

2014

28th General Assembly



World Family Organization

Organisation Mondiale de la Famille

المنظمة العالمية للأسرة

Report

1st December 2014

Zhuhai, China

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REPORT OF THE 28TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Zhuhai, China – 1 December 2014

NOTE

- I. The present report is subject to correction. You are kindly requested to draft the corrections in one of the WFO working languages: Arabic, English or French, and mail them, no later than a month after reception, to the attention of WFO President:

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- II. The eventual corrections to the report will be regrouped in a single rectified copy that will be published subsequently.
- III. Symbols of the World Family Organization are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a World Family Organization document.

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I. FINAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Adoption of the Agenda – **Doc. GA 28/02/14**
4. Adoption of the Report of the 27th Session of the General Assembly – Quadrennial Session held in Berlin, Germany on December 2nd, 2013 – **Doc. GA 28/03/14**
5. Presentation and Approval of the Annual Report of Activities 2014 – **GA 28/04/14**
6. Presentation and Approval of the Annual Financial Report 2014 – **GA 28/05/14**
7. Presentation of the Report of the Executive Board on the execution of the General Assembly Decision GA 27/05/13 – **Doc. GA 28/06/14**
8. Presentation of the Report of the Executive Board on the execution of the General Assembly Decision GA 27/08/13 – **Doc. GA 28/07/14**
9. Report on preparation the World Family Summit +10 and launching the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the UN International Year of Families – **Doc. GA 28/08/14**
10. Calendar 2015 – **Doc. GA 28/09/14**
11. Miscellaneous
12. Closure of the 28th Quadrennial General Assembly Session

II. LIST OF PRESENCE

The original signed List of presence is the Annex I of this Report.

III. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The President, Dr. Deisi Kusztra, opened the 28th General Assembly Session at 09:00 AM welcoming all Members and wishing them a very productive and constructive meeting.
2. The President also thanked all the Members for the long years of work and accomplishments of what has been decided by the General Assembly and recognizing that the WFO is the only Organization that in modern times and going back to its inception in 1947 has got together governments, NGOs, Universities, Media, Legislative Bodies and, in the last four years, Local Authorities, to discuss what can we do to make Families' lives better around the world.
3. The President especially greeted the Ministries of Family and Ministries of Social Affairs who are now taking part in WFO as well as H.E. Dr. Mariam Al Roumi, Minister of Social Affairs of the United Arab Emirates who is present and actively participating in this General Assembly Session and the World Family Summit +10.
4. After the initial welcome, the President passed to the verification of the quorum.

IV. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM

5. Following with the point number 2 of the Agenda, the President gave the floor to the Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs, Mr. Isidro de Brito, requesting him to inform the Members about the quorum.
6. The Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs greeted the President, all present Members and reported that according to the Report of the Vice President for Financial Affairs, Mr. Bruno Lopes and according to the list of WFO Members counting 180 Members, currently 83 members had fulfilled their membership duties and had the right to vote at the 28th Session of the General Assembly, Quadrennial Session. The List of Presence for the current Session and with 79 present or represented Members and therefore the Quorum was reached.
7. After the announcement of the Quorum the President moved to the next point of the Agenda.

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – Doc. GA 28/02/14

8. The President opened the floor asking if Members would like to comment on the Agenda which had previously been sent to everyone and asked if anyone would like to include any new item.
9. As there were no comments or remarks, the President asked the Members if they were ready to vote on the Agenda, and requested those agreeing to raise their hands and those not agreeing to not raise their hands. Since all Members raised their hands, the Agenda was unanimously adopted.

DECISION GA 28/01/14

The General Assembly Members unanimously approved and adopted the Final Agenda as the document GA 27/02/13:

1. Opening of the Session
2. Verification of Quorum
3. Adoption of the Agenda – **Doc. GA 28/02/14**

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VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 27TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY – QUADRENNIAL SESSION HELD IN BERLIN, GERMANY ON DECEMBER 2ND, 2013 – Doc. GA 28/03/14

10. The President introduced item 4 of the Agenda presenting the previously sent Draft Report of the 27th General Assembly held in Berlin, Germany on December 2nd, 2013, opening the floor for discussion and remarks of the General Assembly Members on the Report.
11. The President also took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Rachel Aird, Advisor, for taking her precious time to review and correct the Draft Report.
12. After a short time since there were no comments or remarks, the President decided to pass over the report at least reading out loud all the decisions contained in it and explained what they were all about.
13. Since there were no comments or remarks the President asked if Members were ready to vote on the Report to which all Members replied positively.

