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Record Group/Collection: Donated Historical Materials
Collection/Office of Origin: Frieden, Lex, Collection
Series: Disability Rights Organizations
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 52060
Folder ID Number: 52060-002

Folder Title:
RI [Rehabilitation International] [2001]

Stack:

Row:

Section:

Shelf:

Position:

Name	Arrival Date	Departure Date	No. of Nights	Cost of Hotel Room		Details
Dr. Essa Al-Sadi			2	153. ¹⁸		
Ms. Susan Daniels	29-30		2	153. ¹⁸		
Mr. Khaled El Mahtar	29-30		2	"		
Mr. Lex Frieden	29-30		2 7	"		
Erkki Kemppainen			2	"		
Mr. Tomas Lagerwall	29-30		2	"		
Ms. Nancy Lawand			2	"		
Ms. Heidi Lindberg	29-30		2	"		
Dr. B. T. Naidoo	29-30		2	"		
Mr. Rick Powell			2	"		
Mr. Jorge Enrique Sierra Reyes			2	"		
Dr. Jiri Votava			2	"		
Mr. Benny Cheung Wai-Leung			2	"		
Mr. George Wilson	Wed. Nov. 28 at 4:30 p.m.	Sun. Dec 2 at 6:50 p.m.	4			Dept LGW Wed. Nov. 28 at 1200 on Flight CO5; Arr. Houston Wed. Nov. 28 at 16.30 Dept Houston Sun Dec. 2 at 1850 on

30 x
76.59 \$ 2297.⁷⁰

						flight CO4; Arr LGW Mon. Dec. 3 at 0955
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Hotel Rooms cost \$69 plus 11% tax (exempt from state, but not county and city taxes) $76.59/\text{night}$

Lunch.

Buffer $7.25/\text{person} \times 15 = 119.25 \times 2 \text{ days} = 238.50$
 Lunch

Coffee 2 pots in Am. $\times 2 \text{ days}$ 13.00
 2 pots in pm $\times 2 \text{ days}$ 13.00 > 26.00
 (3.25/pot)

Fred Tea in pm. $\times 2 \text{ days}$ 6.50
 (3.25/pot)

Coolies in pm. $\times 2 \text{ days}$ 6.50
 3.25/doz

277.50 Lunch/coffee

Edwards at all
Wagstaff
Irishman

\$ 1500 hotels
 \$ 1500 for air stipends
 \$ 200 lunches
 \$ 200 coffee
 \$ 600 dinners

Reply - hotel reservations
 Reply - TIRR meeting rooms
 Reply - lunch and coffee deals
 transport by hotel
 dinners at El Jordini
 Los Fide
 Grode & Company
 Churoscos
 Swathors
 Saltgross

info on Isalveston
 info on NASA
 info on museums
 info on Festivals
 info on Kennah

send proposal to Roseangela
 send proposal to Janice / ashley
 send proposal to Kym King -- call her

026
 22
 7300
 200
 1580

Education (include basic preparation through highest degree held)

Degree	Institution (Name, City, State)	Major Area of Study	Year Degree Awarded
1.			
2.			
3.			

Use the space below to briefly describe your professional experience or areas of expertise (including publications) related to your involvement in continuing nursing education and your particular role, e.g., planner, presenter, peer reviewer, administrator, etc.



Rehabilitation International

A worldwide network of people with disabilities, service providers and government agencies working to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities

**Executive Committee Meeting Houston, Texas
29-30 November 2001**

Provisional Agenda

* documents attached in this mailing

1. Welcoming Comments
2. Confirmation of Meeting Schedule
3. Apologies
4. Approval of the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Voting Entitlements *
5. Approval of the Summary of Decisions, Executive Committee Meeting 2-4 March 2001, West Orange, New Jersey. *

6. President's Report

- Welcome to New Secretary General
- Authorization for Secretary General to be a signatory of RI
- RI History project; update on progress
- UN Panel of Experts
- IDA-International Disability Alliance
- Charter for the Third Millennium

7. Nomination of Officers of the Executive Committee

- 7.1 Nomination for Deputy Vice President for South America *

8. Regional Vice Presidents' Reports:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 8.1. African Region; | B.T. Naidoo* |
| 8.2 Arab Region; | Essa Al-Sadi |
| 8.3 Asia Pacific Region; | Ryosuke Matsui* |
| 8.4 European Region; | Heidi Lindberg* |
| 8.5 North American Region; | Nancy Lawand |

Post-It® Fax Note 7671		Date 11/6/01	# of pages 3
To Lex Frieden	From Leonor		
Co./Dept.	Co.		
Phone #	Phone #		
Fax # 666-6556	Fax #		

25 East 21st Street, New York, NY 10010 USA/Phone (212) 420-1500 / Fax: (212) 5050-0871
E-mail: Rehabintl@rehab-international.org / Website: www.rehab-international.org

9. Treasurer's Report

- 9.1 Dues Assessments for 2001 Assessment by Region*
- 9.2 Draft Audited Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2000 *
- 9.3 RI's Future Finances *

10. Secretary General's Report

- Outcome of Assembly by mail ballot *
- Secretariat offices; sub-letting
- Charities of America, progress report
- 10.1 Budget 2002 and Revised Budget 2001 for RI & Annex to the Budget *
- 10.2 Deficit Analysis
- 10.3 International Working Group on Disability and Development (IWGDD)*
- 10.4 UNICEF *
- 10.5 Women's Project
- 10.6 RI Representation at meetings
- 10.7 Report on matching funds for Commission Project

11. RI Standing Commissions

- 11.1 Education Commission; Chair Judith Hollenweger*
- 11.2 ICTA Commission; Chair Michael Fox*
- 11.2(a) ICTA Task and Responsibility*
- 11.3 Recreation, Leisure and Physical Activities; Chair Rick Powell
- 11.4 Medical Commission; Chair Martin Grabois
- 11.5 Administration and Organization; Martin Schmollinger*
- 11.6 Social Commission; Chair Erkki Kemppainen*
- 11.6(a) Social Commission Action Plan*
- 11.7 Vocational (Commission on Work and Employment): Chair Fred McFarlane*

12. RI Honour Council Nominations and Acceptances

- 12.1 David Henderson, New Zealand *
- 12.2 Jean Caine, Canada *

13. Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities

- 14.1 Progress report on RI's Initiative on a UN Convention

14. RI Strategic Planning Project

- 14.1 RI Strategic Planning Group Report*

15. Strategies to encouraging more members from countries with limited resources**16. New Memberships**

The following membership applications have been received since the mail out for the meetings in Beirut and each has been circulated to the appropriate Regional Vice President.

- 16.1 **Care Society**, Mr. Ijazullah A. Ali, Founder Member; to be a National Member *
Organization**
- 16.2 **Association Generale des Insuffisants Monteurs (AGIM)**, Tunisia, Mr. Mohamed Laaziz Abdejaoued, Chairman, to be National Member Organization *
- 16.3 **Rehabilitation Network**, Botswana, Ms. Virginia Malobela, Director; to be National Member Organization. *

Invitation to support Rehabilitation International

This is a personal invitation to you as an important person in international disability work and friend of Rehabilitation International (RI) for help to strengthen our organization.

2001 will go to the history for the terror attacks in New York and Washington. RI was able to arrange the first Arab Regional Conference on Disability, Rehabilitation and Inclusion in Beirut 18 – 21 of September despite many difficulties. We owe many thanks to the local organizers who made a loss because of the many cancellations.

Shocked as we were by the terrorist attacks, we in RI are trying to find ways to strengthen respect for diversity and intensify collaboration between cultures and borders around the world. Poverty and armed conflicts are making thousands of people disabled every year. We will show that at the meetings we are planning and in the projects we are involved in.

It cost money to run an organization like RI. Our main income comes from Membership dues. Some of our member organizations have had problems paying their dues the last years. This is particularly the case for member organizations in Africa, Latin America and Asia where our services are highly needed and demanded. Membership dues and other incomes have gone down at the same time as our costs increase. We have had to reduce our staff and cut in our budget.

Rehabilitation International is a solid organizations. We own the premises on Manhattan where we have our headquarter, thanks to a contribution from Hong Hong. This is a strenght in the difficult times the world is facing now. We believe that an organization such as RI is needed as forum for everybody involved and interested in the disability field. The need for RI is different from what is was in 1922, when RI was born. The needs were in no way less today.

One of the strong supporters and believers in RI has promised us 10,000 US\$ provided we raise 90.000 US\$ from other sources. 100,000 US\$ will make it possible realize plans for the coming year and involve ourselves in trying to raise funds from donor agencies for important projects. Your contribution may thereby be multiplied.



Rehabilitation International

a worldwide network of people with disabilities, service providers and government agencies working to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities

Report on Membership Issues RI Strategic Planning Group (RI SPG)

Prepared for the RI General Assembly 2001, Beirut Lebanon

Background Paper

The history of the RI SPG has been well documented since its inception March 1999. Draft reports were submitted to the RI Executive for discussion at its meetings both in Rio de Janeiro, August 2000 and most recently in New Jersey 2-4 March 2001. Presenting the August 2000 report were Mark Webber and Judith Hollenweger, the latter also the Chairperson of the Education Commission. Mr. Webber presented the report in March 2001.

Participation and Process

Each presentation of the above two draft reports was preceded by a meeting of as many RI SPG members as could attend: in May 2000, Athens, a meeting of the RI- Europe's Vocational Commission created the opportunity for RI SPG Members to convene; likewise in May, 2001, Copenhagen, a joint meeting of RI-Europe's Education and Vocational Commissions created the most recent opportunity to engage in face to face discussions.

Summaries of the meetings were compiled and distributed to all subcommittee Members and RI Leadership. The draft immediately follows this section of the document has been circulated to all RI SPG Members as of 18 July (see attached cover letter).

It should be pointed out that various RI SPG Members made diligent efforts to participate at considerable personal cost of time and resources.

A roster of RI SPG Members current in May 2000 and 2001 is attached, along with the roster of members able to participate in the Athens and Copenhagen meetings.

The terms of reference for the above Group were established by then President Arthur O'Reilly and communicated in a letter issued on 22 March 1999.

RI SPG subgroup members for membership issues are: Judith Hollenweger, Susan Parker and Gunnar Schioler. Stig Langvad and Barbara Leroy (representing Roseangela Berman Bieler) participated in the Copenhagen meeting (see roster) and reviewed subsequent drafts.

Other participation: Liaison with RI Executive Committee

At the Executive Meeting of RI in New Jersey, March 2001 a number of subgroups were created by the Executive to consider such matters as Vision & Role, Finances, Strategic operations, Commissions and Memberships of RI. Members were to function as liaisons to groups responsible for developing the above topics. Vice President for Africa, B.T. Naidoo, and his Secretariat headed by Johann Viljoen reviewed on 7-8 July 2001 the draft immediately following, finding the content to be compatible with strategic work already underway.

