

**Minutes of the
General Assembly
of October 30th, 2009
in Ferney-Voltaire**

Present : A Better life Foundation, Au fil de la vie, Aviation sans frontières,
Enfants du Noma, Ensemble pour eux, GESNOMA,
Hilfsaktion Noma, Fondation Hymne aux Enfants, Idées'Elles,
La Voix du Paysan, MAMA Project, Noma Hilfe Schweiz,
Persis Burkina, PhysioNoma, Sentinelles
Winds of Hope.

Invited : WHO/Afro.

Excused : Brian Jones,
Antenna Technology, AWD stiftung,
Dutch Noma Foundation, Enfants du monde Côte d'Azur,
Facing Africa, Fondation Hirzel.

Represented: AEMV par GESNOMA,
Association Hymne aux Enfants Belgique par la Fondation Hymne aux Enfants.

The General Assembly (below GA) is opened at 1.30 pm.

1) A Word from the Presidency

Bertrand Piccard specifies straight away that the word of the president will be more obvious at the end of the afternoon when the progress of all financed projects will have been presented. The implementation of these is indeed the first tangible signs of all efforts undertaken for the last year to implement the splendid results of the Noma Day.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the GA 2008

The GA adopts the minutes of the session of September 6th, 2008 with only one abstention and no voice against. Ariane Vuagniaux and Renata Ecuillon are thanked for its writing.

3) Adoption of statute changes

The last GA accepted the principle of creating two types of member: active voting member and consultative partners. It also accepted the principle of excluding members not present or represented at two consecutive GAs.

A project to modify art. 3 of the statutes has been voted by email by the members. The result was 22 for, 1 against and 5 abstentions.

During the email discussion, GESNOMA had requested that any member, on a mission or sick, should be able to be represented. This question appears again during the discussion.

The GA confirms its decision on the basis of the modified statutes that a member who presents his apologies for an absence is deemed to be absent. A member who is represented by another association is deemed to be present. Two consecutive absences by an active or associate member means exclusion.

When the next meeting is convened, members will be reminded of this rule and a representation form will be joined, so that they can make use of it if they wish.

The GA formally approved the new statutes with only one abstention.

Philippe Rathle notices that in the vote by consultation, 23 of 28 current members registered as active, 5 did not choose a category and nobody registered as associate. He proposes that Winds of Hope considers this question and comes back with proposals for consultation by the members. The GA agrees.

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4) Presidency and management of the No-Noma Federation

During the last Round Table, Bertrand Piccard had indicated that Winds of Hope was prepared to stand down from the presidency in 2009 because of his increased involvement in Solar Impulse.

Any member interested in the presidency had been invited to apply in writing at the latest by March 31st, 2009 to the office of Winds of Hope. Bertrand Piccard had specified that in the absence of any applications, he would not let down the Federation.

His increasing commitment to Solar Impulse led Bertrand Piccard to revise his own organization and, consequently, that of Winds of Hope. In May, he named Philippe Rathle as director of the Foundation and in October hired a secretary for the Foundation, Valérie Stillavato.

Bertrand Piccard gives the floor to Philippe Rathle to introduce himself and to take over the direction of the GA. Philippe speaks about his close links with Bertrand and his activities in particular with Solar impulse. He expresses his satisfaction to team up with Valérie Stillavato to animate both Winds of Hope and the No-Noma Federation. He also speaks about the revelation of his encounter with Noma during his journey to Bamako at the end of February 2009. His visit was wonderful thanks to the welcome by Charlotte Faty Ndiaye (WHO), Sylvie Pialoux (Au Fil de la Vie) and Valérie Maeder (Ensemble pour Eux).

No member having made an application by the latest date, and given the new organization of Winds of Hope which allows it to pursue its mandate, the GA tacitly agrees to its continued role of presidency until 2012.

5) Membership

Joël Sinaré submitted a request for membership of the Federation in the name of his association " Christ est la réponse III " which manages the " Nopoko " Center, an open-air orphanage in Kongoussi, Burkina Faso, the children remaining placed in their extended family. It supplies milk, clothes and covers health expenses for approximately 250 very young orphans. It also provides follow-up and school materials for approximately 300 older orphans. The market garden activity of the association finances its functioning and a part of the budget for the care of the orphans in their extended family. The association is recognized by the government and the Ministries of Health, of Social Action and National Solidarity. It collaborates with the Charles de Gaulle pediatric Hospital Centre.