DECISION GA 28/02/14

The General Assembly Members, after analyzing the Report of the 27th General Assembly Session, held in Berlin, Germany on December 2nd, 2013, decided to unanimously approve it.

VII. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2014 – GA 28/04/14

14. Following with point 5 of the Agenda, the President presented the Annual Report of Activities 2014 previously sent to all Members.

15. Before going through the Report of Activities and opening the floor to Members, the President recalled everyone's attention to the fact that at the last General Assembly Session it was decided not to discuss and adopt a new Strategic Framework, but instead to keep basing the work for 2014 and 2015 on the Strategic Framework 2010-2013 until the Executive Board had time to prepare a new one based on the directions, recommendations and the context of the new Post-2015 Development Agenda, which at this very moment are still being prepared and discussed at the United Nations Level.
16. The President informed the members that WFO is playing an active role in the discussions at the United Nations level under the Major Groups and the discussion is quite advanced.
17. The President read out loud the main points of the Report highlighting that during the year of 2014 the Executive Board only met in Paris once instead of the three times which is required by the Constitution, but instead met two other times electronically. The electronic sessions format is being adopted in many organizations including the United Nations and it is already recognized that is much more cost effective with the same degree of performance. After a short time the President opened the floor for discussion and remarks of the General Assembly Members on the Report.
18. A participant from Jordan requested the floor to ask why the Arabic simultaneous translation was not available during this 28th General Assembly Session.
19. The President thanked the Member from Jordan for her comment and explained that this was the second General Assembly Session in a row where there was no simultaneous translation available for Arabic. Last year for the General Assembly Session in Berlin, WFO hired a company from Morocco that was supposed to supply 3 professional translations for the duration of the General Assembly and the World Family Summit +9, but they simply didn't show up blaming it on flight cancellations. It was thanks to the UAE Embassy and H.E. Minister Mariam Al Roumi that we could make it possible and arrange the Arabic translation at least for the Opening Session and the first day of the Summit.
20. The President continued explaining that during 2014 she came to China twice as part of the preparations for the meetings and the Summit and from the first moment always made it clear that the simultaneous translation was a must for both the General Assembly and the Summit. But due to the very last minute change in the meeting room done by the hotel, there was no possibility to have the cabins installed in the room in time for the Session. The Arabic translation will be available during the whole Summit, but unfortunately once again was unfortunately not possible during the General Assembly.
21. The President committed herself to do her best next year to guarantee that the translation in Arabic will be available during the General Assembly Session, but also asked for the help of the Arab League and the WFO Arabic Members as most of the time, depending on the country it is difficult to find professional translators.
22. Since there were no other comments, the President asked if the Members were ready to vote on the Annual Report of Activities 2014, to which Members agreed and unanimously approved.

DECISION GA 28/03/14

The General Assembly Members, after reflecting and discussing, decided unanimously to approve the Annual Report of Activities 2014.

VIII. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2014 – GA 28/05/14

23. Following with point 6 of the Agenda, the President gave the floor to the Vice-President for Financial Affairs, Mr. Bruno Lopes to present the Annual Financial Report 2014 according to the document GA 28/05/14.
24. The Vice-President for Financial Affairs greeted all present Members thanking them for the effort made to attend the Session and the Summit especially considering the length of the trip, and requested everyone to take a look at the previously sent document explaining that since this was an Annual Report, the numbers presented referred only to the year of 2014 from January 1st to October 31st, but should be analyzed in the context of the Quadrennial Budget 2010-2013 as explained by the President on the previous point of the Agenda.
25. The Vice President for Financial Affairs highlighted that due to the fact that most expenses regarding the World Family Summit +10 and the General Assembly incurred in months of November and December, they will be included in the accountancy and in a final report to be prepared after the end of the year as usual. The report follows the same template used for the last few years with three spreadsheets reflecting the Income, Expenditures and Balance respectively.
26. After the presentation, the Vice-President for Financial Affairs opened the floor for discussion.
27. The Members of the General Assembly reported that they were satisfied without any further comments.
28. Since the Members were satisfied, the President asked if they were ready to vote on the Financial Report of 2014 to which members agreed and decided unanimously to approve it.

DECISION GA 28/04/14

The General Assembly Members, after reflecting and discussing, decided unanimously to approve the Financial Report of 2014.