Our draft content, inevitably and fittingly, links up with the remits of the other sub groups, notably RI Treasurer G. Wilson assigned the topic of financing and SG Tomas Lagerwall responsible for compiling thoughts about the vision of RI's role. The Treasurer reviewed the draft's section concerning finances in late May 2001. Both the Treasurer and the SG, after hearing of its availability, requested WHO documents available to participants in the WHO World Assembly (May 2001) pertaining to dues assessment increases of the 191 member countries.

Values basic to this strategic plan of action

We intend that our paper reiterates and underscores the aim of placing RI at the forefront of effective international organisations able to further the implementation at the grass roots level of human rights policies of people with disabilities. Operationally, enforcement of such policies at all levels must occur to avoid a "paper tiger."

RI aims to promote and empower the membership and its constituents at the grass roots level in all regions of the world.

We recommend that RI become more practically relevant to all its members and various associated bodies than in the past.

The need for utter transparency and a maximum degree of accountability must be the hall mark of RI's method of work.

Discussion Paper

Developmental Goals

RI must:

1. ... take immediate and active steps to encourage efficient and relevant networking with brisk information exchanges between various strategic partners in order to build bridges between and among diverse interest groups. Content areas containing immediate opportunities have been identified (human rights, mental health advocacy and programme development, and hearing impairments, to give three examples).
2. ... define more practical and pro-active roles in international, regional and national spheres.
3. ... develop flexible structures to respond more promptly and expeditiously to current and emergent developments.
4. ... develop innovative schemes and strategies able to generate additional income, apart from statutory membership fees.

Operational Steps

5. In order that these aims are not viewed as a set of pious statements, we are persuaded that RI ought to undertake to actively plan a series of well-designed and effective activities, including regional representation, to ensure the realisation of stated goals.

We submit that some of our recommendations may be viewed as bold. However we contend they are realistic in their scope and commend them for urgent consideration and implementation.

National Level

We strongly recommend:

6. ... abolition of the current "National Member Organisation" status for individual organisations in the various countries;
7. ... that status and position of "National RI Federation" be accorded only to networks of at least three organisations in any given country (preferably government, service providers and disability advocate groups) who represent at least two thirds of all RI members in their respective countries;

8. ... that the RI National Secretary be elected by the National RI Federation, holding the rank of a CEO or its equivalence. This office as currently defined in RI urgently requires careful scrutiny and thoughtful reform;
9. ... that delegates to the RI General Assembly and Regional Assemblies be unambiguously identified by the National RI Federation in strict accordance with RI regulations.
10. ... that RI membership fees be paid to the National RI Federation (or National RI Secretariat) for information dissemination, project management and other associated concerns.

Regional Level

We recommend that:

11. ... regional assemblies be established as vehicles for insuring better intra-regional accountability using improved communication techniques;
12. ... RI Regional Vice Presidents and Deputy Vice Presidents be directly elected by the respective Regional Assembly;
13. ... election to these important offices be undertaken using transparent and accountable procedures, subject to scrutiny and approval by the General Assembly.
14. ... the establishment of a Regional RI Office be secured either by the Regional vice-president's National RI Federation for the term of his-her office holding, or as a permanent secretariat able to provide support no matter the country of origin of a subsequent office-holder.
15. ... an amount of the RI membership fee be apportioned to Regional RI Secretariats for meeting expenses for information dissemination, project management, collaborative ventures with other regional agencies and organisations in accordance with implementing the goals and objectives of RI in a specific region.

International Level

16. We do not envisage any substantial revisions to the current roles and duties of the RI organisation, its president, treasurer, secretary general, and secretariat at this time.
17. We support the time-honoured practice for the RI President to be elected by the General Assembly and for the term of office be limited to a single four year period.
18. We support the continuance of the current range of duties and responsibilities prescribed for the RI Secretariat, namely the dissemination of information, project management, collaboration with other international agencies and organisations etc.

19. We agree that strategic decisions affecting the entire organisation be made at this level and subject to the agreed policy decisions made by the General Assembly.

Proposed other RI structures

20. Commissions

It is recommended that commissions serve as thematic networks of RI members engaged and interested in kindred systems and that activities be readily established and facilitated by RI.

This should be a permanent but flexible structure, preferably organised and coordinated at the regional and international level.

The functions and progress of these bodies should be closely monitored by the Secretariat, receive relevant information from the secretariat and report to the General Assembly and Executive Committee at regularly scheduled meetings.

Members of Commissions should be also individual members in good standing of the RI organisation, if not already a member of an RI Member organisation.

There is considerable merit in the proposal for individuals of these networks to be linked to and serve on Focus groups and Project Teams.

21. Focus Groups

We urge that Groups of experts identified and recognised by RI be established. They should be assigned to investigate and undertake specific tasks by the RI General or Regional Assembly.

These individuals or groups be given clear terms of reference and guidelines for discharging their obligations.

These Focus groups should be dissolved on the completion of assigned tasks.

22. Project Teams

There should be opportunities for individuals with relevant expertise within RI and from external bodies to work jointly on projects commissioned by RI.

Such project teams should be issued with clear terms of reference as is recommended for Focus Groups.

We recommend that these teams be disbanded upon satisfactory accomplishment of their tasks.

Financial Matters

We recognise and appreciate the consequences of the financial restrictions faced by RI in discharging its regular functions and normal obligations.

We are nevertheless hopeful that a review of the current priorities might enable RI to allocate modest funds to promote the above activities.

We recognize that the RI budget as a policy document must reflect costs associated with membership services and other programmes the organisation chooses to undertake.

We further recognise that there are inadequate funds exist to fully pay for activity areas.

23. Therefore, we recommend that activities be executed with all deliberate speed to:

- a. ... identify all costs of products/services RI must deliver to all members in good standing, including those of the present administrative machinery at the international and regional levels essential to product/services delivery, adjusted for inflation each year;
- b. ... using the above, define the costs of products/services as "core costs" to be paid by Members participating in the organisation;
- c. ... identify the organisations who both desire to be included as RI Members and meet the membership criteria but who lack the ability to pay beyond a minimum amount. The total of the difference between the amount apportioned equally among all organisations and the minimum amount able to be paid by a national federation is the amount needed of participation subsidies;
- d. ... participation subsidies and the core cost amounts should be added together to comprise the core operations budget to be supported by membership dues.
- e. ... costs of the RI programme component additional to services/products paid for by the core operations budget will be termed the "Extra-budgetary programme component."
- f. ... launch vigorous fund-raising, including membership development, as never before done (see G. Wilson's paper).

We have developed further the mechanics of how to implement a. - f. just above; however, the level of implementation detail is too great for inclusion within a relatively short paper.

Inclusion of such detail at this time detracts from the larger structural questions now before the RI Assembly and Executive Committee.

Re: Commission Accounting

I have given this some thought and don't know whether I have come up with any possible answers. It's only in the last four years that they have had any money to manage and certainly, when the Hong Kong money and its matching funding arrived, it was assumed that the Chairman of the commission would take responsibility. We are now a stage further on and need to plan for proper accounting if we are to work towards a system where commissions have funds for their work. Even if they are finding their own money they need to be accountable for it.

I think that the commission chairman should be responsible for the funds for they are the only elected person on their commission, presumably, with responsibility to the Assembly. They can delegate but we need written and agreed instructions for this.

As a draft, I suggest:

1. The Chairman of the Commission is responsible for the finances of his commission.
2. He shall make arrangements for accounting procedures and it is suggested that, in the first instance, the National Secretary in the Chairman's own country be asked if his organisation could take on the commission accounting as a restricted fund. It is possible that the chairperson may be able to keep the accounts within his own organisation but they must be openly accountable.
3. The Chairperson, on appointment, will explain how accounts will be kept and provide the Executive and Assembly with accounts on an annual basis.
4. Chairpersons of sub-commissions will set up similar systems for their funds.

Funds are defined as monies received from outside sources, including RI Headquarters and members, to maintain the work of the commission. Travelling expenses, etc. of members are paid by individuals or their organisations and should not be included. If, however, there was an outside grant particularly to pay for members travel, it would be included.

I wonder if we should suggest that there be a note to the commission accounts saying what has been contributed by members for travel, post and telephone, etc. so that we have a real idea of the annual cost of the commission.

Meetings are generously subsidised by the host country and the actual costs of our meetings are greater than appears.

George Wilson

July 2001

Re: Strategic Planning

Vision

Rehabilitation International (RI) is the global partnership of organizations working for everybody in all different cycles of life and for empowering people with disabilities.

RI's vision is given in the Charter for the Third Millennium. This paper gives some suggestions on how the Charter could be implemented:

More than 600 million people in the world have a disability. They live in every nation, in every part of the world. Some have a visible disability, while others have disabilities that are not so easily distinguished, but can have severe implications on the individual's life. Most people with disabilities in the world live in areas where they lack basic requirements in life such as food, health care and rehabilitation. In particular in such areas there is a strong connection between poverty and disability. Poverty eradication should be high up on the agenda based on the fact that poverty is a major factor causing disability and that disability often leads to poverty.

RI should

- increase awareness about the strong relationship between disability and poverty
- encourage international agencies such as the United Nations, The World Bank and others to provide statistical evidence and other facts relating to poverty and disability. Noting that poverty alleviation is and will continue to be a primary goal driving the main work of the UN and World Bank, the statistical data can be put to immediate use to influence the inclusion of disability programmes within larger poverty alleviation efforts that are just getting underway in selected countries.

A society which fails to respond effectively to those problems accepts not only a huge loss of human resources but also a cruel waste of human potential. In addition it accepts unnecessary human suffering and discrimination. This is the responsibility for the entire world, for the United Nations, for all nations not only the affected nations but also for financially strong nations, for global agencies, non-governmental organizations and for private companies and investors.

Rehabilitation International recognizes the fact that people with disabilities lack democratic power in the world. This is the case in nations but also in local communities and in organizations of different kinds.

RI should

- work for a convention for people with disabilities to change the present situation of people with disabilities in the world and assure equal opportunities in society
- increase awareness of existing international agreements such as the Standard Rules, the Convention of the Child and the Salamanca agreement on Inclusive Education and conventions related to vocational training and rehabilitation
- should co-operate to the greatest extent possible with other global organizations in particular those of people with disabilities in achieving these ambitions
- encourage the involvement of organizations of people of disabilities in all areas and at all levels where decisions are taken in relation to disability
- encourage support to organizations of people with disabilities at local, regional, national and global levels

Ignorance, prejudice, superstition and fear still govern much of society's response to disability. In the Third Millennium, we must accept disability as an ordinary part of the varied human condition.

- Now that the international agencies have developed public education programs to combat superstition and prejudice concerning AIDS and female genital mutilation, and have gained some experience in this regard, it may be timely for RI to seek funding for the development and dissemination of public education materials concentrating on demystifying disability

Technological advances are theoretically bringing manipulation of the genetic components of life within human control. This introduces new ethical dimensions to the international dialogue about disability prevention.

- RI and its Commissions and in particular the Medical and Social Commission should create policies that respect the dignity of all people and the inherent balance and benefits derived from the wide diversity among them.

