

**Report from the International Board meeting
Madrid, Spain
22nd - 24th February 2013**

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM



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Saturday the 23rd February 2013

Session 1: Opening of the International Board meeting

Facilitator: Kerstin Grebäck

Minute's taker: Anne Scott

1.1 Formalities

Voting List: Albania, Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, DRC, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, India, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, US, Philippines

1.1.1 Opening of the International Board meeting

At the opening of the meeting, WILPF Spain was thanked for their organization of the meeting and hospitality. There were also greeting to the former International Presidents of WILPF, Krishna and Edith, and the co-Presidents, Kerstin and Annelise. They were thanked for their presence and their support and engagement with the organisation. Friday's proceedings were then summarised.

1.1.2 Roll call, voting members and non-voting members

Marianne Laxen, WILPF Finland, reminded the meeting of voting procedures: voting was to be done by a red card with one vote per Section. She referenced the 'WILPF Constitution and By-Laws' which states that:

1. The International Congress

b) The International Congress shall be composed of all members of the International Board, and delegates and alternates elected by the National Sections in the following manner:

i. A National Section shall be entitled to representation to the International Congress when its dues are paid to the end of the previous calendar year;

All National Sections had the right to vote at this International Board meeting.

Read the 'WILPF Constitution and By-Laws' at
<http://www.wilpfinternational.org/about-us/organisation/>

1.1.3 Election of facilitator, time keeper and note keeper.

Minute takers were approved and chosen to be: Holly Ahom and Anne Scott from UK WILPF and Mir Grebäck von Melen from WILPF Sweden. Mir Grebäck was also approved to be the official timekeeper when not minuting.

1.1.4 Agenda review and approval

The Nordic proposal (see Annex 1: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/The-Nordic-Proposal.pdf>) was approved by ExCom and referred to when the Regional Meetings would take place. The decision was set to be made on Sunday.

From the Standing Constitution Committee, Martha Jean Baker, Vice President, was chosen to organize and provide feedback. The meeting agreed that the 'WILPF Constitution and By-Laws' **needs to be brought up to date and revised**. It was stated that the International Board can authorise the 'WILPF Constitution and By-Laws' via amendments and the new 'WILPF Constitution and By-Laws' would be submitted at the Triennial International Congress in 2015. The decision to authorise was referred to Sunday.

The topic of the next International Board meeting was then brought up. ExCom advised that due to cost, in the run up to 2015, the next International Board meeting should be an online meeting in some form. As the 'WILPF Constitution and By-Laws' allows online International Board meetings, all the different ways of online meetings were to be investigated. WILPF Netherlands, however, was against holding the meeting online and the decision was referred to Sunday.

Lynette Lane, WILPF Australia, then asked when the discussion on 'how the International Board works' would take place. She was followed by Helena Nyberg, WILPF Switzerland, who asked when time would be allocated to discuss the sort of WILPF we want in the future.

Kerstin Grebäck, Vice President, mentioned that this **International Board needed to elect an Ad Hoc Committee on the organization of WILPF with the remit to report back within 6 months** and then be referred to the Triennial International Congress 2015.

WILPF Netherlands brought up the issue that too little time had been allocated at this International Board meeting for Regional Meetings and meetings in the Working Groups. Kerstin Grebäck, explained how the timings had been calculated and pointed out that when the final agenda (see Annex 2: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Programme-for-IB-Meeting.pdf>) was sent out for the meeting, as no feedback was received, it was assumed that everyone agreed with the time slots.

WILPF Spain, as host, was asked if they had any comments on the agenda and as they had none, it was agreed to keep the agenda as it was. The cafeteria, however, was considered too noisy to hold the group meetings so it was decided that rooms would be allocated for the Regional Meetings.

1.2 IB Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the International Board were explained by Martha Jean Baker, Vice President. She stressed that everyone needs to remember to speak with respect and listen to each other while keeping the time constraints in mind. WILPF Palestine seconded what she had said.

1.3 Presentation of incoming resolutions and proposals and appointment of Resolutions Committee

1.3.1 Presentation of proposals for resolutions:

1. Proposal for Resolution: Against the use of Drones proposed by Pakistan co-sponsored by USA and UK (See Annex 14: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/ib-2013/>)
2. Proposal for Resolution: Situation in Nepal (Proposal from WILPG Nepal) (See Annex 3: http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Resolution_WILPF-Nepal_Draft.pdf)
3. Proposal for Resolution: Support of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Proposed by WILPF Palestine and supported by WILPF Lebanon – *Written at the meeting, adhoc for now*
4. Proposal for Resolution: Sexual Violence in the DRC, proposed by WILPF DRC - *Written at the meeting, adhoc for now*

1.3.2 Presentation of proposals:

1. Proposal: The Nordic Proposal (ad-hoc committee on organizational development) (proposal from ExCom) (see Annex 1: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/The-Nordic-Proposal.pdf>)
2. Proposal: New procedure for Section Fees (Proposals from the Standing Finance Committee) (See Annex 4: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Proposal-on-new-procedure-on-Section-Fee.pdf>)

The final wording of resolutions was set to be decided upon at lunchtime. The Resolutions Committee was chosen to consist of Adilia Caravaca (International President), Martha Jean Baker (Vice President), Hanan Awwad (WILPF Palestine), Sameena Nazir (WILPF Pakistan) and Anne Scott (UK WILPF) with Adilia Caravaca as convenor.

