

REFOCUSING WF NEWS

Dear Fellow World Federalist,

As you will notice, WFM-IGP is restructuring our newsletter by diving it into two sections. One will continue as WF News and be tailored to the interest of the WFM-IGP members, reporting on activities and achievements of our Member and Associated Organizations, providing updates from the governing bodies and highlighting opportunities to collaboratively advance our agenda in the international community.

The other section will be a thematic publication with a rotating focus of relevance to our work. The new thematic newsletter is named *International Democracy In Depth*, reflecting our intention to go into analytic depth on specific issues related to the Movement's work and mission. Our hope is that *In Depth* will serve a broader audience and will help to advance specific projects.

We have started with a focus on 'International Democracy: Reviewing UN Reform' to put our work into the context of the ongoing reform processes at the United Nations. In subsequent issues, we will take up specific elements of reform and provide thorough debate about a range of issues central to our federalist philosophy.

We will request opinion pieces from you, our members, as well as other NGO colleagues, government representatives, parliamentarians, UN staff and relevant experts.

We hope you will enjoy it.

The International Secretariat staff



MORE INSIDE:

Arms Trade Treaty
World Social Forum 2007
Council 2006

WFM ENDORSES UNPA APPEAL

The World Federalist Movement strongly endorses the "Appeal for the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations" prepared by the Committee for a Democratic UN (KDUN). Upon the request of WFM Canada and Andreas Bummel, WFM council member and a leader of KDUN, and following consultations with the WFM Executive Committee, the Chair of the WFM policy review committee, and the International Secretariat, we strongly encourage our Council members, member organizations and others to support the Appeal that is to be launched in April.



The Appeal has been endorsed by many prominent individuals and parliamentarians, and WFM is now one of the first international non-governmental organizations to endorse the Appeal, along with CIVICUS and WFUNA.

The Appeal calls for the establishment of a consultative UN parliamentary assembly, conforming with WFM's long-held policy on UNPA. The Appeal further calls for the convening of "an International Parliamentary Conference for the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly."

WFM determined through our internal consultation that although the consultative assembly could be comprised of national parliamentarians, other parliamentary bodies could also be included and represented—for example, appropriate regional parliamentary bodies. Some WFM members also favor the inclusion of 'local authority' bodies in a consultative PA. Lastly, WFM strongly insists that any UNPA be at least as open and transparent as existing UN bodies, and thus appropriate consultative arrangements and agreements with NGOs and other observers would need to be approved.

Again, we hope that WFM members and member organizations will join in endorsing and supporting the "Appeal for the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations." Please find more information at <http://www.uno-komitee.de/unpa/>.

REDOUBLING THE FEDERALIST EFFORT

The World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) is restructuring our projects, the results of which will enhance the effectiveness of both WFM and IGP as they strive to achieve common goals through different approaches. With the approval of the Executive Committee and the WFM Council, we are reorganizing the projects, to allow for greater use of the Institute for Global Policy and a prioritization of activities directly related to promoting the world federalist philosophy.



While WFM-IGP will remain a single legal entity with common program areas, the World Federalist Movement now will focus on the projects most directly related to the application of democratic federalist principles to international institutions, with the goals of ending wars, protecting the rights of every person on the planet and preserving the environment for the global community.

This will allow WFM and the International Secretariat to redouble efforts to promote the original conception of a federalist political philosophy and its relationship to peace, self-determination, democratic governance and the rule of law. This will create a space under WFM for our renewed efforts of 'branding' world federalism through direct promotion of federalism as a sophisticated, nuanced and effective form of constitutional democracy to ensure global, regional and national structures that enhance international peace and justice. By consolidating the federalist projects under WFM, a greater focus on federalism



and closer collaborations with other federalist organizations will be possible. Translating this commitment into practice, our projects will focus primarily on strengthening the structures and capacities of international and regional organizations to promote international democracy, justice and the rule of law, while contributing to the development of global norms and individual government policies and practices in these areas.

This change also creates an important opportunity to strengthen the work of the Institute for Global Policy, which was begun in 1982 by leading world federalists. While continuing to meet its original mandate as a research and publications institute, IGP will also take on projects that support WFM's goals but take a broader view of world federalism. These projects will fall primarily into the categories of human security, international justice, prevention of conflict and the protection of civilians.



These new efforts of rejuvenation will allow IGP to reach its potential and ultimately strengthen WFM.

These changes should not affect WFM-IGP members, nor should they impact the contributions of foundations, governments or individuals.

In this process, the International Secretariat has also developed a logo that combines WFM and IGP while simultaneously allowing them to appear separate. The International Secretariat is in the process of renewing our website to reflect these changes and expect to launch the new site by the end of March 2007.