Global immunization and other prevention strategies are no longer aspirations: they are practical and cost-effective possibilities

- RI should seek funding for the development and dissemination of manuals or guidebooks on how to survive and cope with most frequent and challenging disabilities in resource-poor countries, e.g., polio, spinal cord injury, leprosy and other conditions. The series should be a combination of information about "best practices" and listing of resource organizations focusing on poor countries.

International programmes to assist economic and social development should require minimum accessibility standards in all infrastructure projects, including technology and communications, to ensure that people with disabilities are fully included in the life of their communities.

- RI and its ICTA Commission should seek funding to produce a simple pamphlet listing and illustrating sample approaches to building in accessibility to typical infrastructure projects;
- RI members should then advocate with each government and development agency for adoption of and adherence to these standards on a program-wide basis
- RI should participate actively in the work by ISO and CEN to develop standards on accessibility for all
- RI should take an active part in the development of international disability symbols

All disabled people should have access to treatment, information about self-help techniques and, if needed, provision of adaptive and appropriate technologies.

Every person with an impairment, and every family with a disabled member, should receive the rehabilitation services necessary to optimise mental, physical and functional well-being, thus ensuring the capacity of the disabled individual to manage life as independently as any other citizen.

Disabled people should have a central role in planning their own rehabilitation and support programmes, and disabled people's organisations should be empowered with the necessary resources to share responsibility in national planning for rehabilitation and independent living. Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) should be widely promoted nationally and internationally as an affordable and sustainable approach to services.

- RI and its commissions should encourage national governments, UN agencies, international and bilateral agencies, local NGOs to initiate and give adequate support to programs to provide service to substantially more people with disabilities than is the case today.
- RI should seek funding to further develop methods that will assist in achieving these ambitions

Each nation must develop, with the participation of organisations of and for people with disabilities, a comprehensive plan with clearly defined targets and timetables for implementing these aims expressed.

- RI should provide examples of best practices

Tomas Lagerwall

RECOMMENDATIONS
of the First International Conference of the RI Arab Region,
on Disability, Rehabilitation & Integration
held in Beirut, from 19-21 September 2001

First: To work on laying down legislation and laws related to those with special needs, and taking action towards their practical implementation through defining time schedule that will consider priorities in implementation.

Second: Participation of disabled persons is crucial in planning and realization of comprehensive services provided for various types of disabilities.

Third: Provision of equal opportunities for those with special needs, in such fields like education, training, rehabilitation and employment, with providing means and facilities needed for that purpose.

Fourth: A full partnership between the government sectors and civil community institutions is essential for achievement of desired goals related to integral rehabilitation services.

Fifth: Setting-up of data base between concerned institutions at local, Arab and International levels and its development, in order to realize coordination and communication between those organizations, thus enabling them to get benefit from experiences of each others, as well as from technical and technological development and scientific research, without distinction.

Sixth: To involve with different information media that will be insisted on to be a real partner in presentation of disability problems in society.

Seventh: Provision of specialized human resources and their development, with providing financial support needed to all concerned institutions and organizations, thus enabling them to achieve their goals.

Eighth: Supporting of the disabled women by helping them to overcome the social pressures, thus giving them opportunity to fully participate in the development of their communities.

Ninth: Supporting implementation of the international conventions concerning land mines problems, as one of the main causes of disability, the Conference recommended support of those countries that suffer from that problem, focusing on the provision of financial and human potentials for them, in order to lay down and develop their programmes for prevention and provision of services in that field.

Tenth: Requesting governments to work on provision of accessibility for those with special needs to civilized environment in towns, especially in public utilities, since that will have a remarkable effect on their integration in the community.

Eleventh: To request the decision-makers in Arab countries, governmental institutions and all international organizations as well, such as Arab League and OUN to proclaim the Arab Decade of the Disabled.

Twelfth: Requesting OUN to urge holding of the international conference for the disabled, as well as for adoption of the international draft agreement, already approved by five major institutions dealing with disability problems.

Thirteenth: Unification of terminology used by the RI members, especially from the Arab Region.

Munira Al-Mutawa
RI National
Secretary for Kuwait



منيرة محالد المطرور
المكرتير الوطني
للتأهيل الدولي للكوب

**Mr. Tomas Lagerwall
Secretary General
Rehabilitation International
New York
USA**

Sincerely yours,



Munira Khaled Al-Mubarak
RI National Secretary for Kuwait





Rehabilitation International

a worldwide network of people with disabilities, service providers and government agencies working to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities

Rehabilitation International Calls for Rededication to Humanitarian Principles

Members of the 2001 Rehabilitation International (RI) Assembly and the organization's first Arab Regional Conference on "Disability, Rehabilitation and Inclusion," taking place September 18-21 in Beirut, resolve that:

Terrorism Requires a Worldwide Rededication to Humanitarian Principles and International Collaboration

- Mindful that in many parts of the world, acts of terrorism against civilization and their resultant increase of deaths, disability and destruction have been advancing in frequency and magnitude;
- Gratified that in these challenging days, with the support of the Government of Lebanon and other sponsors, RI has successfully concluded its first Arab Regional Conference on disability policies, legislation and programs;
- Recalling that traditionally, international humanitarian collaboration has progressed significantly in the periods following wars and the darkest moments of history: the League of Nations, the International Labor Organization, Rotary International and RI were founded in the aftermath of World War I. Immediately following World War II, the United Nations, UNICEF and many other humanitarian bodies were born of an international resolve to prevent future wars and atrocities;
- Shocked as we are by these recent acts of terrorism, we in the international disability community must find ways to creatively use this next period to strengthen respect for diversity and to intensify collaboration between cultures and across borders;
- We in RI can and are committed to offering our forthcoming conferences in Switzerland, Vietnam, Germany, Japan and South Africa as forums for the rededication of the disability community to humanitarian principles and peaceful collaboration within the global village;
- RI also pledges to work through its other projects and worldwide communications to promote respect for and understanding of all types of diversity in the international struggle for disability rights.

Tomas Lagerwall
Secretary General
Rehabilitation International

Dr. Essa Al-Sadi
Vice President
Rehabilitation International - Arab Region

REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL

BEIRUT DECLARATION

WHEREAS:

- The United Nations' Member States have undertaken to establish important initiatives to build policies and programmes on human rights;
- Civil society representatives within their countries have successfully advocated for the establishment of human rights and anti-discrimination policies aimed at marginalized groups (people who are elderly, disabled and youth) who have been identified by the over 100 head of state signatories to the **Copenhagen Declaration** of the 1995 World Summit on Social Development (1995) as meriting actions as put forward in the **Copenhagen Platform for Action**;
- Ten per cent (10% or 600,000,000) of the world's population are people with disabilities, Rehabilitation International, a civil society organization working in over 100 countries who in 2000 launched the **Charter for the New Millennium**, now warmly received by the world's significant capitals, calls for a human rights convention for people with disabilities;
- A gap exists in United Nations' policy: human rights policy does not now specifically address the situation of people with disabilities.

WE, THEREFORE, PROPOSE THAT:

1. The United Nations General Assembly (GA) close the gap by establishing during the current GA session a human rights convention addressed to the world's people with disabilities;
2. The United Nations General Assembly establish an enforcement mechanism using partnerships struck between Member States and Civil Society representatives.

Tomas Lagerwall

Secretary General

Dr. Essa Al Sadi

Vice President

16 November 2001

Mr. Lex Frieden, President
Rehabilitation International
c/o TIRR
1333 Moursund
Houston, Texas

(Lfrieden@bcm.tmc.edu)

and

Mr. Tomas Lagerwall
Secretary General
Rehabilitation International
25 East 21st Street
New York, New York

(rehabintl@rehab-international.org)

Dear Lex and Tomas,

This cover note follows our conversations in the last two days with each of you concerning the work of the Strategic Planning Task Group. We are happy to transmit the Report compiled after the discussion in Beirut.

Specifically, we write to you in reference to item 16 of the Beirut Assembly Agenda on the Strategic Planning Membership document (18 September 2001). As we have discussed, comments received prior to the Assembly meeting in response to the circulation of the draft Membership Report to other Strategic Planning Task Group Members were few in number. Incorporated already are the comments from the Vice President of Europe, Heidi Lindberg, and her Finnish colleague respecting the importance of the commissions. Accordingly, attached please find the comments offered by participants at the "informal" Beirut Assembly Meeting. The discussion was both spirited and very constructive.

We look forward to learning the Executive Committee's views with an eye toward validation of work accomplished to date and future directions.

We will also await word regarding a possible conference call with us on November 29/30.

With all good wishes,

Judith Hollenweger

Chairperson, Education Commission, and
Member, Strategic Planning Task Group
(Co-coordinator, Membership Sub-group)

Susan Parker

Honour Council, and
Member, Strategic Planning Task Group
(Co-coordinator, Membership Sub-group)

cc: Dr. Gunnar Schioler
Membership Sub-group

Report on Membership Issues RI Strategic Planning Task Group

Comments on the Membership Issues Discussion Paper

The Assembly Members present in Beirut (18 September 2001) received the paper presented by the Strategic Planning Task Group with much support for the work and on a generally positive note. The following comments were brought up in the discussion during the General Assembly held in Beirut this year. The notes were taken by Susan Parker and Judith Hollenweger and compiled for transmission to the RI Executive Committee. They are organized by section of the original discussion paper.

Developmental Goals and Operational Steps

Points 1 to 5 were adopted without discussion

National Level

The idea to define "National RI Federation" rather than National Member Organisation was widely accepted. It was suggested to take out "preferably" under point 7 and require that a Federation should be made up of a tri-partite representation within one country.

Furthermore, there was agreement that if only one member was active in a specific country, they should be able to nominate the national secretary. It was pointed out that a time limit should be set for the appointment for the National Secretary – with a possibility of being re-elected. (8.) Members present suggested 2 / 4 years.

Additional suggestion: The delegates should be identified by the National Secretariat. (9.)

Regional Level

It was suggested that the approval of now or prospective National Members / National Secretary as well as dealing with dues etc. should be done by the Regional Assembly – with a right to veto the decision by the Executive Committee.

There was a strong feeling about the need to establish a term limitation for the permanent secretariat in the countries as well as the National Secretary (see above).

International Level

Taking into consideration the above mentioned comments, the dues should be divided between the regional and international secretariat. (16.)

Proposed RI structures

Under point 20, it was added, that the Commission Chairs should be part of the Executive Committee.

There was a majority decision to retain the term commission rather than thematic networks – which is already reflected in the present version of the discussion paper.

It was suggested that any Focus Group have a time-limit.

Under 21 the issue of accountability was brought up and identified as something to be actively kept in mind.

It was noted that the Honour Council should be more actively contributing to RI.