1.4 Reappointment of convenors for Standing Committees, Working Groups, etc.

The discussion on Working Groups began with a need to confirm which ones were active, who were in them and who the convenors were. This was needed for Sunday.

1.4.1 Economic Justice Working Group:

Not active. A request was made by the Netherlands for the economic justice working group to be re- established.

1.4.2 Middle East Working Group:

Not active. The convenor, Nouha Ghosn (WILPF Lebanon) resigned from the Middle East Working Group as she couldn't communicate with the Working Group. It seems like her email is blocked.

1.4.3 Environment Working Group:

Active. The convenors Lorraine Mirham and Edel Havin Beukes were reappointed.

1.4.4 Security Council Resolution 1325 Working Group:

Active. The members said that they were still looking for a convenor and a new structure for the group (During the meeting, Sophie Schellens was appointed as convenor by the group).

1.4.5 Fundraising Committee:

Active. This is a sub-committee to the Standing Finance Committee. New members were asked for the Fundraising Committee. Kirsti Holthoff, WILPF Sweden, Chair of this committee asked those interested to meet parallel to Working Groups and the question of whether a Fundraising Report was sent out by email was asked. The answer was no.

1.4.5 Conflict Resolution Working Group:

Active. This is a new Working Group, which has mostly communicated by internet, and for the 1st time, some of the interested members met at the International Board meeting in Madrid.

The purpose with the Conflict Resolution Working Groups is to share insights on conflict resolutions, to help strengthen and if possible train Sections' abilities to deal with conflicts in general.

Adilia Caravaca, International President, is the founder and convenor.

1.4.6 Disarmament Group Working Group:

Not active. Although there was no-one present from the Working Group at the International Board meeting, it was mentioned that the convenor of the group had resigned. As a suggestion, Edel Havin Beukes, WILPF Norway, proposed that those interested in joining the Disarmament Working Group could simply join the Environment Working Group as the two groups had overlapping areas of interest.

After the discussion regarding the Working Groups, Annelise Ebbe, WILPF Denmark, pointed out that there were insufficient rooms for the Standing Constitution Committee to meet so they would only meet from 17.30 to 18.30.

Session 2: Implementation of International Programme

2.1 Secretary General's Report

Minute's taker: Holly Ahom, UK WILPF

Facilitator: Madeleine Rees

(see Annex 5: http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/SG-report_FINAL.pdf + Annex 6: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Implementation-Plan-2013-2015.pdf>)

By way of introduction, the Secretary General gave a brief overview of the situation of the progress that has been made over the past three years: financially moving from being almost ready to close offices to having a strong base; politically by making sure that WILPF was engaged in the issues of the moment, such as the MENA Agenda 1325 project, and building on the existing expertise and reputation that WILPF has, particularly through Reaching Critical Will and PeaceWomen, to become the “go to organization” on a variety of human rights and security issues.

Reminding the IB of the vision of our founders and how relevant their analysis remains today, the Secretary General then referred the International Board members to the substance of her report, and said that she would use particular examples of what the office is doing so as **to give effect to the International Programme** as agreed at last Triennial International Congress and then take questions.

International Programme and Integrated Approach

The Secretary General reminded the International Board of **the integrated approach**, which was agreed on the last Triennial International Congress, and she explained how it brings all WILPF's Key Elements together:

- Challenging Militarism
- Disarmament
- Investing in Peace
- Strengthen and Reform the Multilateral System
- Address Root Causes of War and Conflicts

She emphasised that the strength of WILPF in being able to make this approach work is **our size and our varied geographic and cultural locations and contexts**. The goal is to translate those varied experiences from grassroots, into the language of human rights obligation, and so into the various international mechanisms to affect resolutions which we can then use for policy shift at our own country level. She underlined that no other organization brings the issue of arms trade into Human Rights discussion, or gender into disarmament, and even nuclear arms into issues of toxic waste and economic rights obligations.

To illustrate her point the Secretary General explained what had happened during the Universal Periodic Review of the United Kingdom.

