

## Minutes of the IAW Board Meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, November 2016

*Agenda updated October 27, 2016*

### 1. Opening of meeting by President Joanna Manganara

- See attachment

### 2. Roll Call by Lene Pind

All participants presented themselves.

**Present:** Joanna Manganara, Lene Pind, Jessica Kehl-Lauff, Olufunmi Oluyede (arrived on day 2), Louise Lindfors, Regina Smit, Louise Deumer, Esther Suter, Lyda Verstegen, Signe Vahlun, Lisa Holmford, Marion Böker, Hanna Schüle, Rita Marque Lunga Mbatha, Anje Wiersinga (arrived on day 2), Cleo Matimbe.

**Proxies:** Anje Wiersinga for Rosy Weiss, Anje attended from Nov 9 onwards.

**Apologies:** Priscilla Todd, Pat Richardson, Soon-Young Yoon, Natalia Kostus, Monique Bouaziz, Danielle Levy, Rosy Weiss, Judy Gordon, Irini Sarlis, Renée Gérard, Ruhi Sayed, Veena Kohli, Joy Kirenga, Chipomaringe

**QUORUM:** As there was no quorum, all decisions and recommendations are referred to the Executive Committee for adoption and further action.

### 3. Welcome by Women's Comfort Corner.

Rita Mbatha welcomed all.

### 4. Appointment of moderators:

The following were appointed: Signe Vahlun, Jessika Kehl-Lauff, Marion Böker, Arielle Wagenknecht, Rita Mbatha, Joanna Manganara.

The following ended up moderating: Session 1: Signe, Session 2: Jessika, Session 3: Marion, Signe, Session 4 Arielle, Sessions 5 + 7: Marion and Signe.

### 5. Adoption of agenda:

Adoption of minutes from Board Meeting added as item 8a. Item 10 were moved to Item 23. Item 31 was moved to item 11.

Appointment of representatives was added to item 22

Under item 17 was added: a) financial report b) auditor's report c) budget proposal

Paper by Convener Democracy Commission on IAW Future / IAW Action Plan was placed under item 2.

Agenda adopted with these changes.

### 6. President's speech

- See attachment

### 7. President's report

- See report in booklet

The meeting applauded Joanna for her many initiatives and good work throughout the year. Jessika asked that international representatives are informed about the work done by other international representatives and about the designation of new representatives by the president. This was supported by Esther Suter and Marion Böker.

Two or three times Joanna has asked board members to inform the board of what job they wish to take on. There has been very little response. Anje Wiersinga suggested that instead candidates for the board should be asked to give this information at Congress, when they submitted their candidacy for the Board. This has also been tried with no result, so now focus must be on the future and on finding candidates for the board who are interested in the work of IAW and wish to contribute.

#### **8. Matters arising from the Paris minutes.**

- No comments

#### **8. a) Adoption of minutes**

In the absence of a quorum, the Paris 2015 minutes would go forward to the pre-Congress Board Meeting in Cyprus 2017 for adoption. Similarly Anje Wiersinga's comments on the 2015 minutes would be held over for discussion at the 2017 meeting

For the pre-congress board meeting 2017 agenda: a) adoption of minutes 2015 b) adoption of minutes 2016.

#### **9. Elaborating and finalizing the next action programme**

The President sent out earlier this year a plan for how the next action programme ( 2017 – 2019) should be structured and how texts should be produced. The Action Programme consists of 7 pillars corresponding more or less to the IAW commissions: Justice and Human Rights, Democracy, Peace, Economy, Elimination of violence against women, Health and Climate change.

Each pillar must include a strategic plan and proposals for actions. What has been presented to the board for the 2016 meeting are the first drafts, which are 'shopping lists' and which must now be expanded

Soon-Young Yoon has suggested that "Cities for CEDAW" be included in the IAW action programme.

Most of the activities of our member organizations are linked to the Action Programme. So IAW moves forward.

When they report e.g for the booklet of annual reports, members , international reps and commission conveners should be asked to link their activities to the action programme.

Members – organizations and individuals – must be encouraged to work on the concluding observations of the CEDAW committee to national reports .This is a very easy way of working on the accountability of governments.

Jessika presented the General Recommendation No 34 of CSW on rural women. She suggested to have one pillar more on rural women in the IAW Action Programme, as Nutrition and Food as well as the empowerment of rural women will be on the agenda of ECOSOC 2017.

