

Report of the President to the General Assembly of WFSF Nairobi, Kenya - July 1995

The reported period: 1993 - 1995

Decision of the General Assembly in Turku in 1993:

1. General

The office of the WFSF was moved from Turku to Brisbane after the World Conference in Turku in August 1993.

During the period, the membership's function has been discussed with the President and Secretary-General, and the Statutes have been decided to be followed, albeit gently, according to the traditions. There are as now 506 individual members and 59 institutional members declaring their membership dues accordingly. It comes natural that WFSF has a member flow in and out, when people first become curious and interested in WFSF and then, after a while as members, learn their true interest. When deciding on the new Constitution proposal at the G.A., we need to know precisely who have the right to vote. A membership directory is updated for that purpose and accepted by the Council in Nairobi.

The members come from all the continents Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, Latin America, Oceania), and from about 80 countries (developed and developing world).

The institutional members come from 35 countries but taking into account also all the co-organizer institutions of the world conferences, regional conferences, seminars and courses, the global character of WFSF is very prominent. WFSF' status with UN and UNESCO is a kind of recognition of the global character and width.

The General Assembly made a number of important decisions in Turku in August 1993, and a special task force was nominated to work on these issues. These tasks have been conducted, as will be explained in the following paragraphs.

Discussions have lead to important conclusions with Japan Association for Futures Studies of the role of the societies within the Federation and its activities. While it was recognized that the changes in the WFSF Statutes in Cairo in 1978 moved the emphasis towards more of an association of individual members from a federation of societies, the member societies still play a crucial role in WFSF's cooperation on a local level, as it has been proven during the conferences, etc.

2. Nairobi Conference

After the Turku conference, a special meeting of a group, conducted by the President, took place in order to specify and call to order the task forces for the Nairobi Conference. The following members attended this planning meeting: Tony Stevenson, H. Odera Oruka, Eleonora Masini, Nandini Joshi, Harry Frilund, Rich

Slaughter, Martha Garrett, Alexander Tomov, Ibrahim Abdel-Rahman, Michel Van Hulten, Anita Rubin, Margarita Yopez Hdez, Olugbenga Adesida, Godwin Sogolo, Donald Chimanikire, John W. Forje, Heiner Benking, Peter Mettler, Uvais Ahamed and Leanne Holman (Secretary). .

The organizational bodies responsible for the practical execution of the plan were the IOC, the LOC, the African Organizers' Group (AOG), and the local cooperating institutions.

The IOC is composed of Pentti Malaska (chair) Tony Stevenson, Maria Kőszegi Kalas, Martha Garrett, Godwin Sogolo, Terushi Tomita, Fèlix Martí, H. Odera Oruka, Ibrahim Abdel-Rahman, John W. Forje and Michel Van Hulten.

The LOC is chaired by H. Odera Oruka, and the other members are F. Ochieng-Odhiambo, Gilbert E.M. Ogutu, Chaungo Barasa, Patrick Dikirr, G.A. Benaars, Wairimu Gichohi, Wambari Kaguongo, Maurice Onyango, Sylvester J. Ouma, Jakob Ombanya and the Director of the Kenyan National Academy of Sciences (KNAS).

The AOG is formed of Ibrahim Abdel-Rahman, (chair), H. Odera Oruka, Godwin Sogolo, John, W. Forje, Donald P. Chimanikire, F. Ochieng-Odhiambo.

The IOC had one meeting with the LOC in Nairobi in January 1995, and Michel Van Hulten met the LOC members in Nairobi during his journey earlier in the fall. The LOC had also one meeting with the AOG.

The Nairobi Conference has stretched the organizational and personal capacities of Federation to its extremes because of the scarce resources available for planning and running the conference. So much more value we have felt, indispensably experienced and warmly welcomed all the efforts and contributions made by the members of the organizing bodies. Professor H. Odera Oruka has carried the heaviest load, and his contribution for the first conference of WFSF in Sub-Saharan Africa is irreplaceable. I express my sincere appreciation to him, and to the LOC and its staff as well. The members of the IOC have been working hard, too. Thanks to all of them, and special thanks to Dr. Michel Van Hulten and Dr. Mitsuko Saito Fukunaga for their great personal efforts. And yet we are pleased to give our thanks to the AOG for their support, and to all cooperative institutions in Kenya, the Kenyan National Academy of Sciences (KNAS), The Philosophical Association of Kenya (PAK), The African Academy of Sciences (AAS), African Future Association (AFSA) and the African Centre of Technology Studies (ACTS). Finally, I thank all of you for your presence here to make WFSF history.