During the Universal Periodic Review of the United Kingdom, WILPF ran a side event to link the issue of economic austerity with the continued expense of the Trident missile system and how that had a discriminatory impact on women. WILPF also showed the nexus between United Kingdom's arms sales to countries on the United Kingdom Human Rights Watch list, and their use in perpetuating those abuses.

The side event was packed with many diplomats in attendance. The response was very positive with remarks that these were exactly the connections and arguments that have to be made.

A second example on the integrated approach was the side event organized by Reaching Critical Will with the Special Rapporteur on toxic waste. His report on the Marshall Islands identified the nature of human rights violations that occur after nuclear testing. During this side event, WILPF made the link between the testing and the use of nuclear weapons.

And the importance of that? It advances WILPF's arguments for the abolition of nuclear weapons, it provides new and additional advocacy points and it gives WILPF tools for accountability.

The Secretary General then spoke of how WILPF had developed a project to support women in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region emphasizing that this is exactly what WILPF has done in our history; worked with women from regions of conflict to give support and profile. The project has been very successful in reaching women in country to identify obstacles to their participation in rebuilding their countries, in particular their exclusion from security sector reform and the dangers of arms proliferation.

In addition the project has brought WILPF important recognition as taking initiatives which are timely and relevant to the women involved. The response to the conference in June 2012 in Geneva was particularly telling. The conference was absolutely packed and male diplomats were moved to tears at the presentation by the women from the region.

Sections

The Secretary General explained that now, thanks to the work of the Communication Manager hired in March 2012, the International Secretariat knows where WILPF has Sections, which ones are active and which not. It has taken a long time to get this in order and the secretariat is working on ways in which to increase abilities to communicate with the Sections. The Sections too need to work on this so that there can be stronger links between all of WILPF and better exchanges of information.

The Secretary General also said that there is a need for new sections but that we have to decide whether the modalities we have in place now are in fact the most appropriate ones for the modern context.

Partners in Bosnia and in the MENA region are wanting to either affiliate or become members of WILPF.

Where is WILPF going?

The Secretary General felt that WILPF had actually achieved more than she had anticipated over a relatively short period of time. She was also aware that there are constant demands and it is not always possible to address them all.

WILPF has developed an integrated approach but there are still gaps. **We need more links to the environment and to economics, particularly as they relate to austerity and gender discrimination.** Ideally she would increase capacity in Geneva to work on these but realistically this is not possible just yet: we need to consolidate on the areas WILPF is already working on and build these elements into them. **The Working Group on Environment does solid work** and WILPF should utilize and integrate what they do, as well as ensuring that all environmental issues at the Human Rights Council are followed.

With austerity **WILPF need Sections to make sure they are in touch with the secretariat in Geneva to provide information when their country is reporting** so that the secretariat can make sure that what is happening is brought into the multilateral fora and that the human rights outcome of these policies can be exposed.

Funding

WILPFs main donors are States, in particular Norway. The Secretary General emphasized that funds raised are as a result of specific applications made by either RCW, PW or by Geneva hence they are ear marked and money can only be used for the explicit purpose for which it was raised.

The Secretary General underlined that donors that WILPF go to, do not seek to control what WILPF does.

The OAK foundation is also now a major donor and WILPF could look to more of the private donors to gain funds, particularly as we look for funding for Anniversary.

The Secretary General said that she was also aware that questions had arisen as to whether the Geneva office should be fundraising directly for Sections. This she is opposed to as it would fundamentally alter WILPF's nature. Ironically it would give a huge amount of power to the Secretary General who would be responsible for ensuring compliance with the terms of any grant. It would also mean hiring staff in Geneva to do the bureaucracy including accounting and in short, WILPF would become just another NGO with a centralized system of funding and groups in country delivering on a set programme which would ultimately become donor driven. The Secretary General did not support this.

As the situation is now, Geneva office, RCW and PW between them have raised monies* which can be used for small grants, as per the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence 2011, to bring Section representatives to Geneva, to New York and to Madrid for various activities.

* NB this has been calculated as 72,000 US

The Secretary General also recognized that there has been an issue as to having hired staff in WILPF for many years but explained that it is no longer possible to rely on women with rich husbands or who are independently wealthy to do the work that needs to be done. WILPF has passionate intelligent and committed staff, the best she has worked with, and none of whom work for WILPF for high salaries.

2.2 Q&A's to the Secretary General's Report

Minute's taker: Holly Ahom, UK WILPF

Facilitator: Madeleine Rees

Q 1: What is the Academic Network? And who can become members?

A 1: It does not exist yet. The idea is to find out what the academics within WILPF are saying. We are not sure how it's going to work yet but we want to use

the knowledge of academics like e.g. Cynthia Enloe, Cynthia Cockburn etc. to improve our work.

Q 2: When do you want answers from the members of the International Board?

A 2: Whenever you want to but as soon as you can!

