



## Minutes of the first plenary

Date: Thursday, March 30th	Chair: Yves de Mateis, and Maria Sjodin
Time: 11.00-12.30	Minute-taker: Michiel Odijk

### 1. Opening of the conference

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera and Kürşad Kahramanoğlu open ILGA's World Conference in Geneva. Rosanna hopes that the weather conditions will promote the participation in the workshops and plenary sessions and wishes everyone a wonderful conference. Kürşad introduces the people sitting at the table and explains the principles of the chairing pool, tells that ten people have gathered the night before and willing to be the chairing pool. There is a mix in gender, in region, in experience in ILGA. He also tells about the main ILGA decision principle: by consensus. Conference approves in consensus the chairing pool, consisting of:

- = Maria Sjodin, RSFL-Sweden
- = Gloria Caraega, El Closet de Sor Juana, México
- = anonymous, China
- = Deborah Lambilotte, Holebifederatie, Belgium
- = Sass Sasot, STRAP, Philippines
- = Peter Zijlema, COC Nederland, the Netherlands
- = Marcos Paulo, ELGBTB, Brazil
- = anonymous, Nigeria
- = Yves de Matteis, Pink Cross, Switzerland
- = anonymous, Cameroon.

Yves and Maria take over the chair of the plenary. Yves explains that some people will (want to) take photographs or use video equipment. Those people who do not want to be recorded, or those who have problems with being flashed should sit at the rear of the room, at the side.

### 2. Agenda for the conference

Maria reads some of the changes to the provisional agenda that has been on the web site. The workshop on Friday on ILGA's internal affairs will also deal with the Report from the Executive Board. At lunch there will be a women's caucus.

Anyone who wants to host a caucus should contact the chairing pool, so that the caucus can be scheduled. The first plenary session on Sunday will also deal with the 130 Proposals (for amending the Constitution etc.). The plenary on Monday will also have to approve (or not) the Report of the Executive Board, and of the Women's Secretariat.

The agenda is approved as amended.

### 3. Election officers and counters

Conference agrees on the candidacies for counters from Peru, USA (2x), and India. Conference accepts the two nominations for election officers: Kim Vance (ARC International, Canada), Howard Glenn (Rights Australia).

### 4. New members

There are two lists with applications for membership. One list has been dealt with by the Board, these organizations have received a provisional membership. The other list consists of membership applications from very recent, this list has not been through the board and the applications will be considered in the Internal ILGA matters workshop of tomorrow. After the conference is informed about the first list, it accepts these organizations as members

of ILGA. Welcome to the ILGA!

Some organizations seem to have applied and are not mentioned on any of the lists. This issue will be dealt at the Internal ILGA matters workshop of tomorrow morning.

## 5. Presentation of the Executive Board`s Report

Rosanna explains that the report has been available before the conference and that printed copies are available at the backside of the room. There will be a Spanish version soon. The content of the report will be discussed in the Internal ILGA matters workshop tomorrow.

## 6. Presentation of the information on the Women`s Secretariat

Conference participants are advised to read page 31 of the ILGA`s Bulletin, named Campaigning, issue 120, March 2006.

## 7. Announcements

Nominations

Nominations for the position of secretary-general, for the Women`s Secretariat, for hosting the 2008 ILGA World Conference will be taken from now up until Friday 18:00 hours. Nomination forms will be available in the CCV building after today`s next plenary. Pigeon holes (= "private mail boxes") will be available at the CIGG building as soon as the conference moves to the CIGG.

How to deal with the 130 proposals

Jackie Lewis announces that for the workshops on the proposals, which she will be facilitating together with Janfrans v/d Eerden, people need to consider four documents:

on the Constitution

on the Standing Orders

other proposals

map for dealing with the proposals.

There will be reception tonight at 19:30 by the Swiss government and the Geneva authorities at the City Hall. Use your badge.

Some bars will provide one free drink if you show your badge.

Jochen Hick has made a movie about the LGBT movement and the UN. It will be shown at Dialogai today (in English) and tomorrow (in Spanish).

## LUNCH BREAK

Date: Thursday, March 30th	Chair: Sass Sasot, Patrick Obiona
Time: 14.00-15.15 and 16.00 – 17.00	Minute-taker: Michiel Odijk

## 8. Nominations

Nominations for the three functions mentioned before will start this afternoon. In order to nominate, you need to be a full ILGA member. Nominations are open until tomorrow 18:00 hours.