With these words and (applauds to those named, I hope) I conclude that this task of the G.A. has been successfully committed by now.

3. Renewing the Statutes

The G.A. decided in Turku to establish a working group to review the Statutes and By-Laws, to revise the election procedures, to look into the question of the number of Council members, and to consider, how to combine open and

democratic elections with assuring geographical, gender, and age equity on the Council. Sharon Rodgers, Alexander Tomov and Erzsebet Gidai were nominated to the task force.

In practice, it was Sharon Rodgers, Peter Mettler and Ziauddin Sardar who as a task force took the responsibility to write a draft for a new Constitution for WFSF, and Anthony Judge assisted the group. The first draft was available in summer 1994, and later published in the Bulletin with recommendations by the President and Secretary General. During the following months, the text was modified by discussions and reactions from the members, and the second draft was published in the Bulletin in spring 1995 for final comments from the members.

The Council members were addressed with the proposal and asked to make their amendments to it or to give other comments. These proposals by the Council members have been collected and formulated as moves to the General Assembly discussion and decision-making which will take place soon in this meeting. The members of WFSF have been frequently informed about the work on the Constitution. I hope that everyone is now well informed and ready for this historical decision.

This task, ordered by the G.A., can thus be stated as completed. I have a great pleasure to give my sincere thanks and appreciations to Sharon, Peter and Ziauddin and other members of the task force for this epoch-making work, and to all members who have contributed to the discussion with their proposals.

4. *The Future of WFSF*

Wendy Schultz and Chris Jones, who conducted a futures envisioning session in Turku, were engaged by the G.A. to work out a proposal of the alternative views for WFSF. This document, called the Yellow Paper, reached us with the Bulletin last fall.

It has been elaborated by the discussions of the President and Secretary General and Anthony Judge and Sohail Inayatullah wrote about the theme in the Bulletin. Several of the ideas presented may be regarded as already existing in the practical life and ordinary decisionmaking of the WFSF, while some others are not easily put into practice if at all.

The task given by the G.A. has been successfully completed, anyhow, and the results are enriching the thinking of the futures of WFSF continuously. Wendy and Chris, thanks for your creative contribution, and thanks to those who continued the discussion.

5. *Proceedings and Futures Bulletin*

The XIII World Conference Proceedings, *Chaos and Coherence in our Uncommon Futures*, published 35 papers presented in the conference after careful editing by Mika Mannermaa, Sohail Inayatullah and Rick Slaughter. The proceedings came out of print in spring 1994 and was mailed to the participants. This valuable book is still available from here and Turku.

Mika, Sohail and Rick, thanks for your contribution and thanks for the larger editorial committee, too.

Already several times I have mentioned the Bulletin as an invaluable forum, where discussion has been more lively than before when we only had a Newsletter. The Bulletin changed the character of communication within WFSF to more professional and wide, and makes that with a stylistic layout. This is a new achievement of WFSF from which all thanks and appreciation goes to Leanne Holman, Sohail Inayatullah and Tony Stevenson as editors.

6. Futures Courses

WFSF has run successfully several futures courses and co-sponsored courses in different parts of the globe, and we have continued negotiations with North-Korean colleagues for a seminar in Pyongyang.

I attended the courses in Andorra in 1993, in Awaji, Japan in 1994, in St. Petersburg, in Gorizia, Italy and in Tallinn, Estonia last year as well. Further negotiations with Professor Kim Myong-U from Pyongyang have been held on a possibility to make true a joint seminar with our Korean colleagues.

I wish to express thanks to those people who have been cooperating with us for these events in general and especially to Fèlix Martí, Eleonora Masini, Alberto Gasparini, Kaoru Yamaguchi, Igor Bestuzhev-Lada, Oleg Matuzov and Alex Sungurov.

7. Global Ethics Group

The Global Ethics interest group gathered together preliminarily the following people: Reijo Heinonen (chair), Cesar Villanueva, Tae Chang Kim, Frithjof Bergman, Benjamin Hourani, Noel Preston, Wendell Bell, Paris Arnopoulos, Nicholas Alberly, Eleonora Masini, Bruce Lloyd, Alan Sandaver, Azizan Bahurrudin, Balkrishna Kurvey, Brian Murphy and Robin Attfield. Reijo Heinonen sent a letter to all of them, calling them to contribute, and the first contributions from almost all have been received. The group has set some objectives for their work. In Finland and Australia, local groups have worked also, and Reijo Heinonen and Pentti Malaska contributed to a report "Global Responsibility. Finland's Model" which was published recently.

