**IAW FUTURE**

**IAW ACTION PLAN 2017-2019**

**DISCUSSION POINTS**

**by Chair Democracy Co**

For IAW Boardmeeting November 2016 in Victoriafalls, Zimbabwe.

**it should be clear what the future of the organisation as a whole will be, and what the function of a new action plan will be before a new Action Plan is adopted**

**Introduction**

The International level should be serving its members, not the other way round. Therefore

What are the expectations and priorities of IAW members : the Affiliates, Associates and Individuals? What is the role of the Board, its Officeholders?

What is the role of its Commissions and its Representatives?

While writing down my ideas and thoughts on these topics I ended up with “Observations on the result of the present Action Plan 2014-2016 : Safety – Voices – Choices” and realised that an evaluation of the present work should come first. The 2015 IAW Booklet was read again and used, see below.

**National and Local level.**

According to the Reports of Affiliates and Associates the majority concentrate on 1 and 2

1. Influencing National and Local policies by providing expertise and by lobbying for the implementation of national and international commitments and for the inclusion of “their” ideas in policies
2. Raising awareness among their membership through meetings and seminars.
3. Practical implementation programmes such as running day-care centres, income generating activities, shelters etc. These were mentioned by only 9 out of 22; Only one out of those 9 is European (Lithuania).

The same difference is reflected in the reports of the working groups of the Internat. Meeting in Paris.

The French group with mainly African members concentrated on other issues than the English working group in which IAW Representatives and European members dominated.

**International level**

IAW’s work at the International level through its Representatives at UN and other Intergovernmental Organistaions works in 3 ways:

1. Influencing the policies at that level by providing expertise, by bringing forward our members’ wishes, demands and priorities and by lobbying for inclusion of “our” ideas.
2. Monitoring implementation of adopted policies.
3. Networking: discussing and exchanging ideas with other INGO’s, organisng side events

Main Subjects :

Since we follow the UN and Intergovernmental Organisations we are largely dependent on their agenda. IAW can then point out what the gender aspects are for that particular subject.

 Of course we can also bring forward subjects they might have “forgotten” : “our ideas”.

The result of this is mainly paperwork; commitments, promises and occasionally treaties;

Most commitments, promises and treaties must be implemented at the National / Local level.

Affilates, Associates and IM should hold their government accountable, whereas IAW Representatives can do the same at the International level.

**How do these two connect?**

The International work with that of the National work?

1. The Aff., Ass., IM should inform the Board what they expect from their membership: what kind of assistance : advice – networking – information.

Affiliates might have different needs than Individual Members.

1. The IAW Board should react on the needs / wishes of its members.
2. The IAW International Representatives should request the Aff., Ass., to inform them on their wishes, demands and priorities which they want to be discussed and agreed on at the international level on their behalf.
3. The Aff., Ass, IM should be informed through the IAW Board and its Representatives which commitments their government has agreed on at the international level and which not.
4. Thereafter the IAW Board could then request their Aff., Ass., IM to be informed whether their government has fullfilled their commitments at national level and if not why not.

**What are those national and international commitments?**

These are laid down in binding Treaties such as CEDAW and UN SC Resolutions and in declarations and commitments such as the Beijing Platform for Action, CSW Agreed Conclusions, SDG, Climate Change etc .

**What are our “ideas”?**

As for the IAW : we have next to the Action Programme, Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by IAW Congress, which can be used.

According to my understanding our “ideas” are : the right to “gender equality” in all areas of existence and the need to understand and address the “different needs” of women and men in our present culture and environment. These needs can differ from place to place, from society to society.

Equal voting rights were only the beginning. To achieve our goals equal participation in decision making is essential.

Joanna Manganara’s Political Declaration “Call for a new Accountability Paradigm” approved by the Board in October 2015 and the Statement “Implementation and Accountability” approved by the Board in 2014 are important parts of IAW policy and should be followed up.

To come back on the **Action Plan 2017-2019** to be decided on at Congress in 2017.

The confusion mentioned by Louise Deumer in 2015 around which subjects IAW should focus on has been caused by insufficient discussion and understanding of the different roles and expectations and by the confusion on who decides what : decision taking within IAW.

**Consideration: Action Plans**

Who executes the Action Plan?

Action Plans are executed mainly on the National and Local level by Affiliates, Associates, IM.

International Representatives are supposed to promote the Action Plan on the International level.

Board members and Committees are supposed to assist this process.

