



Report of the 29th IFUW Conference

An Overview of the Conference

The 29th IFUW Conference hosted by the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) at the University of Manchester in Manchester, England was yet another occasion when members from all over the world could catch up with old friends and make new ones - one of the strengths of our international organization. The conference was enjoyable and a success, with a wealth of offers for interdisciplinary seminars, parallel sessions with good speakers and interesting topics, and a plethora of workshops.

About 500 members from 45 different countries attended the conference including many young members. Accommodation was on campus in the halls of residence. Meetings were held mostly in the Armitage Main Hall.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony, attended by the High Sheriff in her splendid official costume, began with a welcome by the Lord Mayor of Manchester. IFUW President Griselda Kenyon officially opened the conference that also marked the centenary of our hosts, the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG.)

The keynote speaker was **Dr. Mary Robinson**, former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Her address on *Women, Human Rights and Human Security* was a most fitting challenge to the conference. She stressed that today's world more than ever needs the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the establishing of which Eleanor Roosevelt played a prominent role. Dr. Robinson reflected on why the Declaration was made in 1948, and on the need for common values. This is an issue equally relevant, and even more necessary, in today's divided post 9/11 world, one also affected by climate change. The interconnectedness of our world is important. However, although a universal concept, the understanding of human rights varies from continent to continent. Dr Robinson mentioned, for example, how the answers she most frequently received in Africa to what is meant by human rights were 'freedom from violence' and 'access to water.' She pointed to the coming together of women and community to work for human security in the Women's Leaders Intercultural Forum (WLIF), a new body including academic women.¹ While we must catalyze for joint action, Dr Robinson also urged us as individuals to apply Human Rights principles at all times, in all situations. Dr Robinson ended by reminding us that the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights is coming up on 10 December 2008 - let us mark it both as an organization and as women.

IFUW Futures

On Thursday evening August 9th there was a debate about IFUW Futures that attracted a large crowd and was most informative. **Cemil Giray Alyanak**, Senior Partner and Analyst, Mondofragilis Group, who has worked globally with NGOs, presented ideas for a discussion as to what IFUW should do to be a vibrant future-oriented organization. This means looking at

¹ <http://www.learningpartnership.org/advocacy/networks/wlif>

where our focus must be, resisting diversification, serving our membership, and anticipating the new civil social landscape, which already in a process of change, will be more narrowly focused in the future. Funding for civil society will rise by about 50%, and IFUW must be able to access some of this if it is to survive. Every organization should focus on its core strengths. To do this IFUW must be more future-oriented, and build sustainable funding (year to year funding is destructive for an organization), and sustainable programmes. *Listen to the young, their vision is the future, be proactive.*

The parameters of present day societies have changed and NGOs need to operate in a less top/down mode. He also stressed the importance of the name of our organization, since we are the **only** organization for women with higher education. This defines our focus. IFUW has a relevant name, a history and a base that we must use for the future. He asked whether IFUW is FOR university women or BY university women, and presented a four-phase concept. Women before university/higher education, in university, post university and later stages.² He maintained that IFUW has a potential for one million members if our focus becomes clearer.

From the discussion, however, it was obvious that IFUW has been concentrating on stage phase 4, giving back. Several members pointed out that our concentration *should* be on the first three stages goals 1-3 if we are to get the organization back on track and have a vibrant association. This means in many ways a return to the founding ideas of IFUW and its early history. IFUW was encouraged to set up a matrix of ideas from which national federations and associations (NFAs) can pick and choose issues that are relevant at the local level. This is a fundamental criterion for the path that IFUW must follow to create a better foundation. Of ideas put forward to bring this about we can mention directories, counselling, liaison with head hunters, and rating systems. Structural procedures might, for example, include constitutional changes such as having a percentage of young members on the Board and committees, and targeting migrant groups.

88th Council meeting

As per agenda, the major issues discussed were:

Changes to IFUW membership, where sadly four countries lost membership because lack of non-payment of dues. We hope they will soon rejoin the Federation. Fiji, Northern Cyprus, Rwanda and Spain were accorded full membership and Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kenya were approved as associate members. The Scottish Federation was voted in as a separate NFA after a discussion on how to define a 'country.'