Let's hope that the network will be activated globally.

8. UNESCO and the UN

The Federation is classified as a Category II Non-Governmental Organization with the UN and has a Consulting Status B with UNESCO. The WFSF representatives in UN have been Katrin Gilwald, Vienna; Orio Giarini, Geneva (a new representative has yet to be appointed to this position for 1995); Saul Mendlovitz, New York and at UNESCO, Diana Malpede in Paris.

The long-term cooperation with UNESCO has continued more or less successfully

depending on expectations. Clearly we have experienced some unprecedented hindrances in cooperation for the Nairobi Conference.

However, the Asian activities of WFSF have gained positive support from UNESCO. The *Futuresco* cooperation for the database also completed its third phase successfully, and the third *Futuresco* Bulletin on the topic of Culture came out in 1994. We expect this cooperation to continue.

I met Director General Federico Mayor in Paris in September 1994. In that meeting, he expressed his vital interest in the Nairobi Conference and his support for it, and it was agreed that his representative, if not himself, will be addressing the Conference.

I attended as the WFSF representative the UN World Social Summit in Copenhagen in March this year, and a brief report was published in the latest issue of the Bulletin.

WFSF got permission to have a special UN event here in Nairobi for commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the organization. This event was arranged during the Kenya Day.

The UNESCO contacts and cooperation is a most natural base for many of the WFSF activities, and recognizing this will enhance our future cooperation.

I want to express thanks to the representative of Dr. Mayor, Dr Paul Vitta for addressing the Conference. I recommend that the G.A. allows me to greet Director General Federico Mayor on behalf of this Conference for UNESCO's support and interest in cooperation.

8. Awards

A special task force was charged to nominate persons and/or institutions for sustainable and high quality futures work. The task force consisted of the following members: Pentti Malaska (chair), Clem Bezold, Carlos Mallmann, Eleonora Masini, Ashis Nandy, Levi Obijiofor, Mitsuko Saito-Fukunaga and Tony Stevenson.

After a search and evaluations, the task group made its proposal to the Council who recommended it to be accepted. This item will come up later in the meeting. Now I will express my warm thanks to the members of this task group for good cooperation and for their invaluable assessment enabling WFSF to honour the great futurists and futuristic institutions.

9. Events of cooperation

The Kondratieff Foundation in Russia had its second international conference in St. Petersburg. I addressed the conference as the President of WFSF and gave a key note speech on the three-fold model and transitional dynamics of society. A brief report was published in the Bulletin in spring. WFSF was honoured by the Foundation with a Kondratieff Medal to the President.

The main organizers were Academician Yu.V. Yakovets and Academician L.I. Abalkin, and it was an honour and pleasure to WFSF to be one of the co-organizers of this occasion, as it was decided in Turku.

We have enjoyed visits by the members Professor Johan Galtung from Paris who also gave a lecture to the Finnish futures students, Tae-Chang Kim from Japan, and John Stokes from Australia.

I had an enjoyable opportunity to visit Houston Clear Lake University and meet Peter Bishop and his colleagues, who successfully run an academic futures research curriculum at the university. The exchange of materials and learning from their experience was very valuable. At the same tour, I had an opportunity to visit Jim Dator and Sohail Inayatullah in Hawaii for the second time.

Another trip took me to many futures research places in Europe in fall, 1994. This time I had a chance to visit the OECD futures unit and had a nice talk with the Director of its Advisory Unit, Mr. Wolfgang Michalski.

In Paris, I also visited Futuribles and had discussions with Hugues de Jouvenel, Bertrand Schneider at the office of the Club of Rome, and Fabrice Roubelat and Michel Godet at CNAM.

In Brussels, I met Robert Pestel and some other people of the European Commission. In Düsseldorf, Germany, I also had a possibility to see the Forward Study Unit in the European Union, the Futures Secretariat with Dr. Steinmüller. I also had a meeting with Bart van Steenberg in Amersfoort and among other WFSF issues, we discussed the Nairobi Conference.

World Futures Studies Federation

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The office of the President has been hosted by Finland Futures Research Centre, Turku School of Economics and Business Administration. The office has enjoyed the dedicated assistance and management of Ms. Anita Rubin as before, and the costs of the office, travels, etc. were covered by a special fund of the Ministry of Education as well as from the University budget.

My heart warm thanks to Anita for her invaluable assistance and other work for WFSF.

