



# 2008 WFM EC Winter Conference Call Minutes

## APPROVED

Monday, 11 February 2008 - 11:30am EDT

Attending: Staci Alziebler (staff) Keith Best Ed Chobanian  
Tony Fleming Elisabeth Garrett (staff) Lucio Levi  
Bente Nielsen Bill Pace (staff)

Regrets: James Arputharaj Jim Christie\* Lucy Webster  
Lois Wilson\*

*\*Jim and Lois participated in an earlier conference call held on 5 February in which they reviewed the agenda items and were able to share their thoughts and views for the subsequent discussion.*

EC Chair, Keith Best called the meeting to order, and asked Bill Pace to share the IS Report.

### 1. International Secretariat Report

Bill Pace shared updates on the activities and current state of the various WFM-IGP projects since September 2007.

**Coalition for the International Criminal Court:** Just this week a third individual, Mr. Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, was arrested by the Congolese government for similar crimes as that of Lubanga. The CICC continues to grow with only complimentary issues.

**Peacebuilding Commission:** Now just over a year old, we are working with NGOs in Sierra Leone and Burundi and are looking for partners in Guinea Bissau. With the recent events in Timor-Leste, it may be possible that Japan, as PBC chair continues to have interest in Timor-Leste as a possible next country for the PBC.

**Responsibility to Protect:** There has been some backsliding since the handover from Kofi Annan to Ban Ki Moon was not as smooth and constructive. Last year there was no reiteration of endorsements for R2P in the Security Council and the Special Representative for the Responsibility to Protect was not approved by the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee in December. There have been steps forward, including the launch of a new Global Centre for R2P that Nicole Deller is serving as the Director and this will increase our ability to work closely with the Centre. There has also been an agreement to move forward on a Global Coalition for R2P. Human Rights Watch was taking the lead on this but has asked that WFM-IGP take this on. Next week there will be the first of six roundtables around the world to work with Civil Society to get R2P back on track at the UN.

**UN Reform:** There has been lots of appreciation from colleagues for these projects (ReformtheUN.org and UNElections.org). Today the GA President held a special meeting on Climate Change at the UN, we issued a statement at the meeting and are hoping to get more support for environmental governance components. Bill participated in the UNPA meetings in Geneva in November 2008. Andreas Bummel met with Boutros Boutros Ghali last week.

**Funding:** The IS is currently finishing the very difficult European Commission grant application. We hope to hear from the Ford Foundation on a renewal for a Civil Society in Global Governance grant. There is an important renewal of an R2P grant from MacArthur Foundation being reviewed. We also have proposals to the UK and the Oak Foundation.

Tony Fleming raised a question about staffing and development. Bill Pace shared that Lene Schumacher has continued to help us from Denmark for a few hours per week to help us transition. The first round was not successful and some modifications are needed to then repost the job description. The hope is to be more strategic in identifying potential candidates. Bill Pace noted that we were fortuitous to hire Marion Arnaud to work on R2P and Sapna and she have better matched skill sets needed for the work on coalition building. CICC now has two contracts with funding consultants over the next six months to expand our development and place CICC on a better foundation. Tony Fleming stated he would like to see a strategy for a development person for our broader programs. Ed Chobanian noted that with money as tight as it is, people prefer more focused programs. Bill Pace concluded he hopes to have preliminary reports by April and good news by summer.

## **2. Budget and Finance**

WFM Financial Officer, Staci Alziebler presented the 2008 budget with minor revisions, highlighting that in the Investments / Cash on Hand there is \$1.6 million in the bank but most of this is grant restricted.

Tony Fleming asked about the grant from MRG. Bill explained the history of working with MRG on Genocide Prevention since 2005. Ushani Agalawatta has helped MRG keep up with developments here at the UN.

Keith Best asked why the numbers were off on the Income and Donation lines. Bill Pace noted that there was no November-December Fund Appeal but we are working on one now and hope to make it up at the start of 2008. He also noted that there is a small family foundation that tends to give gifts but this year they are requesting a proposal from us. Staci Alziebler also shared that the upcoming Ford proposal (that was requested by Ford) is a renewal for \$300,000—doubling the amount requested for the last grant. This would be especially positive as these would not be restricted funds. Keith asked that the direct mail lines on the budget be changed to accurately reflect the anticipated three fund appeals that are anticipated this year.

Tony Fleming asked about the salaries/benefits line, “Is it reflecting the move to consultants vs. staff? Staci Alziebler agreed this has affected it but retention of staff (and the benefits and salaries that must be extended to staff) must also be taken into consideration.

Keith Best asked if the governance budget of \$40,000 is based on prior budgets. Tony Fleming noted that we are often over budget in governance meetings and asked if there is a way to have Member Organizations to pony up or governance meetings would be limited as to how elaborate they could be? Keith Best countered this would be difficult and Staci Alziebler noted that governance meeting are required in the statutes and bylaws.