The biggest decision made was that to remove AAUW from membership of IFUW because the AAUW Convention this spring had deleted all reference to IFUW in its national constitution which was contrary to IFUW's membership requirements. It was recognized that since they have not paid their dues since 2004, AAUW would automatically have been removed at the end of the year. Marianne Haslegrave, Convener of the Membership Committee reminded NFAs that any

² Pre - help them prepare for - counseling - career guidance: At - study - gender perspective - mentoring: Post - start career - mentoring - guidance: Later - giving back what we have learned - applied knowledge.

changes to national constitutions should be sent to IFUW and all NFAs must have references to IFUW in their constitutions.

All reports from the IFUW Board, the IFUW Secretary General and IFUW committees were adopted. During comments on the various reports, it was asked what IFUW does with the proposals coming out of the reports from the UN reps; and the criteria used by the Membership Committee for approving membership of IFUW. There was also a discussion on the proposed change to the dues structure, which would calculate dues according to a new formula. Members queried the use of gross national income (GNI) as the basis of the calculations and the extent to which the population of a country should be taken into consideration. Board members explained that GNI was chosen because it was widely known and used. The formula can, however, be voted on at every Council if there is a will to do that. The accounts, financial review, budget and long term planning were approved. It was revealed that 200.000 CHF had to be paid out in 'social benefits' to the staff members who were made redundant as part of the restructuring in 2005. An endowment fund was suggested for office expenses, as was more use of the website as a mechanism for increasing visibility for IFUW.

Conference sessions

The conference sessions began on Saturday, 11 August with the introduction of new members, and housekeeping matters such as local arrangements, approval of Minutes of the 28th Conference in Perth, and the introduction of the candidates for the IFUW Board. Louise Croot (New Zealand) was elected new President of IFUW, and Sushil Bhardwaj (India), Marianne Haslegrave (Great Britain), Shirley Randell (Rwanda) and Phyllis Scott (Canada), were elected Vice-Presidents. Catherine Bell (South Africa) was elected Treasurer by acclamation.

After lunch **Dr Gillian Martin Mehers**, Conservation Coordinator for the World Conservation Union (IUCN), gave a talk on "Intercultural Leadership for Sustainable Futures" with audience activities to illustrate the speed of change and how change can lead to creativity. Dr. Mehers stressed leadership qualities such as long term horizons in decision-making, the need to possess trust and alliance building skills, to respect and build social cohesion, and the ability to communicate and motivate people, as well as have a 'global' identity in today's world. She sees multiculturalism as one of IFUW's strengths. We must build on past success to model the change we want to see or bring about.

2007-2010 Programme for Action: Women as Agents for Change: Building Sustainable Futures

After Dr. Mehers' talk the IFUW Status of Women Committee gave an excellent presentation of the new Programme for Action for the next triennium, a further development of the last theme. Key issues are education, economic development and the environment. Within these topics requests were made that the specificity of these issues to IFUW as an organization could be made clearer, and the conference have more presentation of research results. It was stressed that IFUW members must use their expertise to educate others on these issues,

Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme Report and Poster Display

Convener of the Projects Committee Dr Shirley Randell began with an overview of the BRPID programme. Conference participants were delighted with the exhibition of colourful posters of Bina Roy projects on display by NFAs from 13 countries – Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Egypt, Fiji, India, Kenya, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Philippines, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey and Uganda. This was a further demonstration of the significance of the Bina Roy Partners in Development

Programme (BRPID) in empowering women and girls through community projects, which were vividly portrayed in PowerPoint presentations.

These included *Community services* such as the effects of violence on girls in schools girls in Guinea; a multi functional health care clinic for the urban poor in El Salvador; income generation skills and basic health training for women and children in Thailand; basic education and skills training for women in rural areas of Turkey; a school dental health project in Costa Rica; and shelters for victims of family violence in Mexico.

Several projects are linked to *awards*, for example, primary, secondary and tertiary level education scholarships for girls in Sierra Leone; national education scholarships in Zimbabwe, and excellence awards for secondary school girls in Samoa. Basic education skills are also offered to women in rural areas in Turkey, and to slum children in Bangladesh.