Rehabilitation International

A worldwide network of people with disabilities, service providers and government agencies working to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities

**Executive Committee Meeting Houston, Texas
29-30 November 2001**

Provisional Agenda

* documents attached in this mailing

- 1. Welcoming Comments**
- 2. Confirmation of Meeting Schedule**
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Approval of the Provisional Agenda ***
- 5. Approval of the Summary of Decisions, Executive Committee Meeting 2-4 March 2001, West Orange, New Jersey. ***
- 6. President's Report**
 - 6.1 Authorization for Secretary General to be a signatory of RI
 - Welcome to New Secretary General
 - RI History project; update on progress
 - UN Panel of Experts
 - IDA-International Disability Alliance
 - Charter for the Third Millennium
- 7. Nomination of Officers of the Executive Committee**
 - 7.1 Nomination for Deputy Vice President for South America *
- 8. Regional Vice Presidents' Reports:**
 81. African Region; B.T. Naidoo*
 - 8.2 Arab Region; Essa Al-Sadi
 - 8.3 Asia Pacific Region; Ryosuke Matsui*
 - 8.4 European Region; Heidi Lindberg*
 - 8.5 North American Region; Nancy Lawand

9. Reports from RI Arab Regional Conference in Beirut, September 2001

9.1 Beirut Declaration *

9.2 Press Release *

9.3 Recommendations of the First International Conference of the RI Arab Region, on Disability, Rehabilitation and Integration (by Kuwait RI National Secretary) *

10. Treasurer's Report

10.1 Dues Assessments for 2001 Assessment by Region*

10.2 Draft Audited Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2000 *

10.3 RI's Future Finances *

11. Secretary General's Report

11.1 Budget 2002 and Revised Budget 2001 for RI & Annex to the Budget *

11.2 Deficit Analysis

11.3 Outcome of Assembly by mail ballot *

11.4 International Working Group on Disability and Development (IWGDD)*

11.5 UNICEF *

11.7 RI Representation at meetings *

11.8 Report on matching funds for Commission Project *

-Women's Project

-Secretariat offices; sub-letting

-RI History Project; update & progress

-Charities of America, progress report

12. RI Standing Commissions

12.1 Education Commission; Chair Judith Hollenweger*

12.2 ICTA Commission; Chair Michael Fox*

12.2(a) ICTA Task and Responsibility*

12.3 Recreation, Leisure and Physical Activities; Chair Rick Powell

12.4 Medical Commission; Chair Martin Grabois

12.5 Administration and Organization; Martin Schmollinger*

12.6 Social Commission; Chair Erkki Kempainen*

12.6(a) Social Commission Action Plan*

12.7 Commission on Work and Employment: Chair Fred McFarlane*

13. RI Honour Council Nominations and Acceptances

13.1 David Henderson, New Zealand *

13.2 Jean Caine, Canada

14. Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities

-Progress report on RI's Initiative on a UN Convention

15. RI Strategic Planning Project

15.1 RI Strategic Planning Group Report*

16. Strategies to encouraging more members from countries with limited resources

17. New Memberships

The following membership applications have been received since the mail out for the meetings in Beirut and each has been circulated to the appropriate Regional Vice President.

17.1 **Care Society, Maldives**, Mr. Ijazullah A. Ali, Founder Member; to be a National Member * Organization**

17.2 **Association Generale des Insuffisants Monteurs (AGIM), Tunisia**, Mr. Mohamed Laaziz Abdejaoued, Chairman, to be National Member Organization *

17.3 **Rehabilitation Network, Botswana**, Ms. Virginia Malobela, Director; to be National Member Organization. *

18. Application for Change of Membership Status

18.1 Agence Wallone pour l'Integration des Personnes Handicapees (A.W.I.P.H.), Belgium; is asking to change from National Member Organization to Associate Member Organization *

19. Variations of RI Dues and Voting Entitlements

19.1 Provisional Voting Entitlements as background material for the discussion *

20. Other Business

21. Upcoming RI Executive and Assembly Meetings

2002 RI Executive Committee meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, March/ April

2002 RI Executive Committee meeting in Sapporo, Japan on 17-18 October, in connection with DPI World Assembly. RI Assembly in Osaka, Japan on 19-20 October and 12th Asia and Pacific Regional Conference in Osaka, Japan, 21- 23, October in conjunction with the RNN Campaign Conference. These meetings are held to mark the end of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993 – 2002 – First Announcement *

21.1 **2003** Assembly and Regional Conference; South African proposal; (Letter of formal proposal from Johan Viljoen)*

2004 Assembly and World Congress; Oslo

2008 RI Assembly and Congress; Quebec City

22. Other Meetings

22.1 8th European Regional Conference of RI, November 11-15, Aachen, Germany*

22.2 REATECH 2002- International Fair for Rehabilitation and Inclusion Technologies, March 21-24, Sao Paulo, Brazil*

22.3 2002 Northeast Asia Rehabilitation Conference – International cooperation between Korea, China and Japan after the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, May 9-11, Korea – **Cancellation letter** *



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Executive Committee Meeting

2 – 4 March 2001

Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, West Orange, New Jersey

MEETING SUMMARY

Note: Although many changes were made to the order in which items were dealt with, they are reported here in the same order as in the Agenda, to enable correlation with the numbered attachments which were distributed before or at the meeting.

During the meeting there was discussion of the health of **Professor Sir Harry Fang**, and a joint Resolution was passed by the Executive Committee and Commission Chairs, that we send an official representative on behalf of the Executive Committee and Commission Chairpersons, to convey our greetings and best wishes and love on behalf of the RI family, to Professor Sir Harry. The emissary is to be Ryo Matsui, who will work with Benny Cheung and Joseph Kwok as to timing. Cards should go to the Hong Kong Council of Social Services. Dr Al-Sadi / M Fox

Also in the course of the meeting, George Wilson made a presentation to **David Henderson, the Secretary General**, of two silver coasters engraved with a message of appreciation from the Committee. Heidi Lindberg also made a presentation. The Secretary General thanked those present sincerely for their kind words, and expressed appreciation of the opportunity of working with RI, which had been a challenge but a rewarding one.

1. **Welcoming Comments:** The President welcomed those present, especially new Committee members and the Commission Chairpersons. He expressed RI's warm thanks to Ken Aitchison and his staff at the Kessler Institute for the excellent arrangements they had made for our meeting rooms and transport, for the tour they had offered of the Kessler Rehabilitation facilities, and the dinner they were planning to host for us on Saturday night.
2. **Confirmation of Meeting Schedule:** Schedule confirmed.
3. **Apologies:** Otto Marques da Silva, Jorge Enrique Reyes, Khaled El-Mohtar, Jiri Votava, Judith Hollenweger, Martin Grabojs, Martin Schmollinger; also Nancy Lawand for late arrival.
4. **Approval of the Provisional Agenda:** The agenda was approved: Dr O'Reilly / R Matsui
5. **Approval of the Summary of Decisions, Rio de Janeiro, 21-22 August 2000:** Approved. Matters Arising from the Rio de Janeiro meeting: None which are not in this agenda.
25 E. 21st St., New York, NY 10010 USA / Phone: (212) 420-1500 / Fax: (212) 505-0871
Email: RehabIntl@rehab-international.org / Website: www.rehab-international.org

6. President's Report

The President noted the generous support of Continental Airlines who were assisting him with a package of travel so that he could attend this and other meetings, in the US and internationally.

6.1 Secretary General's position; A recommendation from the interview panel was discussed in committee. The President subsequently reported that contract negotiations were under way with the recommended candidate, through a delegated sub-group.

6.2 Resignation of Otto Marques da Silva due to ill health: The resignation was accepted with great regret. A **resolution** of thanks was made to Mr da Silva for his excellent organising work for RI while he was able: S.Daniels / Dr B.T. Naidoo

6.3 Appointment of Nominating Committee; election by 2001 Assembly of Vice President, Latin America and Deputy Vice President, Africa; Constitution Article IV Section 5(b). The Secretary General summarised the situation: an election could be held if the call for nominations was distributed 6 months in advance, i.e. by 17 March. The President highlighted also the need for a Nominations Committee to be confirmed by the Assembly 1 year ahead of the election, and proposed that the committee approved in London for the 2000 election be asked to extend its brief. This was **approved**.

6.4 RI 2008 Congress; The question of acceptance of the invitation from Quebec City was discussed in committee. It was **resolved** that a poll be taken of Assembly members, with the outcome to be advised to Quebec during April 2001.

6.5 Charter for the Third Millennium: Presentations were reported to the Australian and Irish Prime Ministers, in Riyadh, in Khartoum, in Russia, and in Dakar, Senegal to the African Rehabilitation Institute and the Pan-African Federation of the Disabled (PAFOD).

6.6 RI History project; the Secretary General provided an update: a meeting is scheduled for 3 March and work has begun.

6.7 UN Panel of Experts: the President summarised activities, notably a meeting in Sweden, where among other issues, unanimity was confirmed among Panel members re a Convention.

7. Regional Vice Presidents' Reports

7.1 African Region; Dr B.T. Naidoo highlighted interest in nominations for Deputy V-P. At the ARI meeting he had asked that all member states support the call for a UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the unanimous resolution was that those present would take it up with their governments. The African Decade of Disabled Persons is getting under way, mostly managed by PAFOD, but with NGO's working alongside governmental agencies, and the ILO involved also.

7.2 Arab Region; Dr Essa Al-Sadi focussed on the Assembly and Conference in Lebanon, encouraging participation of Commission Chairs in planning the programme. ~~A warning was~~ **Noted** that persons with an Israeli stamp in their passport would be well advised to get a replacement passport as it would create great difficulties in entering Lebanon. Regional officers of RI were encouraged to assist in marketing the event. Michael Fox offered the assistance of ICTA in vetting facilities, planning necessary adjustments to facilities, and advising on access generally to ensure a better event.

There was discussion of the tabled budget, the possibility of commissions charging for participation in seminars held during the conference, and the Memorandum of Agreement between RI and the host organisation.

It was **Agreed** that the strategic planning exercise should include a specific proposal to be developed in consultation with Michael Fox, on formally charging ICTA with a role in providing advice on accessibility of information and venues at all future RI events.

Resolved that Commissions may choose to make a charge to offset particular additional costs of workshops held in conjunction with the Lebanon meeting. (see further explanation of the conditions for this, in the detailed report of the working group which looked at this issue while the Executive was "in committee", attached to this summary). Nancy Lawand/Dr O'Reilly

Resolved that the Agreement regarding the Lebanon Assembly and Conference be approved for signing, but that clarification should be sought for the income expected, to the satisfaction of the President and Secretary General. Dr O'Reilly/Heidi Lindberg

7.3 Asia Pacific Region; Ryosuke Matsui highlighted points from his report including the Millennium Declaration of the RNN Bangkok meeting and its statements regarding a Convention, the steps towards an Asian and Pacific Centre on Disability, and plans for a second World Summit on Disability to follow up on the Beijing summit. Dates for this will be coordinated with South Africa to avoid a clash with the Assembly and regional conference. The deadline was extended for assistance from the 16th World Congress Fund, to allow more applications.

