



## 35<sup>th</sup> IAW CONGRESS 2010 BOKSBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

### Minutes – Congress

#### A. Business session 1 Nov. 23 9.00 – 12.30

1. Opening of Congress by President Rosy Weiss and Welcoming Song by our African hostesses
2. Words of Greeting Mmabatho Ramagoshi explaining the inspiring texts of the songs which we enjoyed. The name Mmabatho means Mother of the People, so the Mmabatho Foundation for Women's Development is not named for her personally.
3. Roll Call by Secretary General Lene Pind /Alison Brown
4. Adoption of Agenda  
Moved ASDF, Seconded AIWC - passed by consensus  
- no new Action Plan as recommended by International Meeting 2009
5. Presentation of elections committee:  
Kristina Ståhl von Gaffron (Sweden), Rakesh Dhawan (India), Arina Angerman (Netherlands), Torild Skard (Norway), Pauline Matsaung (South Africa) - information on Elections Procedures: Nominations will be accepted for candidates until 17:30. A one page CV should accompany the nomination. Only members whose dues are paid by 13:30 can nominate. Candidates nominated will present themselves to Congress on Nov. 24 at 9:00. Voting begins Nov. 25 at 9:00 for President, Treasurer, and Secretary General. Results will be announced that evening. Voting for the rest of the Board will begin Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon with results announced the next morning.
6. Presentation of Media Committee:  
Bettina Corke (Italy), Helene Sackstein (France), Shireen Maubane (South Africa)
7. Presentation of the Resolutions Committee:  
Priscilla Todd, Danielle Levy, Shaika Al-Mezen, Modi Marishane, Ann Falkinger, Joyce Maluleke
8. Taskforce ( attachment)
  - i. Presentation of taskforce
  - ii. Introduction to the work of the taskforce
  - iii. Presentation of SWOT analysis

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9. Workshops on “Future of the IAW”

**B. Business session 2**

**Nov. 23 14.00 – 17.30**

1. President’s report

**Equality Now!....working together to build a safe planet for all  
NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The IAW is back in South Africa, for the first time since 1911!

In 1911, Carrie Chapman Catt, our first president, sailed around the world with her friend, Aletta Jacobs of the Netherlands. On August 7th they arrived in Cape Town. Chapman Catt was particularly interested in the two suffrage organizations at that time, one in the Cape Colony and the other in Natal, which had become affiliated at the Amsterdam Congress 1908 with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) as we were previously called. Dr. Jacobs also travelled to see the old pioneer, Olive Schreiner, on her remote farm in Herinneringen.

At the Seventh Congress of IWSA, 1913 in Budapest the Women’s Enfranchisement Association of South Africa is listed among the member organizations. Their President was Ms. Macintosh, Jutland, Park Drive, Port Elisabeth.

And now we are back in a new South Africa thanks to the invitation of the Mmabatho Foundation for Women’s Development, member of IAW.

Dear friends,

This Congress really takes place at an appropriate moment.

- On October 15, 2010 the African Union launched the African Women’s Decade 2010-2020. IAW notes with satisfaction that gender equality is a pillar of the African Union’s Constitution.
- Tomorrow is the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, a document the other regions envy you.
- And finally, in two days we will mark the beginning of 16 days of the Campaign of Activisms against Gender Violence.

Equality Now!

It is not acceptable to the IAW that women do most of the agricultural work, yet endure the worst working conditions, with low pay, if any, and little or no social protection; producing most of the food yet very often excluded from land tenure, credit and business services; that women do the majority of housework and family work but have neither the active support of the men of the household or a voice in decision making about it; that women make up over two thirds of the 800 million adults in Africa who cannot read and write. More than half of Africans infected with HIV/AIDS are women and up to three-quarters of those aged 15 to 24 are apparently powerless in negotiating safer sex! Or how would you explain this rate!