Capacity building and skills training projects include a gender equality project in democracy, enhancing women's sense of civic responsibility in Armenia; and an internet/communication training programme for women in Cameroon. Income-generating skills are provided in The Philippines and Nigeria. Pakistan trains women in handicrafts, gives vocational guidance lectures, and provides a free medical camp, while Croatia puts together war refugees' handicrafts stocks for landmine war victims. Thailand offers non-formal education for women's development; Georgia provides training for women in eco art; and Russia organizes leadership training around UNESCO's child friendly cities theme. *Computer Training* is offered in Estonia, Argentina and Egypt with the aim of encouraging young people to choose the path of free enterprise. *Education Projects* include library facilities (Nepal); the study of different aspects of women's role in society and the family (Albania, Slovenia and Tonga); and gender equality in secondary and higher education in Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria).

These are just some of the projects done under the Bina Roy scheme. Other NFAs showed joint programmes with other NGOs. For example, Glenda Hecksher gave a powerful presentation of the Mexican Federation of University Women's campaign against gender-based violence, which provides shelters for battered women in collaboration with four other NGOs. Malati S. Kalmadi, Convener of Projects, for the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations gave an overview of a range of activities conducted throughout India from 2005-2007 under the Sustainable Progress Through Empowerment and Knowledge programme. Syprose Achieng, President of the Kenyan Association of University Women presented information about their fight against child labour to promote education (FACE) project. The main purpose is to reduce girl child labour and unfavourable cultural practices, to close the educational gap that has promoted discrimination against women, and reinforced social inequality and economic underdevelopment in the Lake Region.

The session concluded with a presentation on the Five-O programme.

BFGW Centenary Celebration

Participants joined BFGW members on a lovely, hot summer evening to celebrate the centenary of their founding in 1907, when seventeen women graduates got together in Manchester and formed an association. Many IFUW members came dressed in costumes from the past, or in national costume, so it was a delightful, festive occasion. Elegantly dressed in a turn of the century costume, not unlike that worn by Emmeline Pankhurst, Marianne Haslegrave of BFGW led us through the history of the British Federation in text and pictures—an entertaining

performance. To mark their centenary, BFWG awarded a special prize, the 'Sara A Burstall Centenary Scholarship' to Alisa Stevens for her doctoral work: "Towards the Decency Agenda: Experiences of Democratic Therapeutic Community Penal Regimes." 100 blue balloons were then released into the Manchester air followed by cake, and champagne from Cornwall. A happy evening was enjoyed by all.

Parallels and Plenaries

Slotted into the programme were several parallel sessions, many of which were highlights of the conference. One was on the *Culture of Ageing* where Christina von Furstenberg of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) spoke of solidarity, intergenerational dialogue and the generational pact, i.e. how development policies can speed up intergenerational change. She spoke of the difference between synchronic and diachronic solidarity and the importance of active ageing. We must

- promote a positive image of the elderly
- empower older people
- have more involvement of older people in the work force

The multi-age society is a complex and heterogeneous phenomenon and simplification of it is counterproductive, as all older people have the right to a full life. We need to be sensitive to the social, economic, health, gender, and cultural differences among older people. More research, including disaggregated data, is needed on the ethics of old age and a normative framework agreed on.

In ***Strategic Communication for Education Advocacy***, Dr Elaine Unterhalter of the University of London School of Education shared her experiences in the development and practice of the Beyond Access Project that approaches global justice and the challenge of education provision in developing countries in an analytical, innovative and highly interactive, media-appealing way. Working in regional groups we were steered skillfully through identifying the major challenges to achieving gender equality in education in our region, then devising matching strategies to overcome each challenge. For maximum media impact the challenges were expressed as 'snakes,' the concrete proposals to overcome them became 'ladders'. "The Game of Girls Education" aka Snakes and Ladders replicated the one played - very publicly on a large 5m x 5m pavement 'board' in London before 2005 G8 Summit.

This was a multi-layered presentation as participants were led through planning a media advocacy strategy, proceeding to brainstorm pithy, but gender sensitive, messages that advocate for positive change in girls' access to education. The gender equality goal (MDG 3) messages were *smart*, and we all learned a lot in this unique, vital workshop.

