

WORLD FEDERALIST MOVEMENT

Council Meeting Minutes

September 2-4 1999

Introductions/ Call to Order

Regrets were received from Sir Peter Ustinov, WFM President. Karen Hamilton introduced Senator Lois Wilson of Canada, WFM Vice-President.

The chairperson announced that Rev. Toshio Miyake passed away three days ago. Toshio Kozai and James Arputharaj offer remembrances of the life and work of Rev. Miyake. A moment of silence was observed for Rev. Miyake and the mayor of Ventotene who had also died recently. Bill Pace noted that Yehudi Menuhin, a supporter of WFM, had passed away recently. WFM will express condolences to his family.

Proxies and Appointments

Martin Hagvall, chair of the credentials, nominations and statutes committee reported that there numerous proxies received this year. There was one contested proxy for WFM Germany. A statement by the credentials committee on this matter was read, stating that the committee had ruled the contested proxy invalid.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from WFM Councillor Elizabeth Sveri. Sveri apologized that she was not able to attend this Council meeting and the prior Congress in Chennai. Sveri remarked that in the WFM strategy paper no mention was made of efforts to recruit membership in Russia, the Baltic States and the former Warsaw Pact countries. She affirmed En Verden's continuing interest in building WFM membership in that region.

Approval of Agenda

John Sutter requested that an item be added to the agenda on WFM Committees after the India Congress. The agenda was adopted as amended.

Approval of India Minutes

John Sutter noted that he had sent corrections to the IS and to Martin Hagvall on the list of councillors. Noting that Martin Hagvall and the IS would incorporate these corrections into the minutes, the Council adopted unanimously the minutes of the India Congress.

Distribution of Council Documents

The EC recommended that documents for the Council be increasingly emailed and put on website.

Council Chair Report

James Christie noted that in recent years the emphasis of the movement has been on the work of the IS and its programs. The tradeoff has been that MO's have had less opportunity to discuss the programs near to its heart, and not necessarily the same as IS's work. Also committees have been de-emphasized. Christie explained the idea behind the Council chair's roundtable: to utilize the movement's individual and collective expertises and push WFM to achieve our longer term goals. Karen Hamilton will introduce the paper prepared by Fergus Watt on economic globalization, as a lead in to the informal discussion.

Summary of Congress Actions and Implications

James Christie brought Councillors' attention to the policy laid out from the resolutions and recommendations passed at the last Congress in India in 1998, noting that Council's responsibility was to see that this policy was carried out. Rik Panganiban and William Pace focused on specific resolutions of particular salience to this Congress.

International Secretariat Report

William Pace updated the Council on the recent activities and status of the International Secretariat. Pace spoke on staffing issues, noting that several staff have recently moved on and a new development consultant and ICC staff would soon be starting at the IS.

Finances

Pace listed the grants that had been received from various sources. Future funding requests will focus on UN democratization initiatives with the assistance of the new development consultant.

On the Hague Appeal for Peace

Pace spoke about the incredible success of the conference with triple the number of attendance expected. Whether the conference will be judged a success depends upon real achievement of some of the agenda. The Hague Appeal will be getting its own office independent from WFM shortly.

On the International Criminal Court

Pace reiterated the tremendous success of the Rome Statute and the re-confirmation of WFM's leadership in the Coalition for an International Criminal Court. The next steps are a broad-based ratification campaign aimed at garnering the necessary ratifications to create the ICC as soon as possible.

On NGO access to the UN

Pace noted that while WFM is doing everything it can to support NGO access, that in many ways we are losing ground on this issue. Meanwhile WFM continues to work with groups on a UN parliamentary assembly, the civil society forum and millennium forum proposals.

WFM has not been as active on sustainable development as in past years.

On UN Financing

Pace warned that there was a serious possibility that the US would lose its vote in the General Assembly due to non-payment of its dues. Meanwhile WFM continues to express support for alternative forms of funding such as the Tobin Tax.

On Security Council reform

WFM is one of a handful of NGOs monitoring this process.

