

Non-governmental organisation registered according to Swiss law

Minutes from General Assembly 11 April 2011

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75014 Paris, France

The minutes are agreed by the delegates on June 1, 2011 and DB on 28 September 2012 at the DB meeting in Malmo, Sweden

Attachments

1. Member organisations and individual supporters
2. The president's report
3. The report from the International Secretariat
4. Financial report
5. Auditor's report
6. New statutes of ISDE Scientific Office (p ...)

Present delegates from member organisations

Name of delegate	Organisation	Country	E-mail	Voting
Cathey Falvo	PSR	USA	Cathey.falvo@gmail.com	Yes
Roberto Romizi	ISDE Italy + ISDE Scientific Office	Italy	isde@ats.it	Yes
Philip Michael	IDEA	Ireland	ecomichael@eircom.net	Yes
Dominique Belpomme	ARTAC	France	Artac.cerc@gmail.com	Yes
Ernesto Burgio	ISDE Italy + ISDE Scientific Office	Italy	erburg@gmail.com erburg@libero.com ;	Yes
Peter Kälin	Aefu	Switzerland	drpklb@hin.ch	Yes
Feargal Duff	IDEA	Ireland	feargalduff@eircom.net	No
Peter van den Hazel	NVMM	Netherlands	pvdhazel@inter.nl.net	Yes
Lilian Corra	AAMMA	Argentina	lcisde@arnet.com.ar	Yes
Hanns Moshhammer	AeGU	Austria	Hanns.moshhammer@utanet.at	Yes
Ingrid Eckerman	LfM	Sweden	ingrid@eckerman.nu	Yes
Colin* Butler	DEA	Australia	Colin.Butler@anu.edu.au	Yes

*Via Skype connection

§ 1 Opening of the meeting

The president Hanns Moshhammer opened the general assembly and[-gave welcomng words and thanks to professor Dominique Belpomme from ARTAC for arranging the venue. He welcomed us all and expressed his hope on further cooperation with ISDE. The president thanked the host and congratulated him on the coming conference and course.

Appointed as chair of the meeting was Hans Moshhammer and as note taker Ingrid Eckerman.

Counting of voting participants (see list of delegates).

§ 2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda for the assembly was *approved*.

§ 3 Approval of minutes

The minutes from last Directing Board (DB), in Arezzo 2010, were *approved*.

§ 4 Approval of DB decisions per e-mail

No decisions have been made since last DB meeting.

§ 5 Approval of new member organisation

Decided that British Society of Ecological Medicine, BSEM, is accepted as a new member of ISDE.

§ 6 Approval of new members of Directing Board

Damien Downing BSEM, *approved* as member of DB . *Confirmation* that Philippe Irigaray, ARTAC, was approved at DB Nov 21, 2010.

§ 7 Report of president

The 2010 report of the president was *approved* (attached).

§ 8 Report of treasurer

- Balance 2010 was *approved*. The president stressed the importance that in-kind expenses are reported to show the true financial value of ISDE.
- The auditor's report was presented by the treasurer.

§ 9 Discussion and decision on budget

Expected incomes during 2010 are membership fees 2,900 Euros. It was *decided* to reserve 2,500 Euros for travel costs of the international secretariat or other members. Left over for unexpected costs are 400 Euros.

§ 10 Report of the International Secretary

- See attachment. Comments from Lilian Corra: IPEN is not transparent but it is necessary to be linked to it as it is recognized by WHO. The WHO network for children's environmental and health is not working. The Standing Committee of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, IFCS, is replaced by SAICM. FAO is not working on health effects of pesticides, and the information on the website is not updated. One publication on tools has been rescued, translated and tested, as well as material on toxicology for classrooms, in Latin America for UNEP. FAO was uninterested in this. Concerning SAICM, our paper on pharmaceuticals was one of two papers that were sent in 2010. Green economy has become important to WHO. Carlos Dora from Uruguay and a member of Collegium Romazzini is now the WHO focal point for several areas including environment. Lilian stresses that we must point out that we are based on science. Lilian has requested that Dr. Mahmood Khwaja of Pakistan, Dr. Feargal Duff of Ireland work with the International Secretariat on various projects as well as Cathey Falvo at UNHQ.

- A special incident happened during the mercury negotiations in Japan. UNEP selected ISDE as the health organisation to arrange a gift as a symbol for victims to mercury intoxication. A sculpture "Pez-Peste", a fish with mercury drops attached, was made by Nicolas García Uriburu, Argentina, and delivered by Mahmood Khwaja during the opening session. One copy of the sculpture will be at the Minimata institution and one in the UNEP building in Kenya. It can be seen on the website of UNEP <http://www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/SculpturePezPeste/tabid/29910/Default.aspx> .