IAW will never resign in combating violence against women in all its forms, be it domestic or structural. The abuse of vulnerable young girls (some 2 million girls between the ages of five and 15 are introduced into the commercial sex market annually), genital cutting, rape, honour killings have to be condemned wherever and under what conditions they take place. Such crimes can never be

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rationalized as culture or tradition. Wherever they occur, they have to be condemned and prosecuted. No impunity for these crimes.

The Communiqué on the African Women's Decade, 2010 to 2020, from West African Women's Organisations (why only West Africa?) calls for the immediate increase in the capacity of UN Women offices at country-level; the putting in place of funding opportunities for women's rights organisations; responsiveness of UN country offices to the new UN Women's architecture by appointing women with technical competence in the area of women's rights, gender and development. It calls on UN member states to ensure the agreed threshold of USD 500 million for the UN WOMEN budget by January 2011, with plans to scale up to USD 1 billion to meet the expanded scope and mandate of the new agency.

All this is very much in line with what IAW has advocated for in the framework of the NGO's campaign in preparation of the new gender architecture of the United Nations.

Dear friends,

Tomorrow is the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights – the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. While we commend the African women on this important achievement, we must note, however, that only 29 out of the 53 countries represented in the African Union have ratified this protocol to date. And this despite the adoption of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa by the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State in July 2004 in Addis Ababa, containing such clusters as governance, peace and security, Human Rights, economic empowerment and health. Why is there such a slow pace and how can international NGOs like the IAW contribute to the Protocol's universal ratification and implementation?

The strength of IAW always has been to work on the legal instruments at the international level and to bring these achievements into national and regional levels. Speaking of women's rights, let me tell you about IAW's advocacy through our system of representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna on behalf of our entire membership for one particular right, based on the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular its strategic objective C.1 on health: the right to sexual and reproductive health. IAW believes that it is a global shame that Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG5) is unlikely to be reached by 2015. It is a shame as MDG5, in our opinion, is both feasible and cost-effective when addressed with a human rights approach. Because: Preventing maternal mortality is not simply about improving technical interventions or making them affordable. It also requires addressing discriminatory laws, policies and practices which have institutionalized gender inequalities and is hindering women's and adolescent girls' empowerment (BPfA!). For example, there can be much greater progress in reaching MDG 5 by providing better information to women on nutrition and sexual and reproductive health, with more determined efforts to achieve women's literacy, to improve their economic situation and by including women in health-related decision-making processes. In short, by enforcing non-discrimination, and promoting gender equality.

Laws making emergency contraception (EC) and abortion illegal violate numerous human rights. Let me give you some examples: When women are prevented from using emergency contraception or having a safe abortion, their **rights to decide whether and when to have children and the freedom of their individual thought and conscience are violated**. When they are forced to seek unsafe abortions and their lives are endangered, it is a **violation of the right to life**. Many women also suffer short- and long-term morbidity due to unsafe abortions, including sepsis, haemorrhage, perforated uterus, fistulas and infertility, which is a **violation of the right to health**. Pregnancy prevention and pregnancy termination are health measures needed only by women and not by men; therefore laws that prohibit or

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make access to EC and abortion difficult or impossible constitute a *violation of the right to freedom from discrimination based on sex*.

Women in countries around the world are being imprisoned for abortion-related events, in some cases for what women report as miscarriages. In some countries, they are reported to authorities by health-care providers when these women seek post-abortion care, which constitutes a *breach of their right to privacy and confidentiality*. Harassment by providers in efforts to make women “admit” they had an induced abortion or by governments requiring agreement to sterilization in order to have safe abortion can be characterized as *cruel and inhumane treatment*. When governments do not ensure that women know about the existence of or eligibility for EC and abortion, they are *violating women’s right to information*. Some governments have failed to issue or implement guidelines on safe abortion care so that health-care providers do not offer such treatment, or have imposed onerous, time-consuming procedures to obtain authorization for a legal abortion so that access is denied in practice. This constitutes a *violation of their right to the benefits of scientific progress*.