Who decides on what IAW should focus?

Congress and the IAW Constitution decides which subjects IAW should focus on.

Who proposes?

The International meeting is supposed to discuss and propose subjects. We missed that.

Proposals could be prepared by the Board or Commissions.

How and by whom should the Action Plan be evaluated?

So far this is not clearly stated and overlooked.

Whereas we want accountability from others, we are weak ourselves on this point.

**Evaluation present Action Plan 2013-2016**:

Reading the reports in the 2015 IAW Booklet none of the Affiliates or Associates mentioned the Action Plan. The International Representatives continued to concentrate on their own subject.

Susan Riveles who was appointed by the Sion Board to start an IAW Wide campaign on Violence against Women reported in the 2015 booklet of its failure.

She reported that the reason of its failure was that it was too much top-down instead of bottom-up.

The International level should be serving its national members, not the other way round. Sometimes this is forgotten. Susanne’s report was not discussed at the IM in Paris. Nobody took notice of this lesson learnd.

**Proposals for the new Action Plan 2017-2019 :**

The proposals for the new Action Plan sent in by working groups and Commissions include very diverse subjects. It resembles and reflects the work done by the IAW International representatives on Human Rights – Peace – Democracy – Violence - Foodsecurity – Health – Climate etc.

**Conclusion : Problems to be solved:**

(1) A stronger link to activities at the national level is needed.

In the 2015 booklet on page 31 you find an example of the connection between the national and international work. Under chapter “Genderperspectives in Political and Democratic processes” it is mentioned how the “Wishes, demands and priorities of National and Regional Women’s Organisations” can be brought to the attention of politicians at the International level. Whereas on page 27 in the chapter “How can IAW Affiliates and Individual Members relate to this work with actions in their own countries?” 8 ways are listed how this can be done.

(2) choice has to be made out of many subjects, without interfering with the important work of the International Representatives

A solution could be to focus on a “umbrella” theme, such as formulated by Joanna’s statement and adopted by the Board in Sion in 2014 “Accountability and Implementation” in all those areas and “participation in decision taking” in all those fields.

(3) Coordination : Appoint one Board member to be responsible for the coordination around the Action Plan.

**Summary proposal for iaw future actions:**

Promoting Implementation of agreed Policies, Treaties and Commitments.

Holding Governments, International Organisations and other stakeholders accountable to do so

If Governments do not do so lodging a complaint at CEDAW, at the CoE Social Charter a.o.

Anje Wiersinga

Convener IAW Democracy Commission

December 2015, January 2016, Mei 2016, September 2016, October 2016

4 November 2016

**Bijlage**

***How can IAW Affiliates and Individual Members relate to this international work with actions in their own countries?***

1. They can remind their government of policies adopted at the International level and urge them to implement these.

P.e. Each of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe (CoE) have an appointed Gender Expert in their Government who communicate directly with the Gender Expert Group of the CoE. These National Governmental Gender Experts can be contacted for consultation. The website >www.coe.int< provides information on CoE policies and activities.

1. They can promote the ratification, implementation and monitoring of conventions, such as the Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women and CAHTEH on Trafficking. Example letters in English and French have been made available to be used to promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.
2. The CoE Parliamentarian Network Women Free from Violence has in each of the 47 member States a Contact Parliamentarian, who is available for NGO’s to work with. The CoE has offered to assist in organising seminars for Parliamentarians and Politicians on the issue.
3. They can take part in the ongoing campaign to combat sexual exploitation of children with its Lazarotte Convention. Again there exist a Network of Contact Parliamentarians with members in 47 countries, who are available for cooperation on the national and local level.
4. They can raise awareness of these issues and Conventions, including in the media.

Recently it is announced that the 25th of each month should become an VAW action day. 8 March can be used for the equal pay for equal work day.

1. They can make shadow reports of their government’s reports for CEDAW, but also for the CoE Social Charter, the Convention on Trafficking and on the Istanbul Convention. Shadow reports are welcome.
2. Find a case to file on Unequal pay for Equal work.
3. The CoE Commissioner of Human Rights reports on the Human Rights situation in

each member State. The Human Rights Commissioner often consults (national) NGO’s during his visits, often before he listens to the government. IAW Affiliates can use this opportunity and could also comment on the reports of the HR Commissioner. On the website you will find his agenda: which countries he will visit when. The same can be done in Geneva for the UN Human Rights Council