

**Minutes of the
9th General Assembly
of 7 October 2011
at Ferney-Voltaire**

Present :

- Presidency : Winds of Hope,
- Active Members : A Better Life Foundation, AEMV, Antenna Technology, Au fil de la vie, Aviation sans frontières, AWD Stiftung, Dutch Noma Foundation, Enfants du Noma, Ensemble pour eux, Gesnoma, Hilfsaktion Noma, Hymne aux Enfants, Idées'Elles, La Voix du Paysan, Mama Project, Noma Hilfe Schweiz, Non au Noma en RDC, Persis Burkina, Persis Valais, PhysioNoma, Sentinelles.
- Partner Members : WHO/AFRO, FDI

Invited : Label Vert, Project Haraar, Peter Ustinov Foundation, Centre Nopoko des Enfants,
Guests : Jean Ziegler and Ioana Cismas (Human Rights), Dr Oumarou Djibo (Niger),
Marianne Wanstall (interpretation).

Apologies : Fondation Hirzel, GIGIP, Campaner, Facing Africa, Prométhée

Absents : Enfants du Monde

The General Assembly (henceforth GA) was declared open at 13h40 by the presidency of Winds of Hope (henceforth WoH).

1) Introduction by Presidency

Philippe Rathle welcomed the members, noting with pleasure the record attendance of 33 participants for this two-day meeting.

He acknowledged the presence for the first time of a national plan coordinator for anti-noma campaigning, within the framework of the collaboration between WHO/AFRO and Winds of Hope, giving a special welcome to Dr. Oumarou Djibo of the Ministry of Health in Niger.

He also welcomed the presence of representatives from Winds of Hope's new partner, Banque Mirabaud.

He thanked Marianne Wanstall for her faithful and greatly valued assistance with interpretation for English-speaking participants.

He informed the assembly that Valérie Stillavato had left Winds of Hope permanently on the birth of her third child and that, since June, Carole Ballanfat had joined the team at the Foundation full-time.

He reminded the meeting that, according to Statutes, each Member had one vote, whether association or foundation, and that there was not one vote for each person present. Votes would therefore be cast using the red cards which had been distributed to each Member.

An attendance list was circulated.

2) Adoption of the Minutes of the 8th GA 2010

The members present at the GA unanimously adopted the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2010.

3) Members

a. Statutes

Philippe Rathle restated the proposal made the previous year to attribute the status of Associate Member to local associations that were doing remarkable work on the ground, but which did not have the organisation and the skills necessary for management and control. In order to be considered for this category, these associations would have to be sponsored by an Active member of the Federation and to present anti-noma work projects. Such sponsorship would supply managerial help, whilst allowing for supervision and noma project support.

It had been decided after discussion to delay the final decision until the following year. In the meantime, all Members had received a draft of the new Statutes. Discussion was therefore reopened.

Philippe Rathle presented the new Art. 3.1 of Statutes, which defined the three membership levels : Active (unchanged), Associate (new), Partners (officialised). Since nobody asked for the word, he proceeded to the vote.

The GA adopted the new Art. 3.1, with no votes against and one abstention.

Philippe Rathle presented the new Art. 5 of Statutes which concerned « Rights and obligations of Members ». He explained that Winds of Hope intended in 2012 to create a new Internet site for NoNoma incorporating an easily accessible communication platform for all Members. Each member then had the duty without fail to download their activity reports and financial statements. He called for a vote, there being no request for discussion.

The GA adopted the new Art. 5, with no votes against and one abstention..

Following these decisions, Philippe Rathle presented some minor formal modifications concerning Art. 2.2, 6.2, 8.2, 10 and 13. He called for a vote, there being no request for discussion.

The Members present at the GA unanimously adopted the formal modifications to Art. 2.2, 6.2, 8.2, 10 and 13.

b. Admission to Membership

Three new candidates for the status of Active Member introduced themselves to the Assembly :

Label VerT, represented by Ariane Vuagniaux, was founded in November 2010. This Swiss association has as its objective to contribute to the improvement of the human condition by means of sustainable development, environmental protection, health, education and training, and finally research. It had set as its priority task the fight against malnutrition, notably the promotion of *Moringa oleifera* (a tree of high nutritional, therapeutic and economic value). This fight against malnutrition also helped to combat Noma by raising awareness and giving training.