Let me finish this tour d’horizon of the work of an international women’s umbrella organization by welcoming the recent adoption by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations of a landmark resolution to establish a working group of five independent experts on discrimination against women. NGOs and some like-minded governments have tried for years to get such a resolution through the Commission on the Status of Women without positive result. The resolution calls on States to revoke any legislation that discriminates against women, both in law and in implementation. It establishes the working group for three years, with a mandate to compile best practices on the elimination of laws that discriminate against women and to report annually to the Council on the continued existence of such laws and good practices in revoking them. Given the difficult birth of the resolution and the key challenge to find strong candidates from the five UN regions, international NGOs, such as the Alliance, will do their utmost to bring life into this major achievement.

And finally, despite some personal frustrations on IAW performance of which we have heard this morning, I do think that the visibility of our organization has been increased during the past years, its value as an international non-governmental organization reinforced, its voice heard and appreciated. I am proud of the excellence of your, our members, performance, the wide range of competences within our ranks, and your expertise in the practical work on the ground.

These are our strengths: Participation, competence, expertise!

Thank you for your attention.

2. Admission of new affiliate and associate members/ Board: No completed applications available for decisions at this Congress.
3. Presentation of written reports by the Secretary General  
- the written reports will be distributed as part of the arrival and registration process
4. PowerPoint presentation prepared by Lene Pind
5. Discussion of reports:

Suggested topics:

Using the Universal Periodic Review before the Human Rights Council;

In the Nordic countries there is now a ban on buying sex, how has this affected prostitution and trafficking;

Immigrant / Migrant women are an issue in a number of European countries as well as around the world.

How exactly do our members work to help integrate these women?

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Violence is a theme that runs throughout all regions. What can we do?

Can Members of member organisations contact the IAW directly?

Of course, information is in the IWN and the e-Newsletter.

Does IAW lobbying make an impact?

Monique talks about her work with UNESCO on Africa, Women, health and development. Global project on Economy for Africa from lobbying to making a book of concrete cases for the ambassadors at UNESCO. Demand for a UNESCO Commission on women is making slow progress.

Hélène describes forming an NGO network in Geneva to achieve a resolution by consensus on Women's Right to Health – on maternal mortality issue – lobbying country by country and seeing follow-up in many countries with new policies and programmes.

Trafficking as violation of human rights in the Convention as a result of IAW lobbying.

Gudrun reports that the IAW has been counselling WHO on the issue of Maternal Mortality. Second main topic is Women and Tobacco use. IAW writes regular reports (13 to date) which are reviewed at the CEDAW sessions. Soon Young Yoon held a joint meeting between WHO and CEDAW staff in Geneva, leading WHO to include CEDAW in its reports as well. Now countries include Women and Smoking in their reports to WHO, which is viewed as an empowerment issue.

Marion talks about German conference of GEAR and the founding of UNWomen using info from the IAW – also points to Joanna's work with the EWL, where her international perspective is appreciated.

Elizabeth of the Bali Women's Union of Farming Groups told about international connections through the IAW to find partners to achieve projects in literacy and improved social and economic conditions, including a building for courses. Thanks to a nomination of the IAW president, they won the Country Women International prize for creativity.

Yvonne Anker of South Africa sees problems in a lack of skills rather than money (she is not generally agreed with on this topic) and envisions cooperation with the IAW less as a money giver, but rather as a networker and a provider of consultants to make funders give money to women's projects

Joanna reports that the IAW submitted resolutions to EWL on Women and the Financial Crisis which lead to the revision of the European Parliament's report on the financial crisis in Europe.

Danielle speaks about "Africa, Land of Talents", which should spread knowledge of the industry of the women of Africa to the citizens of Europe.

Bashan underlines the help of IAW networking in aid to the Cameroon group and describes her positive experience getting funding from the IAW associated Chave Collison Educational Trust for a project to train Pakistani women in the wake of floods there.

Horeya mentions that her report from the Arab League was a labour of love taken over from Mona, who did not take part. She points out aspects of her reports.