In summary, there is progress on virtually every front that WFM is working on. There is greater support for global governance and democratization of international affairs than has ever existed. And the development of a new diplomatic model of decision-making, the "New Diplomacy," is a very powerful new mechanism.

Membership Report

Rik Panganiban reported as Membership Director on his addendum to the Strategy Paper on Membership Outreach. Panganiban noted that the associated organization status has been underutilized by the movement as a method of outreach. He suggested a new strategy to bring the voices of key geographic regions (particularly the Global South) and key sectors of civil society into the Movement through invitations to join WFM as associated organizations. Several Councillors expressed support for this proposal. Bruce Ritchie hoped that the IS could provide packets of information that could be given to prospective organizations. Ton Macel suggested that there be established a set of procedures for dealing with new prospects that worked with relevant MO's in the region. Bente Nielsen noted that sustainable development was a good issue to use to bring on board new groups from the Global South.

Committee Structure

Council discussed the existing WFM committee structure. James Christie noted that because of time constraints in India, the Council there was not able to revisit the committee structure and form itself into committee

groupings. Christie made the distinction between sessional committees and ongoing committees, sessional committees doing all their work during the Council meetings and ongoing committees having work beyond the Council meetings.

John Sutter asked how does the Council involved Councillors not at Council meetings? He advised that every committee should have a convenor. There should be good geographic representation on committees. And someone should be responsible for overseeing committee work. Keith Best said that it was incumbent on all Councillors to be involved with at least one committee.

There was a discussion on the relationship between the committees and the IS. Bill Pace answered that committees implement the policy set forward by the Congress, not all of which can be implemented by the IS. He emphasized that MO's must also have a large role in implementing policy. Rik Panganiban noted that committees are responsible for looking at commission resolutions and recommendations and seeing that they are implemented, whether by the IS, the MO's or WFM leadership.

Tim Earner argued that there should be a distinction between working groups and committees, working groups having a specific task and an end goal while committees are ongoing. Also Council should differentiate between functional versus programmatic committees. An outreach committee looks outward, outside the movement, but internally the MO development also needs work.

Functional Committees

Keith Best suggested an audit committee to make sure that we fulfilled our commitments as Council. John Roberts suggested committees submit regular reports on their activities. He noted that email made it possible for committees to be much more active between Council meetings. The Council discussed the proposal for an audit committee. Martin Hagvall advised on waiting to making a final decision on this committee, since some of these functions might fall within the purview of the Executive Committee and the CNS committee. John Sutter suggested that a management and audit committee should include the vice-president and the vice chairs of Council. Lois Wilson advised that she had not interest in internal auditing. There was no agreement on the proposed audit committee.

Council affirmed the status of the Credentials Nominations and Statutes Committee, with Martin Hagvall convening. Council approved the re-formation of an Outreach and Member Development Committee, with Barbara Walker agreeing to convene. Council approved the creation of a Finance and Fundraising committee with Aaron Knight agreeing to convene.

Program Committees

It was generally agreed that the programmatic committee structure should follow the general program structure of WFM.

It was agreed that the UN Security Forces committee would be replaced by the Conflict Prevention, Peace and Security Committee, under the co-covenorship of Lucy Webster and Bruce Ritchie.

It was agreed that the Environment and Sustainable Development committee would be renamed the Global Environmental and Sustainable Development committee. Bente Nielsen agreed to convene.

It was agreed to form a committee on the Strengthening the Rule of Law and the Protection of Human Rights. John Roberts agreed to convene.

It was agreed to form a committee on the Democratization of the United Nations. Lucio Levi agreed to convene.

It was agreed to form a committee on UN reform. Bill Pace recommended that the committee make Security

Council reform and UN financing a priority in its work. Tim Barner agreed to convene.

James Arputharaj argued that WFM needed a Right to Development and Eradication of Poverty committee. James Christie put the question to the Council. It was agreed that a committee on the Right to Development and the Eradication of Poverty would be created with James Arputharaj as convenor.

John Sutter suggested an informal working group on Federalism and Self-Government, which was agreed. Franco Spoltore agreed to convene.