IAW must develop ways of monitoring this work. Members should include in their reports the level of accountability of their governments to the concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee.

IAW must more generally develop ways of evaluating its work.

## 10. Implementation of Action Programme

- item moved to item 23 a

## 11. Annual reports – booklet

### A: Booklet

Unlike former years, when she used to present the contents of the booklet, Lene now wanted to hear from participants if the booklet was to be continued and, if so, how could it be improved. The conclusions and recommendations were

- a) Booklet to be continued
- b) Printing to be paid for out of the IAW budget. Extra copies for institutions.
- c) Guidelines/ a format to be developed to make it easier for members to report
- d) Members to be asked to link their activities to the action programme
- e) A clearer and more informative layout – perhaps in cooperation with Melita, the Greek designer of IWNews
- f) Proposal by Lene: IAW buys a new software + training (InDesign) for Lene and Priscilla as a kind of investment for IAW. InDesign is the software used by most modern designers.

### B: Input from commission conveners and international representatives:

- **FAO** (JessikaKehl-Lauff): IAW will continue to work with FAO and has been reinstated as an NGO in official partnership with FAO.
- IAW should work on [General Recommendation no 34 of CEDAW](#) – The Rights of Rural Women.
- IAW members should work on the concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee on the report of their country. ( see item 10/23a)
- The SDGs are extremely important to IAW.

## 12. Communications and fundraising / Lene Pind

- experiences from an experiment

Julie Vedrenne, a young French student, was an intern with Lene in July and August 2016. The purpose of the internship was to do some fundraising for IAW. Julie had tried crowdfunding before, so the decision was to crowdfund for two Cameroonian members of IAW to be able to attend the meeting in Zimbabwe as speakers.

The result was poor – 230 USD. Why was that?

- it was the summer holidays in Europe and North America
- IAW as an organization is not at all geared to do this kind of thing, no collaborative spirit
- IAW as an organization does not support such an effort
- there is no clear communication about who we are, what we do, and what results have been achieved
- we need better photos, better stories, better flyers made for the purpose of fundraising
- a strategy for the specific crowdfunding purpose must be worked out
- the experiment showed the strengths and the weaknesses of IAW
- Link to a presentation of what crowdfunding is and how it works:

[http://prezi.com/xr9p\\_accohah/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy](http://prezi.com/xr9p_accohah/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy)

With the help of a professional fundraiser, professional designer and scriptwriter, Julie and Lene produced a flyer with basic information about IAW ( attachment). Similar flyers on individual issues must be produced. Lene invited members to work with her on this. There was no response to this. Jessika underlined the importance of having a well- known logo and invites our member organizations to put the IAW logo on their websites.

The Treasurer must be informed of and has to agree with all fundraising activities taking place in the name of IAW. Accounting procedures must be set up.

**Recommendation: IAW must work out a communication strategic plan.**

### 13. The Future of IAW

Speech by President Joanna Manganara – attachment.

a) IAW must choose between ‘business as usual’ or transformative change, which must include the elaboration of a strategy to meet

- challenges that range from climate change to structural inequality to the current refugee crisis.
- years of austerity and market liberalization politics that have increased social and economic precariousness and feelings of insecurity
- the rise of right wing, populist, xenophobic, and anti-feminist forces pose a severe threat to liberal democracy and gender
- we must work for a new development model that is not based solely on economic growth but prioritizes people over profits.

**This strategy should also include :**

- A vice-president who is responsible **for** looking after the functioning of the internal organization of the IAW and reporting back to the President and the executive.
- members in all regions who are interested in working with IAW and willing to offer their qualifications to help on relevant issues
- New criteria for the admission of both organizations and individuals
- EWL runs a summer school for young feminists. IAW should take up this idea.
- webinars in between annual meetings on new themes that are debated by the international women’s movement
- The rights of refugee women and children is a very important theme that IAW could focus on

**Proposal by Joanna:** IAW to set up three working groups on

- 1) Internal organization of IAW
- 2) A strategy for IAW for the future. What topics should IAW focus on in the future and how should IAW work with these topics.
- 3) Initiatives of IAW at the international level

Serious concern was expressed about the US elections. A backlash for women is to be expected, so it was agreed that time had come to develop counter strategies

An editorial group consisting of Olufumni, Lyda, Marion and Joanna was set up to produce a statement on the occasion of the election of Donald Trump. After having been adopted [The statement](#) was put on

the website, facebook and twitter.

a) **International Women's News (IWNews), new logo, new letterhead**

- speech by Joanna Manganara attached

The next issue of **IWNews** will be about prostitution and trafficking. After that will follow issues about women and climate change, Zimbabwe and Africa more generally. Joanna explained taking as an example the latest issue of IWNews on corporations, globalization and women's economic and social rights that it can be used as a tool by members to undertake activities at the international and national level.