Kiriaki says that the Cypriot sub-groups do individual fundraising projects involving handicrafts and pool the money to fund larger projects.

A second Cameroon group talks about teaching about sexual and reproductive health and gender violence as well as FGM and "Breast Ironing". They have launched a campaign, directed to mothers, against the later practice, which damages breast tissues and makes a woman's later life miserable. The campaign also includes the topic of rape, especially incest. Monique refers to information about the day for young people – Feb. 2, 2011 – on the topics covered by the Cameroon group and wants their project information to be made available on that day.

Bettina talked about her frustration with ineffective FAO programs against hunger because they neglect the small (women) farmers. Problem of depleted soil from industrial farming that is then turned back to subsistence farmers who have no means and get no assistance in rebuilding the soil. She refers to Article 14 in the well-ratified Convention, should be pushed jointly by NGOs to achieve Food Security and then speaks passionately on Res. 1325. Gudrun calls for assistance from the Cameroon NGO to provide testimony before the WHO or the HRC on FGM and Breast Ironing. She announces session on Women & Health at this Congress on the 24<sup>th</sup> in the evening, with a focus on prevention of childhood pregnancy. Ann Falkinger moves a vote of thanks to Lene Pind for her work in the production of reports to facilitate our work at Congress and the Int. Meeting. General applause  
Thanks to Marion as microphone runner to facilitate the discussion.  
Meeting Adjourned at 4 pm.

### C. Business session 2a

**November 24 9.00 – 9.20**

Moderator: Elections Committee:

1. Presentation of candidates for president, treasurer, secretary general and board

<b>President</b>	Lyda Verstegen	Netherlands
<b>Treasurer</b>	Thorbjörg Inga Jonsdottir	Iceland
<b>Secretary General</b>	Lene Pind	Denmark
Board member	Sheila Deaves	Australia
BM	Shaika Al Mezen	Kuwait
BM	Susanne Riveles	USA
BM	Ann-Christine Elken	Sweden
BM	Asha Deshpande	India
BM	Bashan Rafique	UK/ Pakistan
BM	Daniela Reiter	Austria
BM	Horeya Megahed	Egypt
BM	Janicke Solheim	Norway
BM	Jessica Kehl-Lauf	Switzerland
BM	Joanna Manganara	Greece
BM	Jocelyne Scutt	UK / Australia
BM	Kuljit Kaur	India
BM	Louise Deumer	Netherlands
BM	Manorama Bawa	India
BM	Mapule Ncanywa	South Africa
BM	Marion Boeker	Germany
BM	Monique Bouaziz	France

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#### D. Business session 3

November 24 14.30 – 17.30

1. Treasurer's report

The financial reports should be distributed to the board members before the Congress.

A change of Bank from Barclay's should make keeping the books easier.

Consideration and approval of the accounts of the IAW for the preceding triennium

2. Discharge of the Treasurer for the previous triennium. The report from the Triennium of 2005-2007 was accepted (it was not possible to approved the Triennium at the Congress in 2007 since the period was not ended).  
The current Treasurer is discharged for the financial years 2008-2009.

3. Decision on the membership and subscription fees for the next triennium

Approval of new Membership fees in Euros:

Affiliates €110; Associates €55; Individual Members €20. Passed by consensus.

4. Approval of the budget for the next triennium

Amended to add lines in **Income** category for *Donations from Officeholders* and *Representatives for both time and expenses*. So approved.

Lengthy discussion about the need and modus for fundraising. Rafique offers to do a fundraiser in London to see how it goes.

#### E. Business session 4

November 25 14.00 – 17.30

1. Announcement of results of elections for president, treasurer and secretary general:

The Election Committee under the leadership of Arina Angerman announced that 15 Affiliates, 2 Associates and 47 Individual Members cast ballots.

President: Lyda Versteegen:

Treasurer: Inga Jonsdottir:

Secretary General Lene Pind.

207 votes were cast, so the margin of victory was large.

