



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DES CARRIERES JURIDIQUES

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On the occasion of the first Administrative Meeting of the Council for the 2012 – 2015 period, this document constitutes my report of the activities I have undertaken as President of the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (IFWLC) since my election to this position.

Following the conclusion of the Congress in Dakar, Senegal, which took place from the 12th to the 16th of November 2012, I traveled to Lisboa, Portugal. There, the former president, Doctor Teresa Féria, spoke to me in great detail about my responsibilities; she also gave me all of the documentation necessary to fulfill the role of president.

Additionally, Dr. Isabel Charneco gave me three thousand one hundred euros, (3100 euros), the money resulting from the collection of fees paid by the national associations and individuals members that attended the Congress in Dakar.

Upon returning to Buenos Aires, I established the new office of the IFWLC at the following address: San Martín 945 1° B (+54-11-4516-0450). The Asociación Argentina de Mujeres de Carreras Jurídicas (Argentine Association of Women in Legal Careers) also operates out of this same office.

A central part of my work has been focused on the area of communications. After the website service that Dr. Féria had contracted expired, we moved forward with the design of a new website.

From that point forward, the Federation's website has been: <http://fifcj-ifwlc.com>. Likewise, a new communications server was established, with the following email address: infopresident@fifcj-ifwlc.com.

During this transition period, I wish to recognize the commendable work done by the former president, who facilitated the exchange of information between representatives of the Federation, as well as that with other international organizations.

I am pleased to inform you that the communications of the Federation are presently in order.

In February of 2013, I attended the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57) in New York in the United States, as I have done for 10 years. This year, the

priority theme was: "The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls," with particular emphasis on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

In honor of the CSW57, the Federation organized a workshop in which I made a presentation, together with Dr. Johanna Sterbin. IFWLC Secretary General Dr. Norma Chiapparrone spoke on the Trimarco case, an emblematic trial in the area of human trafficking. Dr. Shang-Luan Yan and her daughter, Kun Yin-Sung, also made interesting contributions. Dr. Osvalda Joana, Vice President of the IFWLC, alerted attendees to the problem of trafficking in her country, Mozambique. Finally, the Vice President for North America, Dr. Denise Scotto, analyzed the link between the CEDAW and Resolution 1325.

At the same event, Dr. Liisa Kiialinna presented on the National Action Plan, a strategic program suggested by Resolution 1325, and how this program is being implemented in Finland.

During my stay in New York, I attended the conference that Dr. Michelle Bachelet, at that time the Executive Director of UN Women, gave in honor of International Women's Day. Subsequently, we met with Dr. Bachelet and the other members of the regional advisory group for Latin America, of which the AAMCJ is a part, along with other Latin American NGOs with whom we work closely.

We have also supported the activities of *Regard des Femmes*, including both their workshops in New York and, more recently, in Lyon, France.

Turning to another topic, I have paid all the membership dues of the international organizations of which the Federation forms part: UNIFEM, DAW, UN Women y ECOSOC.

In May 2013, I traveled to Coimbra, Portugal, for the first meeting of the IFWLC Bureau for the 2012-2015 period. At this meeting I presented my Action Plan for the three year term.

The meeting was held at the offices of the *Orden de Abogados del Consejo Distrital de Coimbra* (Order of Lawyers of the Coimbra District Board). I would like to express my gratitude for the organization, collaboration and kindness that our Portuguese colleagues extended to all of the attendees. As part of the event, we visited the prestigious *Universidad de Coimbra* (University of Coimbra), where we were received by the university president, the first woman to hold this position.

Thanks to Dr. Fatoumata Dembélé Diarra, the vice president of the Federation and at that time also of the International Criminal Court, we visited the ICC headquarters in the Hague, Netherlands, on the 7th of May 2013. The representatives of the IFWLC were graciously received by a delegation of distinguished female judges.

I attended the meeting of UN Women in Buenos Aires, where they updated us on their current work agenda, as well as the election of their new Executive Director, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. I expressed our interest in working in conjunction with Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka via an official communication.

In July of 2013, I once again traveled to New York. I met with Dr. Denise Scotto y Dr. Alba Ávila Quintana, with the intention of beginning our preparations for the meeting of the CSW58. Focused on the priority theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls," the event will take place between the 10th and the 23rd of March 2014.

With this event in mind, I contacted the Ambassador of the Argentine Republic at the United Nations, Dr. María Cristina Perceval, to request permission to use the Argentine Mission's offices for the Bureau meeting, coinciding with the CSW58. The goal of grouping these events together is to reduce the costs of those members of the Federation who wish to attend both events.

More recently, I was invited by the very active and large Asociación Brasileira de Mujeres de Carreras Jurídicas (Brazilian Association of Women in Legal Careers) to attend their National Congress. I attended the event, which was held in September 2013 in Manaus. In the same vein, I want to recognize the work of the organization's new president, Dr. Eliana Mendonça, as well as the work of the Vice President of IFWLC for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr. Herilda Balduino de Sousa.

With regards to the connections between the IFWLC and other international organizations, I want to recognize the participation of Dr. Gabriela Van Marrewijk, Adjunct Secretary General, and Dr. Luciana Delfini, the representative of the Federation before the International Labour Organization (ILO), in the session of the International Labour Conference that took place between the 5th and the 20th of June 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. Evidence of their participation can be found in the reports that these colleagues presented. It was the first time in many years that a representative of the IFWLC attended this important meeting.

Similarly, Dr. Mireille Ksentine represented the Federation before UNESCO, as she participated in all of the activities carried out by this organization in Paris, France. Her participation is detailed in the report that she has completed. Thanks to the work of Dr. Ksentine, I have been well informed of the actions and discussions realized by this distinguished organization.


Finally, I would like to inform you of some additional activities and news.

In light of the International Day against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, a presentation of the play, "Las viajeras" took place in the San Martín Cultural Center in the city of Buenos Aires. At this event, I made brief remarks presenting the mission of the Federation.

I also wanted to highlight the communications work being carried out through our Facebook page; through this media the Federation has taken positions on and denounced several current events in the news, such as the events in Turkey, Syria and Mali. Together with our new website, this Facebook page demonstrates the growth of our online presence.

Finally, I wanted to note that the Federation has received an intern from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, in the United States, at our offices in Buenos Aires. I am sure that her presence will be beneficial for us all.

I conclude this report with renewed energy to undertake another year's worth of activities.



*Dra. María Elena Elverdin
President IFWLC*