

**Minutes of the  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
held on 27 September 2013  
at Ferney-Voltaire**

**Present:**

- Presidency: Winds of Hope,
- 22 Active Members: A Better Life Foundation, Antenna Technology, Au fil de la vie, Aviation sans frontières, Bilifou-Bilifou, Enfants du Noma, Ensemble pour Eux, Gesnoma, Hilfsaktion Noma, Hymne aux Enfants, Label Vert, La Voix du Paysan, La Maison de Fati, MAMA Project, Noma Hilfe Schweiz, Non au Noma en RDC, Persis Burkina, Persis Valais, PhysioNoma, Project Harar, Sentinelles, Winds of Hope.
- 1 Partner Members: FDI
- 1 Associate Member: Centre Nopoko

**Invited Guests**: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Mercy Ships, Augustin Koara (Maison de Fati), Mercy Ships, Marianne Wanstall (interpretation).

**Apologies with proxy**: AEMV (represented by Gesnoma), Facing Africa (represented by WoH), Idées'Elles (represented by WoH), Peter Ustinov Stiftung (represented by WoH).

**Apologies**: AWD Stiftung Kinderhilfe, Dutch Noma Foundation, Prométhée, WHO/Afro.

**Absent**: Enfants du Monde, Hirzel Fondation, GIGIP

The General Assembly (henceforth GA) was declared open at 13h30 by the Presidency, Winds of Hope.

**1. Introduction by Presidency.**

Philippe Rathle warmly welcomed all members, noting with pleasure the high attendance of 39 participants at this meeting.

He reminded the meeting that this GA and the subsequent Round Table could only take place thanks to the financial support offered by Winds of Hope's four partners: Breitling, Mirabaud, Victorinox and the Lienhard Foundation, all of whose logos were projected onto the screen.

Philippe welcomed Mercy Ships to the meeting for the first time, represented by Peter Linz, who wanted to find synergies in the fight against noma with WoH and other federation members. He also greeted the presence of Médecins sans Frontières, represented by Michel Quere.

He thanked Bertrand Piccard, President de WoH, and Michèle Piccard, Member of the Council of WoH, for their faithful attendance.

He reminded everyone that if any voting had to take place, votes would be cast using the red cards distributed to each member association or foundation.

An attendance list was circulated.

## 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 10th GA 2012

Philippe briefly summarized the main actions of the previous Assembly:

- Adoption of the new statutes
- Acceptance of two new members
- Exclusion of one member

The members present at the GA unanimously adopted the Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th September 2012.

## 3. Noma Day

At previous meetings, Philippe had alluded to Winds of Hope's intention to organize another Noma Day, following that held in 2008. Given that an event like that would only make sense with the full participation of Bertrand and Michèle, a decision had been taken to postpone its organization to a future date after Solar Impulse had achieved its round-the-world flight.

Philippe hoped that the year 2017 might be possible, as it would have symbolic significance, being 9 years after the 2008 Noma Day, which itself was 9 years after the creation of the Foundation on 9.9.1999.

## 4. Membres

### Resignations / Exclusions

PR reminded the meeting that in 2011 it had been decided to accord a final year of grace to **Enfants du Monde** before any resolution was passed to exclude them. The association was no longer participating in the GA or RT of INNf and had not paid its subscriptions for the last three years. Despite several attempts to contact them, they could not be reached, and they had not responded to the GA calling notice. Furthermore, Alain Roque had told Bernard Mivelaz of Persis, that they were operating in an area of Burkina that was clear of noma and that they saw no point in participating in the Federation's discussions.

As a result, the Presidency had no option but to apply the statutes and exclude **Enfants du Monde** from the International NoNoma Federation.

After having left Nigeria for security reasons, the Dutch Noma Foundation had experienced several disappointments with its plans for surgical missions to Guinea Bissau, Cameroon and then Burundi. The Foundation had therefore decided to close down its activities with immediate effect and to dissolve at the end of this year. They had therefore submitted their resignation from the Federation.

Robert van Poppelen had written of their sadness at having to take this decision after 16 years of noma surgery, but also of their pride at what had been accomplished during this period in Sokoto. He had added that he remained available to help the Federation, should their skills be of use to one or other of its members.

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The Assembly regretted the loss of a major player in the fight against noma and paid tribute to the field-work they had done throughout the years, as well as to their scientific work and their publication of a book on noma surgery.

The Presidency took note of the resignation of the **Dutch Noma Foundation from the Internationale NoNoma Federation.**

Mrs. Gertrude Hirzel had repeatedly expressed to WoH her wish no longer to be involved in the Federation's discussions.

The Assembly paid tribute to the support she had given to the fight against noma from the outset, in particular to WHO and GESNOMA.

The Presidency took note of the resignation of the **Hirzel Foundation from the International NoNoma Federation.**

**5. Other Business and Closure of Meeting**

Richard Collomb, of Ensemble pour Eux, regretted that his association had not been able to obtain free visas from the Embassy of Burkina Faso for humanitarian surgical missions to the country, as HE Prosper Vokouma had promised at the previous year's meeting. Philippe confirmed that HE Prosper Vokouma had confirmed again recently that visas would be issued free of charge, but acknowledged that the procedure to be followed had perhaps not been well communicated. For this facility to be effective, you had first to register the association with the embassy by filling out a form and attaching to it a descriptive file. Once validated by the Ambassador, free visas would then automatically be issued.

Since no-one else wished to speak, Philippe thanked the General Assembly for its active participation in the discussions and closed the meeting at 14.10.

Presidency



Winds of Hope

Lausanne, 2 October 2013