- Cathey Falvo has long time ago been appointed by DB as ISDEs representative in UN. She cooperates with Lilian. Her opinion is that health underlines all work. In 2008, for the human rights conference in Paris, ISDE with co-sponsorship from PSR and IPPNW organized a panel on environment, health and human rights. In 2009, Mexico City, there was a conference on disarmament. In Melbourne, September 2010, the topic was that global health is not about curing illness, which few understood. Preventive medicine and environmental health were included in the meeting. Statements to governments have been made. The Mexican government advanced the NGO declaration on Disarmament as a necessary condition for peace, health and development to the UN General Assembly and the Australian government presented the NGO statement on the need to improve global health to achieve the MDGs.

The reports of the International Secretary and of Cathey Falvo were *approved*.

11 Report from the Scientific Office

The report from the Scientific Office was *approved* (attached).

§ 12 Release of the board and officers

The board and officers were *released* of responsibility.

§ 13 Election of new officers

- As President Elect (to be president for 2013-2015) was *elected* Roberto Romizi.
- As Secretary was *elected* Ingrid Eckerman.
- As Treasurer was *elected* Peter Käelin.
- As Continental Vice Presidents were *elected* as follows: Europe- Philip Michael, IDEA, South America- Raul Harare, North America- Cathey Falvo until she finds someone from Canada to take over, Africa- Paul Saoko, Asia Pacific- vacant, Mahmood Khwaja will be asked, Australia and Western Pacific- David Shearman.
- As International Secretary was *appointed* Lilian Corra.
- *Confirmations* of Scientific Office: As President Roberto Romizi. As chair of the Scientific Committee Ernesto Burgio
- Nominating committee: *Confirmed* the immediate past president Hanns Moshammer. *Elected* Peter van den Hazel and Lilian Corra.

§ 14 Confirmation of new president

Confirmation of the new President Cathey Falvo, who was welcomed.

§ 15 Discussion of new declarations and activities

15.1 Environmental causes of cancer.

Presentation of Dominique Belpomme. It is important to be recognized by WHO as a scientific organization. ARTAC is planning to start a network on cancer and environment with the objectives to 1) increase the scientific knowledge; 2) to constitute science based messages; 3) strengthening the message by scientists working together; 4) get economic support from European institutions. An administrative board will be constituted. Another six persons are needed for deputies and institutions.

Hanns Moshammer: ISDE Scientific Office could be a good partner.

Lilian Corra: It is important that scientists are not linked to industry. Industrial researchers want to be scientific advisors in different organs.

Cathey Falvo: Environmental toxins are linked to both neurological system and cancer. Why only cancer?

Ernesto Burgio: The incidence of children's cancer is increasing in Europe.

Lilian: Important that we use only scientifically based information. Many publications are

observatory and not giving evidence.

Ernesto: According to epigenetic models, translocations are depending not only on genetics but also on environmental factors like chemicals.

Hanns: Cancer is the top of the iceberg. Every stress that has the capacity of causing cancer has also capacity to cause other effects.

Feargal Duff: The cocktail is important

- There was a general agreement that genetic factors plus environmental factors are needed for development of cancer.

Lilian: With this new understanding everything changes.

Decision: The proposal was welcomed. The Scientific Office declared willingness to undertake this project. Other researchers within and outside ISDE are invited to take part. Dominique is asked to keep the directing board informed.

15.2 Proposal on education environmental medicine

Presentation of Dominique Belpomme. ARTAC is planning a new course of environmental medicine in Geneva, 2012, in cooperation with the university. He hopes for cooperation with ISDE

Decision: The initiative is welcomed, and we ask ARTAC to come back with more information.

15.3 Scientific Office: Proposal on training

Presentation of Roberto Romizi and Ernesto Burgio. Collaborate to prepare joint position papers by ISDE at national and international levels, as well as training packages to be used as a base to organise training activities in local realities. SO can especially provide promotion of organisation and dissemination.

15.4. Scientific Office: Relaunch and reformat “Doctors for the Environment”

Presentation by Ernesto Burgio. It is now several years since the last issue of the journal. Relaunch is suggested, under the editorial management of Ernesto Burgio, to be disseminated by e-mail or as an e-journal. It could consist of three parts: one scientific for original articles; the second part in lay-language; and the third part journalism.

Roberto: Independent organisation to produce it.

Dominique: A good way of disseminating information: meeting → conference → statement → publish.

Lilian: There are time and communication problems. We should need a communication expert. Environmental Health Perspectives is a good journal.

Decision: The suggestion was welcomed. Scientific Offices was asked to initiate a working group to discuss structure and scope of the journal. Scientist experts inside outside ISDE could collaborate.

