

Minutes of the ISDE GA, Nukus (UZ), Sunday, Oct. 29th, 2023 (hybride meeting)

1. Opening

Participating: Peter van den Hazel (ISDE President), Oral Ataniyazova (ISDE President Elect), Hanns Moshhammer (ISDE Treasurer), Lilian Corra (ISDE International Secretary), Roberto Romizi (ISDE Scientific Office), Erica Frank (ISDE Canada CAPE), Ellen Ferranti, Cathey Falvo (PSR USA), Charikia Tzisiaki, Bernhard Aufderreggen (ISDE Switzerland).

Meeting is opened by the ISDE President Peter van den Hazel and President Elect Oral Ataniyazova. Peter van den Hazel is elected chair of the meeting and Hanns Moshhammer as note taker.

2. Minutes DB (see attached):

The minutes of the previous DB meeting are accepted.

3. Recent activities

a. ISDE Conference in Uzbekistan -looking back

The ISDE – INCHES conference taking place in Uzbekistan was quite successful and well organized. Peter van den Hazel and Oral Ataniyazova in the name of ISDE and INCHES hosted the conference on Environmental Health with Focus on Mother and Child. We had more than 300 participants from more than 20 countries worldwide who attended more than 50 presentations. The Conference covered a wide range of geographical areas focusing on environmental health issues with a special focus on mother and child health. A “Tashkent Statement” including a Child Health Plan was adopted.

b. Collegium Ramazzini (CR)

ISDE members (as Lilian Corra) attended the recent Conference of the Collegium Ramazzini which presented new and interesting information on health and environment from independent researchers.

Lilian Corra as well gives short report on the outcomes of the CR Council of Fellows which is considered the participation of the CR in the new Science-Policy Panel of UNEP which will improve this interaction.

c. Report of ISDE International Secretary

Lilian Corra (responsible of ISDE International Secretary) stresses the cooperation with the ISDE Scientific Office and details the activities carried on by the International Secretary (sent by e-mail and incorporated here):

Roles and Responsibilities of ISDE International Secretary:

- Advocacy in the name of ISDE International in front of UNEP, WHO and governmental and nongovernmental organizations at the global and regional level
- Represent ISDE in the international process, in particular on chemicals and air pollution.
- Support other members' collaboration/participation in the international processes on health and environment (by example on CC, or others)

Report of the activities of the ISDE International Secretary:

The ISDE International Secretary is planning to continue participating in the following processes, in agreement with the international and regional agendas prepared and proposed by WHO and UNEP:

1- WHO

1.a- ISDE Official Relation with WHO:

- Deliver an Annual report
- Deliver a Biannual report
- Deliver a Closing report of the triennial collaboration Plan (2020-2023)
- Preparation of Triennial Collaboration Plan (2024- 2026)

1.b- Participation in the new WHO Civil Society Committee

1.c- Lobbying with LAC countries to support the WHA Resolution on Chemical Pollution and Health (May 2023)

2- UNEP:

2.a- Hg Partnership:

- Co-leader with the government of Uruguay of the Area on SUPPLY and STORAGE
 - Review of the publication on Hg from oil and gas
 - Review of the publication of Hg from non-ferrous metal mining
 - Attend the meetings
 - Review and update the of the "Proposals" of the area
 - Participate in the webinars and meetings organized by the Hg Partnership

2.b- Minamata Convention:

- Follow up the process, read papers and reports in advance and propose topics of actions according to the Agenda proposed by the Secretariat of the Convention.
 - Collaborate with education and dissemination activities.

2.c- Basel Convention:

- Participation in the EXPERT GROUP for the review of the Guidelines on ULABs, strengthening the issue of the importance to update the BLL tolerance for workers and the general population according to the scientific level.
- Participation in online meetings and face to face meetings organized by the coleaders of the Basel Convention with responsibility to drive this process.
- Review the drafts (more than 50 pages each) and make comments.

2.d- Global Framework of Chemicals (SAICM Beyond 2020)

- "Intersessional process" participation in the preparation of policies and decision-making documents (online and in presence meetings).

- Participation in the working group on Issues of Concern (Ex New and Emerging Issues), in particular Environmental Pharmaceutical Persistent Pollutants - EPPP and Highly Hazardous Pesticides HHP. (online and in presence meetings).

- Redaction and proposal for the Resolution on Health Surveillance (approved at ICCM5 - October 2023) co-proposed by the government of Panama and ISDE

3 - Plastic Pollution negotiation process

3.a - Participation in the International Negotiation Conferences - INC 1 and INC2 (in person)

3.b- Participation in the intersessional process (online meetings and webinar).