IWNews will create a space for young feminists, activists and invite them to write articles for the journal.

The meeting welcomed the new **IWNews** with thematic issues. It is a big step forward for IAW. The meeting also recommended that the new IWNews should be made more accessible. Joanna will discuss this with the designer.

During the discussions it appeared that some members did not know if they had received IWNews. There seems to be some confusion about Newsletter and IWNews. This is a communications problem that must be looked into.

The President's letters should be sent to both the extended board and to all members – organizations and individuals.

Lene and Signe recommended that IAW uses MailChimp or a similar software to send out the Newsletter and IWNews. It will give us statistical information about how many members read the two publications and how much time they spend doing so. This will help us find out what members find interesting.

**Logo:**

**The proposed new logo contains both the past and the future.**

The meeting recommended a new logo based on proposals presented:



Lene and Joanna will work on this with the designer to develop the inclusion of jus suffragii included in the coloured logo

Lene to write to all members to put the IAW logo on their website.

**Letterhead:**

The meeting recommended the letterhead with the black and white logo in the middle. Colours to be the same as the logo.

a. **Discussion of modernization**

In view of the fact that Rosy Weiss was absent and the issue was discussed in different contexts, this item was postponed to a later meeting.

b. **The use of social networks**

Signe Vahlun will set up an IAW closed facebook account for young members of IAW, where they can discuss freely their views and desires. It is one of the ways in which to create space for young women as proposed by Joanna.

#### **14. Report from Secretary General**

- see booklet

#### **15. Report from membership officer**

- see booklet

Everybody applauded Pat Richardson for all her work through the many years. Without her work, IAW would have been in a poor condition. She was encouraged to hand over her masterfiles to IAW archives in Amsterdam (ATRIA) and London (Women's Library), and of course archives in Australia of her own choice.

Joanna proposed that a historian be found to write the IAW history. It was also proposed that an archives officer be appointed to continue the work of Marijke Peters.

#### **16. Report from head of communications, Lene Pind**

- report in booklet

IAW does not have a technical webmaster at the moment, which is huge problem.

Lene showed the site statistics on the website, the applications for membership, the workings of the donation button.

IAW needs more people to write for the website. IAW members with a facebook and/ or twitter account are invited to share, retweet, like etc. This is extremely important. There must be a collaborative spirit in IAW to make these things work for the benefit of the Alliance.

IAW needs to work out a communications strategy.

#### **17. Treasurer's report**

*Anje Wiersing reported on behalf of Rosy Weiss, Treasurer*

*- Treasurer's financial report 2015 attached including auditor's 2015 report.*

##### **a) Financial Report for 2015**

Figures for income, expenditure, assets, balance and results were presented and discussed. Rosy asked that the Income and Expenditure Sheet 2015 incl. the auditor's report is put on the website. A decision was postponed till she would explain in more detail why. Has it become mandatory? Is it considered a good practice ?

The donation button and the loss of members are the key causes of the deficit of 2015.-On the question of the donation button Lene Pind explained that the decision to set up a donation button/ an online payment system was made in Sion in 2013. The decision to pay for the technical setting up of the system on the IAW website was a decision by the President on the recommendation of Lene. No one in IAW had the necessary technical skills to create a system secure enough to satisfy the bank. The work was done by the company FirstPoint. The setting up of the system is a one time expense. The contract with Post Finance concerning the running of the payment system was negotiated by the then Treasurer and the President.

The following have made donations towards setting up the online payment system: Lyda Versteegen, Marijke Peters, Ursula Nakamura, Lucy Stone League, Lene Pind, Torild Skard and Gudrun Haupter. The present costs of having the system are bigger than the income gained from it. So the job to be done is to make it work and/or try to negotiate a new contract with the bank.