Arina thanked the members of the Election Committee (Kristina Ståhl von Gaffron (Sweden), Rakesh Dhawan (India), Torild Skard (Norway), Pauline Matsaung (South Africa)) and the voters, individual and institutional, who cast their votes.

2. Change of constitution approved as proposed to facilitate registration.

The Congress authorizes Jessica Kehl-Lauff to enter into negotiations with the relevant authorities to begin our registration in the Canton of Geneva.

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## **F. Business session 5**

**November 26 14.00 – 17.30**

1. Start of elections for the Board (12:30pm)
2. Presentation of resolutions and Voting on resolutions

The following resolutions were put to Congress..

### **Resolution on Harmonizing Health Norms – adopted unanimously**

**The 35th Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Considering that  
in countries with plural legal systems traditional and customary norms often confer rights and power of decision to the male members of society to the detriment of women's health and development,

decides that

- 1) such norms should urgently be harmonized with legal norms derived from International conventions, International standards and decisions
- 2) legal institutions and mechanisms should be strengthened to influence and counter traditions and customs that continue to abuse and exploit women.

Important fields of action should target

- the elimination of policies and regulations requiring that women obtain consent from the men in their family to access health care
- the adoption of legal mechanisms accessible to all women dealing with paternity complaints in cases of sexual abuse or coercion<sup>1</sup>.

Moved: Gudrun Haupter  
Convenor Commission on Health

Seconded: Hélène Sackstein  
Permanent Representative UN Geneva

### **Resolution on Res.1325 and UN Women – adopted unanimously**

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

welcoming the establishment of the new UN gender architecture **UN Women**

calls on the President and Board of the IAW to convey to the relevant authorities the following message:

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<sup>1</sup> The implementation of laws that make the father pay for **all his children** works against men seducing or coercing adolescents, thus limiting early pregnancies



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That work towards the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 be included in the program of UN Women.

Moved by  
*Bettina Corke*

Seconded by  
*Ida Kurth*

**Resolution on Res.1325 and Governments** – adopted by majority vote; ADF-SVF opposed.

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

considering the importance of the content of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

is of the opinion that this Resolution must be fully implemented

calls on the President and Board of the IAW to

- put pressure on governments to endorse and fully implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 by drawing up National Action Plans.

- encourage and facilitate IAW member organizations to hold meetings in their countries to plan action to lobby their governments to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and to follow up internationally.

Moved by  
*Bettina Corke*

Seconded by  
*Ida Kurth*

**Resolution calling for Support of Appointment of Adriana Ortega Ortiz as an expert to Special Working Group of HRC** – adopted.

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

considering that the IAW as an international women's rights organization should support all appropriate initiatives that may lead to strengthen women's voices in fields where we have an agreed position

calls on the President and Board of the IAW to co-sign the letter of submission of Mexican NGOs and of IPAS nominating Adriana Ortega Ortiz<sup>1</sup> for the newly created Working Group of the Human Rights Council as an expert on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice.

Moved by  
*Hélène Sackstein*  
*Permanent Rep UN Geneva*

Seconded by  
*Gudrun Haupter*  
*Convenor Commission on Health*

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<sup>1</sup>Ms Ortega Ortiz is currently a Gender Equality Officer of the National Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico and has been a temporary member of the Gender Advisory Board of WHO and a Fellow at the Centre for Reproductive Rights in the US. Full details of her capacities are listed in the nomination form she completed.

**Resolution on Support of Women Refugees – adopted**

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

considering that IAW as an international women's organization supports all appropriate initiatives promoting respect of all human rights for all women

calls on the President and Board of the IAW to call on its members, affiliates, associates and individuals, to promote and advocate at national, regional and international level, respect by host countries of civil, political, economic and cultural rights for refugees fleeing from armed conflicts, and particularly women who are subjected to multiple discriminations.  
and returns to the order of the day.

Moved by  
*Helene Sackstein*

Seconded by  
*Jessika Kehl-Lauff*

**Resolution on Executive Board of UNWomen** – there are legal problems with the text and content. To deal with this issue, the tactic of a letter from the IAW President and Regional VP on the issue agreed upon.