IX. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE EXECUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISION GA 27/05/13 – Doc. GA 28/06/14

29. The President opened Point 7 of the agenda reminding everyone of the origin of the first World Family Summit, the support received by the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Koffi Annan and its link with the Millennium Development Goals. That explanation was necessary to call members' attention to why the 27th General Assembly took the decision not to discuss and adopt a new Strategic Framework 2014-2017 at the time, but instead repeat the 2013 Plan of Action for the year of 2014 and 2015 and then during the year of 2015 the Executive Board would prepare the amendments, which need to be made to the Constitution and the new Strategic Framework taking in to consideration the proposals for the New Post-2015 Development Agenda to be presented to the General Assembly in 2015.
30. The President informed Members that WFO is actively participating at the New Post- 2015 Development Agenda discussions at the United Nations level and will be able to prepare and present to the General Assembly in 2015 a completely new Strategic Framework encompassing the new sustainable development goals and the afternoon Session of the General Assembly will be crucially important for that, as the Arab League, the United Nations,

Malaysia, United Arab Emirates and all WFO Members will present their positions on how the Family should be brought to the forefront of policy making and have its needs and perspective included in the Post- 2015 Development Agenda taking into account the different context and situation in each country.

31. To conclude the presentation, the President stated that the next Strategic Framework would be presented at the next General Assembly as a 2016-2019 based on the Post- 2015 Development Agenda with the 17 proposals for the Sustainable Development Goals, which will be set and approved by our Governments at the UN General Assembly in September 2015.
32. After the presentation, the President opened the floor for discussion.
33. The Vice President for Family Policy, Mrs. Lara Hussein explained that the Executive Board was waiting for the document – *Outcome Document - Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals* – that was issued very recently by the United Nations that includes the 17 proposals for the Sustainable Development Goals and now it is our task to check how the Family issues are included and see if something is missing. The afternoon session and the World Family Summit +10 are the perfect opportunity for this task to be performed, as the Zhuhai Declaration will be submitted to the UN and ECOSOC.
34. Since there were no other comments, the President requested Members if they were ready to vote on the Report of the Executive Board on the execution of the General Assembly Decision GA 27/05/13, to which Members agreed and unanimously decided to approve.

DECISION GA 28/05/14

The General Assembly Members, after reflecting and discussing, decided unanimously to approve the Report of the Executive Board on the execution of the General Assembly Decision GA 27/05/13.

X. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ON THE EXECUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISION GA 27/08/13 – Doc. GA 28/07/14

35. Following with point 8 of the Agenda, the President referred to the document Report of the Executive Board on the execution of the General Assembly Decision GA 27/08/13 – Doc. GA 28/07/14 which was previously sent and was also being shown on the screen.
36. The President gave a brief explanation about WFO's history and its Constitution since 1947 and its reviews during the decades and reminded Members that the Decision GA 27/08/13 mandated the Executive Board to prepare, during the first trimester of 2014 a draft proposal for a Constitutional Revision, establishing a calendar for the development of the work.
37. The Draft Proposal after the wide consultation among members would be discussed and approved by the 28th Special Session of the General Assembly to be held in December 2014 in China.
38. The President then reported that in February 2014, the President, the Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs, Mr. Isidro de Brito and the Vice President for Financial Affairs, Mr. Bruno Lopes started the analysis and discussions on the Constitution through a weekly videoconference.

39. From the beginning, many difficulties were found by the group, due to the amount of time necessary to deeply reflect on the actual status of the organisation and also due to the many changes happening in a global context. Due to these difficulties, the group agreed that an extended period of bibliography consultations on many other organisations with the similar status was needed.
40. By the end of April, with a lot more information on how other organisations were being reorganized in order to adapt to the new post worldwide crisis, the group had a lot more thoughts about how to proceed on how this Constitutional revision should be done.
41. By the middle of May, each one of the two Vice Presidents produced one version that was then compiled. The President, after taking note of the work of the Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs and Vice President for Financial Affairs, and after studying the bibliographies collected in more depth, was convinced that more deep changes had to be done to ensure that the organization was heading in the right direction as an International NGO in great need of regaining its inactive members.
42. The President continued reporting that at that point she elaborated another revision on the Vice Presidents proposals directing the organisation on a more rational conceptual and structural change. This proposal of the President was not even discussed by the group due to the events at the ECOSOC in early July in New York.
43. To everybody's surprise, the UN went into a deep structural reform, encompassing the building reforms, and the NGOs are having a lot of difficulties even to access the main conference rooms.
44. In informal consultations with our UN partners, we got the advice to pursue the idea to regain our formal Intergovernmental status in order to improve our relationship with the UN. It's a matter of survival to continue to maintain WFO's international representation.
45. After these consultations, the President realised that the direction that was intended for the Constitutional Review was ~~on~~ in the opposite direction and the issue should go through a deeper reflection with the full Executive Board.
46. In order to introduce the issue to the Executive Board, the President requested to one of our UN partners to provide us with some examples of organisations that went through the process of reclassifying its status from NGO to IGO without losing its NGOs affiliations.
47. The President explained that a formal request was made to the United Nations to inquire about the real status of WFO's IGO affiliation.
48. The President, the Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs and the Vice President for Financial Affairs are convinced that more consultations within the Executive Board Members have to be done in order to decide which direction to take and how to proceed with the mandate of the Decision GA 27/08/13.
49. The President ended her presentation stating that the report shows that the Executive Board is fulfilling the mandate given by the General Assembly to amend the Constitution and the new amendments that will be proposed in 2015 will reflect the intent of the Organization to regain its IGO status at United Nations. Therefore during the first six months of 2015 the President will work with the Open Working Group following the conclusion of the proposal for the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals to prepare for the second half of the year the draft new Strategic Framework 2016-2020 and the corresponding amendments needed to the Constitution.