In conclusion Anje stressed that in accordance with the IAW Constitution, the Treasurer - together with

the Executive - is responsible for all financial activities, that the treasurer can delegate tasks to other members, however, she together with the Executive remains responsible. Financial consequences, particularly of payments outside the budget, should be taken into account. It was decided that the Treasurer/Executive should investigate whether a bank in an Euro-country would be beneficial – what its positive and negative points are. And whether such a bank should be a replacement of the Swiss bank or an additional one.

There was a discussion on the need of office space and paid staff. Ariel Wagenknecht mentioned the possibility of office space at UN Geneva.

In this connection the membership fees were considered out of touch with reality. IAW pays for its EWL membership 500 euro; whereas IAW asks its members to pay only 110 or 20 euro.

It was again decided that the Executive, the Board members and Representatives report on their expenses as agreed on long ago. It was proposed that the treasurer makes a list of possible expenses to be filled in by members. Particularly the travel costs of the Executive were mentioned.

After a round with questions and replies the financial Report with the balance sheet, income and expenses statements and assets were welcomed and accepted.

#### b) Auditor's report

The auditor approved the balance sheet, the income and expenses statements and the assets as mentioned in the financial statements for 2015. It was mentioned that the final assets were not mentioned in the auditor report as is usually required. The auditor's report was accepted.

#### c) Budget 2017

Anje presented the **2017 budget**. The budget includes 3000€ for the database. This was welcomed and approved by all. The budget was taken note of. It was recommended that the Executive adopt the budget proposal 2017.

#### d) Financial Advisory Committee.

There was no report of this commission available.

Lyda mentioned that the constitution committee proposes that in between congresses, auditing is done by the Financial Advisory Committee.

Proposal by Anje that in addition to the treasurer, an assistant treasurer is appointed/ elected.

Rosy Weiss was commended on the way she exercised her function and the precise reporting.

### 18. Database

The database was approved. The agreement will begin on 1 January 2017, and there will be an evaluation after one and a half years with the purpose of continuing the agreement after 31 December 2018. It will be a closed database - only one person will have writing rights, a small number of people will have reading rights. The money for it is in the budget. **Brigitte and Casper van West will be the professionals who will host the database and be responsible for the technical use.** In addition there must be a person (board member or member of the extended board or membership secretary)

who will be the link between the Board and the professionals .

**19. The workings of the board**

Mentors to be appointed for new members of the board. Marion suggests that training sessions for all members are organized in connection with all meetings. The meeting supported this suggestion.

**20. Jobs for board members**

One more attempt will be made to persuade members of the board to take on a job. Joanna will send out a list, and the meeting supported this final attempt.

Signe emphasizes that the work one does as a board member will vary from one period to the next depending on one's life in general. She also points out that the personal approach, not just a list where you add your name, is more likely to attract members to take on a job.

**21. Admissions Committee**

- report in Booklet

**22. Who will be acting treasurer and acting secretary general until Congress?**

Rosy Weiss was appointed by the International Meeting in Paris and will continue until Congress. Lyna Castillo-Javier was also appointed in Paris, but due to time restraints she would prefer to be replaced by somebody else.

Regina Smit, The Netherlands, volunteered to do the work of Secretary General until Congress, when she will consider whether she will be a candidate for the post. Lene will introduce her to the job.

Joanna will write a letter to all members, organizations and individual members, informing them that qualified candidates for the jobs of Treasurer and Secretary General and more generally for the board as such are being sought. This letter must be sent as soon as possible.

Anje was appointed member of the Financial Advisory Committee until Congress.

Arielle Wagenknecht takes over as main representative in –Geneva from January 2017

Helen Jansen, The Netherlands, will take over as representative no. 1 to the Council of Europe

Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa, president of SOFEDEC, DR Congo, was appointed coordinator for the Francophone IAW members in Sub-Sahara Africa.

**23. Working groups:**

**1) Action programme**

The discussions were based on the documents that had been circulated as attachments to the agenda. (see items 9+10). The comments that were raised during the discussions will be returned to the convener of each group to be included in the next draft. Joanna will be convener of the final draft of the complete action programme, which will be presented to Congress in 2017.

**PEACE:**

Nuclear disarmament to be included.