Rejected as a resolution. A letter with this sort of content should be written by the President of IAW with willing affiliates and associates of the region.

Discussion on the United Nations practice of "Agreed States" would be fruitful.

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

considering that recently the representatives have been chosen for the new entity UN WOMEN without representatives of the Asia Pacific region among them

is of the opinion that this must be corrected, urgently and without delay, since all regions of the world have to be represented in UN WOMEN and UN WOMEN's mandate for the improvement and final implementation of gender equality covers all regions of the world in order to completely fulfil its mandate and to allow equal access to UN WOMEN, and the outreach of UN WOMEN as a partner for stakeholders of all states parties and civil societies including women's rights NGOs of all regions and member states

calls on the President and Board to communicate this message to the Head of UN WOMEN and all relevant UN entities, including the Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to inform the state delegations and NGOs,

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lobbying for their support, to immediately secure equal representation within UN WOMEN by including representatives of the Asia Pacific region and returns to the order of the day.

Moved by  
*Marion Böker*

Seconded by  
*Louise Deumer*

**Resolution on Violence in all Forms against Women of the World – adopted**

**The 35th Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23rd to 27th November 2010**

considering that on International Day to say no to all forms of violence against women on 25th November we again condemn all forms of violence against women wherever it is directed against women of this world

considering that with shame and pain we have to state that throughout the world women and men continue to be confronted with various known and condemned forms of violence against women including several forms of cruel treatments or punishments such as breast ironing, stoning to death, stigmatization and psychological violence considering the financial crisis has caused increased poverty among people and within families in many parts of the world and as such is a push factor for an increase of all forms of violence against women

is of the opinion that the perpetuation of violence against women, including gender based violence which can be directed equally against men and which is without any doubt recognized as violation of human rights under the UN human rights treaties, indicates a worldwide crisis of humanity

calls on the President and Board

to urgently call on the UN including the World Security Council, the High Commissioner of Human Rights, UN WOMEN and all stakeholders of governments, civil societies and NGOs to define a mutual and more comprehensive approach to counteract this crisis more effectively under their already existing international, regional and national legal obligations to eliminate all forms of violence against women

to ratify the action taken on 25 November 2010 during Congress and returns to the order of the day.

Moved by  
*Ida Kurth*

Seconded by  
*Joanna Manganara*

**Resolution on the Suffering of Women and Children in the Middle East – adopted.**

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

considering that women and children have been suffering in the Middle East for more than sixty years

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calls on the President and Board of the IAW to support the continuation of the ongoing peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority to put an end to suffering in the region.

and returns to the order of the day

Moved by  
*Horeya Megahed*

Seconded by  
*Louise Deumer*

**Resolution on ongoing Situation of “Comfort Women” – adopted.**

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

considering that 65 years after the end of the Asian-Pacific war (1937-1945) and 19 years after the first Asian Pacific women, many from Korea, had broken the silence over their fate as having been enslaved as so called “**comfort women**”.

calls on the President and Board to support women’s organizations in the process of reconciliation for these women to end their plight and take action for lasting peace.  
and returns to the order of the day.

Moved by  
*Marion Böker*

Seconded by  
*Ida Kurth*

**Resolution on Social Rights – adopted.**

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

considering that the worsening economic crisis affects most particularly women and children and risks eroding democratic structures

having noted that in this context policies aimed at getting out of the crisis must respect and reinforce economic, social and cultural rights

calls on the President and Board of the IAW to strongly lobby governments, international, regional and national bodies to reinforce and secure women’s and children’s economic, social, cultural and human rights by the reinforcement of those rights in economic, social and financial planning.

and returns to the order of the day.