One plenary session parallel was devoted to a discussion of ***Resolutions and proposed amendments to the Constitution***. There was some criticism of the large number of recommendations from a few NFAs, which were tying up the conference agenda in debating issues and amendments that were often just about grammar. IFUW already had declarations about some of the issues being raised. It was argued that there should be more focus on IFUW's core mission of educating and empowering women, rather than on other issues, worthy though they may be. A strong active profile is needed to attract young members.

The importance of NFAs submitting reports to IFUW about what has been done on conference recommendations was stressed. It was pointed out that unless all NFAs took up the resolutions with their governments nothing would change. NFAs' role of advocacy was critical to the implementation of IFUW resolutions. Another criticism concerned the use of language at the conference and regret was expressed that proceedings were not being translated into French. The incoming board was also asked to define protocol for independent members to avoid an inappropriate proliferation of independent membership. It was considered that the power of IFUW is through the NFAs and bypassing the NFAs would weaken the organization.

Several ***lunch meetings*** took place during the conference including a meeting of regional leaders, Virginia Gildersleeve lunches, and informal gatherings providing information on the Women's Worlds Conference 2008 in Madrid, where IFUW will participate; and one to launch the Friends of IFUW about which more information can be found on the IFUW website. There were also evening regional meetings of FUWA (Federation of African University Women), PGWNet (Pacific Graduate Women's Network), the University Women of Asia (UWA), , and UWE (University Women of Europe).

Interdisciplinary seminars and workshops were central in the conference and took place on Saturday afternoon, all day Sunday and on Thursday afternoon. There was a splendid variety of Interdisciplinary Seminars with up to six presentations in a session providing a truly global overview of critical issues of concern. The seminars focused on issues arising out of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Topics were as widely disparate as demographic perspectives on good governance, development and poverty reduction; what is missing in the Millennium Development Goals; and the dynamics of tsunami-generated change. Many disturbing situations were presented, for example a country whose military junta has ratified CEDAW but apparently has no intention of including its precepts into domestic law, where the victims of rape are denigrated by judicial officers; and the enormity of some cultural barriers and the bravery and innovative capacity of many women to move past restrictive, punitive practices. The issue of higher education and IFUW's role in promoting and ensuring the full participation of women in higher education at all levels came up in several seminars and workshops.

There was much to disturb one and also to inspire. The seminar groupings of educated and passionate women from 'East' and 'West,' from developed and emerging economies left us with an abundance of challenges and the motivation and determination to tackle them. Analytical reflection was evident in many papers often coupled with common sense initiatives such as to raise the understanding of "legal awareness" by women in remote rural areas, and great one-liners "Legal activism is the best tool for progress," "The key is for women not to set any limits," "MDGs will not be reached unless women's perspective is active" and "Act now - later is too late!" The grouping of widely diverse papers by the organizers must have been a real challenge, while conveners and rapporteurs coped very well with unpredictable numbers attending the various sessions. Some conference members focused steadfastly on particular lines of inquiry, while others dipped in and out. All appeared to come away with considerably widened horizons.

Workshops were just as difficult to select. Some of the workshops also focused on the MDGs, whilst others dealt with issues relating to IFUW, its purpose and mission Topics included: human security for vulnerable people, discrimination and violence against the girl-child, sustainable futures, leveraging refugee and migrant potential, assertiveness strategies, non-verbal communication, reflexive co-education, mentoring academic women, and twenty more!

Seminars and workshops are a wonderful opportunity for IFUW members to learn at an interdisciplinary level more about the situation in other countries from women who are experiencing the issues at local level and have undertaken scholarly research. These can and should form the base of future IFUW action. The only critique is that unlike previous conferences, seminars and workshops were all run in parallel, making choices difficult. Many people felt that having seminars and workshops on different days would have been preferable.

One very well attended workshop was led by Conchita Poncini, Co-ordinator of IFUW Representatives at the UN in Geneva and a past president of NGO Committee on Status of Women, who explained that the core focus of restructuring of UN is on **coherence and co-ordination of agencies** to form a **holistic entity**. She pointed out that despite gains in gender equality its uptake has been uneven. Gender justice has not been well understood, appreciated or practised consistently. Conchita explained how IFUW's team of UN Reps had tracked all sessions and working groups engaged in the institution building process of the new HRC—Human Rights Council—, which replaced the Commission on Human Rights in June 2006. IFUW's team has lobbied vigorously and successfully for the integration of women and gender mainstreaming to be on the HRC agenda at all times (a `standing item'). As Conchita said: "It is important that the gains in gender equality made over many years should not be lost." The shaping of a new, more effective and efficient `gender equality architecture' is still being debated. As negotiations proceed, all governments need to be constantly reminded that gender balance and a gender perspective on human rights are absolutely essential - capacity building for all involved will be important.

