



Council Meeting 2004

Minutes

Saturday, October 23, 2004

Opening

James Christie, Council Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Council Meeting. He thanked WFBN for organizing the meeting.

Approval of agenda

James Christie proposed an amendment to the agenda to include a new discussion about the direction the Movement is going and will continue to go. The amended agenda was approved.

Announcements and greetings

Bill Pace called for introductions and all councilors introduced themselves. The Council paused for a moment to honor Sir Peter Ustinov and Hiroshi Katsumori of WFM Japan.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the 2003 Council Meeting were unanimously approved as submitted

Council Chair Report

James Christie presented a speech to the council and congratulated world federalists for moving towards a “global neighborhood.” He also cautioned that in the coming years, despite the many strides of World Federalism, to be wary of the problems confronting the world. The most alarming is religious separation. He put forward the world federalist approach as the only successful method for achieving a unified world and congratulated the MOs and AOs on their individual work in those areas.

Credentials, Nominations, and Statutes (CNSC)

James Christies noted that Martin Hagvall was not able to be present. The CNS Committee had been working with Gautam Dey, Tony Fleming, and the IS on several issues. Ramin Shahzamani would function as staff support on CNS issues.

Citizens for Global Solutions

The recommendation put forward by the CNSC was to accept the continued recognition of Citizens for Global Solutions (formerly the World Federalist Association) as a member organization of WFM. Lucy Webster moved to accept. The motion was seconded by Viswanthan Muthkumaran.

General debate ensued. Several councilors mentioned that they were disappointed with the name change. Others thought that the name change did not affect the general purpose of the organization. Bill Pace mentioned that the Campaign for UN Reform will no longer exist as a separate organization. James Christie called the question

The motion passed with 26 approving, 2 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

World Federalists of Northern California (WFNCa)

The recommendation issued from the CNSC in response to the application for MO status from the WFNCa was to accept the group as an associated organization. James Christie noted that the CNSC based its decision on the fact that WFNCa did not have the 30 members necessary for MO status and that traditionally most MO’s have started out as an AO. He also noted that it is statutorily possible for two different Member

or Associated organizations to exist within the same country. Barbara Walker moved to accept. Viswanthan Muthukumaran seconded.

General Discussion Ensued. It was noted that according to the statutes MOs have as their main aim Federalism and AOs have different main goal. Bill Pace strongly advised that from the point of view of the IS, it was useful to establish a relationship with each organization through a period as an AO before becoming an MO. Some councilors urged that Council disapprove AO status and then approve as MO. John Sutter mentioned that WFNCa does have 140 supporters and a 57 year history. James Christie called the vote

The motion was approved with 27 approving, 6 opposed, and 3 abstentions. James Christie welcomed the WFNCa to WFM as an Associated Organization.

Union of European Federalists

The recommendation issued by the CNSC was to accept the change in status of UEF from AO to MO. Lucy Webster moved and Charles Brown seconded.

General debate ensued. Many councilors wondered if there is a European regional organization, which organizations can act as separate MOs or AOs. James Christie stated that this would be determined by each individual MO and AO. Keith Best congratulated UEF for achieving many of its goals. Bruno Boissiere reported from UEF. He stated that UEF president Jo Lienen sent his regrets that he could not attend. He stated that UEF was proud of its accomplishments in Europe and hoped to work promoting the EU in the Security Council and work on strengthening ties between the EU and the newly formed AU. James Christie called the vote

The motion was unanimously approved. James Christie welcomed UEF as a full member of WFM.

Co-option

James Christie opened the floor for recommendations for co-option. He recommended that the council co-opt at the most 3 new members to the council to allow for new considerations between the Congress Meetings. Ramin Shahzamani and Paul Berendsen offered to receive nominations. Nominations submitted in writing and supported by three signatures of current council members were accepted until 2:30 PM. At 4:00 PM the candidates would present a speech. Ballot for co-option would be available Sunday morning.

IS Report

Electronic resources

Ramin Shahzamani reported on the enhancement of electronic resources at the IS. The website has been completely redesigned with a section specifically designed for MOs and AOs as well as council members. The IS is also moving to create an electronic archive of all materials. Bill Pace noted that this is an opportunity to make materials available in many languages.

Andreas Bummel mentioned that a good website is an important resource. He also suggested a revival of the WFM Talk list to facilitate discussions. Bill Pace noted that all the updates were intended to increase interaction and communication with MOs and AOs.