## 9. Message from Dalai Lama

Kürşad welcomes the conference and introduces mr. Tenzin Samphel from Tibet who brings a message from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In this message, the Dalai Lama sends us his greetings, shares his great concerns about discrimination and expresses how pleased he is that one of the pre conferences was specially dedicated to the issues around religion. The Dalai Lama wishes us a fruitful conference.

## 10. Speeches of the Secretaries-General

Kürşad tells that he has been male SG for seven years now, and that this is probably the

longest period that anyone has held this post. He will step down and trusts that the position will be in good hands, since there are some worthy candidates to succeed him. He looks back at ILGA as it used to be: having (European) ILGA conferences at Christmas time, since that was a time when volunteers could be free and at that time some of the ILGA volunteers considered ILGA more as their family than their blood relatives. Since then ILGA has become much more professional, and more inclusive. It started as IGA, and now lesbians, transgender people and bisexuals are not only present at ILGA conferences, but also within the working area of ILGA. Since Kürşad became SG, about 300 organizations joined ILGA as new members. He is proud that ILGA can give so many people a voice. He is also proud of the democratic procedures in ILGA. But he is not proud of the financial position, we have a serious problem in the finances. Although things have improved – formerly Tom Hoemig used to work for ILGA World as the only paid staff member, only half-time, now we have Stephen and Patricia – we actually need more money to carry out all the work that needs to be done.

In the UK it is impossible to step down if you are a Queen. Kürşad will step down from the post of SG, but will continue as an activist.

Rosanna tells that she was an ILGA virgin in her first conference in Oakland, but that it was like Christmas and Easter all in one. She even met her partner at the Oakland conference. She is delighted to do the work as secretary-general, and thanks Yves who is working now for all the work in preparing this conference, Kürşad for the inspiration and encouragement. She tells us to grab copies of the SG's reports and the Campaigning magazines to see what work the SG's have done. She thinks that we should consider the end of the Brazilian Resolution not as a defeat, but as a challenge, and that we should continue to fight the real axis of evil: the current governments of the USA, the Vatican, and several states that hold right-wing religious viewpoints.

## **11. Speech of Ms. Catherine Gaillard**

Yves introduces Catherine Gaillard, president of the Municipal Council of the City of Geneva, first citizen of the city. She tells amongst other issues about the voting in the canton about partnerships. She is proud that the canton voted in favor of a legal status for partnerships and tells that there still has to be a legal facility for lesbian gay parenthood. She thinks it is very important to use the opportunities we have to stand for, and win, political positions, that without that progress will hardly be possible.

## **12. Announcement demonstration**

Kürşad tells how Moscow Pride has been forbidden by the mayor last year and how the mayor has already announced, even before anyone could submit a request, that he will forbid this year's Pride. If conference agrees, there will be a demonstration tomorrow at 18:00 hrs at the Russian Mission for the UN. The conference agrees

## **13. Presentation of international LGBT cooperation**

a. twinning between LSVD Germany and Campaign against Homophobia Poland (represented by Tomasz Szypula). Tomasz tells about the awful results of current elections in Poland by which PiS (the Law and Justice Party) won. He tells that that may learn that the EU membership is not the final solution for LGBT discrimination. Fortunately, Polish courts are independent so there will probably be a lot of court cases on LGBT issues in the next period. Hartmut Schönknecht tells how he has been active in the Pride organization, and how people from Poland came over to Berlin the first year the Wall was open to celebrate Pride. They told him that they could never have a Pride in Poland and he felt bound to prove that they can.

b. Mama Cash. Marijke Langeveld is representative of Mama Cash, the oldest international women's fund, based in the Netherlands. She tells about the five themes in which Mama Cash is active (1 = body integrity, 2 = participation, 3 = economic justice, 4 = peace and security, 5 = art, culture and media) and that she is mainly interested in innovative initiatives with an organizing power beyond the personal level. Only groups that have limited access to resources can apply for money from Mama Cash. Plans for the future include more cooperation with other organizations. See also [www.mamacash.nl](http://www.mamacash.nl)

Stephen explains that several conference participants have been sponsored by Mama Cash.

