



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DES CARRIERES JURIDIQUES

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BUREAU MEETING

MINUTES

On March 14th 2014, the Bureau of the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (FIFJC) met in New York City, in the United States. The meeting was held in the offices of the Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic before the United Nations.

The agenda of the meeting, called in accordance with articles 5, 6, 8, 9 and 20 of the Internal Regulations, was the following:

- 1) Absences and representatives;*
- 2) Review and approval of the minutes of the last bureau meeting;*
- 3) News;*
- 4) Preparation for the next Enlarged Council (Nice, 2014). Report of the organizing committee;*
- 5) Comments on the situation of the Millennium Development Goals in the FIFJC member countries;*
- 6) Final questions.*

The following members of the Bureau were present at the meeting: María Elena Elverdín, María Imaculada Melo, Denise Scotto, Osvalda Joana, Alba Ávila Quintana, Liisa Kiiianlinna and Anna La Rana. Norma Chiapparrone, Herilda Balduino, María Teres Baiges and Gabriela van Marrewijk sent authorized representatives. They were represented at the meeting, respectively, by Alba Ávila Quintana, María Elena Elverdín, Esther Susín and Jeroniza Albuquerque.

In addition, the following FIFJC members also participated in the meeting: Esther Susín, Jeroniza Albuquerque, Johanna Sterbin, Dalmazia Cossa, Solange Machado, Emma Maria Chicoco, Idalinda Rodrigues, Jéssica Romao, Renata Schmidt, Shang-Luan Yan, Domingas Damião, Kelsey Jost-Creegan, Stella Maris Seixas, Nicole Franco, Katia Westfalle, Victoria Correia Da Conceicao, Lúcia da Luz Ribeiro, Aurora Margarida Sabino, Florbela Araújo, Leonor Pedro, Isabel Maiato, Neuza Matos, Helena Garrine and Filomena Macandza.

At 10:30 a.m. the President of the Federation, María Elena Elverdín, indicated that the necessary quorum was present and declared the meeting open. She also noted the presence of Kelsey Jost-Creegan, who interning at the offices of the Argentine Association of Women in Legal Careers until June 2014, when she will return to the United States to continue her studies at Harvard University. Kelsey Jost-Creegan presented herself to the members in attendance and offered to take notes to facilitate the preparation of the minutes to document the meeting.

Following the agenda, the group proceeded to review the concluding documents from the last meeting in Rome. After reading the documents, Solange Machado indicated that the names of some Angolan members who attended the last Bureau meeting were missing from

the Minutes and needed to be added. The documents were approved with the understanding that the missing names would be added in: Solange Machado, Catarina Cunha and Margarida Jordao.

Next, in accordance with the agenda, certain important news topics were discussed.

First, regarding the organization of the next Enlarged Council, the Presidency informed the Bureau that Françoise Assus Jutner sent a note stating that the organizing committee had changed the location of the event from Nice to Paris. The meeting will take place on October 24th, 2014.

The theme of the next meeting of the Enlarged Council be “Women and citizenship”, due to the importance of reevaluating the concept of citizenship from a gender perspective within the context of the contemporary world dynamic. It is suggested that the attendees prepare research projects on this topic for the Enlarged Council.

Next, the President presented the proposal that, moving forward, the Federation Bureau meet only once a year so as to reduce the costs assumed by each member.

Anna La Rana suggested that the group consider the idea of supplementing the annual meeting with a videoconference. The only objection that arose was that, given that the FIFJC has representatives all over the world, finding a time for a virtual meeting when everyone could participate could be problematic.

In this regard, the Bureau unanimously agreed to reduce FIFCJ meetings to one per year. This will be organized in conjunction with the meeting of the Enlarged Council. The use of alternative communication systems considered appropriate will be explored.

María Elena Elverdín informed the Bureau that she would like to propose that the 2015 FIFJC meeting be organized in Buenos Aires, so as to be able to host an event in her country, Argentina, before the end of her presidential term. The decision regarding the location of the 2015 Enlarged Council will be made at the 2014 Enlarged Council in Paris.

Next, the President thanked the attendance of several of the present members at the Parallel Event organized by the FIFJC on March 10th, 2014, as a part of the ongoing sessions of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW58). The theme of the workshop was “The Millennium Development Goals and the CEDAW: Working Together for the Empowerment and the Advancement of Women.” Various Federation members presented reports on the Post-2015 Development Agenda proposed by the United Nations. Additionally, the FIFJC delegates were participating actively in many of the meetings composing the agenda put forth by the Commission Organizers.

The Presidency asked those in attendance to present any comments or critiques regarding her administration, so as to be able to consider adjustments in its operations. She also praised the work of Domingas Damião and Mireille Ksentine as Translators.

Finally, it is informed that there would be a reception in the house of the Argentine Ambassador, María Cristina Perceval, at 19:30 that evening. It is important to note that the among other parties invited to the Reception were the delegates of UN Women that form part of the Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of UNDP, and representatives of the Group of 77 and China.

Regarding the fourth Agenda point, a debate arose about the organization of the next Enlarged council.

After an extensive exchange of opinions, it was decided that the President would send a letter to Françoise Assus Jutner. In the letter, she will synthesize the discussion that took place in the Bureau Meeting and propose various alternative dates for the next Enlarged

Council. The Bureau decided to propose alternative dates because the new date proposed by the French organizing committee, October 24th, overlaps with elections in Brazil and Mozambique, which would make it impossible for various members to be in attendance. The letter will also request that the organizers communicate regularly regarding the process of planning the meeting.

In this vein, the Bureau emphasized the importance that the organizing committees of future Federation meetings send delegates to meeting(s) leading up to the event, so as to provide information about the planning process.

Regarding the fifth Agenda Point, some of the attendees make brief comments regarding the reports that they had prepared for the Parallel Event on March 10th, 2014. These projects represent a collection of important analyses regarding the state of the Millennium Development Goals – within the context of the CEDAW – in the regions where the Federation is represented. These works will be published on the Federation's website.

With regards to the last Agenda point, several final issues were addressed:

It is noted the increased participation of the Federation in the International Conference on Work. In 2013, two representatives of the FIFJC, Luciana Delfini and Gabriela van Marrewijk, attended the meeting in Geneva, and presented reports on their participation. This year, the Federation hopes to send even more delegates.

Denise Scotto proposed the idea of designing an informative booklet that would compile information about the different national associations that form part of the Federation, as well as the links between the Federation and international organizations. The informative booklet would supplement the information that is provided in the traditional FIFJC brochure. Among objections raised were that the booklet could be costly and that it would not be environmentally friendly to print many copies. Nevertheless, these concerns were resolved with the idea of producing the publication digitally, such that it could be printed in special cases as necessary.

Anna La Rana informed the group that she had obtained funding to publish the research reports that were presented in the last meeting in Rome, under the theme, "Women's Empowerment." She also proposed Capri as a possible location for a future meeting.

The President of the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (FIFJC) declared the meeting closed at 13:00, as all of the agenda points had been covered. Before closing she expressed her thanks to the Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic before the United Nations for having graciously allowed the FIFJC to use their offices for the purpose of this meeting, as well as for the generous attention of the Mission's staff.

Once the meeting was closed, Solange Machado presented Luzia Inglês Van-Dúnem (Inga), Secretary General of the Organization of Women of Angola. Also a member of the Angolan Parliament, Ms. Van-Dúnem applauded the efforts made by the representatives of the FIFJC for the good of women worldwide. She also informed the group as to the current efforts and advances towards the achievement of Equality in her country.



María Elena Elverdín
President FIFJC