A first contact by email took place with the Foundation in March and the national coordinator Jocelyne Garé gave him a favorable notice. Philippe Rathle met Joël Sinaré at his request on October 2nd in Switzerland. They had lengthy discussions relating to his activities and Philippe received all the useful documents (certificates, activity reports, accounts) as well as details of his project to identify and prevent Noma in Kongoussi. His impression further to this visit was rather positive as much about the man as his objectives.

Questioned, Ariane Vuagniaux (Hymne aux Enfants) indicates that she has known Joël Sinaré since 2002. She respects him very much in his commitment and considers him as a very honest, honorable and go-ahead type. She managed his funds during two years. It is essentially an activity with the orphans which has grown. Then Dr Lassara Zala (Persis Burkina) confirms that he knows him because he once brought him a case of Noma. But since, he has had no other exchanges and thus cannot say anything more.

Philippe Rathle raises the advantages of this application, an African who takes charge of his peers with devotion, but also its handicap, a prohibitive name for the Federation in particular with regard to Moslem countries, as specified by Bertrand Piccard.

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From his part, Dr Philippe Bédât (A Better Life Foundation) wonders if it is a good thing to encourage the creation of an additional association which would also take care of Noma. Bertrand Piccard agrees, reminding members that the basic idea of the Federation was to federate the actions of existing associations in Noma and not to create new associations.

The discussion develops around the answer to be given to Joël, without discouraging the goodwill and facilitating the local actions.

The GA approves with only one vote against and one abstention to propose an associate membership to Joël Sinaré on condition that:

- i) it should be in the name of Center Nopoko of the orphans (and not Christ is the answer III),
- ii) it should have an independent legal structure and
- iii) he develops a partnership with an active member of the No-Noma Federation.

Philippe Rathle will get back in touch with Joël Sinaré to inform him about these decisions.

6) Resignations

Santé et Développement, through Dr Hervé Bénateau, presented its resignation from the No-Noma Federation. This resignation comes further to a dispute concerning the reimbursement of flight expenses, linked to the participation at this GA of Dr Hamady Traoré (association Horizon Vert in Mali) who was intended to represent Santé et Développement on this occasion.

Member of the Federation since its creation in 2003, Santé et Développement writes that he feels a growing gap between their wishes and the functioning of our Federation. Dr Hervé Bénateau declares that he does not always feel very comfortable with regard to certain persons and opinions and does not find any justification to stay.

An exchange of e-mails between Bertrand Piccard or Philippe Rathle and Dr Hervé Bénateau is read in front of the assembly.

Philippe Rathle had met Dr Hamady Traoré in the children's Hospital during his visit to Bamako and had then suggested Horizon Vert should join the No-Noma Federation. Since, Philippe Rathle had had no more news from him until Dr Hervé Bénateau proposed his presence in July.

Dr Denise Baratti-Mayer produces in session two letters from Dr Traoré dated May 27th, one asking the Federation for membership, the other one asking for financial support. Winds of Hope takes note of these letters which never reached the office previously (after the GA, a check was made in the office of the foundation and neither letter was found). Dr Denise Baratti-Mayer tells us that Horizon Vert has decided to removed its application and remain in solidarity with the resignation of Santé et Développement.

The members unanimously decide to note with regret this resignation and ask Philippe Rathle to dissipate any misunderstandings with Dr Hervé Bénateau and Dr Hamady Traoré. The door remains opened for them in case they want to change their minds.

7) Miscellaneous

A request is made that candidate application files are communicated to the members before the GA so that they can look into these applications before the GA. Winds of Hope agrees to this request.

Dr Zala informs the assembly that the conflict with Hymne aux Enfants was definitively settled and that the peace was signed.

Bertrand Piccard concludes the official part of the GA at 3:00 pm.

Presentation of the projects financed by the Noma Day

1. " Sensitization in the West Centre region " in the Burkina Faso by the association Sentinelles
Presented by Patrick Joly, this project for training health agents including traditional doctors in the five districts of the West Center region should begin in November-December of this year.
2. " Rural health program centered on prevention " in the Burkina Faso by A Better Life Foundation
Presented by Dr Philippe Bédard, this rural health program in the region of Gourma in the East permitted the supply of basic health training to the poor rural communities, to increase the knowledge of the Noma, to decrease the sufferings due to the Noma, to improve the qualities of basic health care and to supply emergency medical care for those living in remote villages. The results are the training of 31 male nurses post leader and 66 community health agents. A case of Noma was discovered among more than 1'400 given cares.