c. Spanish-Panaman twinning. Julio Javier Rodriguez (Asociación de Hombres y Mujeres Nuevos de Panamá) only gets funding for AIDS/HIV work but and human rights work in general – but only limited. They have started a cooperation with the Spanish group Fundación Triangulo. Raúl González from that group tells how they were able to expand the Panaman work on protection against HIV/AIDS, prevention of STDs, and community building. Now the Panamans have the first real LGBT centre in all Panama. Not that that was easy: finding an office was really hard. One of the problems they now face is the cooperation with the medical authorities. To link LGBT rights with human rights in general and to create international solidarity is common among Spanish LGBT groups, but they have noticed that the way they work creates more sensitivity for these kinds of problems and they hope to raise more funds in the future.

d. French-Cameroon twinning. In the last twinning project to be presented, between Warning (from France) and ADEFHO (from Cameroon), dissemination of information is the central issue. Charles Guebogo and Olivier Jablonksi tell how the French documentation is spread and used in Cameroon. Charles tells that even at Yaoundé University most people are ignorant of many aspects of sexual diversity, and that they combine ignorance with disgust. He tells how young men have been arrested under the accusation of being homosexual. In prison they were raped, and after that they were subject to anal inspection and 'proven' to be homosexual. Such things happen in Cameroon. The conference thanked all contributors.

## **14. Household matters**

The information on what is going on in Africa will certainly be continued. One of the interesting issues on our agenda will be the presentation Sunday at 16:00 about the defense of prisoners. Thanks are expressed towards the Belgian authorities who sponsored a number of African francophones. There are changes in the schedule for the visits to the national missions to the UN. Please contact ARC.

## **15. Agencies facilitating international LGBT work**

Kürşad tells that twinning is an old tradition in ILGA. What we have to keep in mind is that it is a mutual relationship. It is cooperation, not a donor – acceptor relationship. The program continues with speeches from two of our main sponsors, both Dutch: OXFAM NOVIB and HIVOS.

Anna Kooistra (OXFAM NOVIB) tells that OXFAM NOVIB is not systematically sponsoring LGBT issues. The main issues are fighting against poverty and fighting against lack of rights. What we have done is e.g. contribute to women participating in ILGA conferences. We contributed to the South-South dialog. HIVOS is more systematically supporting LGBT organizations. Our motto as has been worded by Sylvia Borren (director of NOVIB) is “different together” rather than polarization.

Anna promises that OXFAM NOVIB will make a more extensive list of programs and projects for which it is working on LGBT issues at the next ILG World conference.

Manuela Monteiro (HIVOS = the (Dutch) Humanistic Institute for Development Cooperation) tells that HIVOS has now helped financing in 50 actions in LGBT development cooperation. HIVOS real involvement in LGBT work started with the aids pandemic, in which – certainly in some countries – gay and bisexual men were victims, either of the virus itself or of stigmatization. She considers the recent cooperation between the LGBT movement and the general human rights movement of great importance.

One of the actions in which HIVOS was involved was the Outreach project or the Gay Games in Amsterdam, 1998. Both for the conferences attached to the Games and for the Games, HIVOS provided money for scholarships for participants from developing countries.

Manuela notices that now, fundamentalism is in the way of further development. There are some strange coalitions with neoconservative policies in the Western world. Their views and policies also undermine aids prevention policies.

Another of the activities for which HIVOS spent money was the conference on “Homosexualities and HIV/AIDS” in Amsterdam” two years ago. There it became obvious that the terminology is very culture dependent. Should we use the term MSM (= men who have sex with men) or gay men? It depends. She is used to GLBT, but tells that she uses it only because she is used to that term. For the direct future: HIVOS will also fund participants to the World Out Games and

conferences in Montreal, this year.

HIVOS tries to fund according to the level of tolerance in a specific country. In some countries, it is important to create safe spaces or LGBT's, in other countries, LGBT people can be encouraged to organize and be part of the worldwide LGBT organizations.

She thinks that it is important to coordinate funding more professionally.

As for enhancing effectiveness, she would like to promote alliances with other progressive movements. She would also like to use the progressive forces in the European Union, use the expertise of the diplomats of those countries that are LGBT-friendly, to create changes in the whole world. Knowledge-sharing is very useful and very important.

Questions from the floor are taken. Reference to the website: [www.hivos.nl](http://www.hivos.nl); after opening the Dutch web page you can choose the English version o puedes elegir la pagina en Español

The plenary session is closed.

The reception of the Swiss will start soon. Participants should take bus nr. 5 to Croix Rouge.