Q 3: What is the mean to be an 'International' organisation? (Is the membership international?)

A 3: The membership is indeed international and we exist to be an international organization linked by shared values and analysis. Our goal is to build on that so that we really work together to implement the programme and to bring the changes that are needed.

Q 4: How can you support for regional mechanisms in African context?

A 4: A lead into the mechanisms you mean? We have excellent contacts and work with FAS so let us introduce you to them.

Q 5: How do you want to strengthen WILPF on regional and national level?

A 5: The regional and national level have to be strengthened by using the 'Integrated Approach' (see Annex 5: http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/SG-report_FINAL.pdf + Annex 6: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Implementation-Plan-2013-2015.pdf>). It is up to each Sections to focus on what is relevant for

them in the national context and then we can support by bringing the issues into the international fora.

Q 6: Language! How do we translate to members back in the Sections? It is SO difficult to follow.

A 6: Kerstin Grebäck answers: The language of WILPF is English and has always been so. A tool can be google translate.

2.3 Report from the ExCom

Minute's taker: Holly Ahom, UK WILPF

Facilitator: Adilia Caravaca

See Annex 7: http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Excom-Report-for-IB-meeting_FINAL.pdf

The International President introduced the written report previously sent and mentioned that she was only going to briefly summarize it. While she pointed out the fact that our organisation has been nominated to Peace Nobel Prize, warned against being complacent and to focus on the big challenges ahead to continue building our organisation to be bigger and more effective, especially when military expenditure continues to be huge, all around the world, as is well documented.

On behalf of ExCom, the International Programme, approved in 2011 at the International Triennial Congress was recalled, specifically the three pillars around which our work is being developed, namely: Challenging Militarism, Invest in Peace, Strengthen and reform Multilateralism, the latter strongly involving work around in the Human Rights system within UN.

The International President explained that within ExCom there is a division of work, so that each member is a liaison with a region and a different working group and reporting, to the ExCom to follow up on different endeavors. It was also remarked, that a big challenge has been the communication among the members but that in recent times, with the technical support of the communication manager in Geneva a better platform is being used to ensure better meetings (gotomeeting). Similarly and recalling how frequently members complained about the website and the need to improve it, the effort to do so was also noted, remarking that it is an ongoing effort to ensure better communication amongst members too.

We now have a staff that can perform with professionalism. Excellent work that is being done by them and the Directors of our programmes and projects and it is well to acknowledge this. We face the challenge to continue this and to also strengthen the Sections' work and to synchronise work in some issues and campaigns.

The following agenda topic is for Secretary General and other staff members to report on how our International Programme is being implemented, and plans, and more details and discussion on specific matters can take place.

The presenter invited the audience to comment or ask questions.

A question was raised about the need to learn more from one another, the different expertise within WILPF.

Madeleine Rees said this should come from the Sections.

The Excom's presenter referred to information formerly available on the website, in which a brief bio of each IB, with the photograph, appeared. Colombia's IB member objected on grounds of security issues and recalled the need to keep this in mind. A suggestion was given by ExCom to have each IB members send bio and photo and if there are issues of security, preventing exposure on the

website, it should be stated and that shall be respected. Furthermore it was stressed as very important to be aware of the various expertise existing in WILPF, some are academic others may not be, may not come from formal academic but informed by STRONG knowledge and experience that should also be praised and valued.

The Spanish President raised the language issue and the need to add translation to the budget. There should be a language database within WILPF of who can speak which languages? It was recalled that in WILPF Constitution English is the working language , however it is clear that it is limiting for many Sections and members. The ExCom pointed the costs involved to cover all the languages in WILPF, and how difficult it would be to throw this responsibility on the staff to resolve this. Sections were invited to seek language expertise to reach out, like to language students who might make take on an internship to help Sections. Philosophy, not just translation. In meetings some people can help others with translation.

This concern was also raised by DRC members, and they asked about language capacity for new members, and mentioned how difficult it is for Sections sometimes to respond quickly to the International Secretariat, and said “Do not mistake lack of response as lack of interest.”

2.4 Reports from the Standing Committees

Minute's taker: Holly Ahom, UK WILPF

Facilitator: Abigail Ruane

2.4.1 Standing Finance Committee

The Standing Finance Committee has a lot of questions (and answers) to the International Board members. They are trying to fulfill their mandate.

One thing they have done is to establish the Fundraising Committee as “sub-committee”.

Regarding the template to the report, the Standing Finance Committee wanted to know if it is possible to put other questions in the template?

Before the IB meeting, a “Report from the Fundraising Committee” had been made, but not received by the members of the International Board. The convenor of the Fundraising Committee, Kirsti Kolthoff (WILPF Sweden) handed copies out. See Annex 8.: http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Fundraising-committee_report-of-FSC-Jan-2nd-2013_3ki.pdf

2.4.2. Standing Constitution Committee

There was not a report from the Standing Constitution Committee.