3.c- Review of the documents (ODraft) and technical documents.

3.d- Preparation and posting of Informative Papers focused on the different aspects of the negotiation not considered or with sufficient visibility that have to be included in the Convention, as by example intentionally produced and used nano- and micro-plastics, chemicals in plastics, workers' exposure and health effects and others.

4.- Science Policy Panel

4.a- Revision of the documents and follow up of the process

4.b- Participation in the online and webinars

4.c- Lobbying with Collegium Ramazzini to improve engagement of the independent researchers in the Panel

She also sends her country's report:

At the regional Latin-American Level:

5.- Participation in UNEP Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for LAC

5.-a - Participation in the ULABs WORKING group from LAC as co-organizer jointly with the government of Uruguay

5.b- MERCOSUR work on ULABs circular economy and pollution with leaded sulfuric acid (used as precursor in fertilizers and drug labs).

- Six multi-sectorial meetings in the last two years by participating in spaces of dialogue with governments and the private sector to get to solutions and agreements to facilitate the formal management and reduce illegal managements and illegal traffic in the region to prevent lead exposure.

At the end of the report of the activities of the ISDE International Secretary, Bernhard Aufderreggen notes that also individual member organizations would need help and input / information from the International Secretariat.

The ISDE International Secretary respond that the report of the activities is yearly presented and anyone who want to contribute with voluntary work have to contact Lilian Corra (responsible) to coordinate activities.

4. Finances

The ISDE Treasure Hanns Moshhammer reports on ISDE financial situation. Since receiving the donation from the inheritance from Mr. Hatje (2022) ISDE holds again some more money in the accounts. According to the wish of Mr. Hatje, we should use these for our lobbying work. Income accrued from members' annual fee is limited. Although Hanns Moshhammer sends out invoices

to all member organizations each year, only few pay their share (EUR/USD/CHF 100.- each). (AT, CH, CAN, FR, IT, NL, UZ, usually). PSR (US member) tried to transfer the fee money but have been persuaded from continuing because of high transfer costs. Hanns Moshammer has suggested PSR to pay their fee to the account of the International Secretary instead but they have not done so yet. As in-kind contribution, PSR paid for the rent of our domain name and other services. ISDE Austria has, in addition, provided the costs for renting the space for the website and the mailing lists. ISDE Italy contributes supporting the Scientific Office. ISDE AAMMA points out that they support part of the International Secretariat's representation and travel expenses and they contribute with the voluntary work for the International Secretary.

ISDE has supported travel costs for participants to international conferences representing ISDE. In the past, most of these contributions have been done to the International Secretary. At several ISDE Directing Board and General Assembly meetings, a frame (in the range between USD 1500 and USD 2500) had been agreed to support the ISDE International Secretary activities for the coming year. In the Directing Board in 2022 no such frame had been discussed. Therefore, Hanns Moshammer had asked Lilian Corra before the General Assembly meeting to raise that issue at this meeting. During this meeting of the General Assembly the ISDE international Secretary was asked for a more detailed budget to support the request to grant the renovation of such a sum to cover representation and travel expenses. If costs exceed the proposed frame (still to be defined in detail by a separate working group), first the governing body (Presidents, Treasurer) could decide up to a certain amount above which a Directing Board decision is needed.

Current assets on all accounts combined (CHF, EUR, USD): roughly CHF 33,000.

5. New members – deleted members:

The member list was updated at last Directing Board meeting.

The Fundacion Alborada from Spain is a relatively new member and so is Hope Life International from Gambia.

According to Cathey Falvo, these new members have been accepted at the last Directing Board meeting, but this decision should have been approved by the General Assembly Meeting. Since the decision was not questioned nor was any complained raised regarding the minutes of the last Directing Board meeting, we can assume the decisions taken are accepted by this General Assembly Meeting.

Several individual persons have been requested membership. They have been added to the info list. Individual persons do not have voting rights because according to ISDE statutes only (national) organizations can be full members of ISDE.

The Haitian Institute of Health and Environment (HIHE) has applied for membership just after the General Assembly Meeting and a consultation on line was passed to the Board and has reached a unanimous vote of “accept”.