Action: popularize and promote the implementation and evaluation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325



## **WOMEN IN POWER STRUCTURES AND DECISION MAKING:**

Text to be returned to Anje and Arina for finalizing incl. making the first two paragraphs more 'demand-oriented'

## **WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY**

Lyda: Why does the text only include women in employment?

- Informal sector must be included
- access to resources
- registration of property ( Jessika will send proposal for a text)
- Marion suggested the addition of Tobin tax.

The text must be shortened.

## **VIOLENCE**

The text has been drawn up by Mohinder Watson, Marie-Claude Julsaint, Joanna Manganara and Rita Mbatha.

The text must be shortened.

Jessika will send her comments to Joanna

IAW should work with parliamentarians; accountability of governments and politicians.

Gender focal points

Violence against women in conflict as a war crime.

Indicators to measure success: ratification of the Istanbul Convention

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Text goes back to the convener i.e. Lyda

Communication procedure of CSW and the optional Protocol of CEDAW

Tools that can be used to implement the action programme: Concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee to national reports.

*IAW and its members will work for the ratification, implementation and monitoring of these treaties.....*

The campaign \*Cities for CEDAW' can be included in the Human Rights section of the action programme

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The text needs further work

A line or two on the impact of climate change on women to be added

Awareness raising and access to funds to be placed in an attachment, not in the actual action programme.

We are waiting for Natalia's report

## **HEALTH**

The meeting supported the contents of the text. No backlash in IAW. Gudrun is asked to present the texts combined as an action programme. The concept should be: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

## **WOMEN AND THE RESOURCES FOR LIFE (FAO)**

There cannot be a section of the Action Programme dealing with FAO. It is to be considered if and how this issue can be included in the Action Programme

### **What happens next?**

By the end of February conveners will send the revised texts to Joanna, who will write the chapeau and circulate the texts to the whole board and ask for comments.

Working Groups: 2) Strategy of IAW for the future

- See item 13

### **Item 23 b) Implementation of Action Programme**

Gudrun's document reflects the experience of all of us.

Lene took this opportunity to raise the question of IAW having a paid staff or using paid services. This suggestion was supported by a number of delegates. Having a paid staff does not exclude voluntarism. The President expressed her opposition to the idea.

Anje reminded us that IAW used to have an office in London with a paid staff.

The issue must be taken up at the next board meeting. What are the criteria for an international NGO for employing staff. Nothing has been decided yet, but participants were asked to look into the possibilities in their countries.

Anje had distributed a paper with discussion points related to the question of the future of IAW and the implementation of the action programme. **In her introduction to the Action Programme the President discussed most of Anje's points.** Members should be asked to report back on their work in relation to the Action Programme. IAW needs to develop a more collaborative spirit.

The Constitution says that IAW must respect the autonomy of the member organizations. Concluding observations of CEDAW is an easy way to work with accountability.

#### **24. How can IAW support women in countries where their rights are in jeopardy?**

The discussion centred on Turkey, and IAW now has a statement on the website supporting women NGOs in Turkey

#### **25. Preparations for CSW**

The following are planning to attend CSW: Olufumni, Regina, Signe, Anje(?), Ester, Cleopatra, Arielle, Helena G. Hansen ( new member from Denmark).

Each organization is only allowed one parallel event. Signe will organize an event on *Sexism in the Work Place* on behalf of IAW.

Joanna suggests that IAW should follow very closely the problem of more space for NGOs to participate in the work of CSW. The working methods resolution adopted by CSW 59 in 2015 further reduces space for civil society participation. It is alarming that member States considered it appropriate to formulate and cement even the future mechanisms and processes of the Commission without real input from women's rights and feminist groups. Nordic women's NGOs are working on

this issue with their governments. Joanna has responded to a questionnaire by EWL on this issue with proposals. This will be circulated.

Joanna will write a letter to the Commission reminding them of their commitment to open up more space for participation of NGOs.

Marion reminded the meeting of the caucuses and how they can be used to influence the political process. Joanna has been invited to be a member of a small group at the head of the European and North American caucus. She is of the opinion that the caucuses are too weak.

Lene pointed out that a letter should have been sent out long ago to all members, reminding them of CSW and how to register etc.

## **26. The state of the art of women's NGOs regional councils etc**

IAW should ask its member organizations in Africa and Asia to network with other organizations in these regions and get information on what is happening at the regional level.

