



Minutes of the IFLRY General Assembly in Beirut 14-17 Dec 2017

Minutes taken by IFLRY Auditors Christian Holm and Marit van der Pol, supported by Beret Roots, Emmanuel Osei, Carlijn Olde Reuver of Briel and Elizabeth Radtke

Table of Contents:

Minutes GA 2-9

Minutes of the Standard Committee (SC): Status and Rules of Procedure 10-15

Minutes of the Standing Committee on Resolutions 16-18

Minutes of the Standing Committee on Membership Issues 19-20

Minutes of the Standing Committee on Finance 21-23

1. Opening

- The General Assembly was opened by President Pauline Kastermans on the 15th December at 17.50h.

2. Roll Call & Voting Rights

- Roll call was called by the Secretary General Tone Bjørndal.

Geography	Party	Votes	Presence
Armenia	ANC Youth	No votes	Present
Belarus	Civil Forum	No votes	Not present
Bulgaria	YMRF	6 votes	Present
Canada	YLC	No votes (not paid)	Not present
Catalonia	JNC	5 votes	Present
Denmark	RU	3 votes	Present
Denmark	VU	4 votes	Present
Egypt	Cairo Liberal Forum	No votes	Not present
Finland	SU	3 votes	Present
Germany	JuLis	6 votes	Present
Jordan	FTF	No votes	Present
Lebanon	Future Youth	6 votes	Present
Lebanon	NLP	No votes (not paid)	Present
Morocco	AJA	1 vote	Present
Morocco	Jeunesse Haraki	No votes	Present
Netherlands	JD	5 votes	Present
Netherlands	JOVD	4 votes	Present
Norway	NUV	3 votes	Present
Poland	Project Polska	No votes (not paid)	Not Present
Russia	YMD "Vesna"	1 vote	Present
Sweden	CUF	4 votes	Present
Sweden	LUF	3 votes	Present
Ukraine	LDLU	1 vote	Present
USA	YDA	No votes (not paid)	Present

55 votes present.

3. Election of the Chairs & Returning Officers
 - Chairs for the GA: Mina Srour (Future Youth, Lebanon), Eva Tovmasyan (ANC, Youth Armenia), Tanya Lyubimova (Civil Forum, Belarus) and Grunde Kreken Almeland (NUV, Norway) are duly elected by acclamation.
 - Returning Officers: Bram Roodhart (JOVD, The Netherlands), Clement Asuamah Yeboah (PPP, Ghana), Casper Pedersen (VU, Denmark) and Jonas Hall-Andersen (RU, Denmark) are duly elected by acclamation.
4. Adoption of the Agenda
 - The agenda as proposed in the updated reader is accepted by acclamation.
5. Decision on Urgency Resolutions
 - 4 urgency resolutions were submitted.
 - Resolution on the upcoming election in Russia, March 2018. Submitted by Vesna, Russia. Argued to be urgent because of the recent announcement of Putin to run for reelection, and as there was an announcement yesterday that opposition leader Navalny will not be allowed to run for President.
 - The resolution was accepted as urgent. 43 votes in favour, 4 votes against.
 - Resolution on Sahara (, Morocco). Argued to be urgent, because of upcoming referendum in Sahara. Concerns many stakeholders present.
 - The resolution was withdrawn, as not urgent. Topic is referred to a working group.
 - Resolution on Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. No one present argued the motion's urgency.
 - The resolution was not accepted as urgent. 13 votes in favour, 41 votes against.
 - Resolution on slavery in Libya (ALY, Africa). The motion was argued to it being urgent, because of its large impact and importance.
 - The resolution withdrawn, proposed to be merged with other motions on this topic.
 - A vote was announced to decide the order of which to decide the order in which to debate the resolutions in the GA. Each organisation could nominate 5 resolutions to prioritise. Voting procedure by ballot was carried out.

Resolutions - Result Order of Priority

1. The need for a blue economy
2. For a better world we need to end the war on drugs
2. Abolish daylight saving time
3. End the slavery in Libya
4. Resolution of the IFLRY working group on the Israeli-Palestine conflict
5. A liberal reaction to Trump
6. The current situation in Catalonia
6. Attacks against the freedom of expression
7. Liberal figures need to take action
7. Independence referendum for the people of Western Sahara
8. Dress to impress human rights
8. International space policy
9. Stop the illegal detention of refugees in Libya
10. Russian-Ukrainian war
10. Recognising persons displaced in the context of climate change
10. Youth, peace and security