After discussion in the absence of the candidate, the GA voted by a majority to admit Label VerT as an Active Member.

Project Harar, represented by Tom Hoyle, had been working in Ethiopia since 2001 to provide access to medical care for children in the region of Harar, an area half the size of France. Many children there suffered from Noma, alongside other classic pathologies. During the previous 3 to 4 years, this association had concentrated on the education of health workers, making them aware about the disease Noma, so as to slow down its spread.

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In 2010, it had helped more than 500 sick people, of which about 150 had been children suffering from the effects of Noma.

After discussion in the absence of the candidate, the Members present at the GA voted unanimously to admit Project Harar as an Active Member.

The **Peter Ustinov Foundation**, represented by Gunther Bitzer, had been founded in 1998 by Peter Ustinov to help children face up to the challenges posed by globalisation. Under its current President Igor Ustinov, a member of Council of Winds of Hope, this Foundation ran educational projects in Germany and collaborated with UNESCO to promote inclusive education. It had committed itself to fighting the prejudice suffered by children struck down by Noma and had allocated, to date, more than 3 million Euros to prevention, medical treatment, and socialisation. The Foundation wanted to commit even more resources to helping children who were victims of Noma, especially by fighting against their social exclusion.

After discussion in the absence of the candidate, the Members present at the GA voted unanimously to admit the Peter Ustinov Foundation as an Active Member.

There were two initial candidates for the status of Associate Member, and both introduced themselves to the Assembly :

Centre Nopoko, represented by Joël Sinaré and sponsored by Label VerT, had already presented its activities at the Round Table in 2010. The association looked after an open-air orphanage at Kongoussi in the north of Burkina Faso. The orphans remain with their own families, or in their foster homes, whilst being monitored by the Centre until they reach adolescence.

After discussion in the absence of the candidate, the Members present at the GA voted unanimously to admit Centre Nopoko as an Associate Member under the sponsorship of Label VerT.

Prométhée, represented by Élisabeth Sola in the absence of Mahmoudou Kassambara, who had presented apologies for health reasons, and sponsored by Idées'Elles, was already known to the Assembly having presented to the Round Table in 2010 the work it did under the guidance of Idées'Elles in training traditional midwives.

After discussion in the absence of the candidate, the Members present at the GA voted unanimously to admit Prométhée as an Associate Member under the sponsorship of Idées'Elles.

c. Resignations and Exclusions

The situation with **Campaner** had not changed since the deferral agreed by the GA the previous year. The association had paid no subscription since 2010 and had not attended the GA, or appointed a proxy, since 2009. They still did not respond to correspondence. Philippe Rathle had met its representative in Niger, who had promised to speak to José Campaner.

The situation with **Facing Africa** had also not changed since the deferral agreed by the GA the previous year. The association had paid no subscription since 2009 and had not attended the GA, or appointed a proxy, for a long time. After Winds of Hope had sent several reminders, Chris Laurence had recently made contact again and was scheduled to come and meet with Philippe Rathle.

The situation with **Enfants du Monde** had also not changed since the deferral agreed by the GA the previous year. The association had paid no subscription since 2009 and had not

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attended the GA, appointed a proxy, or recorded its apologies for a long time. In spite of repeated reminders from our side, Alain Roque had still not responded.

The GA decided to allow them one last year of grace before proceeding to their final exclusion.

On the other hand, **Enfants du Noma** had clearly indicated its desire to remain in the Federation and pay its arrears of dues, following a meeting in Paris at the end of the summer between Philippe Bellity et Philippe Rathle. Moreover, the association was participating fully in the present Assembly. The possibility of its exclusion was therefore no longer on the agenda.

4) Other Business

No other business had been raised.

Since nobody else had asked to speak, the General Assembly was closed at 15h40.

The Presidency :



Winds of Hope

Lausanne, 18 September 2012.