50. After the UN General Assembly in September 2015, which will adopt the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Executive Board will meet to discuss, approve and recommend to the 29th General Assembly the new WFO Strategic Framework 2016-2020 and the amendments to the Constitution.
51. The President then opened the floor for comments and discussion.
52. H.E. Dr. Mariam Al Roumi, Minister of Social Affairs of the United Arab Emirates stated that no one should forget that families are facing very difficult conditions in the current times due to wars, armed conflicts and the international financial crisis and those families should be the focus of WFO, UN and the new Post-2015 Development Agenda.
53. Mrs. Rachel Aird, WFO Advisor added that one of WFO's main roles when it was founded was to reunite and help families after the World War II so it seems very relevant to give attention to the situation of families in conflict areas. She also stated that the reinstatement of the IGO status is very relevant and strengthens the position of WFO in the United Nations system and before the international community.
54. The President thanked H.E. Dr. Mariam Al Roumi and Mrs. Rachel Aird for their input and since there were no other comments, the President asked Members if they were ready to vote on the Report of the Executive Board on the execution of the General Assembly Decision, to which Members agreed and unanimously decided to approve.

DECISION GA 28/06/14

The General Assembly Members, after reflecting and discussing, decided unanimously to approve:

1. The Report of the Executive Board on the execution of the General Assembly Decision GA 27/08/13 and Doc. GA 28/07/14.
2. To mandate the Executive Board to follow-up the UN negotiations and proposal for the Post 2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals and to prepare for the second half of the year consultations with the Executive Board on the preparations of a draft new Strategic Framework 2016-2020 with the corresponding amendments needed to the Constitution.

XI. REPORT ON PREPARATION THE WORLD FAMILY SUMMIT +10 AND LAUNCHING THE CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILIES – Doc. GA 28/08/14

55. Following with the next point of the Agenda, the President referred to the document Report on preparation the World Family Summit +10 and launching the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the UN International Year of Families that was previously sent and was also being shown on the screen.
56. The President reported that the preparation of the WFS+10 and the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the UN IYF in its conceptual form started early February 2014.