Moved by  
*Monique Bouaziz (for AFEM)*

Seconded by  
*Marion Böker*

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**Resolution on Women, Growth and Economic Crisis –adopted.**

**The 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of the INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN together in Boksburg, South Africa on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Considering that women today are the main drivers for legal economic growth and the economic slowdown is affecting women more than men in many countries

having noted that policy responses to the crisis have failed to analyse and rectify the gender impact of the crisis

calls on the President and Board of the IAW to urge its member organisations to work together with other interested NGOS at national, regional and international levels to:

- Recognize women as important economic agents
- Dismantle gender stereotypes
- Involve women at the decision making level in the design, implementation and evaluation of macro-economic policies
- Ensure equal representation of women and men in corporate and political positions with economic responsibilities.

Moved by  
*Joanna Manganara*

Seconded by  
*Joke Sebus*

Bettina proposed a Vote of Thanks to Elections Committee, Resolutions Committee (and Alison) for their work in the Congress.

3. Report of the Elections Committee: Presentation of new board  
Elections today began at 12:15 and were finished at 2:15, so in future Congresses, one may plan only 2-3 hours for the process.

208 votes were cast, 15 Affiliates 2 Associates, 48 Individual Members.

105 votes needed to be elected.

Shaika Al-Mezen

Shiela Deaves

Susanne Riveles

Ann-Christine Elken

Asha Deshpande

Bashan Rafique

Danela Reiter

Horeya Megahed

Jannicke Solheim

Jessica Kehl-Lauff

Joanna Manganara

Joycelynne Scutt

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Kuljit Kaur  
Louise Deumer  
Manorama Bawa  
Mapule Ncanywa  
Marion Boeker  
Monique Bouaziz

Rosy thanks the Elections Committee for the excellent job

4. UN representatives

**Geneva Team** proposes adding an intern to the team on a regular basis for 6 month terms at least, money for the intern's expenses should be able to be raised, esp. for candidates from countries in Africa and Asia. H el ene is being employed as a lobbyist for Reporters without Borders and will have to cut back on her activities for the IAW. Jessica explains the strict terms of the activities of interns, including no written statements without approval of IAW pres and Geneva team. Rosy will help with ILO and UNCTAD. Lyda will work mainly on CEDAW. Jessica will continue in the delegation to help with the communication and bureaucracy with the UN in Geneva. The Seat of the IAW should be found in Geneva, bilingual, and possibly as an additional member of the team. Gudrun is looking for a successor in WHO representation (as well as Convenor) as both she and H el ene are wanting/needing to cut back. It may be that a successor would be among the new members of the Health Commission. Soon Young Yoon is the liaison with Health Commission in NYC. Marion suggests that a mentoring system could be offered by IAW for International . reps.

Priscilla thinks we must talk about succession planning.

**New York UN Team:** There is a problem.

**Vienna Team:** Many interesting fields. Rosy will return to the UN as main representative and Daniela will assist her.

**FAO,** Bettina will continue and attempt to find herself an intern to assist her.

IAW members who wish to attend sessions may be able to register with long lead time, depending the level of meeting and the number of NGO reps allowed.

Only 20 places are available for IAW reps at CSW – interested parties should contact Lyda as soon as possible.

5. Action Programme

Congress agrees to continue with the Action Programme as written in 2007.

6. What happens with Reports presented at Congress? Should the loose reports given at Congress be distributed physically or published on-line? On-line with the repaired PowerPoint presentation.

Renewed thanks to Lene for her efforts in publishing the reports which arrived on time (some reports sent on time did not make it into the final report).

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A desire expressed by Danielle for a special link to French parts of reports on-line. Webmaster will tell us if he can do that.

### **G. Business session 6**

**Nov 27 9.00 – 12.30**

At this time Congress approved the minutes of two items discussed during E. Business Session 4 for legal reasons:

1. Announcement of results of elections for president, treasurer and secretary general:

The Election Committee under the leadership of Arina Angerman announced that 15 Affiliates, 2 Associates and 47 Individual Members cast ballots.

President: Lyda Verstegen

Treasurer: Inga Jonsdottir

Secretary General: Lene Pind

207 votes were cast, so the margin of victory was large.

