

Commission 4

Global Environmental and Economic Governance

1. Economic Governance Resolution

The Commission approved the following resolution proposed by Alfonso Iozzo

“Bearing in mind the motion approved at the London WFM Congress in 2002 on a New Bretton Woods for a New International Economic Order, in which it was indicated that:

- the process of globalization has raised the volume of international financial transactions to 60 times that of world exports,
- consequently, it is the expectations of the financial markets that determine the exchange rates between currencies rather than the fundamentals of the different economies;
- since the problems of mass poverty, of sustainable world development and the restoration of legality to capitalism cannot be resolved by the market alone, nor by individual nations, new institutions are required, capable of governing the global aspects of the economy,
- following the post-war reconstruction, the work of the Bretton Woods Institutions, taken as a whole, has often proved inadequate in resolving problems, indeed at times it has complicated them, criticisable under norms of democratic legitimacy.

Considering

- the affirmation of the Euro as an international currency;
- the breaking by the Chinese Central Bank of the fixed exchange rates between the yuan and the dollar
- and that the conditions are ripe for a profound reform of the international monetary system, which can no longer be based on one single national currency.

Evidencing

- that in the absence of a project for international monetary reform, the international market could find itself facing a series of acute monetary crisis,
- the increasingly obvious imbalances in the financial situations of different nations and the unsustainability for the dollar to finance the growing indebtedness of United States,
- the necessity for the creditor nations such as China and the other Asiatic states to diversify their monetary reserves.

Indicates

The launch of a progressive plan towards the final realization of a world currency that envisages, as its first step, the use of a WCU (World Currency Unit) by the international monetary institutions, to be placed at the disposal of the nations as a means for facilitating the diversification of their reserves, together with the reform of the international monetary institutions such as the IMF and the Bank for International Settlements that guarantees the equal participation of all nations.

Requests that

The UN, The International Financial Institutions and the governments of the nations that have responsibility for the monetary order, convene a Summit to create a new worldwide monetary order, replacing that established at Bretton Woods in 1944, which is now obsolete.”

2. Environmental Governance

The Commission accepted an appeal for the prevention of Global Warming introduced by Rev Mitsuo Miyake:

“Recognizing that the prevention of global warming, which threatens the survival of many species, including the human race, is the most urgent problem currently facing the world today,

That, if it is not tackled urgently, all the efforts human beings have directed towards conflict prevention will be in vain and that, despite the Kyoto Protocol, Greenhouse Gas emissions are set to rise, and that a reduction of 80% by 2050 will be needed if the lives of over 30 million people are not to be put at risk,

Calls upon the World Federalist Movement to make the prevention of global warming, including education about the issue, a priority within its environmental programme.”

The Commission approved the following resolution proposed by Roberto Palea:

“The XXV World Congress of the World Federalist Movement held in Geneva, Switzerland 27-31 August 2007-08-30

Deeply concerned by the state of the environmental health of the planet and the gradual deterioration of the biosphere’s fragile balance, in particular the trends and effects of global warming;

Acknowledging that

- A) a number of recently published scientific reports, including the 2007 IPCC report (International Panel on Climate Change), have confirmed that the environmental state of the planet is serious and deteriorating, and human activities have a crucial impact on this situation;
- B) Many religious and moral authorities, including the His Holiness The Pope, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the leaders of many religions and denominations, have, on many occasions, warned of the risks of extinction of the human species if the dangerous trend of environmental degradation is not stopped;
- C) In spite of the negative context, some encouraging signals have been observed such as:
 - the initiative of some forty countries, including France and Italy, have appealed for better world wide environmental governance and have identified the creation of a UN Agency as the appropriate mechanism for dealing with environmental emergencies at a global level,
 - the decision of the European Council (EU) of 8th March 2007, that binds all 27 member states to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and obtaining 20% of energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020, as well as improving the efficient and rational use of energy in all sectors, which will exceed their Kyoto obligations.

Requests the World Federalist Movement to:

- remind governments and citizens worldwide that the survival of the human race is presently threatened, not only by the risk of wars (through nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction as well as terrorism) but also through environmental disaster,
- point out that, to measure up to the gravity and urgency of environmental emergencies, it is now necessary to move from a stage of discussion, negotiation and agreement between sovereign states through organised cooperation between industrialised countries to the creation of a new and all-embracing supranational institution – the establishment of a World Environment Agency, with the following characteristics:
 - i. a supranational authority,

- ii. real powers
- iii. its own funds, deriving from a world tax to be paid by developed countries, for example a carbon tax or stamp duty on speculative financial transactions between international currency areas.

Explanatory note: although this last tax does not imply any correlation between the taxable basis and objectives of the agency to be financed, it would be efficient as it would involve a high yield with low unit rates and would therefore be particularly well-suited to finance the level of world governance or its partial expression)

The Commission approved the following resolution proposed by Peter Luff:

"Taking note of previous WFM Resolutions, in particular the establishment of an International Environmental Court (San Francisco Congress 1995) and the call for the UN to declare sustainable development to be the overarching framework for UN development activities (London 2002),

Noting that the latest assessment of the International Panel on Climate Change shows that the danger of climate change is intensifying and accelerating and that, without strong and immediate action, global warming could bring massive destruction, loss of life on earth and irreversible damage to its ecosystem,

Noting further that the consensus of scientific opinion is that greenhouse gas emissions must be cut by at least 60% by 2050 based on the 1990 level of emissions in order to arrest dangerous climate change, while some recent modelling suggests that far more radical cuts - of 80 to 100 per cent - are needed by then if the rise in global temperatures is to be kept below 2 degrees centigrade,

Noting further that the Kyoto protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will only achieve a reduction of 2% of Annex 1 emissions, while global emissions are projected to rise by some 30% above 1990 levels by 2012,

Mindful that some Annex 1 countries have consistently refused to bind themselves to target emissions reductions and that some fast developing countries are refusing to commit themselves to target emissions reductions unless the principle of per capita equity of emissions targets is accepted,

Concerned, therefore, that the Kyoto negotiation process, while vital, needs to be accelerated and remembering that European experience has shown that a community which begins with a core of states, ready and willing to take action and inspire other states to join them can create effective change,

Urges that those countries, North and South, with the necessary leadership, statesmanship and sense of responsibility should form a Global Climate Community and advance the implementation of the UNFCCC at an accelerated pace.

This Global Climate Community would be founded by a group of willing states, North and the South, adopting a Protocol of Enhanced Cooperation as a bubble within the UN Framework Convention.

This Protocol would provide for:

- contraction of global GHG emissions to a level that stabilises concentrations at an acceptable level;
- convergence of GHG emissions entitlements to equal per person distribution within a specified timeframe;
- a market in tradable emissions entitlements;
- attainment of sustainable livelihoods, through international cooperation, capacity building and transfers of low carbon technologies, and adequate and predictable enabling resources;
- mechanisms that are flexible, transparent and robust to achieve the above.

This North-South bubble within the UNFCCC would require federal institutions that:

- ensure effective decisions on policies and measures;
- respect democratic accountability and the rule of law;
- manage the emissions market;
- monitor and ensure compliance;
- take responsibility for relations with other Parties, including association agreements as paths to full membership.

The member states of such a climate community would be taking a powerful step towards averting the greatest threat to the welfare and survival of humankind and other species. They should be confident that others will join them until all the peoples of the United Nations enjoy these benefits.”