3. "Health in the Village – Training of traditional midwives " in Mali by the association Idées'Elles in partnership with the local association Prométhée
Presented by Elisabeth Sola, this program realized in the circle of Mopti and Bandiagara (84 villages for 50'000 inhabitants) allowed the improvement of hygiene during deliveries and the dispensation of advice in nutrition to strengthen the health of the mothers and the children. 9 weeks of training were organized for 164 traditional midwives on pregnancy, feeding and delivery, and to supply them equipment and medicines.

" I am the traditional midwife of my village and I have once again just been encouraged in my profession. I really lack the words to express to you my gratitude and my satisfaction. Can God make, in you, a leniency never equaled to the populations which suffer in Africa. "

4. " Sensitization and training in the region of Kayes " in Mali by the association Au fil de la Vie.
Presented by Sylvie Pialoux, this program realized in this east region (1' 650'000 inhabitants among which 725'000 children and 390'000 women in age to procreate) aimed at sensitizing the families and communities, at training agents of health, at mobilizing the local information providers and at distributing spiruline to fight against malnutrition in children. It also aims at detecting, looking and taking on charge patients affected by the Noma.
The results of 34 days of missions are 10'000 persons and 46 centers of community health directly sensitized. 5 cases of Noma were discovered.

Case indicated and taken care after the passage of the mission in Nioro



5. " Training (Formation) Antenna(Office) Guinea Bissau " by the association Hilfsaktion Noma Presented by Ute Winkler-Stumpf and Léo Sibomana, this program covering the whole country (1'326'000 inhabitants) produced training seminars on all sanitary questions for 492 doctors, nurses, midwives, parents, educators, traditional leaders, opinion leaders, communicators, journalists, NGOs, etc. and awareness campaigns for 1881 pupils of schools, 1186 community agents of health and 3500 persons during public gatherings. It also aimed at treating (handling) Noma patients, at creating a database on Noma and at diffusing radio programs for sensitization and prevention.



6. "Rencontres Noma" in the Burkina Faso by the association Persis-Burkina and the radio La Voix du Paysan Presented by Dr Bernard Mivelaz, Dr Lassara Zala, Jean-Pierre Leupin and Adama Sougouri, this program realized in the region of Ouahigouya in the North of the country organizes, in villages, tours of theatrical troops and forums broadcast in local language coupled with a medical team to invite the populations to participate in the fight against Noma. It also aims at taking care and forwarding Noma patients to the structures ad hoc.



7. " Accompaniment of the surgical missions in Mali and in Burkina Faso " by the association Ensemble pour Eux Presented by Valérie Maeder and Marianne Cornamusaz, these commitments realized by 54 volunteers who divide up into three missions, one in Mali and two in the Burkina Faso, permitted the supply of the necessary postoperative care, of which half of Noma, further to 160 interventions of the surgeons of the association Enfants du Noma. They also aimed at supplying medicines, food and equipment necessary for the care.



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Bertrand Piccard and Philippe Rathle thank all the participants for the very comprehensive presentations which will soon be visible on the web sites of the Federation No-Noma and of Winds of Hope.

Philippe Rathle emphasizes that these seven action plans were financed for a total amount of 400'000 CHF (265'000 EUR). However, over half of the total sum raised during the Noma Day is still available for distribution, whether the projects be extensions, repeats or totally new!

In conclusion of this busy afternoon, Bertrand Piccard underlines the fact that for the first time since its foundation, the No-Noma Federation realized members' projects with a common financing coming from a common action, the Noma Day. He hopes for an increase of this cohesion and new projects in the future.

All the projects (but one) concerning only Mali and Burkina Faso, he wishes that requests for actions in other countries will also be submitted by the members. Finally he mentions the example given by Dr Bernard Costini to illustrate a purpose of the Federation No-Noma: Ensemble pour Eux lent a nurse to Enfants du Noma who in return lent a presenter to Ensemble pour Eux.

Thanks to all for your contribution!

The President:
Bertrand Piccard

The Director:
Philippe Rathle

Lausanne, November 16th, 2009