For Details of other meetings, see item 19. Commission Chairs are asked to contact Mr Matsui to advise what meetings they plan and what venues they need, alongside the listed events.

7.4 European Region; Heidi Lindberg reported on the 4-5 November 2000 RI Regional and RI-ECA meetings in Budapest, and the plans for a regional Conference in Aachen, 4-9 November 2002. A meeting of the Nordic Association for Rehabilitation was held February 3rd in Copenhagen, where the Norway delegation, with new National Secretary Ragnar Akre-Aas, reported on progress towards the 2004 Congress. A prioritised Plan of Action was developed during and following the Budapest meetings.

7.5 Latin American Region; No report was available.

7.6 North American Region; Nancy Lawand reported on the excellent ICTA North America meeting, attended by a good number and range of people. The USCIR Executive met in February; after changes to their constitution they are now the US International Council on Disability, and being eligible for DPI status they have also joined that network. The meeting was held at the World Bank, where they have good links.

8. Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities

Progress report from Convenor of RI Initiative on the Convention; RI Immediate Past President Dr O'Reilly reported on recent developments, including the 9 February meeting at the UN, and the report being prepared in Geneva in response to the Commission on Human Rights resolution in 2000. Completion of that report is likely to be followed by a Conference. Members of RI should also think about having some sort of national seminar which would draw governmental attention to the need for a UN Convention, and the fact that people with disabilities and their organisations support it.

Dr O'Reilly will circulate a note regarding countries which particularly need to be worked with or involved in the discussion.

9. Treasurer's Report

9.1 Dues Assessments for 2001; New invoicing system had been implemented, and many payments received by the end of February. The printout of dues paid and unpaid by Region was distributed.

9.2 Audited Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2000: The Secretary General reported on progress with the audit. A pre-audit version of the accounts to 31 December, with notes regarding budget variances, was distributed in February.

9.3 Payments to RI by Conference hosts: Hong Kong had paid from the 1998 Regional Conference. The Secretary General tabled a letter from Israel regarding their pursuit of RI's money from the 1998 Assembly and Conference organising company. Brazil have not been in contact but may still be finalising accounts. The Secretary General is to follow up with them.

9.4 Members unpaid for two years 1998 and 1999; The list was tabled of former members as actioned at 31 December 2000. They were removed from mail lists as per the constitutional requirement and Executive Committee and Assembly decisions. A further list was tabled of members who have not paid in 1999 and 2000, who following the above precedent will be removed at the end of 2001.

9.5 Strategies for members from countries unable to afford standard RI Dues; Papers were discussed from Dr BT Naidoo (listing points made in Rio) and the Secretary General, following his offer at the Rio meeting to research possible structures to identify members who would be in a potential special dues category, and prepare a discussion paper for this meeting. In presenting the paper the Secretary General emphasised the urgent need to find ways to keep people from developing countries involved as members, with voting rights. RI's credibility rests on it.

Proposals were also included in the paper from the Strategic Planning group meeting in Zurich. It was **Agreed** that a Development and Participation working group comprising the Secretary General, Tomas Lagerwall, and Dr B.T. Naidoo would follow up on the issues raised.

9.6 Proposal for an RI Foundation: The Treasurer presented two papers, highlighting fundraising opportunities which would enable establishment of a more secure and independent income for RI, through establishment of an RI Trust Fund. He advised that he can now allocate up to 2 days per week to the project. Susan Daniels indicated her willingness to assist. Michael Fox noted there are two funding aspects to consider regarding RI and Commissions - ongoing regular / recurrent funding and one-off special funding for specific projects and activities. It was **Agreed** that the Treasurer be given the mandate to continue the development as proposed.

Dr B.T. Naidoo / S Daniels

10. Secretary General's Report

10.1 Secretary General's Visa Status: The Secretary General advised members that extended visas for his family had finally been received just 3 days before they left to return to New Zealand, after 23 months in the US.

10.2 Review of RI events in Rio de Janeiro: In response to the report, members commented that it was important to have this on record. There are issues of accountability and we should review the standard Agreement that RI makes with host organisations to be sure they are clear. RI must work in developing countries but try to avoid such setbacks; the difficulties should not dampen RI's pursuit of efforts in those countries. There is no apparent sense that the organisers knew what was involved when they bid to host the event. **Michael Fox** volunteered ICTA help with future access checks, and developing a manual. The Secretary General noted that there is a resolution on the books to prepare one but his efforts to pursue that after the 1996 Congress had failed due to lack of resources and the work commitments of the people who had given time to the Congress. **George Wilson** advised that they have one in the UK. It was **Agreed** that Michael and George would work with **Ilene Zeitzer** and **Barbara Duncan** to develop one that meets RI needs.

10.3 Secretariat offices; sub-letting of spare space is now bringing in \$5400 per month but it is a short-term lease and the future of the tenant company is uncertain. If they go, a 2-year term will be offered to the next tenant, after which RI's strategic plans are sure to be clearer.

10.4 RI Website and technology: The Secretary General reported the ever-greater use of the web and email for communications, although the staff person working on the website had left and was to be replaced. Much work has gone into database improvements, to remove the problems from having multiple address databases for daily communications, dues invoicing, and mailouts.

10.5 Publications; For various reasons the target of bi-monthly issues of "Secretariat Headlines" which was achieved in 2000 is running behind in 2001; the first issue for the year will go out in March rather than February. The "Review" will be issued twice in the year, and a contract is being negotiated with UNICEF for two issues of "One in Ten", but with more funds than in 2000.

10.6 International Working Group on Disability and Development (IWGDD) The group is putting much energy into the global "Education For All" project. A grant was received from US-Aid for this purpose, and another has been sought from the Finnish Foreign Ministry. RI is handling these funds as approved fiscal agent for the Group. The grant budgets include the costs of attendance by NGO representatives (RI, DPI, Inclusion International) at UNESCO meetings.

10.7 RI representation on Women's Issues: the Secretary General noted that RI's structure to follow up on the 1997 meeting in Washington had not been sustained, and RI needed a better strategy than simply his forwarding news items to the women members of the Executive Committee, and to Barbara Duncan. A caucus meeting will be held, and will report back.

Visit of EDF Delegation. During Item 10 a break was taken from the agenda for a meeting with representatives of the European Disability Forum; Yannis Vardakastanis, President, and Stephan Troemel, Director. After a presentation regarding the constituency and role of EDF, there was discussion of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in particular, as well as strategies on which our organisations could cooperate to ensure its establishment. **Dr Arthur O'Reilly** was delegated as RI's representative to ensure on-going dialogue on this topic, and to lead a Task Group on it.

11. RI Standing Commissions

11.1 Education Commission; Chair Dr Judith Hollenweger provided a written report which was received.

11.2 ICTA Commission; Chair Michael Fox expanded on his written report with an update on progress with the ICTA business plan, changes to the ICTA website, plans to review the International Symbol of Access, and plans for regional meetings in the coming year. It was Agreed that a Task Group be formed to look at Commission interaction and good practice.

11.3 Recreation, Leisure and Physical Activities; Chair Dr Rick Powell expanded on his report, highlighting the name change, and plans to address issues raised in the commission's Rio business meeting. He particularly noted the need to involve students who represent the future but have no way to join in the existing organisation-focussed membership structure.

11.4 Medical Commission; Chair Dr Martin Grabojs: no report was available.

11.5 Organisation and Administration; Vice Chair Mark Webber reported on behalf of Martin Schmollinger, and there was discussion of the proposal for a seminar. This should be

discussed with European members of the Commission on Work and Employment, and the European Platform, who are organising an event similar to that proposed, in Heidelberg. George Wilson will give further information to the Secretary General who will convey it to Mark and Martin.

11.6 Social Commission; Chair Erkki Kemppainen reported, highlighting points in his written report. In a general discussion, it was suggested that **Regional Vice Presidents** work with National Secretaries in each country to find at least one member for each commission, in each country of their region.

11.7 Vocational (Commission on Work and Employment): Chair Fred McFarlane noted (and the Secretary General apologised) that the written report had been supplied so early it was forgotten by the time the agenda was being assembled. The crucial point was the agreement at the commission business meeting in Rio to modernise the name to Commission on Work and Employment. The Secretary General recommended that the Executive Committee approve this in principle to enable use of the new name in the buildup to the Beirut Assembly and Conference, where a recommendation for its ratification could be put to the Assembly. This was **Approved**. The new Mission Statement, and Guidelines for Regional Chairs of this commission, will be circulated with the meeting report.

Dr B.T. Naidoo / N Lawand

Further general discussion addressed means to ensure that presentations made in the name of RI are within **RI Policy**, and the possibility of issuing a disclaimer in certain circumstances. It was **Agreed** that when RI or Commission letterhead or other titles are used (e.g. on email), for correspondence not involving the Secretariat, the Regional Vice President or Chair of the Commission involved must take responsibility for ensuring the views expressed are not contrary to the policies of RI and its members.

11.8 Appointing Members to Commissions; Re RI Constitution, Article IV Section 7(b)

11.9 Appointing Regional Officers: These two items were discussed together. The Secretary General gave some background and highlighted the need to either work within the specific provisions of the RI constitution, or to make a definite plan to change them, but it is not good practice to ignore constitutional requirements which were established with a deliberate purpose; in this case emphasising the role of commissions as important sub-sets within the RI structure.

It was **Agreed** that the commission membership issue needs to be part of a review of the constitutional provisions regarding commissions, which would also address inconsistencies such as that re 11.9., and link with the strategic plan work. Heidi Lindberg and Michael Fox were appointed to co-chair a working group on this, with Fred McFarlane and the Secretary General.

12. RI Strategic Planning Project

Report was received from Mark Webber, followed by discussion. Much time has been spent identifying issues but this will lead to a better actual plan, with specific recommendations and proposals. It was noted that the RI 2000 Plan contemplated annual goal-setting and monitoring. Also, the mission had not changed much from the 1980 Plan; evidence that it was a strong encapsulation of RI's direction.

The working groups identified in the course of this meeting would take their various tasks and if it all came together the overall project would be on target to report in Beirut. Working groups were allocated various tasks related to the plan (see items 9.5 and 11.9). In response to issues discussed re the RI Constitution, a Constitutional issues and consistency working group was **Agreed** on, comprising Mark Webber and the Organisation and Administration Commission members.

13. RI Honour Council

13.1 Acceptances from past officers: Mrs Jean Caine, nominated by Nancy Lawand, was added to the list of acceptances by people qualified by past office in RI. The following were **Approved** for recommendation to the Assembly in Beirut; H Lindberg / Dr B.T. Naidoo

Shirley J. White – Australia
 Izabel Maria Madeira de Loureiro Maior – Brazil
 Mary Carella-Canellopoulos – Greece
 Koon Sik Min – Korea
 Bert Massie – United Kingdom
 Ilene R. Zeitzer – United States of America
 Mrs J Caine, Canada

13.2 Proposed Amendment to Honour Council Membership Criteria: The Secretary General summarised the background to the amendment which was proposed at the Executive Committee meeting in Rio; that an addition be made to Clause (iii) as follows. It was **Approved**.