2.4.3 Standing Communications Committee

The convenor of the Standing Communications Committee, Joan Bazar (WILPF US), was looking for new members to fulfill the revised format for the Standing Communications Committee.

2.4.4 Standing Personnel Committee

There was not a report from the Standing Personnel Committee.

Session 3: Workshop: Communication

Facilitator: Nina Maria Mørk Hansen

Minutes Taker: Mir Grebäck von Melen

Nina Maria Mørk Hansen, Communications Manager based at the office in Geneva, held a workshop on communication and the new international website. Read the minutes here: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/ib-2013/> (Annex 15).

Session 4: Finance

Facilitator: Marianne Laxen

Minutes Taker: Holly Ahom

4.1 Budget update and planning by International Treasurer

A 2013 – 2015 budget has been prepared by WILPF International that includes both offices' figures. This budget is to be approved by the IB.

See Annex 13: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/ib-2013/>

NY Office:

- There has not been an Office Manager at the New York office from 2010 to 2012.
- At the discussion on Finances in Costa Rica, the 2011 NY office audit was approved.
- Deficit budget 2010 -> the exact figures can be found in the Treasurer's Letter that went out with the Financial information.

Grants:

- Money raised is allocated to programme and projects and comes with specific instructions, with only 7% to 12% of each grant allowed for administration (depending on the grantor). Money is restricted (ear-marked) for specific projects.
- It was suggested that there should be more funding for permanent staff and for an Office Manager for the New York Office. Currently, donations fund a part-time office administrator in NY.

- The International Secretariat is working very hard to make the budget more flexible.

Financial Committees:

- There is a very active Standing Finance Committee, a group with a maximum of seven qualified people who meet online monthly.
- There is a new *fundraising* committee that is getting formed as a subcommittee of the SFC.
- There will also be an *investment committee formed*, which would be working on an investment policy and recommendations for investment.

4.2 Q&A session

At the start of the Q&A session, a thanks was given to all who worked to improve finances. The audits and completed financial reports for NY and Geneva offices for 2012 were accepted. The proposed budgets for 2013 - 2015 were approved.

Q: *How was the improved financial situation achieved? What was the strategy and can we sustain it?*

A: The international offices, NY and Geneva, have brought in several grants. The economy in some countries is also recovering, allowing for a better financial situation for WILPF. We have also received bequests and donations.

Q: *How can the success of international financing be capitalised to benefit other sections?*

A: Sections to get more funding, should get more members, sections should not wait from the International Secretariat to fund them, for several reasons: this is not how WILPF functions, Sections have always financed the International Secretariat and not the contrary, grants received by the International Secretariat cannot be guaranteed and are restricted. The interest (between \$40,000 and \$70,000 yearly) from the Fehrer money, which was used to run the NY office, is not received anymore from JAPA, and Section Fees payments went down from 93,000ch to 78,000ch in 2012. Therefore, the International Offices are struggling

to finance their own programmes and their offices and cannot finance Sections. However, funding for Sections has been requested through grant applications and the International Secretariat has been able to fund small projects.

Section support is complicated, so we must think about how it would work.

Q: Does the budget 2013 – 2015 include projected grants?

A: Yes, it includes the grants which we hope/expect will be repeated. Other grants often come unexpectedly which makes it almost impossible to predict who we'll get grants from and when.

Participants made the following comments:

Katherine Ronderos, WILPF Colombia: "Sections have to raise the bulk of their own funds". "Do not want to pass the buck". Question of autonomy.

Ila Pathek, ExCom: "Sections should be able to find their own resources but some Sections do need support"

Manuela Mesa, WILPF Spain: "International assistance should be given if it is needed for special reasons, for example, for peace talks, but the amount of support given should still be in line with the budget".

Sabine Wiawe Yu'Donago, WILPF DRC: "The DRC has seen the budget and would like to use the International model but the country is a war zone so things are very difficult. It needs 'mothering' help to keep going".

Sameena Nazir, WILPF Pakistan then suggested there should be a budget line for section funding.

Nirmala Sitoula, WILPF Nepal, mentioned that support has to be given to developing countries and countries in conflict. She then thanked for Nepal Amnesty for the section fee.

WILPF India suggested that of seminar fees, 75% of the fees should cover costs and the remaining 25% should be saved for future work.

Madeleine Rees replied that the International Board now faces a very big decision to make. She stated that if we go along fundraising for Sections, there

will have to be technical support as it becomes very complicated and could destroy what WILPF is about.

She also said that by doing so, we run the risk of losing the current “movement” of WILPF which could lead to WILPF becoming a “development organization”. She believes this to be a serious discussion that has to be thought about in different terms, not just financial, as we need a serious strategy.

