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## Minutes of the World Futures Studies Federation Executive Council Meeting.

held at the Meridian Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya on Wednesday 26th July 1995 at 7.30 pm

Chair:	Pentti Malaska
Council members present:	Ibrahim Abdel Rahman, Mika Mannermaa, Odera Oruka, Godwin Sogolo, Tony Stevenson, Alexander Tomov.
Non Council members present:	Azizan Baharuddin, Anita Rubin, Kathleen Rundall, Alexander Sungurov.
Secretary to the Meeting:	Raj Shukla

The meeting commenced at 7.30 am

### Item 1 - Agenda:

The Agenda (Appendix 1), as published in the Futures Bulletin April 1995 was approved with items 1 and 2 relating to the new Constitution being left to the end.

### Item 2 - Membership fees:

It was reported that the Secretariat receives membership fees from less than half of all members. This covers the costs of the production of the Futures bulletin and other minor costs only. However any increase in the fees may make it difficult for some members to pay. Tony Stevenson proposed that the same fees be retained. After discussions on the matter the Council recommended that membership fees be retained at:

- Individual Fees US\$ 50
- Institutional Fees US\$ 200
- Newsletter/Bulletin Subscription US\$ 50

### **Item 3 - Annual Report to be presented to the General Assembly:**

#### **3.1 President's and Secretary General's Report**

Pentti Malaska reported that a Federation annual report will be presented in future instead of separate President's and Secretary General's reports.

Copies of the proposed President's and Secretary General's joint report to the General Assembly, Nairobi Kenya - July 1995 were distributed to those present (Appendix 2).

Pentti Malaska outlined the contents of the President's report and stated that the previous two years had been very active.

He also acknowledged the support of the Ministry of Education in Finland and his University for funding the President's office.

Tony Stevenson reported on the Secretary General's section of the joint report giving attention to the staff support received from the Communication Centre, QUT to run the Secretariat. He reported on his visits to Barcelona, Andorra, Bangkok, Novosibirsk, Paris, Kuala Lumpur, Awaji Island and Bacolod City on WFSF business noting that most of the travel costs were borne by the Communication Centre, QUT and the inviting organisations.

He also reported that there was a possibility of a course in Siberia or Central Asia and that this year's Andorra conference had been postponed. The Asia Pacific Futures Course would be supported by funding from Malaysia.

No comments on the joint report was forthcoming and the Council accepted and noted the report to be presented to the General Assembly on 27th July 1995.

#### **3.2 Financial Reports and Auditors Report**

Full Financial Reports for the period September 1993 to June 1995 prepared by Raj Shukla for the Secretariat office as well as an Auditors Report and a Budget to December 1995 were distributed to those present (Appendix 3, 4, 5 and 6). Raj Shukla (in his capacity as Finance Officer of the WFSF Secretariat) briefly commented on the reports stressing that most of the income of the office came from Membership Fees and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) sponsored Futuresco project. The income was expended mainly on the production and distribution of *Futures Bulletin*.

He also summarised the overall financial situation of the Secretariat as was shown on pages 4.2 and 4.3 of the Financial reports (Appendix 3 and 4).

The Financial reports were noted and were to be presented to the General Assembly for approval pending scrutiny from a second independent auditor as required by present WFSF statutes.

#### **Item 4 - Approval of Agenda for the General Assembly:**

It was decided that the Agenda items 4, 5 and 6 were to be dealt with together as one report covering all three had been produced.

World Conference's and Regional Conferences were to be discussed under Item 13 of the agenda - *Other Matters*.

The General Assembly Agenda was approved.

#### **Item 5 - Proposals for the 1997 World Conference:**

Kathleen Rundall was invited to present to the Council a brief description of the XV World Conference to be held in Brisbane. Copies of a proposal tabled were distributed to all those present (Appendix 7).