More information about these changes is provided online at www.wfm-igp.org. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the International Secretariat at info@wfm-igp.org or +1 (212) 599-1320.

This is an exciting time for us and we hope you will join us as we continue to strengthen the programs and projects of both the World Federalist Movement and the Institute for Global Policy.

TRANSITIONS

In the past six months, the International Secretariat has had the following staff transitions:

Ushani Agalawatta has joined the WFM-IGP team to launch our project regarding the Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide.

Accounting Manager Laura Pavan left to pursue a career in teaching in the spring of 2006, resulting in a restructuring within the finance team. As a result, in the fall of 2006 Casey Schepp joined the finance team as the Finance Assistant.

Tech Consultant Peter Deitz moved to Montréal, Canada, leading to the reorganization of the tech team to better match the needs of the Secretariat. Peony Trinh joined us as a new Website and Publications Coordinator. Denis Ramirez, who had previously been working as a tech intern, has been contracted as the Website and Database Developer.

Within the CICC team the following changes have occurred:

In early 2006, Sally Eberhardt, former Media Li-

aison, took over as Head of CICC Communications from Shantha Rau. Esti Tambay, former CICC Program Assistant, was promoted to the position of Information and Analysis Officer. At the end of 2006, Sally decided to go back to freelance work. Anaga Dalal thus began as the new Director of Information and Communications in January 2007.

Eleanor Thompson was awarded a fellowship to go to Africa to do research on child soldiers and the ICC. Brigitte Hamadey has replaced her as CICC's new Program Assistant.

ROAD TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY VIJAYAM RAGHUNATHAN, SOUTH ASIAN FEDERALISTS

Councilor Vijayam Raghunathan reports on the development of the Arms Trade Treaty. South Asian Federalists are actively involved in the Control Arms campaign in India.

We're finally on the road to an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)! Resolutions like these—the ATT and the 1997 Resolution endorsing the ban on landmines—firmly demonstrate the enormous power of disarmament initiatives led by civil society. Three years ago in 2003 when the Control Arms campaign began, only five governments supported the concept of an Arms Trade Treaty. Today there are 153. This is indeed a historic period.

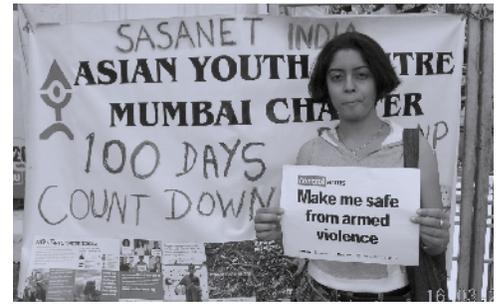
Three arduous years after the launch of the campaign, which has seen over a million people in 170 countries persisting for this Treaty, a majority of the world's governments have now taken the first step towards a global Arms Trade Treaty. A significant opportunity has arrived for humankind to embark upon a new life and we should not let it slip by. An ATT that eventually emerges in the wake of this struggle must forbid all transfers that fuel the killing and torture of millions of people worldwide.

It is imperative that the final ATT address the

small arms issue squarely, and without ambiguity. Interpretation of terminology in international agreements by different states has in the past been misleading. But each state must be clear on its commitments. Every government that manufactures, sells, or transfers arms is involved in this global problem.

At the regional and national levels we should continue our efforts and go at it with the same frenzy as before—more so because gun violence is not confined only to war zones. Civil society should continue its efforts in reiterating and pressing upon their governments the need for:

- Increased information sharing among institutions at local, national, regional and international levels is a must. Civil society organizations and development agencies need to assess the impact of armed violence at national levels and share it with others. Government commitments to cooperate on small arms initiatives should be utilized fully.
- Involvement at all levels—politicians, community workers, NGOs as well as grassroots movements, police and military personnel, religious leaders, arms producers and health



Asian Youth Centre member at a recent rally for control of small arms in Mumbai, India. Courtesy: Vijayam Raghunathan. Photo courtesy of: Vijayam Raghunathan.

workers—is essential. The proliferation of small arms is a global challenge to human security. Everyone involved in development and humanitarian assistance has a role to play.

We have traveled a long and hard path and there is still a long way to go till the treaty comes into effect. There are those who still think that the ATT will never work! The experience of the landmine treaty and the ICC should help to open their eyes. If it does not, I believe the ATT soon will do so.

We as World Federalists must not rest until we have succeeded in getting an effective ATT based on commitment and fair rules for all.



Nicola Vallinoto (MFE), Lene Schumacher (WFM-IGP), Elena Montani (JEF), and Faye Leone (WFM-IGP) participate at the WSF in Nairobi. Credit: Nicola Vallinoto.