"Persons qualified by past service in RI to be a member of the Honour Council who are elected or appointed to one of the listed official roles in RI, or take up such role, shall stand aside from active participation in the Honour Council for the duration of their appointment in that role."

H Lindberg / Dr B.T. Naidoo

14. Constitutional Change; Absentee Executive Committee Members

The Secretary General reported on confirmation by the RI Attorney of wording for the change as resolved by Rio Assembly, for recommendation for Beirut Assembly. The item was **Approved** for referral to the Assembly in Beirut.

Dr B.T. Naidoo / S Daniels

15. New Memberships

The following membership applications were received since the Rio Assembly. Each was circulated to the appropriate Regional Vice President, and was advised that final confirmation rests with the Beirut Assembly:

15.1 Department of Health, South Africa; Dr. Ayanda Ntsaluba, Director General; To be a National Member Organization. They enclosed payment of \$1,500 with their application. **Approved as NMO.**

15.2 Sultan Bin Abdulazez Al-Saud Foundation – Saudi Arabia; HRH Prince Dasisal Bin Sultan; To be an Associate Member Organization. They enclosed \$4,000 with their application. **Approved as AMO**

15.3 Mr. Abraham B. Yarttoe; Hyattsville, MD, USA: Individual Corresponding Member; application to be referred to USCID for further investigation and to be suggested that he join USCID directly.

15.4 Dr. Rashed M. Aba Al-Kail; Sultan Bin Abdulazez Al-Saud Foundation – Saudi Arabia: Life Patron Membership. Payment of \$6000 was received with the application. **Approved as Life Patron Member.**

15.5 SDG Stichting Dienstverleners Gehandicaptten, Netherlands; Advice of change of structure of existing organisations, including RI Member, was received, and transfer of membership to the new organisation approved. Noted that the dues for AMO's is based on the budget of the applicant organisation, but that RI is supposed to make the calculation based on information supplied by the applicant.

16. Applications for Variations on RI Dues; (refer page B-3 in RI Rules)

The following applications for variations to scheduled dues were considered.

16.1 UNAPHAC; Union des Associations et Institutions De et Pour Personnes Handicapees du Cameroun; NMO. The issues raised in the letter were Noted, but RI has no current procedure approved by the members in the Governing Assembly, to set dues at less than \$500. However we are working on proposals which will be presented to the Assembly in Beirut.

Re **Item 3 in the letter**, Dr B.T. Naidoo will respond; we are aware of the issues raised and are working on them. The task group would welcome his practical suggestions, which will be added to others gathered and considered.

16.2 The Pakistan Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled – NMO. There appears to be confusion as to which member in Pakistan already has the reduction (see the Assessment by Region printout) but the two should be treated equitably, so a reduction to \$500 is **Approved**.

Dr B.T. Naidoo / S Daniels

16.3 National Rehabilitation Committee, Kenya: Their letter is appreciated, and we understand their situation. We look forward to receiving the application for a reduction in dues which their letter indicates is coming, and we will look favourably at it when received.

16.4 Jairos Jiri Association, Zimbabwe: RI Treasurer George Wilson has funds which would cover the 2000 dues, and Rehab UK will cover the dues for 2001. He will write to them directly.

16.5 Polish Society for Rehabilitation: European Vice President Heidi Lindberg will write, establishing stronger links. A reduction in dues to \$500 is Approved, and RI Treasurer George Wilson will seek money from the "Know-How" fund to assist Poland with the arrears.

16.6 National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, Philippines; Letter indicating inability to pay and re-focussing of effort. The Committee considered options to assist their continued involvement. They are to be advised that we are working on a solution to the dues issue and would like to keep them involved, and not lose them as an active member. **Michael Fox** is to ask Shirley White whether her organisation can link with them and assist in any way.

17. RI Awards, and Life Patron Membership; 2001 Assembly

17.1 President's Citation, and 17.2 Certificate of Gratitude

The Secretary General asked those present to seriously consider possible nominees for these RI Awards, to be presented in Beirut.

18. Other Business

18.1 Message from Ghanaian National Secretary: Ghana is to be thanked for raising this important issue. RI agrees as to its importance, and our strategy is to press for a UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, which would address the issue as it relates to people with disabilities. The writer is to be encouraged to seek support of the Ghanaian government through its UN delegation, for a Convention.

18.2 Message from Cameroun National Member Organisation: See item 16.1 above.

18.3 Letter from New Zealand National Secretary: The Secretary General acknowledged that organisational problems in Rio had undermined the RI Secretariat's ability to address the need for Assembly materials to be produced in alternative formats. For example, the requested access to computer facilities at the hotel and venue in Rio had not materialised. This was compounded by the Secretariat receiving many Assembly papers in fax form, reflecting the technology available to many members, and these arrived too late to allow for the few staff we have to be able to scan or re-type them.

In Discussion, it was **Agreed** that a deadline should be established which allows for this processing, after which papers would not be accepted for consideration by the Assembly. Further discussion focussed on a US meeting planners guide to accessibility which is sent to organisers; they have to acknowledge receipt of it, and send back a check-list showing that requirements have been addressed. The S-G noted that lists sent to Rio had been replied to, with some items addressed and others simply ignored. Michael Fox recommended a focus on **Performance-Based Criteria**, as some manuals follow the ADA approach and as a result are too prescriptive and inflexible as to the means to achieve access, to be applicable in the diverse situations where RI holds meetings.

It was **Agreed** that the letter be referred to **ICTA** to further develop proposals for a set of performance criteria for accessibility of RI events. The New Zealand National Member Organisation should be involved as they have particular experience in access to information, and Susan Daniels can also assist.

It was further **Agreed** that the Executive Committee should try to meet in the location of any future Congresses, the year before the preceding Congress. If we continue at 2 meetings per year, this would have to be the meeting in the early part of the year, as the second meeting each year is attached to an Assembly. Thus **Quebec City** should be asked to host the Executive Committee meeting in March 2003.

An ICTA inspection of facilities could happen in association with the EC meeting, allowing consideration of an Accessibility Report, and a recommendation to the Committee as to whether to proceed with the event.

18.4 Women's Caucus Report: Susan Daniels reported. There will be a **Women's Forum** organised in Beirut as part of the conference, to be co-chaired by Heidi Lindberg and Nancy Lawand. Regions and Commissions of RI are urged to nominate attendees. Staffing input will be by Barbara Duncan.

18.5 Report of 'Side Group' re Commission Funding: Mark Webber reported on the discussions while the Executive Committee was 'in committee'. A summary is attached with this report.

19. Upcoming RI Meetings

19.1 2001 Executive Committee, Assembly, and Arab Region Conference

Sept. 15 – 21, Lebanon. See item 7.2 above.

Open Conference sessions should include the UN Convention as a discussion item.

The Assembly agenda should include as agenda items, reports from;

- The Commissions working group (item 11.9 above);
- The Development and Participation working group (item 9.5 above);
- The Constitutional issues and consistency working group (item 12 above)

The formal Agreement between RI and the hosts was signed by the RI President, Secretary General and Regional Vice President Dr Al-Sadi, who will deliver the 2 copies to National Secretary Khaled El Mohtar for signing, and return one to RI.

Also in 2001: RNN Campaign Asian and Pacific Decade meeting will be in Hanoi, 10-15 December. Contact Ryo Matsui or Etsuko Ueno for more information.

March 2002: Executive Committee possibly meets in Geneva, in association with the meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights. Tomas Lagerwall to investigate.

19.2 2002 Japan: RI Executive Committee meeting in Sapporo on Oct. 17 and 18, and joint meeting with DPI. The Secretaries General of the two organisations should cooperate to establish an agenda. **Assembly** in Osaka on Oct. 19 and 20 and 12th Asia and Pacific Regional Conference October 21 to 23, 2002 in conjunction with the **RNN Campaign Conference 2002** and the 6th **DPI World Assembly**, as an International Forum on Disabilities to Mark the End Year of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 1993 - 2002 Japan: Ryo Matsui reported on the possibility of also holding an ESCAP ministerial-level conference in parallel.

19.3 2002 European Regional Conference; 4-9 November in Aachen. A joint initiative by Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. M Schmollinger's extensive report was taken as read; contact Martin Schmollinger or Heidi Lindberg for more details.

March 2003: Executive Committee meeting possibly in Latin America or the Pacific?

19.4 2003 Assembly and Regional Conference; South African proposal; Dr BT Naidoo reported. (Noted: The proposal from San Diego re 2003 has been formally withdrawn.)

March 2004: Executive Committee to meet in Quebec City if the poll of members confirms this as the venue for 2008; see item 18.3 above.

19.5 2004 Assembly and Congress; Oslo. Progress Report; no information was available beyond that in the report of Regional Vice President Heidi Lindberg.

19.6 2008 RI Assembly and Congress; Proposal to host in Quebec City. RI President reported on feedback from members as to whether a decision to accept the Quebec offer should be made now or wait until 2004. See the President's report, item 6.4 above.

Report from the fifth meeting of IDA
to the Panel of Experts
New York, September 2001

IDA met from 31 August - 2 September to discuss its future structure and scope of operations (the potential involvement in external initiatives and projects). We also met with the UN Under-Secretary General Mr Nitin Desai.

1. Meeting with Mr Desai

Verbal report with reply letter.

2. Briefing by the Special Rapporteur on matters to be discussed at the Panel of Experts meeting

The report by Bengt Lindqvist was noted.

Pending the recommendations to be decided upon by the Panel on a future monitoring system after the end of its current mandate, it was suggested that IDA could be the base of a new Panel/monitoring body.

3. Convention

It was agreed to pursue a double strategy: to lobby for mainstreaming and a convention on disability.

Lex Frieden, Kicki Nordström and Joshua Malinga were asked to draft a position paper for approval at the next IDA meeting.

4. Future structure of IDA

- The present structure is to remain informal, i.e. an informal coalition with any decisions being made by consensus.
The lack of formal structures is perceived as the very strength of IDA.
- Ownership of projects will only be moral, we are not able to take legal, fiscal or administrative responsibility.
- It was agreed that IDA was not going to be involved in fundraising for projects.
- New terms of reference to be drafted by Don Wills, William Rowland, Eiichi Takada, for distribution to and confirmation by IDA members.

5. "Building a Human Rights Monitoring System in the Field of Disability" project

- We applauded the initiative of the Special Rapporteur as a result of the Almasa seminar in launching this project.
- In accordance with our current structure and policy, it was agreed that we could not take fiscal or administrative ownership of the project.
- We agreed to support Phase 1 of the project (inventory) going ahead as outlined in the proposal submitted by Bengt Lindqvist.
- In order to maintain our policy of representation in matters affecting the rights of persons with disabilities, the Chair of IDA was mandated to liaise between the project and IDA for the implementation of Phase 1.
- Having just received the project proposal, it was decided to refer the paper for discussion by the individual organizations of IDA, and any decision will be discussed at the next IDA meeting.