She briefly outlined the contents of the proposal highlighting the background to the Brisbane Group being formed for the proposed Conference, the progress to date, funding, structure, venue and in more detail, the Program shown on Page 2 of the proposal.

There was much discussion on the theme title and the structure of the conference with the following comments being discussed at length:

Ibrahim Abdel Rahman made the following remarks/suggestions:

- An explanation as to why there was a change in the format was required as there seemed to be a move away from a traditional conference to a new way of conferencing.
- The use of the words *Exchange of views* instead of *Conversations* may be clearer.
- Further clarification of outcomes of the content was required.
- With the present theme title, an explanatory subtitle may be required.

Kathleen Rundall made the following comments in reply:

The content of these *Conversations* would be determined by a process which draws on input from WFSF members and others interested in Futures Studies. Themes emerging include:

- Re-envisioning health delivery systems.
- Re-visioning Economics.
- Alienation of young people from decision making structures.
- Urban form and lifestyles.

She particularly commented on how the theme *Global Conversations -- What You and I Can do for Future Generations* was established. The feedback received by the Brisbane Group after some research, indicated a need for the theme to be personalised and for the Conference to have a number of definite outcomes that were relevant to current circumstances but had a long term Futures perspective.

Tony Stevenson made the following comments:

- Current literature suggests that human conversations is seen as a new developing methodology for research. It was important that in the information and communication age that attempts be made to set up *Global Conversations*.
- Although ideas were welcome, the title had been tested on some members as well as others and found to be more appealing to a wider audience.
- the conference will try to respond by providing a choice and a new way of conferencing. However, within the total context, there would be a traditional conference, including plenary speakers, paper sessions and publication of outputs.

Pentti Malaska stated that the proposal was different only in that it tried to combine a *Conventional Conference* with *Conferencing in the information age*. The idea was appealing but it was important to include the traditional conference within it. The traditional items not mentioned in the proposal need to be specified and incorporated.

Godwin Sogolo stated that he supported the new approach but was concerned about the theme especially the word *Conversation*. The emphasis on commitment needed further explanation by linking it into the theme title.

He suggested that as the theme was referring to Future Generations, the renaming of the theme *Global Conversations: Our Commitment to Future Generations* be considered.

Kathleen Rundall reiterated that one of the issues was that individual commitment was required from the conference partners but the suggestion would be considered within a subtitle.

Alexander Tomov suggested the theme title - *Global Dialogue: What you and I can do for Future Generations*.

The Council thanked the Brisbane Group and was left the organisation of the 1997 World Conference taking into account the Council's comments and ideas. The International Organising Committee (IOC) would carry out the WFSF responsibilities of the Conference.

It was decided that the IOC be considered at the General Assembly.

#### **Item 6 - Proposals for other World Conferences:**

Azizan Baharuddin representing the Institute for Policy Research (IPR) gave a brief description and background on the organisation and its interest to host a Futures Course, a Regional Conference as well as the XVI World Conference of WFSF in 1999.

She stressed the need for the emerging nations of Asia to consider their future within the global community.

Ideas on the theme title considered include *Cultural Diversity*, but no final decision had yet been determined.

Pentti Malaska thanked her for the proposal to host the 1999 World Conference and stated that as President of WFSF he would like to be included in further discussions and would like to become acquainted with IPR. The final version of the proposal was to be presented in Brisbane in 1997.

The Council welcomed the invitation and it was decided to proceed it to the General Assembly.

#### **Item 7 - Proposals for Regional Conferences:**

- 7.1 Azizan Baharuddin had outlined the application from IPR to hold a self funded Regional Conference in Asia under item 6 of the agenda and added that it would take place in late 1996.

The proposal from Azizan Baharuddin was welcomed and approved by the Council. The IOC was to consist of Pentti Malaska and Tony Stevenson.