The 2007 World Social Forum took place in January in Nairobi, Kenya, where tens of thousands of people from around the world injected fresh energy into the increasingly common belief that "Another World is Possible."

WFM was among them, represented by WFM-IGP Director of Programs Lene Schumacher and Program Associate Faye Leone from the International Secretariat in New York, as well as Nicola Vallinoto

from Movimento Federalista Europeo and Elena Montani, member of Jeunes Européens Fédéralistes. Ms. Schumacher spoke on four panels organized by affiliated organizations, bringing a range of important WFM-IGP initiatives to the attention of Kenyan civil society and groups from across Africa and the world.

- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Responsibility to Protect—Overdue humanitarian help or a new inroad for intervention?
- Oxfam International – Rights in Crisis (on the Responsibility to Protect)
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Peacebuilding in (Post) Conflict Societies—Sisyphus at Work?
- Ubuntu – Towards a Global Movement for the Reform of International Institutions

WFM-IGP was also an active participant in the discussion organized by Social Watch and Women's Organization for Environment and Development

(WEDO) on "UN reform and advocacy strategies of the international networks and NGOs."

In over a dozen workshops, panel events, and discussions, WFM-IGP also spoke about its new effort to increase accountability and transparency in UN appointments and elections (UNelections.org).

On the last day of the Forum, WFM-IGP supported two topics for the widespread global mobilization that will be WSF's focus in 2008 – the reform of international institutions as coordinated by UBUNTU and the campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly as put forward by our German Associated Organization, Committee for a Democratic UN. WFM-IGP looks forward to cooperating with our partners in Germany, Brazil, Italy and elsewhere, in advancing this agenda.

A full report on the activities at the World Social Forum can be found at www.wfm-igp.org/indepth/1.

2006 COUNCIL REPORT

WFM's annual Council Meetings took place in New York, NY, across from UN Headquarters from 26-28 October 2006. The focus of discussion for much of the agenda was on the Statutes and By-Laws revision process we are now undergoing. For more information on the process or to become more involved in the revisions, please visit www.wfm.org/fg.

The meeting took place only a few blocks from WFM-IGP's International Secretariat, allowing Councilors and observers had several opportunities to hear reports directly from and interact with the Secretariat staff. These interactions facilitated understanding and insight on the projects of our members and Secretariat staff alike. The full report of the International Secretariat's activities can be found online at www.wfm-igp.org.



Councilors and Participants at WFM's 2006 Council. Photo courtesy of: WFM Japan.

Tony Fleming was formally elected as the Chair of the Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee, upon Martin Hagvall's resignation in the spring 2006. Tony will serve as Chair for the duration of the term.

Upon recommendation by the EC and the CSNC, the Council voted unanimously to withdraw recognition of INOWF. It had been impossible to determine the legitimacy of their leadership due to an ongoing fraction with in the organization. However, the Movement will continue to reach out to organizations in India that share the goals of World Federalism.

Due to a vacancy unfilled after the passing of Roy Brevik, Tad Daley of the Democratic World Federalists was elected to serve as a Councilor until Congress 2007. Our congratulations go out to Tad Daley.

A Council working group was created to monitor

the impact of climate change on institutional policies. Councilors, members and associated organizations interested in contributing to this working group, are to contact the International Secretariat for more information.

The Facilitating Group on Statutes and By-Laws reported on their discussions since the Council meeting in November 2005. Many thoughts, concerns and suggestions were raised before the Council and the Facilitating Group agreed to incorporate them

into their continued work. The Facilitating Group will provide a document for Congress that would hopefully come as closely to one unified mind and spirit as possible for our Movement. For a full summary of the discussion, please visit www.wfm.org/fg.

Member and Associated Organizations shared their reports with Council and many took the floor. For a full report please visit www.wfm-igp.org.

The plans for Congress 2007 were discussed. The dates have since then been confirmed for August 27-31st 2007 in Geneva. Plans for a trip to a 60th Anniversary commemoration of the Movement in Montreux are under way too. Due to the logistics of the Congress meeting in Switzerland, registration will need to be earlier than usual. The International Secretariat will circulate more information soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

World Federalist Movement's
 25th CONGRESS
 in GENEVA
 August 27-31 2007

Financial and strategic reports were disclosed to the Council and the 2007 budget was approved unanimously.

HOW TO SUPPORT WFM

I wish to learn more about the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy. Please send me more information.

I wish to become a supporter.
 I wish to make a donation to WFM-IGP.

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My organization would like to find out more about becoming an affiliate of WFM-IGP.

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