa Republic. The recent International Court of Justice ruling in regards to the Serbia genocide charges found Serbia "guilty of not preventing genocide" – a considerable development in international law.

On the Responsibility to Protect norm, the new UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon is claiming to be supportive. WFM has also been closely involved with the UN office of the Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities. On 29 May 2007, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Francis Deng to the office. There has been some discussion of a new position for a Special Adviser for Responsibility to Protect.

Other projects WFM has been working on include a project with the year-old Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for awareness raising and bringing civil society voices into the PBC; efforts to increase awareness of the need for a UN Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) of which there has been a growing recognition. ReformtheUN.org has been a successful website that many stakeholders including foreign ministries come to rely on for updates on occurrences at the UN. A new project, UNElections.org emerged out of the monitoring of last year's Secretary-General selection process. The UNElections.org monitors the (s)elections of high level officials in international organizations and advocates for more democratic election processes. The site is currently monitoring the IMF election that now has two candidates. Through this project we have found that the next President of the General Assembly is to be from Latin America. Our hope is to possibly discuss qualifications for the election of the next President.

The IS also hopes to do more research and eventually produce a publication on Federalism and peace.

In regards to NGO accountability, Bill Pace shared that he hopes Congress can agree to language against GONGOs (Government-operated Non-governmental organizations). They should not be seen to represent civil society and should be accredited separately within international institutions.

Bill Pace noted that support to International Environmental Governance (IEG) is strong but there is great concern that UNEP (the UN Environmental Programme) would not be any more effective in a larger role than it has currently.

There was agreement to discuss Weighted Voting and other UN reform mechanisms during the Congress commission sessions.

Tony Fleming noted that individuals outside the movement are defining what we are through Wikipedia.com and other sites. Bill Pace agreed the IS must be careful to monitor these.

Francisco Plancarte noted that Planetafilia's launch of a review of chapter 109 was given the full support of Bill Pace who sent a letter to President of the General Assembly. Bill Pace noted that the UN Charter was perfectly designed to prevent the UN from becoming a democracy—why WFM has advocated for UN Reform for 60 years. However, the IS firmly believes that the progress on these reforms must be done in capitals—not at UN headquarters where Foreign Ministries dominate.

Roberto Palea asked about the future of the Movement, and what measures are being taken to attract young people? Bill Pace noted that it began as a popular movement but it is very important to think about how to continue to communicate this.

The Finance Report was reviewed, approved and adopted.

The Council then addressed the preparations for the leadership of Congress. Bente Nielsen proposed a Co-Presidency for the 3 plenary sessions to be shared by: Lois Wilson, Keith Best and Jim Christie. This was approved.

The Commissions as proposed were approved as the basis for the policy development of this Congress, including those submitted by Lucio Levi which had not been included in the compilation.

CNSC Report

The Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee (CNSC) shared their report. The CNSC recommended Federal Union (UK) be granted MO status and Democracia Global (Argentina) was recommended for AO status. In regards to the application by the Indian National Organization of Federalists (INOF), the CNSC recommended that they not be granted membership but should be encouraged to have more activities and/or projects within WFM focus areas.

The CNSC suggested an ombudsman decision on the issues raised with Federal Union shifting to MO status. Lucio Levi moved for there to be more discussion on these issues. Federal Union's membership within WFM was discussed since it is also a current member of Union of European Federalists (UEF). There were concerns raised about the possibility of double dipping. Jean Francis Billion noted that the Rhône Alps group (France) had been an AO for many years as well as a UEF member but is now only members through UEF.

The Council then voted on these membership issues:

The decision to deny INOF membership was moved by Tony Fleming, seconded by Bente Nielsen. The motion carried with no one opposed and no abstentions.

The decision to accept Democracia Global as an AO to the WFM was moved by Tony Fleming, seconded by James Arputharaj. The motion carried with no one opposed and 1 abstention.

The decision to accept Federal Union as an MO to the WFM—noting that this would require further discussion with UEF in regards to the fees and representation—was moved by Tony Fleming, seconded by Lucy Webster and the motion carried with a majority in favor, 5 opposed, and 6 abstentions.

In regards to delinquent AOs, the CNSC asked that the EC recommend to the Congress that the following six organizations would have their membership withdrawn:

- Association to Unite the Democracies
- Consumer Unity & Trust Society
- International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies
- International School for Humanitarian Thought
- UN Volunteers Correspondents Speakers
- WFA of Sierra Leone

The CNSC noted that the Association to Unite the Democracies has already been in touch with the CNSC and accepted their withdrawal from WFM. The decision to formally withdraw recognition of these organizations was moved by Tony Fleming, seconded by Karen Hamilton. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amendments to the Statutes and By-Laws

Tony Fleming suggested altering the current by-laws in regards to the announcement of election results at the Congress (as they currently require announcing the number of votes per candidate and might potentially be unpleasant to the losers).

The motion to change this language was moved by Tony Fleming, seconded by Lois Wilson. No one opposed, there were no abstentions, and the motion carried.

The CNSC recommended several amendments to the Statutes and By-laws that had been endorsed by the EC for recommendation to the Congress. The CNSC and EC also recommend the Statutes amendment as proposed by Lucio Levi for equitable distribution.

Facilitating Group on Statutes and By-Laws

The Facilitating Group (FG) was formed to ensure the reviews of the Statutes and By-laws were given broad context and consultations. It was an ad hoc group, accountable to the EC and focused on resolving these governance issues. The FG approached its work with the Hippocratic principle to first do no harm and since a consensus could not be reached, the group presented its findings to the EC for further discussion. The EC discussed the Facilitating Group's report and the CNSC worked it into their recommendations for Statutes and By-Laws amendments. Keith Best commended the work of the FG as it dealt in great depth with the issues of how WFM should be governed, its layers, structure, membership, voting, etc. The CNSC suggested (based on the FG findings) that the EC's authority, mandate, powers and principles stay within the Statutes but that the exact numbers for members are proposed to be moved to the By-laws to ensure efficiency.

Jim Christie urged every Councilor to read the proposals and highlight the sections that may be seen as problematic, so as to be ready for this discussion during Congress.

The motion for Council to propose to Congress the CNSC recommendations for debate and discussion was moved by Tony Fleming, seconded by Lois Wilson. No one opposed, there were no abstentions, the motion carried.

Steering Committee

The Council was reminded that the Congress Steering Committee is composed of the Congress Presidency, the EC and the Congress Commission Chairs. The Steering Committee will meet daily following the closing sessions of the Congress.

Announcements

Lucy Webster invited all to a DVD showing on the Weighted Voting at the UN tomorrow at 1:15 and 2:00pm in the seminar room of the GCSP.

The Council was reminded by the CNSC that nominations forms for Councilors are available in the back and returned to CNSC preferably by noon tomorrow.