Programmatic Report

Bill Pace noted that the IS has assembled a wonderful staff including several new positions. The IS has been working on implementing the strategic plan of 2003-2004. The co-location of IS is going well and is happy to have a European location after an 8 year hiatus. WFM has become a leading NGO in the international law and justice movement and its standing in the International Community has grown. The CICC has been integral in the current status of the ICC. The Office of the Prosecutor has received its first

two requests for investigations from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, and also had 5 or 6 other situations under review in the first stage of analysis. The Security Council rejected the Bilateral Immunity Agreement (BIA) from the US this past summer and the Rome statute now has 97 ratifications. The CICC is going to focus on 10-12 countries for ratification in the next two years. He thanked the work of Citizens for Global Solutions on supporting the ICC.

The R2P-CS project had a large scale event with Juan Mendez last week and has become integral in generating discussion on the situation in Darfur. Pace hoped that MOs and AOs would join the R2P-CS network of NGOs. The IS is also working on the Global Action to Prevent War project and on a proposal for a rapidly deployable Emergency peace Keeping Service (UNEPS). For two years the IS has been involved in creating an NGO Working Group on the Security Council. He thanked En Verden for taking a first step to promote UNEPS. Bill Pace mentioned that the IS hoped to recommend that the UNEPS paper be broader in recommending the EPS for use in situations of natural disasters which could result in destabilizing governments, and not only post-conflict situations. Fergus Watt mentioned that WFM Canada also endorsed the paper, but mentioned that UNEPS should only be employed in addition to other regional initiatives. Bill Pace agreed.

The IS is continuing to support reform at the UN and hopes to expand its programs to include reform of WTO and the Breton Woods Institutions. The IS is also working on the Cardoso Panel proposal trying to maintain the status of NGOs at the UN. The IS is on the steering committee of the parallel NGO process for the International Conference on New and Restored Democracies.

The IS is also monitoring global levies and taxes and recently attended a meeting to discuss those issues with close to 40 countries and heads of states. The IS is happy that governments are starting to look at global environmental governance and is encouraged by Russia signing the Kyoto agreement.

Lucio Levi asked if the change in government in India brought new prospects for ratification of the Rome Statute there. Bill Pace said that they were going to focus on pushing for ratification from specific countries and the IS will monitor its stance on the BIA agreement.

Bill Pace stated that the IS is also working on Security Council reform. He stated that the power of the US was declining around the world and that the rise of powers such as the European Union could be a good way of promoting regional representation on the Security Council. The IS has not endorsed the binding triad proposal, instead it is looking into other weighted voting schemes to make international government more fair. The IS has endorsed Dietrich Heinrich's proposal of several years ago and will look into Andreas Bummel's proposal on a UN Parliamentary Assembly. The IS is also monitoring the Security Council's implementation of terrorism precautions. The IS is worried that this could be too political and damaging to the peace movement. The IS is also worried about imposing regional representation strategies for regions that are not as coherent as Europe.

Guido Montani suggested the IS carefully monitor the requests by countries such as Germany and India for permanent seats on the Security Council. Bill Pace stated that there were many proposals from MOs and AOs regarding Security Council Reform and hopes that the Council will direct the IS as to how to proceed.

Peter Davidse expressed concern that the Millennium Goals were being forgotten and hoped that the IS would take up those issues. Bill pace stated that the IS downgraded the importance of its environmental goals after the global summit when very little was accomplished. Lucy Webster pointed out that Joe Schwartzberg's monograph was available and offered interesting suggestions on reform of the General Assembly.

Co-option (continued)

James Christie announced that Frans Micklinghoff from WFBN and Eric Schultz from WFNCa had both successfully applied to be candidates for co-option to the Council. Frans Micklinghoff stated that he had studied judicial and canonical law in collage and completed his doctorate in European Law. He had been practicing for 25 years and was a member of the European Parliament for 12 years. Eric Schultz stated that he was the executive director of the World Federalists of Northern California. He worked as the associate editor of the newsletter and helped to support World Federalism and the World Peace Movement. James Christie stated that elections would be held tomorrow.

Financial report

Staci Alziebler presented the financial report to the Council for the first three quarters of 2004. She reported that The IS had a net deficit of [\$77,575.73] due to several factors: that MOs and AOs have not paid their expected dues, that the IS hired an additional consultant not budgeted for, the IS hired a lawyer to oversee the documentation surrounding the move, the lag in funding from a donor on the R2P-CS project, funds given to the EC internship program which will be reimbursed, and administrative charges which cannot be billed to a grant. Financially the IS was doing well especially because they had received several unanticipated grants. The IS plans to offset this deficit due to the hiring of new development personnel and by conducting another direct mailing campaign.

