



IFWEA IVA FIAET 21st GENERAL CONFERENCE

Motion to 2011 General Conference : Priorities for IFWEA 2012 – 2015.

A. Political education, policy intervention, education programmes

This Conference Notes:

- 1 The challenges posed by the developments, intensified by the global financial and economic crisis, leading to anti-social policies which result in increasing vulnerability of workers and their families and therefore the elevation of the need for education and knowledge of working people to higher levels.
- 2 The initiative developed in partnership with IFWEA member Rutgers School of Management and Labour Relations (SMLR) and the Swedish LO and Labour Party Academies to facilitate an academic exchange to build global solidarity and expertise on globalisation and methods and modes of organising the 21st Century worker;
- 3 The continued partnership with SOLIDAR with the aim of realizing decent work and decent lives for all through the Global Network project, towards the advancement of human, social and economic rights by improving the capacity of labour movements and civil society through mutual learning, common action and developing political, social and economic alternatives;
- 4 The initiative developed with the support of the Olof Palme International Centre to create an International Online Academy for Labour Educators, and the strong evidence of demand and support for such an initiative from IFWEA member workers' education organisations;
- 5 The initiative developed in partnership with the ABF Sweden, AOF Norway and TSL Finland to start a Youth Globalisation awareness programme which will build the awareness of young working people in the labour movement of the Nordic countries of global links and inequalities and prepare them to think and act globally in solidarity with the struggles in the south, through exposing them to examples of organisational responses to inequalities and changes in the world of work from these regions;
- 6 The progress achieved by IFWEA in developing education resources for member based organisations organising workers in precarious forms of work;

- 7 The progress achieved in building an African Labour Media Network, led by Workers' World Media Productions;

This Conference Resolves:

1. That the Secretariat continues to assist member organisations in initiating global bi-lateral partnerships and sharing of resources.
2. To support Global Network national, regional and global aims, objectives and projects at IFWEA events, whilst engaging Global Network members who are not members of IFWEA to join the IFWEA and actively participate in activities.
3. To develop a coherent educational package, called the IFWEA International Online Academy for Labour Educators, to be built around the 'organising in the global economy' programme, for presentation and participation via the internet. It should be based broadly on 21st century challenges to labour and alternatives to corporate globalisation. It should include a range of issues, addressed in diverse educational forms including research, equipping trade unions and worker education NGOs with key resources and tools for policy development and for executing their education programmes.
4. To build a long term north/south programme of workers' education to support youth awareness on the linkages and inequalities of globalisation, called the Youth Globalisation Awareness Programme, which incorporates online and face to face learning and internships.
5. To continue to give support to the idea of the development of an International Labour Media Network.

B. Capacity-building, membership services, regional development

This Conference Notes

6. The variety and diversity of needs of IFWEA affiliates, and the strengths and weaknesses of IFWEA as a whole in a fast changing world, where proper, applicable and realisable responses must be found.
7. The decision of European affiliates to dissolve Euro-WEA, and the failure to realise a viable regional network serving the differing interests and needs of the European affiliates. It further notes the proposal to integrate European members into SOLIDAR as a solution which accommodates the expectations of European affiliates, as SOLIDAR has the necessary political and administrative structures and capacity required for a to sustain a vibrant European regional organisation.
8. The closing down of the IFWEA Arab regional office in Jordan, and the constitutional impossibility of having two International Federations of Workers Education Associations existing simultaneously.
9. The range of regional educational exchanges in Africa, Arab Speaking countries, Asia-Pacific and Latin America made possible through the Global Network project.

This Conference Resolves

10. That IFWEA European members consider joint membership of IFWEA for global solidarity and exchanges and SOLIDAR for European activities.
11. That the Arab speaking affiliates of IFWEA re-launch their region as the Arab Federation of Workers' Education Associations, with the DWRC as the co-ordinating organisation.
12. That the IFWEA Secretariat continues to work with SOLIDAR as mutual partners and members to raise funds for the Global Network Project for Global and Regional activities.

C. Finance, affiliation fees, secretariat, staffing

This Conference Notes

13. The continued disaffiliation of category A members, so that only the Nordic members are currently paid up members remaining in this category,
14. The increasing number of affiliates, across all categories, in arrears with payments of affiliation fees; leading to less than half of expected income from fees being raised annually for the past four years;
15. The costs of the current Executive Committee, which exceeds affiliate fee income if convened twice per annum;
16. The conclusion of valuable but short-term support from Rutgers University through a service contract with the Secretariat which subsidised salary and administrative costs of the Secretariat from 2009 – 2011;
17. The continued failure to raise an annual budget through affiliation fee income and core expenditure to support a full-time General Secretary and administrative support;
18. The support of the Labour Research Service in providing an office, administrative and payroll services to the IFWEA Secretariat;

This Conference Resolves

19. To review the realistic capacity of Secretariat activities for 2012 based on availability of financial resources; and to task the incoming Executive Committee to perform this function on an annual basis to ensure that salaries and activities do not exceed budgetary limits.
20. To review the affiliation fee.
21. To reduce the number of people on the Executive Committee to half the current number (not including the President and General Secretary) while insuring a balanced continental (regional) representation and considering the diversity of affiliates.

Proposed by the Executive Committee, with the exception of Karoly Gyorgy, who abstains.