The council of Europe is a regional organization, which IAW is a member of. Marion will alert the EWL to the link with CoE.

## **27. Revision of the Constitution**

### **- separate document will be sent later**

During the discussion of the revision of the constitution it was suggested that the definite article "The" be removed from our name to distinguish IAW from other organizations with very similar names without changing our name. It was also suggested that the Constitution use the word "mission" instead of "objectives". Jessika, who has worked very hard to get the state of Geneva to accept the IAW constitution and has had to negotiate with them especially about the article on dissolution, objected strongly and passionately to these changes, as she did not believe that they would be accepted in Geneva as long as the files are not closed at the State of Geneva. In August 2015 IAW promised to present the "IAW Constitution as discussed with a new article on dissolution" to receive the tax-exoneration for five years back and in the future. In 2015 at the BM in Paris the Board voted to present "to the next World Congress in 2016" the Constitution 2010 including a new article on dissolution, to be given to the Financial Offices of the State of Geneva. If new changes are included to the Constitution, this promise is broken, especially if IAW changes the important parts: art. 1 Name and art. 2 objectives.

While participants tried to find solutions to the problem by keeping the concept of "objectives", Jessika left the room in anger, saying that she would leave IAW immediately.

***It can be added that the next day Lyda and Jessika had a peaceful conversation about the situation.***

## **28. Do our regions, commissions etc function well?**

New coordinators and commission conveners must be helped to get started, perhaps by means of a mentoring programme. Training sessions could be organized after congress when new members have been appointed. It is also a question of finding members who have the time, energy and qualifications to do the job. Better relations with our members might help in our search for candidates. Regional coordinators and regional vice presidents must reach out to other organizations in their regions. New

guidelines must be worked out by the working group on internal organization.

**29. Do the IAW groups in New York and Geneva contribute to IAW work?**

Main representatives can be asked by the President / the Board to look for other organizations and people that IAW can work/network with. It is the job of the President of IAW to follow the work of the IAW representatives and make suggestions for changes in the teams, if need be.

**30. Compilation of experiences as Commission Convener**

Gudrun's document can be used by the working group on Internal Organization.

**31. Item moved to item 11**

**32. Continued discussion on surrogacy**

As agreed on in Paris, Anje Wiersinga reported on the situation at the Council of Europe where both the Parliamentary Assembly and the INGO Conference have raised the question, and were not able to reach a consensus. She warned that the issue will be used or misused by conservative powers to divide the women's movement and undermine RSHR.

It is not possible for IAW to reach a position on this difficult and highly sensitive issue. Anje and Renée are asked to follow the issue internationally and report back, among other things by asking IAW members to follow the work and legislation in their countries and report on it.

**33. The IAW position on the Istanbul Convention**

EWL has produced a very comprehensive text on the questions circulated by the Special Rapporteur on VAW on the feasibility of an international convention on this issue. GREVIO has just begun working. It would be useful to get information about the experiences of countries that have been monitored or are being monitored.

In Denmark the Danish Women's Society is struggling to make the government work with GREVIO. The Istanbul Convention is in agreement with all other international conventions, but there is no complaint mechanism. 22 countries have ratified. Germany is in the process of ratifying; NGOs have pressured the government.

Members should lobby for ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention in accordance with IAW Congress resolution.

**34. Aging**

In 2018 there will be discussions about a new international human rights Convention (connected with a world conference) on aging. This has been a recommendation of the Independent Expert of the United Nations Human Rights Council Rosa Kornfeld-Matte and of the Open End-ed Working Group on Aging at the UN Committee on Social Development. They have emphasized the necessity of a new human rights treaty that, in contrast to the Madrid International Plan of Action on AGING of 2002, would be 'designated to comprehensively address existing protection gaps and will therefore be sufficient to ensure the full enjoyment and the protection of the full human rights by older persons'. Many regions support this. Joanna is in favour of a new Convention, and an IAW position should be worked out by the IAW task force on aging on the basis of the Deutscher Frauenring Frauenring paper circulated to the Board

meeting by Marion.

### **35. Woman Secretary General/ UNSCR 1325...**

a) Marion asked IAW to start working for a female UN Secretary General next time. Marion was asked to compile information, find the positions of other organizations, work out a paper, ask experts etc.