Cooption to Council

Martin Hagvall reported that three cooptions to Council were made at the last Congress in India last year. There were three more council meetings coming up with seven more slots for cooptions. Nominations were received by the CNS committee. Four nominations for cooption were received: Jeff Porten, Lucy Webster, Mitsunori Ueki, and Troy Davis. Martin announced that this year the CNS committee was flexible and allowed cooption nominations after the beginning of Council. The next year this would not be allowed.

The ballot procedure consisted of the CNS committee members distributing ballots to all Council members present, with no additional ballots for proxies. The Council members were instructed to write down the names of the nominees they supported being on the Council. Any nominee with an absolute majority will be considered coopted. Three candidates speak on their own behalf, with John Roberts speaking on behalf of Troy Davis. Jeff Porten, Lucy Webster, and Mitsunori Ueki were coopted to Council. A request for an official vote count was received, Martin Hagvall announcing that 21 votes were needed for cooption, Ueki receiving 36 votes, Webster 29, Porten 21, and Davis 12.

Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee

Martin Hagvall reported that in Chennai it was decided to put to Council in Ventotene the decision of the composition of the Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee. Since India, the CNSC has established procedures and the functions undertaken by each member. As special web page on CNSC rulings and other documents will be established shortly. The committee is working on an agenda or timeline for the progressive development of WFM by the next Congress.

The provisional membership of the CNSC was stated as: Gautam Dey, Jorgen Madsen, Sohini Sinha, Paul Berendson, Giovanni Sofrizzi and Martin Hagvall as chair. Hagvall allocated time during the Council meeting for additional nominations, commenting that he thought the current number of six was ideal for him.

There have been lots of new activities in Africa. Prince Simbwa and his organization African Federalists Association has applied for affiliation. The CNSC recommended that it be recognized as an associated organization pending certain clarifications. Hagvall moved that the African Federalist Association be accepted as an Associated Organization. Seconded by Dr. James Arputharaj. Carried with one opposed.

Additionally the CNSC reported receiving papers from a group in Sierra Leone.

Union of European Federalists have indicated their wish to apply to be an associated organization of WFM. The Committee expects a formal application before Japan.

The World Citizens Foundation expressed an interest to join as an AO, though there may have been some communications errors that prevented an application from reaching the CNSC.

The CNSC requested Council to help them by informing them about activities that are going on. If MO's or individual councillors have communications that are occurring with applicant organizations please feel free to forward them to the committee so that they can be better informed about the organizations in question.

Dr. James Arputharaj nominated Ms. Vijayam for the CNSC, Karen Hamilton moved to add another member. Seconded by James Arputharaj. Vote: 19 for, 5 opposed. Motion carried. James Christie requested a slight modification of the decision, noting that WFM has a precedent of one member per nation / member country. It was agreed that Ms. Vijayam would serve as an alternate for Mr. Dey in the event he can not attend a Council meeting.

Treasurers Report

Ed Chobanian stated that WFM finances are presently adequate, due to the grant component and not due to membership dues. The ICC and the Hague Appeal for Peace projects are the primary reason we are in the surplus. The total income budget for 1998 was US\$227,000. Actual income was \$144,000. Nearly \$127,000 came from grant money to pay administration costs. This is disappointing since we have had a very low response to membership payments to WFM. Nearly 22,000 dollars were not paid by WFM MO's for their 1998 dues and there was a deficit in individual donations of \$11,000. We spent nearly 1,500,000 for program activities which came from grants.

The 1999 budget runs on similar lines. Hopefully we will have more money from membership dues. We will be spending \$944,000 of our grant money, which has been brought into the programs previous to this year. If we get new grant money that will be added to the program.

Bruce Ritchie suggested that the IS put copies of those communications to the councillor or the council chair of that organization. John Sutter recommended that since every member organization is obliged to pay these dues, all MO's should explain in their own internal membership that a certain portion is required to be passed on to be WFM. Bill Pace noted that Council was urging the IS to be more proactive in contacting others in the countries to push this. If this soft approach is not effective than the IS will come back with some proposals for enforcement mechanisms. Keith Best reported that the EC reminds MO's that they are expected to submit their audited accounts and an annual report on their activities to the IS.