- The position of the professional body to head this project was discussed, and as a result there was a strong preference for York University to network with a number of other universities and so broaden the scoping of research.

6. Project proposal presented by William Kennedy Smith

Lex Frieden was mandated to get back to WKS requesting more information about the project before a decision on the approval/involvement of IDA can be taken.

7. UN study on existing human rights instruments (Gerard Quinn)

- Constraints on this initiative, i.e. timeframe, financial resources, language scope, academic structure, were noted.
- The results will most likely not be representative of the world situation and only reflect the situation in English-speaking developed countries.

8. Next IDA meeting

The next meeting will take place in Ireland in January 2002 (on the occasion of the presentation of the UN study findings and a report by the Special Rapporteur on the status of his final report).

Don Wills
Chair, IDA

4 September 2001

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE

Member organizations:

Disabled Peoples' International, Inclusion International,
Rehabilitation International, World Blind Union,
World Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the Deaf-Blind,
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

Mr Nitin Desai
Under-Secretary General
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
Room DC2-2300
2 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017
USA

7 September 2001

Dear Mr Desai,

On behalf of IDA I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the spirit of openness enjoyed at our meeting on 31 August and the very constructive dialogue which showed clearly our common interest in the advancement of human rights issues for persons with disabilities within the UN system. The following points could be recorded as an understanding of the meeting:

1. UN Standard Rules

One of the areas of concern at this point in time is the future of the monitoring system of the UN Standard Rules after the end of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and the Panel of Experts at the end of 2002. As representatives of the major international organizations of disabled people, we are anxious to ensure that we will be involved in the process which will lead to a decision on the future of the UN Standard Rules and their permanent monitoring mechanism. Regardless of the structure of the monitoring system, we believe that it will only be credible if the appointed experts truly represent the disability rights movement.

2. Inter-agency co-operation

Significant initiatives are under way in the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Social Development. It is essential that the disability movement is involved and represented in these initiatives. We also find it very important, in accordance with Resolutions No. CSD 2000/5 and ECOSOC E 2000/10, to improve the co-ordination and co-operation between both Commissions by implementing a functional inter-agency mechanism.

IDA Chair (2001-2002): G. Donald Wills, President, Inclusion International

Please contact:

Inclusion International 13 D chemin du Levant F-01210 Ferney-Voltaire France

IDA INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE

Member organizations:

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World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

3. Disability Unit and Technical Advisor

In this context it would be desirable to strengthen the role of the Disability Unit. This could be achieved by its reporting directly to senior level and by strengthening its coordinating capacity. Its legitimacy should further be enhanced by employing persons with disabilities on the staff. The same principle applies to the appointment of a Technical Advisor, who would provide a crucial link between the UN system and national governments to promote the future implementation of the UN Standard Rules.

4. Annual meeting

Following our fruitful discussions with you we are very pleased to note that you wish to continue the consultation with IDA representing the international disability rights movement. We appreciate your invitation and look forward to meeting with you on a regular annual basis. We would like to suggest the next meeting to take place in the autumn of 2002.

Yours sincerely,

G. Donald Wills
Chair, IDA

IDA Chair (2001-2002): G. Donald Wills, President, Inclusion International

Please contact:

Inclusion International 13 D chemin du Levant F-01210 Ferney-Voltaire France



**Special Rapporteur on Disability
of the Commission for Social Development**

Postal address: Spektern, S-103 33 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel. +46-8 405 2421 Bengt Lindqvist / +46-8 405 1768 Assistant
Fax. +46-8 248 847/+46-8 611 8003 E-mail: un-spec.rapp@telia.com

Panel Meeting, New York, 4-6 September, 2001

Minutes

1. Opening of the meeting

In his opening remarks the Special Rapporteur expressed his satisfaction that once again all ten members of the Panel would participate in the meeting. The two guests, Eva Sandborg and Don Wills, were greeted. He emphasized the importance of the meeting, which would be the last opportunity for the Panel members to meet and discuss the contents of the Special Rapporteur's report to the UN Commission for Social Development next year. The meeting would include a number of reports, but the two main items on the proposed agenda, which would dominate the meeting, were the issue of a future monitoring mechanism and the supplementation of the text of the Standard Rules.

Finally the Special Rapporteur wished for a constructive and forward-looking discussion and declared the meeting open.

2. Procedural matters

a. Election of chairpersons

The Panel decided to elect the following three members to chair the meeting and to relate their work to specific agenda items: Joshua Malinga items 2 - 7, Liisa Kauppinen items 8 and 10 -12, and Wiliam Rowland item 9.

b. Election of secretary for the meeting

The Panel accepted with appreciation the offer from Eva Sagström, from the office of the Special Rapporteur, to serve as the secretary of the meeting.

c. Adoption of the agenda

The Panel decided to adopt the proposed agenda for the meeting (attachment 1).

d. Time programme

The Panel adopted the proposed time programme, which was designed to give much space for the two major items on the agenda.

e. Approval of the minutes from last Panel meeting

The Panel approved, without discussion, the minutes from the Panel meeting in February 2000.

f. Observers

It was noted that four persons (attachment 2) wanted to attend the Panel meeting as observers. Each of them represented one of the Panel organizations.

The Panel decided to welcome the observers and to grant them speaking rights, but with due respect for the primary right of members of the Panel to make their contributions.

3. Report by the Special Rapporteur

The mandate of the Special Rapporteur for the period August 2000 - December 2002 is expressed in CSD resolution 2000/5 in the following way:

....”Decides to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period through the year 2002 so that the results of his continued promotion and monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules, in accordance with section IV of the Rules, will be available to the fourth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/82, and to request the Special Rapporteur, assisted by the United Nations Secretariat and in consultation with his panel of experts, to prepare a report for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its fortieth session in which he should, inter alia, present his views on further developing the proposals contained in his report on his second mandate (E/CN.5/2000/3, annex) and on forms for complementing and developing the Standard Rules, and on how to enhance the involvement of the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental regional organizations regarding the implementation of the Standard Rules;”

This means that the Commission has asked the Special Rapporteur to continue his work in accordance with the guidelines in chapter IV of the Standard Rules and in addition carry out a number of special tasks.

Among the missions to countries during 2000 and 2001 the following might be mentioned: Bosnia, China, Russia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Malawi and Mauritania. The Special Rapporteur participated at the Sixth International Congress on the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Edmonton, Canada and a Magreb seminar on the Standard Rules, held in Mauritania. He chaired two international consultations in New York and Geneva on human rights and disability and he organized and participated at the Almåsa Seminar on Human Rights and Disability.

In preparation of the Panel meeting he also worked with the two main issues - future monitoring and supplementation of the Standard Rules.

Concerning the economic situation the following could be reported. The Swedish government is continuing its support to the office of the Special Rapporteur. For 2001 this includes an extra amount to be used for the work with the supplementation of the Standard Rules text.

The economic situation within the UN for the work of the Special Rapporteur and the Panel had not been analyzed before the meeting. Preliminary figures indicated that approximately 20 000 - 30 000 USD would remain after holding this Panel meeting. However, there was also a pledge by the Government of the Netherlands to contribute an additional 40 000 USD. This would indicate that there are sufficient resources for missions, but it would not be possible to hold an additional Panel meeting without further contributions. A more detailed report on the economic situation will be circulated.

The Panel decided to approve the report by the Special Rapporteur.

4. Reports by Panel members on relevant activities within the organizations

All six organizations delivered brief reports on current activities. It is obvious that the UN Standard Rules still serve as the main international guidelines for both advocacy and training within the international disability organizations. The World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) recently had been formed into an organisation with the same name.

The six Panel organizations together with the newly formed World Federation of Deaf-Blind had established a network for cooperation under the name of International Disability Alliance.

5. Report concerning activities within the project Rights for Disabled Children (RDC)

As a consequence of an Information Day on children with disabilities, organized by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in October 1997, five international organizations. DPI, WBU, WFD, Inclusion International and Save the Children International Alliance - had formed an informal working group to assist the UN Committee to collect information on the situation of children with disabilities. This working group has received a three-year grant from Swedish SIDA for a project entitled Rights for Disabled Children. In addition to representatives of the five organizations, a member of the UN Committee has joined the working group. The Special Rapporteur on disability has accepted to chair the group.

Among the activities in the project the following might be mentioned. RDC reads and analyses the country reports to the UN Committee from a disability perspective. The findings are reported to the Committee at pre-sessional meetings and have been greatly appreciated. RDC is also preparing several activities in connection with the UN Child Summit. Among other things a report entitled "It's our world, too" will be distributed to Summit participants.

The Panel approved the report.

6. Report from the IDA meeting

The International Disability Alliance met in New York 31 August - 2 September. As the IDA mainly consists of representatives of the six organisations behind the Panel of Experts, the Special Rapporteur made an agreement with the president of IDA that the important issue of the further development within the human rights area should be dealt with by IDA with the participation of the UN Special Rapporteur. The IDA president, Mr Don Wills, participated at the Panel meeting and delivered the report. A brief summary of the outcome of the IDA meeting can be found in attachment 3 to these minutes.

The Panel approved the report.

7. On-going activities in UN agencies

a. Activities within WHO

Eva Sandborg from the WHO programme on Disability and Rehabilitation (DAR) presented the four following reports: WHO survey of Rules 2, 3, 4 and 19, plans for a review of CBR, outcome of WHO Conference on Rethinking Care, and WHO Disability Policy.

The Panel decided to ask the Special Rapporteur to write to the Director-General of the WHO to support the draft policy and to ask for its earliest possible adoption.

The Panel thanked Eva Sandborg for her participation and approved the reports.

b. Reports from other UN agencies

The Special Rapporteur had invited UNESCO, the World Bank and ILO to deliver short reports on their current activities. All three agencies responded positively and sent reports as follows: Inclusive Education (UNESCO), World Bank's Disability Work Program, and Promoting Decent Work for People with Disabilities (ILO). These reports are available at the office of the special Rapporteur.

The Panel noted that the World Bank was recruiting a full-time "Disability Adviser" for three years. It was pointed out that this expert must have profound experience of disability and that there must be resources backing up the position. The Panel asked the Special Rapporteur, in cooperation with Lex Frieden, to convey this message to the Bank.

An additional report was delivered by Akiko Ito from the Disability Programme within the UN Secretariat, who among other things presented the report by the Secretary-General to the 57th General Assembly concerning activities in the disability field.

The Panel also asked the Special Rapporteur to try to obtain similar reports on current activities in the disability field from UNICEF, UNHCR and UNDP.

The Panel approved the reports.

8. Monitoring after 2002

The Special Rapporteur had circulated a paper, analyzing different options for future monitoring. The guidelines in chapter IV of the Standard Rules indicate three possibilities for a continuation of the monitoring – to renew the mandate, to appoint a new Special Rapporteur and to consider a different solution.

The first possibility could be ruled out, as the present Special Rapporteur is retiring. The Special Rapporteur built his analysis on the assumption that there is little or no support for appointing a new Special Rapporteur and continue the monitoring according to the present guidelines.