Keith Best asked if there was agreement to approve the budget (with the caveat that the direct mail line will be appropriately amended). All were in favor and the budget was approved.

The meeting was temporarily suspended and the New York State Board of the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy was convened. The International Secretariat Report was shared with the board. The WFM-IGP board reviewed and approved the budget unanimously.

## **3. Preparations for Council 2008**

WFM Canada offered to host the next meeting at the University of Winnipeg however, their board required a decision by 26 January. A preliminary poll on the proposal was taken of the Council and there was a consensus to not have the Council meet in

November in Winnipeg, but for the EC to determine whether it should meet in The Hague or New York. Keith Best commented that the costs must be debated and asked the IS to prepare a report analyzing these options for discussion at the April meetings.

#### **4. Credentials, Nominations, and Statutes Report**

Tony Fleming shared that the new CNSC had their first meeting at the end of January. The CNSC for the forthcoming inter-Congressional period is comprised of Bente Nielsen (Denmark), Francisco Plancarte (Mexico), Vijayam Raghunathan (India) and Tony Fleming as Chair. The Council will need to formally appoint this provisional team in November.

##### *BYLAWS REVIEW*

The CNSC is working on the Council-mandated review of the Bylaws and anticipate offering a preliminary report to the EC in April. The CNSC has invited Karen Hamilton (Canada), Don Kraus (US), Peter Luff (UK), Kjartan Almanning (Norway), Takahiro Katsumi (Japan), Martin Hagvall (Sweden) and Gautam Dey (India) as co-opted contributors on this effort. Tony has so far received positive responses from Don, Peter, Kjartan and Gautam.

The CNSC set three broad parameters for considering specific proposals designed to structure our discussions:

- 1) Consensus will be sought, but will not preclude a majority of the Bylaws group offering a formal set of recommendations to the Council; if necessary, a minority report will be appended;
- 2) The primary goal is to bring the Bylaws into compliance with the amended Statutes; only where the Statutes open up specific opportunities in setting numbers and processes will more substantive proposals be considered;
- 3) The Movement's governing bodies should be described so as to encourage their members' service to the interests of the Movement firstly, rather than to their respective organizations.

#### **5. April EC Meeting**

The April EC Meetings will take place at the IS beginning at 1:00 pm on Thursday, 10 April and will conclude in the afternoon of Saturday, 12 April. Should EC Members have any concerns regarding accommodations they should contact Elisabeth Garrett.

Lucio Levi noted that the new JEF President spoke with him and has asked if he might participate in the EC Meetings. All agreed that he would be welcome.

#### **6. Co-Presidency**

In the prior call, Lois Wilson and Jim Christie both expressed concern over how open the nominating process should be. They felt it might be better to pursue a search committee approach, but to still remain consistent with our Statutes and Bylaws. Bill Pace shared that the IS feels the EC must provide direction for moving forward.

Keith Best noted there are two distinct elements: (1) identifying suitable nominees, and (2) the nominations process. There needs to be a fair choice but it is difficult to identify potential candidates without approaching them directly. How to go about compiling a list of names to potentially consider was debated at length and it was agreed that there would be a preliminary search committee composed of the WFM Officers and Executive Director.

The preliminary search committee has been charged with coming up with the list of some names to consider by the EC during their April meetings. The Council and Member and Associated Organizations will be informed of the process via email and will be asked to also submit names for consideration.

#### **7. Ventotene Seminar**

Lucio Levi shared his desire to see an increased partnership between WFM and the Spinelli Institute in regards to the Ventotene Conference that has trained activists for 25 years. He recommended three areas of co-operation to be considered:

- 1) The contribution of 2-3 WFM Speakers at Ventotene

- 2) 10-15 young people from WFM MOs and AOs recruited to attend the Ventotene meetings
- 3) Fundraising to cover the costs of these participants

Keith Best said this sounds like an excellent idea and the next stage should be for Bill Pace and Lucio Levi to work together, especially considering JEF, and provide a proposal at the April EC meeting outlining how to get these youth involved. Lucio noted that Jim Christie had been optimistic as to possible fundraising for the project when the issue was raised with him. Bill Pace agreed that he and Jim want to see a more positive involvement.

## **8. Other Business**

### *EC CO-OPTION*

Tony Fleming raised the issue of the potential co-options of 5 additional members to the EC before the next Congress. Bill Pace suggested discussing the process prior to considering names and to consider how large an EC is desired. This will be discussed further at the April EC Meetings.

### *FACEBOOK*

Tony Fleming also shared the WFM-IGP Facebook Group (an on-line social network) now has 223 members should any EC member care to join.

### *JAPAN PROPOSAL*

Bill Pace shared that Rev. Mitsuo Miyake sent a proposal to the IS to host a Japanese intern at the New York IS. A pledge of ten thousand (\$10,000) USD was offered for reimbursements for the position. There are still financial and visa details that must be determined but, the IS hopes this will result in a positive opportunity.

Having discussed all business items, Keith Best concluded the meeting.