Kerstin Grebäck, ExCom, and Sameena Nazir, WILPF Pakistan, will have to submit a resolution re: supporting sections.

Two proposals were presented by the Standing Finance Committee and recommended by the Executive Committee as follows:

1. Section Fees:

A new procedure for Sections Fee is proposed. The procedure is based on UNDP’s Human development index (See: http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2011_Statistical_Tables.xls), which will be used for dividing the sections into four groups. Section fees will be calculated by using the following chart:

Human development index	Base fee (CHF)	Per member (CHF)
1. Low human development	-	5
2. Medium human development	150	5
3. High human development	1500	10
4. Very high human development	2000	15

A section that cannot pay their assessed dues may contact the International Treasurer or International Office Manager in Geneva to negotiate what they can afford. Treasurer and/or International Office Manager will look into section's history and make a recommendation to the ExCom based on sections history and present situation. According to WILPF Constitution point D.1.b.i: "A National Section shall be entitled to representation to the International Congress when its dues are paid to the end of the previous calendar year;" See Annex 4:

<http://www.wilpfinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Proposal-on-new-procedure-on-Section-Fee.pdf>

2. Financial Information for the International Board

The Standing Finance Committee and ExCom wish that the representatives of the International Board have the latest financial information. Therefore the representatives of the International Board will be updated about WILPF's finances three times per year;

- in early Spring together with the invoices for the Section Fee
- in end-May by the Annual Report which will include the audits for the prior year
- and in October/November together with the third quarter budget report.

The representatives of the International Board will receive the latest completed audits three to four weeks before an International Board meeting or Triennial International Congress.

Both proposals were approved by consensus by the International Board.

The audits for UNO and GVA for 2011 and the budget reports for UNO and GVA for 2012 were accepted. The proposed budget for 2013 to 2015 for both offices was approved.

Session 5: Regional Meetings

The following Regional Meetings took place:

- The Americas, see minutes: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/ib-2013/>
- Europe, see minutes: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/ib-2013/>
- Africa. No minutes.
- Middle East. No minutes.
- Asia Pacific. No minutes.
- South Asia. No minutes.

Session 6: Working Group Meetings

The following Working Group Meetings took place:

- Environmental Working Group, see minutes:
<http://www.wilpfinternational.org/ib-2013/> (Annex 9, 10, 11, 12)
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation Working Group, see minutes:
<http://www.wilpfinternational.org/ib-2013/> (Annex 17)
- Security Council Resolution 1325 Working Group, no minutes.

Sunday the 24th February 2013

Session 7: WILPF 100th Anniversary in 2015

Facilitator: Petra Tötterman-Andorff

Minute's keeper: Mir Grebäck von Melen

In order to get everyone to start planning and preparing for the anniversary in 2015, Petra Tötterman-Andorff, International Coordinator based at the New York office, held a workshop on the three parts of the anniversary: the congress, the conference and the movement.

Read the minutes here: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/ib-2013/> (Annex 16)

Session 8: Resolutions – review and approval (part 1)

Facilitator: Kerstin Grebäck

Minutes Keeper: Anne Scott

1. Martha reminded everyone that the 4 resolutions will be considered after lunch.
2. Madeleine gave a follow up from yesterday. Stressing that functioning Sections are important and discussing the support that can be given to Sections. An explanation was given as to how the International Office had supported Sections and campaigns in the past. A Section Coordinator is needed in the International Office and funding for this post is currently being sourced. Un-earmarked funds can currently be used to support Sections.
3. The International Board decided that the Fundraising Committee (Sub-Committee of the Standing Finance Committee) should work out guidelines for donations to new and weak Sections and set up criteria and mechanisms for financial assistance to Sections including applications and reporting. Copying IB

into Sections funding requests they maybe able to give help with lobbying for funding.

4. Nouha Lebanon explained the current situation with Syrian refugees in the Lebanon. Madeleine to liaise with Nouha to see what WILPF support can be given.

5. Adilia spoke on the role of the Standing Constitution Committee and it has to be approved to accept reforms. The IB meeting authorised the Standing Constitution Committee to accept changes and modify the constitution. Amendments have to be submitted to the Triennial International Congress in 2015. The Standing Constitution Committee not only "accept changes and modify constitution", but it was authorized to also "submit changes and modifications itself".

6. Excom suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee would look at organisation to feed into Standing Constitution Committee. The Standing Constitution Committee needs to be a reasonable size to be able to function. Annelise Ebbe, WILPF Denmark, asked for time to be allocated for the Standing Constitution Committee to meet.

