



## World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy

**To: WFM Council**  
**From: WFM International Secretariat**  
**Date: October 23-24, 2004**  
**Re: Advocacy for a United Nations Emergency Peace Service**

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For the past two years, WFM-IGP has been involved in ongoing discussions about a UN-based rapid response force which would be capable of responding to outbreaking humanitarian emergencies in a matter of days. Such a force would act rapidly, with the goal of filling the gap – the weeks and sometimes months that it currently takes to deploy military and police personnel to an outbreaking crisis. If such a force were in place, it could have saved tens of thousands of lives and untold costs in crises such as East Timor, Rwanda, and Haiti. In the past two years, WFM chaired several meetings in an effort to gain consensus among NGOs on the basic elements of such a force.

In December 2003, Bill Pace attended a meeting of 15 experts and NGO representatives, convened by Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in Santa Barbara California. The symposium addressed general issues of preventing genocide and crimes against humanity, but the experts focused particular attention on a specific deficiency in the ability of the UN system to rapidly react to these crises. At that meeting, an agreement was reached on the elements of this force which participants agreed to call a “United Nations Emergency Peace Service.” Since that time, several of the participants have come together as an informal “working group for a UNEPS” on this issue and have been drafting campaign tools, including a background paper and one page proposal, to gain further support for a UNEPS. Members of this working group include academics and representatives from NGOs such as Citizens for Global Solutions, Global Action to Prevent War, Human Rights Watch, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and WFM-IGP.

The next step is for the individuals involved in these efforts to submit the proposals to their organizations for official endorsement. Therefore, we submit the draft background paper and draft one page proposal for WFM-IGP endorsement.<sup>1</sup> We believe that it is consistent with WFM-IGP policies and mandates on peace and security, and will make a significant contribution to WFM-IGP’s program *Preventing Conflicts-Protecting Civilians*. Through the *Preventing Conflicts-Protecting Civilians* program, WFM-IGP is engaging civil society in advocacy for improved global responses to the issues of protection and prevention. Support for UNEPS would be one aspect of the program’s advocacy for effective and rapidly deployable forces and mechanisms at all levels: national, sub-regional, regional, SHIRBRIG or *ad hoc*, and international.

Advocacy for a UNEPS is also important for the advancement of WFM’s Responsibility to Protect-Engaging Civil Society project (R2P-CS), which is a central project in the *Preventing Conflicts-Protecting Civilians* program. The R2P-CS project is aimed at advancing the principles that that states have the responsibility to protect their populations from large scale loss of life and other gross violations of human rights, and that the international community has a responsibility to protect these populations when the state is unwilling or unable to protect them. The creation of international institutions with the capacity to respond to crises has direct relevance to R2P: one of the principal issues for the international community in protecting the world’s citizens is whether it has the capacity to do so in a quick and effective manner.

Subject to the endorsement of these documents by the Council, WFM-IGP has agreed to act as interim co-secretariat for the working group for a UNEPS along with Global Action to Prevent War and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. WFM-IGP would undertake outreach to NGO colleagues, initially for consultations and then for broader support of the initiative with a view toward a larger public debate on the issue.

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<sup>1</sup> The papers are still in draft form, as there are some minor edits sought by the co-drafters. The final versions are expected within the next month.