Arina thanked the members of the Election Committee (Kristina Ståhl von Gaffron (Sweden), Rakesh Dhawan (India), Torild Skard (Norway), Pauline Matsaung (South Africa)) and the voters, individual and institutional, who cast their votes.

2. Change of constitution approved as proposed to facilitate registration.

The Congress authorizes Jessica Kehl-Lauff to enter into negotiations with the relevant authorities to begin our registration in the Canton of Geneva.

3. Results of taskforce activities

Facilitator Reports:

Boeker: 30 participants from many countries esp. Africa and India

Projects – a (regional) workshop of about two hours on violence against women, how to involve men – police and judges involved, training measures. Media use – SMS, Yahoo Groups. Recruitment – intergenerational is a goal; attractive leaflets, connect with activism days like 16 Days against Violence with unified publicity; Send e-Newsletter to local ngos so that people without internet can read it. Written report available.

Manganara: majority of participants from Africa and India as well as Egypt and Kuwait. Unclear about IAW – what the meeting is about, what the IAW does. Networking requested and exchange of best practices for empowerment. They think that women's rights education for all would help this cause. Men should be included in equality of women issues. Lack of funding hinders travel to network and to meetings. Regional meetings could precede IAW congresses to prepare them. Written report requested.

Elken: Wish for a meeting on women's health issues. Lack of knowledge on CEDAW and other international instruments. Written report requested.

At beginning of every Congress make introductions and make room for emotions.

Maybe there should be an IAW song to sing.

Anki recommends the deletion of the 'no' vote on the ballot. This was AGREED by consensus and will require a change to the relevant by-laws.

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The availability of CVs of Board candidates (including a photo if possible) should be sooner. Similarly Resolutions should be distributed beforehand as well. However, because of spontaneity during the IAW Congress complete pre-Congress distribution will not be possible.

Marion and Anki want to see the existing “How to organise an IAW Congress” paper.

Introduction by PowerPoint of the internal social network for IAW at ning.com

Anki congratulates on the establishment of this page with so many functions.

Mmabatho and Bashan add their congratulations. Bettina expressed disapproval of the idea of a members-only website. Torild asks who will be responsible for the maintenance of the website; make sure one does not run afoul of the law (copyrights).

Heleen Kist maintains and moderates; copyright is not such an issue since this is not a public website. Marion asks about ning.com – ning is an open source internet community, has been free until last year; the fee is being donated by Heleen Kist.

Danielle reports as a novice user she learned to use it with some help internally and says that it is like writing a message and any language can be used.

Alison asked how and how often will the list be cleared of lapsed members, so it remains IAW internal?

Agreed to see how <http://IAWomen.ning.com> develops.

Rosy thanks for the presentation and the utility.

A hotel room register is being circulated to help the Mmabatho Foundation with accounts.

#### 4. Recommendations to the board

#### 5. Future meetings

- **Board Meeting 2011**- Iceland September 20 – 25 current dates suggested.

- **International Meeting 2012** – no invitation received yet.

- **Congress 2013** – Manchester UK is looking for Congresses, so we may get a lot of perks if we hold our Congress there. Our various affiliates and associates could be involved in the planning. An IAW archive is housed there.

The Union of Kuwaiti Women’s Associations is interested in hosting a large event such as this

- **Board Meeting 2014** - Sweden in August - 100 year anniversary of the donor of Apelryd in Böstad where 100 people can stay for free.

#### 6. Evaluation of Congress by Secretary General Lene Pind /Alison Brown

#### 7. Closing of Congress by Rosy Weiss

Rosy thanks us all for our confidence and contributions, was proud to be the IAW President. Thanks to Alison for work acting as secretary general and for continuing to be speech editor; Joke for the wonderful e-Newsletter, Flashes and Talking Points; Priscilla for the IWN editorship; Pat for her enormous work with libraries, dues, and keeping tabs on the members.



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Rosy passes the gavel to Lyda and will give her the IAW Banner from 1911 to represent the transfer of office.