15.5 Pharmaceuticals

Presentation by Ingrid Eckerman. On demand from last GA, Ingrid et al. has produced a paper on pharmaceuticals and environment. The paper is not in the format of a declaration. No decision has been made on the paper.

Hanns: I object to “persistent *organic* pollutants”. There are also other small things that need correction.

Lilian: If adopted by ISDE, the language might make it more difficult in negotiations with industry.

Ernesto: I produced another paper on antibiotics.

Decision: Ingrid’s and Ernesto’s papers are welcomed as background papers. A working group is needed for producing a declaration. *Lilian* points out that this question is very sensible.

15.6 Nuclear energy

Raised by Roberto Romizi and Philip Michael. The declaration 2008 is still valid. But we should react on the Fukushima catastrophe, preferably on April 26, the anniversary of Tjernobyl.

Ernesto: The industry wants to construct nuclear power plants in other countries than western world because here the problems are realised. Cesium-137 stays in food chain for 30 years. Sellafield, Greece. The model used to assess the risk is a mathematical model created by physicists. A biological model is different and explains better effects far away from the source. There might be new evidence.

Decision: A letter or press release to Lancet and/or BMJ and/or media generally should be sent out before April 26. Philip makes a draft and send it around. Suggested title: “Another late lesson – who will take the responsibility?”

15.7 Mobile phones and cancer.

Roberto Romizi has sent around a paper where the Interphone study is criticised.

Decision: The paper is accepted as background paper to the website after language checking. A working group should be constituted to develop a declaration based on the precautionary principle.

15.8 Population and development

Presented by Colin Butler via Skype:. Papers sent out earlier.

General comments: Population, climate changes, resources, chemical safety, land management, ecologic footprints, energy, biodiversity, land management – all goes together.

Cathey: PSR made a declaration for UN, ISDE included. Approve the endorsement. Decided start a working group.

Feargal: UNEP project/process: Think tanks for NGOs. Bridge civil society and process. Equity important. Report in June.

Lilian: Lack of interest for health problems caused by climate changes.

Feargal: Question of compliance.

Lilian: Problem of financial support. The developed countries do not want to support.

Dominique: Health not included in precautionary principle.

Ernesto: We write about isotopes in food chain, not nuclear power. Focus on the right problems within the big problem.

Colin: Great if ISDE wants to get into the ecological footprints.

Decision: Hanns will send out an e-mail list. Someone must be responsible to keep the discussion alive.

15.9 Indian hospitality and visa policy.

Presented by Ingrid, who is not allowed to enter India. She was ISDE representative in the International Medical Commission on Bhopal (IMCB) in 1994. In 2004 she published the book “The Bhopal Saga – causes and consequences of the world’s largest industrial disaster”.

Feargal: Contact Vandana Shiva, Swedish ministry of environment and again Swedish foreign ministry.

Decision: Agreement on a support letter if needed. The president will call the Swedish foreign ministry.

15.10 Scientific Office statutes

Presentation by Roberto Romizi. Completely new statutes were needed according to Italian law. There is a collaboration between ISDE and ISDE SO that must at least in part be defined by the statutes. In the statutes there is an overlap between ISDE and ISDE SO, although they are two independent organisations.

Ingrid: When the new statutes of ISDE were decided on, it was also decided that adjust the SO statutes to be congruent with the ISDE statutes.

Decision: The new statutes were *approved* with two changes: that the president is elected for a two year period and that the general assembly of SO should take place before the general assembly of ISDE.

15.20 Updating the list of ISDE members and board members

The list of the immediate past president contained around 20 organisations that were not in the list of Jan 1, 2007. When the president's list was cleaned from those who have not been in contact, still 11 more were there. For those, the registered names of the organisations are missing.

Lilian: Even if we do not have national organisations or a regional vice president in South America. AAMA has established an active network with NGOs and GOs of all countries in South America.

Decision: Where there is no e-mail address to the contact persons, Peter van der H will try Skype. If there is an e-mail address, Hanns will try once more. If no results, these organisations will be dropped, and a new list constructed.

§ 16 Discussion on funding options

Dropped because of lack of time.

§ 17 Any other business

Peter Orris e-mail. World Public health Federation.

Feargal Duff sends round material.

§ 18 Future meetings

- Directing board 2012: In connection with meeting March 20-23 in Uruguay or Buenos Aires.

Another possibility is in Geneva in connection with the mercury meeting July 15-20, or in conjunction with UN Rio+20 meeting, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 4-6, 2012, or in conjunction with CleanMed Europe in Malmo, Sweden in September.

- GA 2013: Proposals welcomed.

- A procedure regarding interim meetings is needed, Skype/phone conferences

Signed in May 2011

Hanns Moshammer
Chair

Ingrid Eckerman
Secretary