Appreciation was expressed for the hard work of Ed Chobanian, Barbara Walker, Nancy dela Pena, and Vito Prioa.

Recommendations from EC

Keith Best reported that the EC felt it was important that WF A should be represented on WFM. The EC also felt it should have a representative from Japan. What was agreed by the EC and put before the Council for approval is to invite the WFM Japan to submit the name of an individual to attend the EC as an observer without a vote. WFM Council decides to invite WFM Japan to nominate an observer to WFM EC.

Reports from the Member Organizations

European Coordination Meeting Report

Tony Macel reported on the informal meeting on European coordination, which occurred on the first day of the Council meeting. There was unity among participants that there was no desire to create a new organization in Europe. He concluded that it is up to participants to figure out what they DO want instead of simply arguing about what they DON'T want.

Asian Youth Centre

Shriranjini Rajesekjar reported that the Asian Youth Centre is one of Chennai's most active NGOs. The AYC participated in the UN vigil, which was covered by local press. The AYC has branches in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Japan. The AYC continues to work with street children, providing education and counseling. AYC's vision is to work globally and locally.

Association of World Federalists

Bruce Ritchie reported that A WF has found someone to help out part time to work with

membership issues. He distributed information on the Charter for Global Democracy.

En Verden

Knut-Roger Anderson reported that En Verden was very interested in working on the Hague Appeal for Peace. We received US \$10,000 from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, which we utilized to send representatives to Pakistan to assess the human rights situation there. Roy Breivik continues his work with Baltic states. En Verden is planning a possible seminar in Latvia. En Verden remains in close connection to the Nobel Prize committee.

FN Forbundet

Bente Nielsen reported that FN Forbundet's main activity last year was the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. FN Forbundet organized three workshops on OSCE and civil-military cooperation at the Hague Appeal. They plan on being involved in Hague Appeal follow-up.

Fundacion Federalista

Rik Panganiban reported that the Fundacion Federalista had been very active on the international criminal court in the last year and had had a recent change in leadership.

Indian NO of World Federalists

Toshio Kozai reported that the Indian NO of World Federalists was doing well, though they are not very large. They will soon have a new secretary general.

Les Federalists Mondiaux de France

Jean-Francis Billion reported that there had recently been a general meeting of the organization in Paris where a new board was elected. The French Federalists are active on the ICC. The Leon regional group has also been active, publishing its newsletter and republishing Dieter Heinrich's booklet on UN Parliamentary Assembly before the Millennium Assembly next year. They are going to organize another vigil in support of the United Nations on October 23.

He noted that soon le Federalists Mondiaux de France maybe large enough to warrant a second WFM Councillor.

Movimento Federalista Europeo

Giovanni Sofrizzi reported on behalf of MFE. MFE has been mostly absorbed by its campaign for a European Constitution. Recent currency fluctuations have made it difficult for the organization to pay its dues, but he stated that they intend to pay their membership dues when they are able.

WFM Japan

Toshio Kozai reported that WFM Japan held its annual assembly in April in Tokyo. The financial support for the organization was not going so well. A statement have been released on the Kosovo conflict. The organization recently took the decision to change its name to "WFM Japan." WFM Japan sponsored a poster competition for youth. WFM Japan was instrumental in organizing the large delegation of Japanese activists who attended the Hague Appeal for Peace. They are working to have a coalition of NGO's to support the Hague Agenda, including such groups as Amnesty International and Peace Boat.

World Federalists of Nepal

Toshio Kozai reported that Mr. Thapa could not attend this meeting due to financial difficulties. Mr. Thapa assured him that they will attend the Council in Japan in 2000.

Young European Federalists

Laura Davies, secretary general of JEF, reported on behalf of the Young European Federalists. JEF has been busy lobbying the European Parliament, on a Europe-wide basis. It has been campaigning for a federal Europe beyond the European Union. JEF held training sessions and seminars on a variety of subjects

including European elections and security issues. JEF has been developing its sections in Central Europe.

