



IFUW Resolutions Committee

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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Following the conference in Manchester, the committee assisted Phyllis Scott in preparing a letter advocating for a high-level UN agency for women General.

The committee was then asked to prepare a job write up for the web site. Manchester was the first time that amendments to the resolutions had been accepted by email. This process was incorporated in the job write up. The document is attached. The new text is in red.

The Committee then spent considerable time on the IFUW RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE. In their work the committee balanced the need for an open and accessible process with clarity and efficiency of the process.

The next work undertaken by the committee was incorporating the email amendment process into the IFUW RESOLUTIONS REGULATIONS. This entailed considerable discussion of the process. The committee has tried to balance the rights of NFAs and the need for achievable timelines.

A study of the RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF IFUW CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL revealed that the meeting procedures followed in Manchester with regard to the debate on resolutions had changed from those in the Rules of Procedure. The committee has spent considerable time discussing this aspect and solicited input from past committee chairs. In the past, the resolutions have been debated at the session at which they were introduced. Then further debate occurred at a subsequent session followed by a vote.

In Manchester, no debate was allowed at the session at which the resolutions were introduced. After this session, a meeting between proposers of the resolutions and those wishing to amend them took place. This meeting produced a consensus resolution which was proposed at the session at which debate and voting of the resolutions occurred.

The committee then drafted amendments to the IFUW RESOLUTIONS REGULATIONS to reflect current practice. The process of discussing, amending and debating resolutions at the conference was discussed. The committee then reviewed the entire document for clarity. The committee hopes that the amendments proposed to these regulations will provide more clarity to the process and encourage more NFAs to become engaged in the resolutions process.

International Federation of University Women

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The Committee wishes to propose two constitutional amendments.

The Committee proposes a constitutional amendment changing the deadline for submission from six to nine months before the Conference. The email resolution amendment process requires longer than six months. A longer time would allow for increased consultation with the NFAs.

The second proposed constitutional amendment is to strike out by-law 5.6. At present an emergency resolution may be proposed by any voting member of the Conference. An emergency resolution could be moved and seconded without NFA approval. It is doubtful that this was the purpose of the by-law. The wording may have been chosen as a simplification of BY-law 5 1.

If these amendments are passed, the corresponding regulations in the Resolutions Regulations would be automatically be amended. A reference to By-law 5 would be added to the regulation dealing with emergency resolutions to clarify the process.

From the IFUW BY-LAWS

By-law 5 - RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolutions may be submitted and amended only by IFUW national federations and associations, the Board of Officers, standing committees and special committees of IFUW.
2. Resolutions shall be received by IFUW Headquarters not later than six months before the Conference.
3. Resolutions on public policy shall be consistent with the purposes of IFUW.
4. Only an issue which requires immediate action on the part of IFUW and which has arisen after the deadline for submission of resolutions may be dealt with as an emergency resolution. An emergency resolution must be received and announced by the Presiding Officer at the latest twenty-four hours before being put to the Conference and not later than forty-eight hours before the termination of the Conference. A two-thirds majority of the members of Conference entitled to vote and voting is required for a resolution to be accepted for debate. If so approved, the resolution requires only a simple majority vote for its adoption.
5. A resolution seeking to reaffirm existing policy may be introduced when restatement is advisable. It shall incorporate reference to relevant earlier resolutions.
6. At the Conference, emergency resolutions may be submitted only by members of the Conference entitled to vote, Conveners of IFUW standing committees, and Conveners of IFUW special committees.

The Committee has completed the work on the Resolutions Regulations. The next task will be to review and update the Call for Resolutions for Mexico 2010. The Committee would like to present a resolutions workshop at the Conference in 2010. Our goal is to familiarize NFAs with the process of developing a resolution and encourage more NFAs to submit resolutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the revised IFUW RESOLUTIONS REGULATIONS be sent to the members of Council for a mail vote.
2. That if the revised IFUW RESOLUTIONS REGULATIONS are accepted by Council, that the Board direct that the RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF IFUW CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL be revised to reflect the new RESOLUTIONS REGULATIONS.

3. That the constitutional amendments be forwarded by the Board to the IFUW constitutional advisors' for consideration and that subsequent to this that the constitutional amendments be taken to the 2010 conference.

IFUW RESOLUTIONS DATES for 2010

AUGUST 3	2009	CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS
FEBRUARY 3	2010	DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS' SUBMISSION
MARCH 16		PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS CIRCULATED TO THE NFAs AND POSTED ON IFUW WEB SITE
MAY 18		DEADLINE FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
JUNE 15		AMENDED RESOLUTIONS SENT TO IFUW OFFICE
JUNE 22		AMENDED RESOLUTIONS CIRCULATED TO THE NFAs AND POSTED ON IFUW WEB SITE

Report by Mary Hall, Convener
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