57. In weekly videoconferences, the President, the Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs and Vice President for Financial Affairs, started to discuss the logistical aspect of the Summit and by the end of the month the Conceptual Framework of the WFS+10 was concluded.
58. It is worth mentioning here that the Chinese Government through the National Health and Family Planning Commission, was very diligent in starting the negotiations very early and requested the first preparatory meeting for the month of March in Beijing and this mission was done by the President and the Vice President for Financial Affairs.
59. After discussing and approving the logistical aspects of the Summit with the Chinese team, the Secretariat started to discuss the technical contents of the Summit in weekly videoconference consultations, which included our United Nations partners.
60. A second mission to China was done by the President and the Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs in the middle of May, which included a visit to the Zhuhai City to discuss the participation of the Zhuhai Municipality and also to visit the infrastructure of the City to ensure all the specific needs of the Summit would be met. The visit was very successful and the City of Zhuhai as the venue of the Summit was very much approved.
61. Having the logistical issues concluded, the next step was to start the preparation of the Program and the logistics of support. The Chinese team confirmed in an e-mail dated of June 18, 2014, the results of the team's briefing with the Vice Minister Mr. Wang Peian and the Chinese authorities already confirmed for the Opening of the Summit. Please observe that the Vice Premier of China, Mme. Liu Yangdong, will do the opening.
62. The President continued reporting that from the WFO side, the President and the Vice President for Legal and Administrative Affairs attended the ECOSOC Sessions at the United Nations Headquarters and took the opportunity to request meetings with our UN partners to confirm their support and the attendance to the Summit.
63. The following partners confirmed support and participation: the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development Mr. Nikhil Seth; the Director of the Social Policy and development Division Mrs. Daniela Bass; the DESA DSD Chief of the Outreach and Communication Branch Mr. Nikhil Chandavarkar; the Chief of the NGO Branch Alberto Padova; the Focal Point on the Family Mrs. Renata Kaczmarek; the Senior Advisor for the UN Alliance for the Civilization Dr. Hanifa Mezoui; and the Director of the Office for the ECOSOC Support and Coordination Mr. Navid Hanif .
64. With the kind attention and request of the NHFP Commissioner Mr. Hu Hongtao, we had a meeting with the DESA Under-Secretary General Mr. Wu Hongbo and the Ambassador Liu Jiyi of the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN. Both meetings were very productive and the support of both authorities guaranteed for the Summit. The Under-Secretary General has another event in Peru at the same date but will check the possibility to come to China. Anyway he will write a message for the Participant's Handbook and in the case he is unable to attend the Summit will send a video message for the Opening Ceremony.
65. Also, as every year the President Office hired an English-speaking secretary to deal with the invitations lists and secretarial material fro the Summit, Miss Leigh Ann Ganzar, who is also present helping us during this General Assembly Session.
66. After many discussions and listening to some suggestions of the UN DESA Under-Secretary General, it was decided that the Title proposed for the Summit would be: ***"Families in Balance: Building the Future We Want -***

Celebrating the Achievements of the MDGs and Welcoming the Pos-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals".

67. The President informed Members that with all the preparation work done successfully, overcoming the big time difference and the difference in protocols and the first activity as part of the World Family +10 Program would be the afternoon Session, followed by WFO's Gala Dinner and Awarding Ceremony which will happen tonight at the Crystal Palace as it shows in the Program contained in the Participant's Kit received by all.
68. The President ended her report explaining that there is no plan set for the next Summit yet as the MDGs are ending now and it should be about the SDGs, but that is a discussion that will happen with the WFO Members, Executive Board, partners and the three countries interested in hosting the Summit for the next year and opened the floor for comments and discussion.
69. The Members congratulated the President and the Executive Board on all the work done in preparing the World Family Summit +10 and the WFO Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.
70. Since there were no other comments, the President asked Members if they were ready to vote on the Report on preparation the World Family Summit +10 and launching the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the UN International Year of Families, to which Members agreed and unanimously decided to approve it.

DECISION GA 28/07/14

The Members of the General Assembly, after reflecting and discussing, decided to unanimously approve the Report on preparation the World Family Summit +10 and launching the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the UN International Year of Families.

XII. CALENDAR 2015 – Doc. GA 28/09/14

71. Following with point 14 of the Agenda, the President requested the Members of the General Assembly to review the document GA 28/09/14 – Calendar and asked Members if they would like to include any point in the Calendar 2015.
72. The President explained that this Calendar was developed in conjunction with the Executive Board and is subject to changes since for many activities depend on the UN Agenda.
73. The President also stated that, as she requests every year, Members were welcome to send their input to the Calendar at any time.
74. With no further inclusions, the President requested Members if they were ready to vote, to which all Members replied positively.

DECISION GA 28/08/14

The Members of the General Assembly, after reflecting and analyzing the Calendar for 2015, decided to unanimously approve it.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS

75. The President consulted the Members again and since there were no matters added to Miscellaneous, the President moved to the last point of the Agenda.

XIV. CLOSURE OF THE 28TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

76. The President expressed her satisfaction that the members of WFO had concluded the 28th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly, discussing all the items of the agenda and deciding on all important matters.
77. A very special thank you was given to all participating Members and observers reminding them that only through this democratic system with equal participation from every individual member can WFO play a very important role in the international arena, defending its interests which are nothing more than the expression of the interests of families world wide.
78. The President reminded Members that the afternoon Session will be dedicated to an interactive exchange of views on the Post-2015 Development Agenda especially where Families should be included as active actors in the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.
79. All items of the Agenda having been completed, the 28th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly was closed at 12h15, on the 1st of December, 2014.