7. Standing Constitution Committee: There is room for a maximum of seven members in a Standing Committee, it is not an Open Committee. A time scale for the Standing Constitution Committee to work discussed. Work of Constitution Committee to be finished by end of 2014. Comments to Constitutional Committee who will report to the Triennial International Congress in 2015.

As agreed on the International Board meeting in Bolivia, the International Board authorise the Standing Constitution Committee to also submit proposals for amendments to the Constitution for Triennial International Congress 2015.

Annelise Ebbe, convenor of the Standing Constitution Committee, has to circulate the names of the members in the Committee to the rest of the International Board. Nancy Ramsden (WILPF US) commented that the Standing Constitution Committee needs to be strong and transparent.

Heidi Meinzolt, WILPF Germany, stressed that there is a need for time lines and deadlines, and that all IB members need to think about the political direction WILPF has to take in the future.

It was decided that an Ad Hoc Committee on the reform of the organisation needs to feed into the Standing Constitution Committee and has a deadline of six months to complete their work.

It was decided that nominations to committees and the different resolutions should to be discussed after lunch.

Note: members of the Nominations Committee are not eligible to stand for elected posts.

Session 9: Building WILPF

Facilitator: Nancy Ramsden

Minutes Keeper: Anne Scott

Elin Liss (Sweden Office) introduced the way Sweden had worked with other Sections. They have worked with (in order) Costa Rica, DRC, Nigeria and Colombia. The contact between Sections was originally made at IB meetings. The Sections worked with have to have the capacity to go through with the projects. Funds are from Swedish donors who have rules that have to be adhered to. The projects take a lot of time and skill input from the Swedish office. It is important that there is a mutual agreement between the Sections. Systems

for money transfer and receipts for everything can often create problems, and everyone works in a second language. Risk analysis is always required by Swedish Donors.

Nigeria spoke on how their partnership worked. WILPF is one of the few CSOs that were invited to partake in the regional consultations on drafting our National Action Plan.

DRC acknowledged help from French section due to common language and the UK section. Tried to bid for a joint project with Colombia but this bid failed.

Costa Rica - using 1325 armed violence against women. Working on arms control with partners and linking this to domestic violence.

Confortini (WILPF US) acknowledged that it was good hearing from many Sections about their work in cooperation with other sections. She gave a brief presentation of the U.S. Section's work to seek to have the US National Action Plan address the needs and concerns of civil society organizations. Following a process derived from examples from WILPF, DRC and WILPF, Sweden the US Section held consultations among CSOs in five different areas in the country. They clearly indicated the need for a domestic application of the US NAP and for a human security and human rights approach to SCR 1325 implementation. WILPF US has continued to advocate for these recommendations, despite the disappointing wording of the final US NAP.

Questions to the speakers followed and other examples of co-operation.

WILPF Spain in Madrid organised a collection for Colombia.

WILPF DRC acknowledged the teaching of basic skills such as fundraising

WILPF Finland has built links with Nepal and the Somali population in Finland.

WILPF Switzerland will work with Colombia on the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence.

UK Voices of African Women gave support from the UK to the DRC.

Capacity building support was often needed.

Kerstin Grebäck said that all these were good examples of the benefits of co-operative working.

Thanks to the Swedish Government for their attitude and generosity.

All Sections should try to find sources of money from their governments.

Nancy Ramsden ended the session by giving a summary of the models of co-operation.

Session 10: Regional Cooperation

Facilitators: Ila Pathak and Kerstin Grebäck

Minutes Keeper: Mir Grebäck von Melen

All the regional coordinators are asked to take place behind the podium. Ila Pathak asks all coordinators to review what their region has been working on and what has been discussed during the IB meeting in their regional groups.

Africa:

Has been discussion in how to come together in the region and welcomes future cooperation. There was a proposal to make the MENA project to its own region,

but this was rejected. They want to continue to be one whole region with exchange of experiences. The Palestine Working Group continues to be a working group.

Asia:

They have met and continue to work together, and for the moment they are working on how the cooperation should look like. One proposal is collaboration between the Philippines and Japan regarding nuclear power issues.

Americas:

Will reconnect once again. One topic they see as a meeting point is the war on drugs and how this has affected the militarization of the region.

Europe:

The region has discussed two main topics during IB. One is Migration and Food, the second is how to organize the region collaboration better. They have also discussed their critical approach towards that EU wins Nobel Peace Prize. They also express worries regarding the path that Europe is going towards, regarding immigrants, poverty, and social injustice. One other topic which has been discussed is their approach against NATO.

Regional offices:

All regions have been asked whether they are interested in creating **regional offices**. Asia and Americas express that they will continue to discuss whether there is a need for regional offices. Africa says that there would be good to have an office closer in order to improve communication with the international organization. Europe does not see the need for a regional office in Europe.