The cooperation between the Brisbane and Turku offices and staff developed effective and enjoyable. My personal thanks to all the people from Brisbane - Tony, Leanne (presently in Ulladulla), Anne, Raj, Jo, Sohail.

Report of the Secretary General's office to the General Assembly of WFSF, Nairobi Kenya - July 1995

To make possible the relocation of the secretariat in Brisbane, The Communication Centre has made available resources by way of personnel, including Anne Elliott, administrator, Leanne Holman, research assistant and editorial manager of the newsletter, renamed *Futures Bulletin*, and Raj Shukla, financial administrator. Only Anne Elliott now works full-time for the secretariat at the expense of the Communication Centre, a research centre directed by Secretary General, Tony Stevenson. Sohail Inayatullah joined the Communication Centre in the middle of 1994, winning competitively, a postdoctoral fellowship. He has given much of this time to the work of the Federation, including playing a major role in the editorial supervision of the *Futures Bulletin*.

Tony Stevenson, since taking office, has travelled widely, mostly at no cost to WFSF.

He visited Barcelona and Andorra to plan the 1994 futures course at Encamp and in November 1993 visited Nairobi for a meeting of the International Organising Committee for the 1995 world conference.

He was invited to a meeting on the futures of culture sponsored by UNESCO in Bangkok in February 1994 and was a keynote speaker at Interweek Youth Forum, sponsored annually by the Siberian Youth Initiative at Novosibirsk, Siberia, in the Russian Federation, in May 1994. With WFSF colleague, Kathleen Rundall, he established futures visioning workshops at Interweek 1994, for WFSF, which in 1995 were carried forward by Chris Jones and Eleonora Masini.

He visited UNESCO to present his credentials in Paris in May 1994 and to negotiate the renewal of the contract with WFSF to supply abstracts for the *Futures Bulletin*. Abstracts, so far, have been supplied on two themes: *World Futures and the Role of the United Nations* and the *Futures of Human Rights and Democracy*.

On his way back from Paris, he visited Kuala Lumpur where he met, with WFSF colleagues Zia Sardar and Merryl Wynn Davies, the deputy prime minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and discussed the possibility of developing futures studies in South East Asia. Following this meeting, the Institute for Policy Research in Malaysia, invited him to be a speaker and workshop facilitator at a workshop on Futures Visions for South East Asia, in Penang, Malaysia, in September 1994. As a result of these activities, it is expected the Institute for Policy research will make a proposal to host the secretariat after Brisbane at the end of 1997. Also, it is expected that future Asia-Pacific courses will be organised through Malaysia and that a regional conference, perhaps in 1996, will be held in that country. It is also expected Malaysia will propose for the 1999 world conference.

He attended, by invitation, the annual seminar at Goshiki-cho on Awaji Island, Japan, in August 1994, and contributed to a workshop to form the Network University of the Green World.

He was academic course coordinator of the Futures Studies course, with a theme, *Futures of Communication*, at Encamp Andorra in October 1994. In November 1994, he attended the third Asia-Pacific Futures course, *the Futures of Peace: Civilizations, structures & visions*, at Bacolod City in the Philippines.

He visited Nairobi in January 1995, with Pentti Malaska, to discuss local arrangements for the world conference in July 1995.

In March 1995, he visited Kuala Lumpur to follow up earlier discussions and, on behalf of the committee organising the 1997 world conference, in Brisbane, negotiated Malaysian support for the Global Visions project to be run in conjunction with the 1997 conference. In June 1995 he visited Beijing with Kathleen Rundall, coordinator of the Global Visions project, to identify a local site and negotiate with government officials.

Global Visions is an international project which aims to:

1. Contribute to a climate of openness to the ideas of the diversity of the world's peoples;
2. Provide opportunities for young people around the globe to address their role in shaping the future;
3. Give young people aid with structures and processes so that they might build a comprehensive understanding of the society in which they live; and
4. Enable the young people, supported by their schools and communities, to construct a range of alternative visions for the world.

Groups of young people (15 - 25 years old) have been invited to join a network of 13 sites around the world.

Tony Stevenson has also participated actively in the work of the forerunner to the Local Organising Committee for the world conference in 1997.

In matters of the secretariat, after transferring activities from Turku to Brisbane, his main focus has been on reforming the newsletter into the Futures Bulletin, supporting the work of the various task forces, especially the one to reform the constitution, and on anticipating the futures of WFSF, especially its presence in the southern hemisphere, including Australia, and Asia. He is now preparing to revitalise WFSF activities in central and South America.