- 7.2 Another proposal (Appendix 8) to hold a Regional Conference in Russia was presented by Alexander Sungurov. The Conference is expected to take place between 7 July and 10 July 1996 and was to be organised by St. Petersburg Humanitarian and Politology Strategy Centre. It was expected to be partly funded with the help of the Mayor of St. Petersburg. The theme of the Conference was to be *The approaches to sustainable development: Baltic Region and Global Problems*.

The proposal from Alexander Sungurov was also welcomed and approved. It was noted that Peter Mettler would be invited to join the Russian Conference IOC.

#### **Item 8 - Courses Policy:**

The Courses Policy was left to be discussed at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned until 1.00 pm and was to resume at the Nairobi Museum. Observers present at the Nairobi Museum: Fumio Hasegawa, Peter Mettler, Zia Sardar, Mitsuko Saito Fukunaga

#### **Item 9 - Report on events of prospects:**

These matters were covered under the noting of Annual Reports.

**Item 10 - Other Matters:**

Pentti Malaska informed the Council that the Awards committee had considered several Individuals and Institutions for the WFSF 1995 awards and that the following candidates were declared the winners:

**Individual Awards:**

- Roy Amara.
- Mahdi Elmandjra

**Institutional Awards:**

- Hawaii Research Centre for Future Studies at Hawaii University in Manoa
- Futures Magazine
- Club of Rome

A brief description of the winners were distributed to all those present (Appendix 9).

**Item 11 - Proposal for a New Constitution:**

Pentti Malaska reported that the Constitutional Committee appointed in Turku had published their proposal for a new Constitution in the bulletin for comment by all members.

The Council now had to decide on its proposal to the General Assembly.

A notice of motion proposed by Pentti Malaska (Seconded Tony Stevenson) was to be discussed at the General Assembly meeting. Any proposed changes by this Council meeting was to be moved as an amendment incorporating the suggestions into the original proposal.

The Council discussed at great length each relevant item of amendment put forward by Council members by mail prior to the meeting (Appendix 10). Copies of the Proposed new Constitution dated 2 March 1995 had been distributed to all those present (Appendix 11).

The Council considered each item on Appendix 10 and decided on the following: (Please also refer to Appendix 10)

- Suggestion 1 approved, and to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Suggestion 2 approved with a minor addition to the text, and to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Suggestion 3 approved, and to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Suggestion 4 approved (with recommendation of two consecutive terms), and to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Suggestion 5 approved (with minor amendment), and to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Suggestion 6 approved, and to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Suggestion 7 approved after rewording of text, to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Suggestion 8 was rejected.

- Suggestion 9 approved, and to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Suggestion 10 approved, and to be presented to the General Assembly.
- Suggestion 11 approved as an amendment to the notice of motion or as a Second Resolution.
- Suggestion 12 was rejected.
- A suggested amendment to the introduction to include *Paris in 1973* instead of *Bucharest in 1972* was approved.

All these Council suggestions are outlined in Appendix 12 (as agreed to and to be put forward to the General Assembly).

The Council decided to put an amended notice of motion stating that if the proposed new Constitution (including any agreed amendments) is accepted, the resolution of the General Assembly will be put to all members for ratification by 31 December 1995.

**Item 12 - Decide a system for electing Fellows, given the proposal for a new Constitution:**

The Council proposed that a system for electing Fellows should not form part of the Constitution and that a list of Fellows, made up of Founding members, Honorary members and others who were to be the first Fellows, be compiled and published in the Futures Bulletin. This decision was to be proposed to the General Assembly.

The Council also appointed a Bylaw committee to run election procedures made up of Pentti Malaska, Tony Stevenson (both ex officio), Zia Sardar (chair), Katrin Gillwald, Fumio Hasegawa, Peter Mettler and Godwin Sogolo.

**Other Matters Reported:**

- The Council was informed of the letter from Partov Izadi.
- Pakistan Academy of Sciences intended to run a self funded Futures Course for teachers/lectures. This was noted by the Council.
- Proxies of the General Assembly were to be read out and registered before the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2.00pm.