More than 90 % of the grant money which the IS receives is grant-restricted to programmatic work. Over the last three years, the budget has risen from 1 million to 3 million dollars and the IS in NY now employs 22 full-time staff members.

Office Move

Ramin Shahzamani reported that the IS would be moving its offices from the Church Center to 708 3rd Avenue, 24th Floor. The IS will retain a small office in the Church Center and the new space will allow everyone to be on one floor and have space for six new interns/volunteers. The IS currently has 23 staff and consultants in New York and 14 consultants overseas. Barbara Walker congratulated the IS on its expansion.

Bill Pace expressed his praise in the expansion of staff to 23 staff in NY, 5 in Hague, and 3 in Brussels, 1 each in Argentina, Mexico, Nigeria, Benin, Manila and Bangkok. The IS provides structured benefits package for its entire staff.

Approval of Financial Reports was moved by James Arputharaj and Seconded by Michael Toft Schmidt. The financial report was unanimously approved as submitted.

Other business

World Social Forum

Lucio Levi noted that there is an increase in support for the World Social Forum. Several planning and strategy sessions have taken place and he mentioned that Bill Pace will be attending one in November. Bill Pace stated that the IS had participated last year and will participate this year. Knut Berdal suggested meeting up with the IS staff at the WSF. Bill Pace noted that the WSF has moved from anti globalization to acceptance of globalization of action issues like Human Rights. Peter Luff mentioned the importance of helping to set the agenda and also have documents in multiple languages. Lois Wilson mentioned that many people from WFM Canada attend the meeting and suggested a regrouping session to share reports and reviews from all MOs and AOs.

Global Democracy and Coalition for a World Parliament

Lucio hoped to present a coalition of NGOs as involved in spreading global democracy and hoped that WFM could lead that movement. Andreas Bummel commented that we should be careful when selecting the groups to partner with. Guido Montani suggested that they support as many people as possible to join

the movement. Bill Pace said that he hoped to receive guidance from the Council on how to refine the WFM policy on the UN Parliamentary Assembly.

Federalist Debate

Lucio Levi said he was launching an appeal for the number of subscriptions. Now have about 300 subscribers up from 0 in 1999. He urged councilors to contribute by writing articles.

Global Marshall Plan

Andreas Bummel explained that the document he distributed had originally been put forward in January by the Club of Rome and the Club of Budapest. It includes suggestions on raising funding for development and reform of financial institutions. James Christie suggested submitting this to the Policy and Development Review Committee to integrate it in WFM's policy. Lucy suggested grouping the Global Marshall Plan with other Tobin Tax issues. Peter Luff offered to submit his thesis on worldwide economics to the Policy and Development Review Committee for review and perhaps implementation.

Teaching about the UN

Barbara Walker reminded councilors of the possibility of hosting a conference on teaching about the UN. She urged all councilors, MOs and AOs to spread information about the UN. Vijayam Raghunathan mentioned that the South Asian Federalists help prepare students for an examination on the UN.

Sunday, October 24, 2004

James Christie called the meeting to order.

Co-option (continued)

The ballots from yesterday's co-option nomination were counted by Paul Berendsen. He indicated that Frans Michlinghoff had received 25 votes and Eric Schultz had received 24. Both candidates had received absolute majorities and were therefore co-opted to the Council.

WFM President

James Christie summarized last night's discussion at the informal Council Chair's Round Table on the WFM presidency. Some of the suggestions included having two presidents to balance the North and South or possibly a presidium. Bill Pace suggested continuing to use Lois Wilson as acting president and instate a new president at the next Congress. James Christie suggested establishing a group to look more carefully at the idea of the presidency. Lois Wilson suggested the concept of a presidium and offered to develop a time line for the group working on the presidency. Guido Montani spoke in favor of adding Joseph Ki-Zerbo as an honorary president and John Sutter suggested adding former W.F.A. President John B. Anderson as an honorary president.

MO/AO Reports

Asian Youth Center (AYC)

Muthukumaran reported on the activities of the AYC. He reported that AYC had recently expanded to Pakistan and Vietnam. Now the group has members in six countries. In Southern India, the activities have focused on helping orphaned and poor children. They recently held a one-day seminar on increasing human understanding.