**b + c)** a discussion about the effects of UNSCR 1325. It is important to keep an eye on how the resolution is used. Is it used to just enroll women in the armed forces at a low level? Is it used to prevent conflicts and wars?

Is UNSCR 1325 being hijacked?

IAW must focus on national action plans and on having women on peace missions.

Anje advised that IAW uses its own Publication "Wishes, demands and priorities of National Women's Organisations in the MENA Region" and that it is placed it on the website.

### **36. The current women's and human rights situation**

The question is referred to the working group on an IAW strategy for the future and to the Human Rights Commission.

### **37. Future meetings**

2017 Congress in Cyprus – end of October

2018 Board Meeting – invitation from Deutscher Frauenring / attachment

2019 International Meeting – Lithuania, who has set certain conditions. It would be good to have a meeting in Eastern Europe: Netherlands may be an alternative. Support will be necessary.

2020 Congress – so far no invitation

**Congress: Admissions of new member organization must be done on the first day of Congress**, so that new members can vote in the elections.

**Hosts:** Lene suggested that an Asian or African country be found to host Congress 2020 or perhaps International Meeting 2019. IAW must not develop into a European organization but must maintain an international umbrella.

**Conferences** are part of any of the meetings. While the Board may give advice, the autonomy of members/ the host organization must be respected. The Secretary General must try to reduce the number of days. At Congress there are election procedures that must be respected.

### **38. Any other business**

An updated list of the board including names and contact info of international representatives must be distributed after the meeting.

Jessika will continue to represent IAW at **FAO**

**New guidelines for international representatives** must include a description of the procedures for appointments. There is some confusion at the moment.

The current guidelines for international reps etc. will be distributed to the whole board.

**Torild Skard's book:** Esther will send around an email describing how to order the book to Lene for further circulation..

### **39. Evaluation of the meeting**

(made verbally one by one around the table)

Joanna evaluated the meeting as successful because many problems had been solved, and the board meeting went through all items on the agenda. She mentioned the Regional Conference and all the contributions of speakers and guests and all efforts of the host, Women Comfort Corner, a great success. The venue was well chosen for an inspiring yet quiet work atmosphere. She especially welcomed new member NGOs and individuals as Funmi, Jessie, Elisabeth Markham and her NGO. Lyda mentioned that once again Lene's support and work was of utmost importance for IAW work flow and success.

Several Board members highlighted the visit to the village to the Self Help Groups as exciting and that IAW has learned a lot, seen such great work and contributions by women of civil society.

Funmi declared that at first she only observed IAW work but has decided to stay and be a member. The same was said by Cleo.

Rita is most interested in getting in touch and exchanging information on how to make campaigns and push legal changes so that Violence against Women is combated. They will tackle it in the 16-Day-Campaign 2016, but want to improve access to court and assistance for survivors.

It was mentioned that often women do not support each other enough: IAW and its member organisations show that we can do better. Jessica and others expressed admiration and thanks for the speakers during the Regional conference. Louise stated that while a lot of work can be done, at the end solidarity is what really counts. Signe, Marion, Hanna and other also commented on the great setting of the board meeting thanks to the hosts who organized this for IAW. Every one had gained through the sensible and cooperative style of the discussions and recognized the valuable contributions made through the Alliance's core efforts in defence of and improvement in gender equality within the framework of human rights.

### **40. Closing of meeting by the President**

Joanna again addressed everyone who contributed to this board meeting, which dealt with all items in consensus and was a constructive meeting. Its finding that more transparency is needed about work on different levels and more efficiency in communication had her full support.

In general Joanna foresees that more international initiatives need to be taken by IAW. Additionally, its work can be better organised in alliances with other NGOs, which sometimes are not very aware of the existence of IAW. They might be interested in joining: she would like to see more new members, and appreciates the fact that while being with a meeting in such regions with vibrant NGOs such as here in Zimbabwe, many more new members are easier to identify than in the time between meetings.

There is much talent available to organise activities and she looks ahead to all that will be accomplished in the future. She concluded: "Let's see you all in Cyprus—including those who had not been able to attend Victoria Falls."

#### **Post Script:**

Thanks to Jessika for handling the financial problems that arose concerning the conference facilities. The money was obtained from the IAW budget, a donation from our Swiss affiliate and some private donations.

**January 2017**  
**Joanna Manganara**  
**Lene Pind**