South Asian Federalists

Vijayam Raghunathan reported that the 23rd WFM Congress provided opportunities for South Asian Federalists to attend a WFM Congress for the first time. South Asian Federalists took a stand against Kargil War. SAF plans a visit to Nepal and Bangladesh.

James Arputharaj introduced a resolution on the "Kargil War" conflict between Pakistan and India, seconded by Vijayam Raghunathan. Vijayam Raghunathan corrected the fifth paragraph of the preambular text to replace "experts" with "exporters." Jorgen Madsen proposed an amendment:

WFM emphasizes that all UN resolutions should be respected and that all area disputes should be dealt with in an open, civilized and non-military manner striving for giving the involved people the best possibilities for active democratic participation.

The motion was moved and seconded by Bente Nielsen. The amendment was accepted unanimously. The amended resolution was accepted unanimously.

Sveriges Varldsfederalister

Martin Hagvall apologized that Lars Ulsen who had hoped to have been in Ventotene to present the report of the Swedish. He will formalize the MO report and distribute it via email to Council.

Ver. de Weltfederalisten der Schweiz

Rolf Haegler presented the report on behalf of Ver. de Weltfederalisten der Schweiz. Membership is not growing fast, but there is a small increase. The organization has good opportunities at the moment at the political level. Parliamentarians from all parties have begun an initiative in support of Swiss membership to the United Nations. 100,000 signatures must be collected by March 8,2000. World Federalists were one of the first to engage themselves in this question.

WFM Netherlands

Paul Berendson reported that last year WFM Netherlands celebrated its 50th anniversary. He announced that from now on "WFM Netherlands" would be the official English version of their name. The organization is actively cooperating with JEF. WFM Netherlands is now the official Dutch representative of the International Registry of World Citizens.

WFM Bangladesh

Could not attend due to finances.

World Federalist Association

Barbara Walker and Aaron Knight presented the report of the World Federalist Association. WFA has been very active on the ICC, the Hague Appeal for Peace and on UN funding. At the Hague conference 150 WFA members came to meeting. Walter Cronkite will accept from WFA a Norman Cousins Global Governance award in October at the UN. John Anderson has accepted the offer to become full time as chief executive of WFA. WFA has great interest in being more fully integrated into WFM. There was an informational meeting on WFA's Campaign to End Genocide meeting in the Hague. The Campaign to End Genocide was described as a campaign with an emotional appeal to draw public attention to the ICC, UN funding, a standing peace force and UN reform. Printed materials on the Campaign were distributed and received positive feedback from Councillors.

James Christie thanked WFA for its report, which was accepted by Council.

Bill Pace expressed appreciation to Tim Barner for his service to WFM over the years, including serving as treasurer in 1980's and early 1990's. Pace stated that Tim Barner was instrumental in the transition of the New York from effectively a UN office for WFA to an international secretariat. Councillors expressed their appreciation by applause.

WFM Germany

James Christie remarked that according to recent communications with WFM Germany, they have been actively campaigning on the ICC and UN Parliamentary Assembly. WFM Germany has been improving its internet site.

World Federalists of Canada

The World Federalists of Canada held a joint membership meeting with WFA in Toronto recently. The ICC has been a main focus of WFC's work, serving as the coordinating agency for the Canadian Network for an ICC. WFC has also been active on the Hague Appeal for Peace and the World Trade Organization. Senator Lois Wilson, the WFC president, has been in contact with the Francophonie encouraging them to ratify the ICC. Bill Pace remarked that WFC's role on the ICC and through the Francophonie and the Commonwealth is just the model he hoped other MO's would emulate.

Millennium Forum Update

Tim Barner reported on the Millennium Forum planned for May 22-26 at the United Nations. At end of July there was an NGO planning committee meeting. The UN Secretary General has called for a Millennium Assembly in 2000 and a parallel NGO summit. Attendance will be limited to 1600 individuals because of facilities constraints. The forum would provide input to the Millennium Assembly. There is a head of state component of the Millennium Assembly called the Millennium Summit planned for November or September. The Forum will pass on their recommendations to the Secretary General who will hopefully incorporate this into his report. Bill Pace convenes the thematic group on new institutional arrangements. Tim Barner encouraged MO's to contact relevant networks that they can get involved with.