Association of World Federalists (AWF)

Keith Best reported on the activities of the AWF saying that they still meet regularly in Hyde Park to speak about Federalism.

Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS)

Charles Brown reported on behalf of CGS. The most exciting news was the name change and merger with the Campaign for UN reform. CGS continues its work in support of the ICC in Washington and continues to be quoted in the media. CGS is a member of the Washington working group on the ICC and is working against Bilateral Immunity Agreements and in support of the UN Emergency Peace Service. So far CGS has endorsed 195 candidates for political office in the US and provided funding to 42 of those. Their working budget is around 1.5 million dollars per year. CGS recently published an op-ed with Walter Kronkite after the first US presidential debate. Bill Pace thanked CGS for their work with the CICC and the R2P-CS project.

En Verden

Kjartan Almennig reported from En Verden. Last year they had a 10% increase in members and this year the growth will be about the same. Their outreach has been focused mainly on young people. They created new outreach tools. This year they organized three seminars on the role of the UN for peace in the Middle East. They are working closely with the Oslo Social Forum and the Ministry of Social Reform. The En Verden board now has six members and they hope to add the former Prime Minister soon. James Christie sent his best wishes to Roy Breivik and Elisabeth Sveri who could not attend.

Les Federalistes Mondiaux de France

Jean Francis Billion reported on what he knew of the activities of FMF. The organization in Lyon was reporting difficulties, but hoped to revive the membership in Paris.

UEF Rhone Alpes

Jean Francis Billion decided to publish a report twice a year. The main activities are a weekly meeting of the Executive Board. They have very close relationships with members of the European Parliament, 3 of whom are also members of UEF Rhone Alpes. In February, they organized a series of meetings in Lyon during a planning session for the World Social Forum. In January they will have a joint meeting with ATTAQ regarding the European constitution. They have been strengthening their ties with the Young European Federalists and also publish a French newsletter 5 times a year.

Movimento Federalista Europeo (MFE)

Luigi Guissani spoke on behalf of MFE. This year they had a representative at the Young European Federalist Congress. They have been monitoring and supporting institutions which support federalism. They continue to publish the Federalist Debate and many other publications. They have updated their website at www.mfe.it. James Christie congratulated them on their outreach and their publication of the Federalist Debate.

South Asian Federalists (SAF)

Vijayam Raghunathan reported on behalf of the SAF. This past year the SAF were deeply involved in the preparations for the World Social Forum in Mumbai. At the WSF, they organized three conferences in conjunction with another group concerning small arms trade. They also organized the million face campaign for women and child welfare and the Peace Exchange Mission. They organized trainings for other NGOs in three locations. James Arputharaj stated that the main focus for the SAF had been on small arms trade because it is one of the largest problems for South Asia. This next year the focus may be on conflict prevention and rebuilding. He reported that they had added 45 members in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. James Christie said that he hoped other NGOs around the world would help with the million faces campaign. Bill Pace said that he hoped that the South Asian Federalists would prepare a document to circulate through the MOs and AOs so that they could help the initiative.

Ugandan World Federalists (UWF)

Joseph Simbwa reported on behalf of the UWF. In February he participated in a leadership conference organized by UNA Uganda. He met with the International Secretariat CICC Africa Coordinator. In the future he hopes to create materials to explain the ICC to Ugandans in their local languages. He also

expressed his hope that a WFM Council Meeting would be held in Uganda. Knut Berdal wondered if there was a World Federalist Organization in Zambia. Keith Best asked if UWF had any contact with the AU or other African countries. Erich Wettstein said he hoped to create contacts for projects in Ghana.

Weltfederalisten der Schweiz

Rolf Haegler reported on behalf of Weltfederalisten der Schweiz. He stated that the number of members has been stable over the past year and that they continue to create two publications a year. This spring he was present at Sir Peter Ustinov's funeral representing WFM and Sir Peter's funeral announcement helped increase membership and awareness of federalism. The organization participated in a conference on the UN in Germany and the World Citizen's Movement. Earlier in the year they sent a letter to the US government urging them to ratify the Rome Statute on the ICC. They will soon start a signature campaign for the ICC. He mentioned that although WFM Japan could not be represented in The Hague, that they sent their best wishes for a successful meeting.