The animated exchange of ideas gave the Conference a clear mandate for an emergency resolution passed by the 29th IFUW Conference resolving:

1. *that IFUW strongly urge the United Nations to establish and maintain a high-level agency for women headed by a woman Under-Secretary-General, with regular sustainable funding, and with the resources and mandate to initiate and operate programmes at the country level; and*
2. *that the national federations and associations of IFUW encourage their own governments to support this high-level agency for women.*

Human rights was also the subject of an excellent session on Wednesday "The UN and Women - Our Role and Our Responsibility", which was introduced with a speech by President Griselda Kenyon outlining CEDAW's history. Professor Dr Emma Kruse Va'ai of Samoa continued and stressed that human rights are not just about women but also men, and that "CEDAW hits discrimination fairly on the head," adding: "Many women have progressed professionally but not domestically, and that we have to use education, the curriculum, and our cultural histories to socialize our children into the meaning of human rights, downplay the prejudices of colonialism and upgrade both boys' and girls' education." She linked this with "implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) so that both boys and girls understand and enact gender equality."

The keynote speaker for the session was **Elisabeth Rehn**, formerly Minister of Defence and Minister of Equality Affairs in Finland; United Nations Under-Secretary General and Special Representative for the Secretary General for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and co-author of the book *Women, War, Peace* (UNIFEM). She spoke of women's role in conflict situations and how important it is that women are part of peacekeeping forces and the police, since women in uniform are less frightening, especially for women who are the victims of rape and abuse. She mentioned the excellent experience of the 105 trained female police sent from India to Liberia

for six months, which was so successful that they were asked to stay for an additional six months.

It is interesting to note that women in countries that have experienced civil wars seem to have stronger representation in their parliaments, eg 48% in Rwanda. The ideal to aim for is a minimum of 30% women in government. Although numbers are on the rise, quota systems have proved necessary and helpful as part of the transition mechanism. Africa has come a long way in equity in recent years in the political spheres, but not in the domestic arenas.

Rule of law, gender equality and equal human rights must be addressed at the same time as peace discussions. Following war, the most difficult tasks include building up the education infrastructure, mental health facilities, and other soft structures services that must also be dealt with immediately if peace is to be gained. The inclusion of CEDAW and *UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security* in all peace negotiations and agreements would be one big step forward. Rehn praised the Norwegian government's plan for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which recommends 25% women in forces, compiling lists of women candidates for positions in international organizations and an obligatory gender perspective in all NGO work. She urged members to lobby their own governments for National Plans to implement Resolution 1325.

Elisabeth Rehn was besieged with questions on a wide range of topics from the desirability of having a standing army of UN peacekeepers; to how IFUW can be a positive force for peace. Elisabeth reiterated that retired IFUW women are invaluable for advocacy to raise awareness of the issues most common in the aftermath of war and to guarantee that gender dimensions in all reconstruction work are not forgotten.

Monday evening there was a **Mayoral reception** in the Great Hall of the Manchester Town Hall.

An **Open Forum** on Tuesday gave members an opportunity to give input to the new Board on issues and ways in which members felt they want IFUW to proceed. A huge wish list was compiled, including demands for:

- more interaction between IFUW and UN Rapporteurs; and that IFUW Resolutions should be focussed and linked to the relevant UN Declarations, Conventions, Covenants and Recommendation.
- a way to ensure the future of IFUW. IFUW needs to develop a strong identity and be seen to be proactive rather than narrowing its focus eg its activities should improve the lives of all girl-children.
- a change in the whole system of communication, narrowing the focus of the functions not the issues. There was general agreement that we must start action and that we need a systematic way of showing outcomes.
- IFUW to elevate its commitment to the attainment of human rights and peace.
- a critical look at the IFUW Constitution with regard to its purpose, and an updating of the language and re-ordering the clauses was requested.
- that several of the suggestions in the Task Force report such as regional representation not yet implemented, be addressed.