On the issue of a permanent NGO forum, Bill Pace cautioned that to bring up the issue in an aggressive and public way would create a backlash against the forum led by certain governments. The strategy is to have one good meeting and have the Secretary General invite participation every year. Pace reported that some groups are working on a resolution on formal consultative rights of NGOs to the UNGA.

The Federalist Debate

Lucio Levi reported on the status of *The Federalist Debate* publication. He remarked that the *Debate* had had some difficulties due to cuts in financial support from the European Commission and some organizational difficulties. The goal to relaunch the magazine is not to replace an existing magazine but to utilize *the Federalist Debate* to create a dialogue on federalism among WFM, UEF, and JEF. Levi asked Councillors to support the publication by submitting articles and subscribing to it. Bill Pace announced that WFM had enough funds within its publications budget to support the first three issues. An internet version of the *Debate* will be available. We will hopefully be able to make other versions available in other languages as the resources become available.

Ton Macel congratulated Lucio on his work on the *Debate*. He requested that the *Federalist Debate* contact information be included in the WFM directory. Jean-Francis Billion announced that WFM-France hoped to translate portions of the *Debate* in their newsletter.

Format and Effectiveness of Council

In 1996 the Council expressed a desire to format the Council agenda to give adequate opportunity for the IS, the member organizations and committees to report to each other. James Christie reported that he had built an agenda on this basis instead of the issues based format previously used.

Bruce Ritchie asked about the proper place in the agenda for resolutions. Charlotte's resolution for example on the food crisis, population, etc. should come forward at Council. Ritchie will forward the resolution to environment and sustainable development committee. Christie replied that he preferred resolutions coming from within member organization reports, since that put them in proper context for consideration. Jorgen Madsen stated that he was unhappy that resolutions came forward at the last second, not giving Councillors opportunity to consider them ahead of time.

Christie noted that there was produced in 1997 a suggested format for resolutions, which will be redistributed to Council before Japan. Tim Barner suggested that Councillors inform Council ahead of time all resolutions coming before Council so we can fit it into the schedule.

Aaron Knight asked about participation on the committees of non-Councillors. Martin Hagvall stated that within committees on Councillors formally have a vote, all others would be considered observers. Christie replied that a committee chair is free to invite participation of virtually any World Federalist. And since they tend to work by consensus, voting was not so much an issue. The IS will produce the list of committees for all councillors in the updated directory.

Next Council Meetings

Based upon the consultations between WFM-Japan, the IS, and the executive committee, it was agreed to hold the next WFM Council meeting in Kamakura Japan from October 7-10, 2000. Christie reported that the Executive Committee has recommended to Council that the Council meeting be held in Ventotene when possible. Laura Davies noted that JEF supported the EC's recommendation. Knut Anderson reported that the Norwegian Federalists were also willing to host the meeting in Oslo. Lucy Webster hoped that when the Council meets again in Ventotene that the Councillors could all eat together and that the agenda be better coordinated with the JEF seminar. Paul Berendsen remarked that WFM-Netherlands had some problems with Ventotene as a venue. In a vote, the Council voted in support of meeting in Ventotene, with some votes against. William Pace commented that the IS now has time to work out with the Spinelli organizers the details of the Ventotene Council meeting. He senses a general resistance to having regular meetings of the Council in Ventotene.

Date and Location of Next Congress

2002 was agreed as the date of the next WFM Congress. There was general support for the proposal to meet in the United Kingdom. Keith Best, Bruce Ritchie and John Roberts will look into the University of Canterbury and other possible venues. Ton Macel mentioned that the UEF in Austria had expressed tentative interest in assisting with a meeting in Vienna.

James Arputharaj made a motion thanking the local organizers, which was met with general approval and applause. Keith Best thanked James Christie for his facilitation, which was received with applause by Councillors.

The meeting was adjourned.