FN Forbundet

Michael Toft Schmidt reported on behalf of FN Forbundet. He reported that they had been working to promote their goals now that Denmark is a member of the Security Council. They worked on the Global Compact Summit and sent a fact-finding mission to Iran and the rest of the Middle East. They have established a development and Human Rights Working Group. He reported that the conservative government in Denmark has meant that they will receive little or no funding from the government. Bill Pace wondered if they would appreciate the IS writing a letter to the government of Denmark. Michael appreciated that idea. They are also working on creating tools for teaching about the UN in Denmark.

WFM Netherlands (WFBN)

Ton Mâcel reported on behalf of WFBN. He welcomed everyone to The Hague and expressed how pleased he was to be helping to host the Council Meeting. Every year WFBN hosts 8 meetings on different topics concerning federalism. They have improved their newsletter which was distributed to all the libraries in the Netherlands. Membership over the past year has also risen. Frans Micklinghoff has given interviews on the radio about Federalism. Paul Berendsen mentioned that WFBN was invited to participate in a series of radio interviews after the death of Sir Peter Ustinov.

WFM – Canada

Fergus Watt reported on behalf of WFM - Canada. He reported that much of their programmatic work is designed to support an effectively functioning ICC. They are also very involved in the R2P-CS project and UN reform. They have 6 active city chapters and 13000 individuals subscribe to their newsletter and about 800 people donate per year. They hosted a conference on UN reform and R2P-CS earlier in the year at which Bill Pace spoke. Warren Allmand was elected as their new president. They suffered a disappointment when the Inter Parliamentary Union became the established Parliamentary Assembly at the UN. They took part in many conferences including the UBUNTU meeting in Barcelona. He also mentioned that they were trying to get the Canadian government to pay closer attention to the crisis in Darfur. Bill Pace expressed his appreciation of the work that WFM – Canada was doing and hoped that they could work closely on the reform of the IPU.

Union of European Federalists (UEF)

Bruno Boissiere had reported previously about the activities of UEF. He mentioned that in the future UEF wished to revive inactive organizations such as WFM Belgium and work more closely with the Young European Federalists. They will continue to work on reforming the European Constitution until it is federal.

One World Trust (OWT)

Peter Luff presented the report on behalf of OWT. OWT is working on its global accountability project and is currently looking into the Ford Foundation for grants and at the UN for support. OWT has about 6 staff looking into the accountability of the foreign office to the parliament. It has produced many pamphlets and

is also starting to look at the relationship between the European Union and UN reform. OWT is working to go beyond the Kyoto agreement to an accord with higher environmental standards. For now, OWT is focusing on setting standards not on investigations.

World Federalists of Northern California (WFNCa)

John O. Sutter presented the report on behalf of the WFNCa. The San Francisco office has one paid staff and 15 board members. In June it co-sponsored a 4-day conference on Democratization of the U.N. at San Francisco State University. Last month at the University of California in Berkeley, it organized a panel on Solutions to the War System with anti-war organizations. They are now in the 13th year of publishing their newsletter and are updating their website. WFNCa is very active on many listservs.

The Future of WFM

James Christie explained that as WFM has expanded over the years most of its support is now coming from its programmatic work and it needs to find innovative ways to maintain its “core projects.” He suggested two actions: to engage internationally with other world wide NGOs such as Amnesty International, Greenpeace, etc and also look at way that the structure of WFM itself inhibits participation of individuals. Lucy Webster suggested identifying programmatic areas that have outreach potential to increase membership through each specific program. James Christie suggested submitting a questionnaire to MOs and AOs about their relationship to the IS. Charles Brown mentioned that Amnesty International has large outreach in the north, supporting large programmatic areas in the South. Bill Pace stressed that if the IS created a questionnaire, that MOs and AOs must take time to answer fully and completely.

Committee reports

Lucy Webster said that she has been working on reviving the Institute for Global Policy since the middle of August. Eventually she would like to create a database as a resource for World Federalism. She also mentioned that the Statutes and By-Laws had no policy on Federalism and hoped that one could be created.

Next Council and Congress Meeting

James Christie suggested that the next Congress be held one year later than normal in 2007 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Movement. There was also the possibility of holding the 2006 Council meeting in Vancouver. Fergus said that the value of holding the 2006 Council Meeting in Vancouver would be to coincide with the Vancouver Peace Forum. James Christie suggested that all MOs who wish to host the next Council Meeting submit a formal application to the IS.

Lois Wilson closed the Council Meeting with a song about World Federalism.