Session 8: Resolutions – review and approval (part 2)

Facilitator: Abigail Ruane

Minutes Keeper: Mir Grebäck von Melen

The drafts for resolutions were very controversial and not very well prepared. Despite efforts of the Resolutions Committee, the discussion continued at the voting moment. Therefore the International Board decides to discuss the topics and then give the ExCom the authority to finalize the resolutions.

The resolution proposed by Nepal section

Ila Pathak raises the problem that the resolution does not concern women's issues. The International Board suggests that the Nepal section rewrite the resolution in order to include women.

The International Board approves the resolution with certain modifications. It is decided that Nepal rewrites the resolution and then send it to the ExCom to finalize it.

Resolution against Drones

The International Board approves the resolution with certain modifications. It has to be stronger.

The International Board gives the authority to ExCom to finalize the resolution.

Regarding Palestinian Prisoners on Hunger Strike

The International Board approves the resolution with certain modifications.

The International Board gives the authority to ExCom to finalize the resolution.

Resolution – Concerning the possible Release of Marwan Barghouti

The International Board disapproves the resolution and suggests that the International Secretariat writes a call to the Russell Tribunal regarding the subject of the possible release of Marwan Barghouti.

Resolution regarding the situation in DRC

No resolution on the situation in DRC has been written to the International Board meeting. The International Board agrees on the need for a resolution.

For coming IB-meetings, it is a suggestion that there should be created a template in how to create resolutions.

Session 11: Next International Board meeting

Facilitator: Abigail Ruane

Minutes Keeper: Mir Grebäck von Melen

There is a lot of discussion regarding the design of the upcoming meeting. The discussion is regarding whether the organization will have a meeting where **everyone is gathered in one place**, or if there should be a meeting **over the internet** and how such a meeting works.

ExCom explain that they believe it is much better if all the energy and resources spent on the work of 100th anniversary and that the organization does not have the capacity to organize up a meeting where everyone is on the same place. ExCom also highlights that there are sections that cannot afford to go to meetings.

Some other sections believe that it is possible to create a meeting where the whole IB meets and that this is necessary. There are also some sections that worries about their electronic equipment and that it is not capable of meeting

over the internet. WILPF Palestine argued for a face-to-face meeting and not an online meeting.

In the end, four suggestions were made:

1. The meeting will take the form of a webinar.
2. The meeting will be held in one place where one participant from every section is present.
3. The meeting will be held within regions and be connected to all other regions through the internet.
4. The International Board will try to raise money in order to arrange an International Board meeting where all participants are in one place. If the International Board does not succeed, the meeting will be held over Internet.

IB decides that:

The next IB-meeting will be in 2014. Inge Stemmler (WILPF Netherlands) with the support of Marianne Laxen (WILPF Finland) volunteered to organize and fundraise the meeting.

The next IB-meeting will be held in one place where every section would have to be represented by at least one participant.

Session 12: Nominations for Committees

Facilitator: Abigail Ruane

Minutes Keeper: Anne Scott

Nominations Committee

Ila Harsløf – Convenor – WILPF Denmark

Pat O'Brien – WILPF US

Adanna Anyasodo – WILPF Nigeria

Kozue Akibayashi – WILPF Japan

Lama El Chaar – WILPF Lebanon

Nirmala Sitoula – WILPF Nepal

Laura Alonso – WILPF Spain

Amparo Guerrero – WILPF Colombia

(Neelima Sinha is the ExCom liaison)

Ad Hoc Committee on the Organisation of WILPF

Margrethe Trigstad – Convenor – WILPF Norway

Heidi Meinzolt – WILPF Germany

Lynette Lane – WILPF Australia

Sameena Nazir – WILPF Pakistan

Manuela Mesa – WILPF Spain

Annie Matundu-Mbambi – DRC

Laura Roskos – WILPF US

Kerstin Grebäck – ExCom liaison

Ila Pathak – ExCom – India withdrew her nomination as no committee should have two ExCom members on it.

This committee stems from the Nordic Proposal, which was an outcome from a Nordic group meeting and is approved by ExCom.

People who accepted the nomination have to be committed and prepared to work hard as the committee has to report to the Committee on the Constitution at the end of 6 months. This was agreed.

Explanation – from Kerstin Grebäck on the functioning of an Ad Hoc Committee.

Constitution Committee

Annelise Ebbe – Convenor – WILPF Denmark

Cherie – WILPF Philippines

Edith Ballantyne

Neelima Sinha – WILPF India

Mari Holmbue Ruge

Krishna Ahoojapatel

Martha Jean Baker – ExCom Liaison

Within 6 months from IB meeting, this Committee has to submit to ExCom their working plan for the rest of 2013. Nancy proposed to mandate this action – accepted with one against.

Role of liaison person to be discussed and clarified by ExCom.

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Madrid, 22-24 February 2013				
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