6. Planned meetings

a. Postponed 30th anniversary meeting (2024?):

ISDE Scientific Office (Roberto Romizi) suggests a 35th Anniversary Celebration meeting in Italy in 2025 instead.

b. Next board meeting 2024 November

Location/Virtual? Still to be decided, depending on opportunities for back-to-back meetings. Else virtual meeting planned.

c. Climate meeting COP28 participation -representatives

ISDE will sign up the Letter of GCHA.

Participation is planned from members of PSR and may be other ISDE members to COP28. Cathey Falvo is the focal point for this issue

7. ECOSOC, UNICEF, WHO annual report, links with other organizations:

See the report of ISDE International Secretariat.

8. Reports from ISDE National Organization members:

ISDE Italy (Roberto Romizi): collaboration with WHO: translation of WHO Training Modules on Children Environmental Health for Health Professionals into Italian, organization of activities on Lead Exposure Prevention during WHO’ s Lead Week, and training professionals all over Italy on environmental health. ISDE Italy as well participated in the preparation of the new Collaboration Plan with WHO for 2024-2026

ISDE Italy actively campaigns on climate change in Italy and the EU.

ISDE Switzerland (Bernhard Aufderreggen): Campaigns on climate change, radiation (EMF), chemical exposure, air pollution, noise, contaminated sites. 1300 members.

AAMMA (Lilian Corra): projects on the implementation of actions to reduce chemicals exposure in particular to lead, contaminated sites.

Collaboration with WHO: translation of WHO Training Modules on Children Environmental Health for Health Professionals into Spanish, organization of activities on Lead Exposure Prevention during WHO’ s Lead Week.

As well participated in the preparation of the new Collaboration Plan with WHO for 2024-2026.

ISDE Uzbekistan (Oral Ataniyazova): campaigns to train doctors in environmental health, community level family aid, working on integrating Environmental Health course into higher medical education.

ISDE Austria (Hanns Moshammer): 200 members, works on environmental health and climate change, pesticides, EMF, motorized transport, energy transition, and others related to environmental health.

ISDE USA - PSR (Cathey Falvo): centers their work on climate change and fracking.

ISDE The Netherlands (Peter van den Hazel): centers their work on Planetary health, Public Health experts specializing in environmental health, chemicals (PFAS).

ISDE Canada- CAPE (Erica Frank): center their work on climate change.

9. Discussion and action on priorities of topics to address in 2023-2024

Reflects the topics and proposals from item 8. We should hire a part-time officer to support national affiliates and especially, to guide new members to best stay in contact and get out the most from their membership. Oral will contact Myriam Tobollik and ask her if she is willing to take over that task.

10. Travel footprint

Not only reduce footprint just in travels, but also other include aspects (food, venues, others).

Take an example from larger NGOs and scientific conference organizers.

Try for more online and hybrid conferences and meetings.

11. Changeover of presidency from Peter van den Hazel to Oral Ataniyazova, other offices

Peter van den Hazel hands over to Oral Ataniyazova who thanks him for his great work as president and Peter van den Hazel wishes her good luck.

Election of the next ISDE President: Hanns Moshammer.

Considerations on the Treasurer and ISDE Scientific Office and ISDE Scientific Committee: Hanns Moshammer makes the point that during his presidency ISDE have to designate a new treasurer as of 2025.

Hanns Moshammer will approach the ISDE Swiss organization because this will facilitate the handling of the ISDE Swiss bank accounts (and the relation with the Swiss tax authority) which is easier for a native. All this work is not much work but that needs to be accomplished.

President of the ISDE SO, Roberto Romizi and president of the ISDE Scientific Committee, Agostino Di Ciaula, decided by Scientific Office, are confirmed by ISDE GA.

12. Any other business

PSR representative for the region (Cathey Falvo) highlight the importance to increase the membership of young people. She raised the following issues: What can ISDE offer apart from the ISDE-info list? ISDE needs a person to guide/support/lead new members? Who could do this? Those are topic to discuss during this new presidency.

13. Closing remarks of the meeting

There had been difficulties with the internet and platform connections and with ISDE President's (Peter van den Hazel) e-mail account. Therefore, the Past President (Peter van den Hazel) and the ISDE president (Oral Ataniyazova) thanked the participants for their perseverance and active participation.

There are remarks from the new President on the work to do focusing on:

- (I) Decide and organize the next Directing Board meeting (date for 2024),
- (II) Organize a Working Group for setting procedures and frames for travel grants (Peter & Oral & Hanns appointed and invited others to join.
- (III) Define when this group shall we meet next online (or start the discussion by e-mail?)

Annexes:

- (1) Minutes of the 2022 DB meeting
- (2) Report of the Scientific Office