In his analysis of the third possibility, the Special Rapporteur separated the two main functions of the present monitoring mechanism – assessing the progress in member states and promoting the further implementation of the Rules. He suggested that the assessment function should be put together with the present review and appraisal of the World Program of Action, which occurs on a quinquennial basis. One global survey on the policy development should be performed by the UN secretariat every five years. This should be done in close cooperation with the international disability organizations and their national affiliates. The system with a Panel of Experts, established by the international NGOs should be kept. The role of the Panel should be to participate on a consultative basis in the planning, implementation and evaluation of these services. The national affiliates should be mobilized to participate in these surveys.

The promotional and advisory functions should be performed by the UN secretariat through its disability program. A senior technical advisor should be employed and equipped with resources to go on advisory missions to countries. In addition the Special Rapporteur pointed to two possibilities to strengthen the advisory services locally: To develop a system with regionally based full-time advisors and, the setting up of a panel of advisors, who could be employed on a temporary basis for short-term missions. The role of the Panel in the provision of advice should be further elaborated.

During the Panel discussion the suggested integration of the two survey tasks was generally supported. Most of the discussion dealt with the need to keep and strengthen the advisory function. There was general support for the establishment of a position as technical advisor within the UN secretariat. Several Panel members emphasized the need to strengthen the advisory services regionally. A system with regional advisors in the development regions, preferably funded within the context of development cooperation, gained much support. It was suggested that a position as regional advisor for Africa should have high priority with regard to the African Decade. Panel members were also interested in the idea of setting up a panel of advisors to be recruited for shorter missions.

No definite conclusions were made and some Panel members also expressed their interest in exploring the possibility of finding a person who could serve as Special Rapporteur and who could be funded extra-budgetarily.

The Panel decided to ask the Special Rapporteur to draft a new text on the basis of these discussions and on further discussions with representatives of the UN and governments.

9. Supplementation of the text of the Standard Rules

In paragraph 7 of the CSD Resolution 2000/10 the Special Rapporteur is given the mandate to suggest forms for supplementing and updating the present text of the Rules. The background was that the Special Rapporteur in his work had noted a number of shortcomings and deficiencies in the present text and in his report to the Commission pointed out 7 areas, where the text should be developed. Thanks to a special grant from the Swedish Government a consultant (Anneli Joneken) could be employed to assist in this work. An informal invitation to organizations and individual experts to present suggestions had been circulated. A number of valuable contributions had been made. In addition, a conference on Rethinking Care, organized by the WHO and the Norwegian government, had made a number of suggestions to strengthen the text, particularly in Rules 2, 3, 4 and 19. In dealing with the original seven areas and taking suggestions from these sources into account, the work became more comprehensive than expected.

A document including all additions and changes suggested by the Special Rapporteur had been circulated before the Panel meeting. The document included suggested additions and changes in most Rules and in the Introduction. The most far-reaching proposal was to broaden Rule 8 on Social Security and Income Maintenance to deal with the whole issue of Adequate Standard of Living, including housing and other basic needs.

The Panel worked through the whole document and made a number of suggestions to further develop the new texts. Some Panel members volunteered to bring new drafts within ten days.

During the deliberations, concern was expressed that this extensive text review could lead to the opening up of a total revision of the contents of the Standard Rules. Panel members pointed out that forms must be found to avoid this.

Towards the end of the deliberations a Panel member raised a terminology issue. Should the term "persons with disabilities" be kept or should this be changed to the term "disabled persons"? Lex Frieden proposed that this should be put to a vote, which was accepted. The outcome was that the Panel unanimously decided to recommend to keep the present term.

Finally, the acting chairperson, William Rowland, thanked the consultant for a good job and concluded that the proposed supplementation of the Standard Rules text, which had been drafted mainly by persons with disabilities and their organizations, finally brought the most vulnerable and exposed groups of disabled people into focus.

It was decided that the Special Rapporteur should circulate a new text, containing all the amendments made by the Panel.

10. Preparations for next year's Commission meetings

The Special Rapporteur pointed out the fact that both the UN Commission for Social Development and the UN Commission on Human Rights have disability on their agenda in 2002. The Commission for Social Development meets 12 - 22 February and the Commission on Human Rights 18 March - 26 April.

Other important opportunities for advocacy are the following: The Third Committee of the General Assembly will deal with disability matters during the first two weeks of October, 2001. The Irish Government may invite the organisations to a conference in January, 2002, where possibly both the research study on disability and human rights, made by Professor Quinn, and the report to the UN Commissions by the Special Rapporteur could be discussed.

During the discussion it was pointed out that the Panel organizations should utilize all these opportunities for information and advocacy. It was also emphasized that Panel members and their organizations should contact governments to inform them about the important issues, which will appear on the agenda of the two UN Commissions.

The Special Rapporteur offered to circulate a short memo, to be used as a lobbying tool.

11. Other business

Zuhy Sayeed reminded Panel members of the upcoming Child Summit. It is important that disability organizations contribute to increase the visibility of children with disabilities at the Summit and that they influence the drafting of the final document of the Summit.

12. Closing

Both the acting chairperson and the Special Rapporteur thanked the Panel for their active contributions during the meeting. They also thanked the organisers of the meeting, the interpreters and the UN staff for their contributions.

The chairperson declared the meeting closed.

Stockholm in September, 2001

Eva Sagström

Bengt Lindqvist

Panel Meeting, New York, 4-6 September, 2001

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Procedural matters – doc. 1
 - a) Chairperson(s)
 - b) Secretary
 - c) Agenda
 - d) Time programme
 - e) Approval of minutes of last meeting, 9-11 February, 2000
 - f) Observers
3. Report by Special Rapporteur – oral presentation
4. Reports by panel members on relevant activities within the organizations – oral presentations
5. Report concerning activities within the project "Rights for Disabled Children" – doc. 2
6. Report from IDA meeting – oral presentation
7. On-going activities in UN agencies
 - a) Report by WHO (survey of Rules 2, 3, 4 and 19 – oral presentation, plans for WHO review of CBR – doc. 3, outcome of WHO conference on Rethinking Care – oral presentation, WHO disability policy – doc. 4)
 - b) Reports by other agencies: Unesco and Inclusive Education – doc. 5, World Bank's Disability Work Program – doc. 6, ILO; Promoting Decent Work for People with Disabilities – doc. 7
8. Monitoring after 2002 – doc. 8
9. Supplementation of text of the Standard Rules – doc. 9 and 10
10. Preparations for CSD meeting 2002 (including the issue of a possible next meeting of the panel) – oral presentation
11. Other business
12. Closing

Panel Meeting, New York, 4-6 September, 2001

Participants

Panel

Maria Eugenia Antunez Farrugia
Joshua Malinga
Kicki Nordström
William Rowland
Gabriela Fabila de Zaldo
Victor Wahlström
Liisa Kauppinen
Eiichi Takada
Lex Frieden
Mary O'Hagan

Office of Special Rapporteur

Bengt Lindqvist
Eva Sagström
Anneli Joneken

Interpreters

Yuko Hosoi
Osamu Nagase
Machiko Takagi
Sirpa Ruuskanen
Virpi Thuren

Assistants

Fredrik Nordström
Ronja Malinga
Malcolm Brodie
Andres Balcazar de la Cruz

Observers

Lucy Wong-Hernandez
Erik Staaf
Zuhy Sayeed
Tomas Lagerwall

Guests

Eva Sandborg, WHO Geneva
Don Wills, IDA

Report from the fifth meeting of IDA to the Panel of Experts
New York, September 2001

IDA met from 31 August – 2 September to discuss its future structure and scope of operations (the potential involvement in external initiatives and projects). We also met with the UN Under-Secretary General Mr. Nitin Desai.

1. Meeting with Mr. Desai

Verbal report with reply letter.

2. Briefing by the Special Rapporteur on matters to be discussed at the Panel of Experts meeting

The report by Bengt Lindqvist was noted.

Pending the recommendations to be decided upon by the Panel on a future monitoring system after the end of its current mandate, it was suggested that IDA could be the base of a new Panel/monitoring body.

3. Convention

It was agreed to pursue a double strategy: to lobby for mainstreaming and a convention on disability.

Lex Frieden, Kicki Nordström and Joshua Malinga were asked to draft a position paper for approval at the next IDA meeting.

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Ownership of projects will only be moral, we are not able to take legal, fiscal or administrative responsibility.

It was agreed that IDA was not going to be involved in fundraising for projects. New terms of reference to be drafted by Don Wills, William Rowland, Eiichi Takada, for distribution to and confirmation by IDA members.

5. "Building a Human Rights Monitoring System in the Field of Disability" project.

We applauded the initiative of the Special Rapporteur as a result of the Almåsa seminar in launching this project.

In accordance with our current structure and policy, it was agreed that we could not take fiscal or administrative ownership of the project.

We agreed to support Phase 1 of the project (inventory) going ahead as outlined in the proposal submitted by Bengt Lindqvist.

In order to maintain our policy of representation in matters affecting the rights of persons with disabilities, the Chair of IDA was mandated to liaise between the project and IDA for the implementation of Phase 1.

Having just received the project proposal, it was decided to refer the paper for discussion by the individual organizations of IDA, and any decision will be discussed at the next IDA meeting.

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Lex Frieden was mandated to get back to WKS requesting more information about the project before a decision on the approval/involvement of IDA can be taken.

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Constraints on this initiative, i.e. timeframe, financial resources, language scope, academic structure, were noted.

The results will most likely not be representative of the world situation and only reflect the situation in English-speaking developed countries.

8. Next IDA meeting

The next meeting will take place in Ireland in January 2002 (on the occasion of the presentation of the UN study findings and a report by the Special Rapporteur on the status of his final report).

Don Wills
Chair, IDA

4 September 2001

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Mr Nitin Desai
Under-Secretary General
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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Room DC2-2300
2 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017
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7 September 2001

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IDA Chair (2001-2002): G. Donald Wills, President, Inclusion International

Please contact:

Inclusion International 13 D chemin du Levant F-01210 Ferney-Voltaire France

IDA INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE

Member organizations:

Disabled Peoples' International, Inclusion International,
Rehabilitation International, World Blind Union,
World Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the Deaf-Blind,
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

3. Disability Unit and Technical Advisor

In this context it would be desirable to strengthen the role of the Disability Unit. This could be achieved by its reporting directly to senior level and by strengthening its coordinating capacity. Its legitimacy should further be enhanced by employing persons with disabilities on the staff. The same principle applies to the appointment of a Technical Advisor, who would provide a crucial link between the UN system and national governments to promote the future implementation of the UN Standard Rules.

4. Annual meeting

Following our fruitful discussions with you we are very pleased to note that you wish to continue the consultation with IDA representing the international disability rights movement. We appreciate your invitation and look forward to meeting with you on a regular annual basis. We would like to suggest the next meeting to take place in the autumn of 2002.

Yours sincerely,

G. Donald Wills
Chair, IDA

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