- As NFAs we should:
- celebrate IFUW's progress and achievements - we should not be defensive about our successes. We must be open, flexible, action-oriented and assess the outcomes of our activities.
- continue to tackle persistent issues - this is what graduate women have to do - it is best not to narrow the focus too much, rather to focus on what we can best achieve.
- be adaptable re. focus and programmes in the 21st century to keep members from all age groups and backgrounds. 'Action' is just as, if not more important than 'study' in an NFA's strategic plan; NFAs must not shy away from raising the 'hard' issues with their governments.
- mentor young members - this should be NFA policy and also an individual responsibility.

Incoming President Louise Croot summed up the forum succinctly: *"IFUW needs a minor revolution not evolution."*

On Wednesday in one of the parallel sessions Murielle Joye introduced a very full, participatory session "The UN Millennium Development Goals: What are we Doing to Reach Them?" by explaining that to date, IFUW had focussed on MDG 3: **Promote gender equality and empower women** and suggested that in the next triennium IFUW might focus more on Goal 7: **Develop a global partnership for development**.

Elisabeth Rehn pinpointed the global issues of climate change, access by girls to free education, access to essential HIV/AIDS drugs for all and added that aid quality is paramount. She urged all NFAs to assist women on to candidates' list for MPs, to support women in senior positions to ensure their country has democratic development and to insist that Government spending be reported to citizens transparently. Several developing countries shared their worries re "donor lag", ultimate use of aid money, unreliable recipients and blatant corruption. There was enthusiasm for using an "Index of Corruption" to publicize "good guys" and 'bad guys', also for more microcredit schemes (predominantly female) v. macrocredit (predominantly male). Murielle shared that Geneva bankers are more and more interested in micro-credit which they see as a 'win-win' situation for the planet.

Constitutional Amendments

These had been circulated well in advance to all NFAs and discussed both at the 88th Council meeting and in the Open Forum. All were passed with little debate. Notable are the demands on the members of the Board who may be removed if they fail to meet their obligations, and members of committees who fail to exercise their functions for a period of three months. The other major changes in the constitution are the change to single membership category for NFAs, with a reduction in the number of members to form an NFA from 50 to 20 and the abolition of the category of associate members - all will now be full members. New groups will have a three year probationary period. The pilot project with international members is made permanent and renamed independent members. A proposal to have a conference only every four years to reduce costs for IFUW and NFAs was rejected.

Regional meetings

There are 7 regional groupings within IFUW and their membership is growing as new NFAs are formed. Representatives from all regions present in Manchester met over lunch to decide if

informal networking between the regional groups would be of interest. There was clear approval for this idea but no particular structure is envisaged as each region operates differently – its process and programme, or lack of, being whatever is most appropriate to NFAs in the region. All the regional groupings had meetings; their reports will be circulated separately.

Resolutions

Twelve resolutions were passed with several amendments, but there was some criticism, especially from younger members as to the relevance of the content of some resolutions admitted. To what extent are they really linked to IFUW's focus?

89th Council

This was a short meeting held in the afternoon before the most enjoyable Gala Dinner, to confirm appointments to committees and prepare the way for the new triennium. The IFUW Shop had raised £3.500.

Gala Dinner

It was a delight to relax with old and new-found friends, exchange last-minute messages and farewell outgoing Board and Committee members in a spacious banquet hall at Old Trafford, the impressive home of the Manchester United Football Club.

Accompanying Non-Members

A programme of daily expeditions to notable historic and industrial sites in the surrounding countryside was much appreciated, as was their inclusion in key social events such as the Opening Ceremony and the Mayoral Reception generously hosted by the Lord Mayor in the splendid Manchester Town Hall.

Looking Ahead

The next IFUW Conference will be held in Mexico City in 2010, hosted by FEMU (Federación Mexicana de Mujeres Universitarias). A wonderful PowerPoint overview was given and a beautiful sculpture presented to IFUW by Glenda Hecksher of the Mexican delegation, a member who has shown some of her sculptures in a national exhibition focusing on related to war and peace. Prominent in these pieces are hands holding the globe or a dove - signifying the protection of peace. Mexico looks to be an exciting and fascinating place so let's hope we can meet there again in 2010.

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