10. Antibiotics resistance
 11. The requirements to stop political persecution in Hong Kong
 12. Resolution regarding climate change and USA
 13. Famine in Yemen
 14. The racist and xenophobic riots in the USA
 15. Upcoming election in Russia
6. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.
 - The minutes of the GA in Thessaloniki 2017 were unanimously adopted by acclamation.
 7. Appointment Officers of the Standing Committee(s)
 - There will be 4 standing committees: Finances, Statutes and Rules of Procedure, Membership Issues and Resolutions.
 - Membership Issues: Chair Mina Srour (Future Youth, Lebanon), Secretary Beret Roots (JuLis, Germany).
 - Finances: Chair Eva Tovmasyan (ANC, Armenia), Secretary Emmanuel Osei (ALY, Africa).
 - Statutes and Rules of Procedure: Chair Tanya Lyubimova (Civil Forum, Belarus), Secretary Carlijn Olde Reuver of Briel (JD, Netherlands).
 - Resolutions: Chair Grunde Kreken Almeland (NUV, Norway), Elizabeth Radtke (YLC, Canada).
 - The officers were accepted by acclamation.

General Assembly has been closed on 15th December at 19.00h by the chair Mina Srour.

General Assembly has been reopened on 16th December at 09.30h by Pauline Kastermans. Roll call was called by the Secretary General Tone Bjørndal.

Geography	Party	Votes	Presence
Armenia	ANC Youth	No votes	Not present
Belarus	Civil Forum	No votes	Not present
Bulgaria	YMRF	6 votes	Present
Canada	YLC	No votes (not paid)	Not present
Catalonia	JNC	5 votes	Present
Denmark	RU	3 votes	Present
Denmark	VU	4 votes	Present
Egypt	Cairo Liberal Forum	No votes	Not present
Finland	SU	3 votes	Present
Germany	JuLis	6 votes	Present
Jordan	FTF	No votes	Not present
Lebanon	Future Youth	6 votes	Present
Lebanon	NLP	No votes (not paid)	Not present

Morocco	AJA	1 vote	Present
Morocco	Jeunesse Haraki	No votes	Not present
Netherlands	JD	5 votes	Present
Netherlands	JOVD	4 votes	Present
Norway	NUV	3 votes	Present
Poland	Project Polska	No votes (not paid)	Present
Russia	YMD “Vesna”	1 vote	Not present
Sweden	CUF	4 votes	Present
Sweden	LUF	3 votes	Present
Ukraine	LDLU	1 vote	Present
USA	YDA	No votes (not paid)	Present

8. Membership Issues

- Suspensions
 - Union Columbiana des Jovenes Democratas, Columbia
 - Juventud Libertaria/Partido Movimiento Libertario, Costa Rica
 - Juventud Liberal de Honduras, Honduras
 - Young Liberals of Montenegro, Montenegro
 - Rassemblement es Jeunes Republicains, Cote d’Ivoire
 - Mladi Hrvatske Narodne Stranke, Croatia
 - Liberal Youth Association of Hungary, Hungary
 - Lietuvos Liberalus Jaunimas, Lithuania
 - Egyptian Center for Public Policy Studies, Egypt
 - Eesti Keskerakonna Noortekogu, Estonia
 - Yabloko Youth, Russia
 - Mlada Liberalna Demokracija, Slovenia
 - Institute for Democracy and Leadership, Sri Lanka
 - Jungfreisinnige Switzerland, Switzerland
 - DALGA Youth Movement, Azerbaijan
 - Musavat Youth Organisation, Azerbaijan
- All the suspensions have a positive recommendation from the Standing Committee
- Suspensions were voted on in bulk. 54 votes in favour, no votes against.

- Disaffiliations
 - Mouvement des Étudiants et des Élèves Libéraux (MEEL), Senegal
 - Union des Jeunesses Travailleuses et Libérales, Senegal
- All the disaffiliations have a positive recommendation from the Standing Committee
- Disaffiliations were voted on in bulk. 54 votes in favour, no votes against.

- Applications
 - Progressive Youth Movement (PYM), Ghana: Candidate Membership
 - The application has a positive recommendation from the Standing Committee.
 - 54 votes in favour, no votes against.
 - Vente Joven, Venezuela: Candidate Membership

- The application has a positive recommendation from the Standing Committee.
- 54 votes in favour, no votes against.

The general assembly has been closed on 16th December at 09.50h.

General Assembly has been reopened on 17th December at 10.15h by Pauline Kastermans.

9. Presentation and Adoption of the Bureau Reports

- Pauline Kastermans presented the Bureau's report.
- The annual report was adopted by acclamation.
- The Office report was adopted by acclamation.
- All the bureau reports were adopted by acclamation.

The general assembly has been closed on 16th December at 10.30h.

General Assembly has been reopened on 17th December at 11.25h by Pauline Kastermans.

Roll call was called by the Secretary General Tone Bjørndal.

Geography	Party	Votes	Presence
Armenia	ANC Youth	No votes	Not present
Belarus	Civil Forum	No votes	Not present
Bulgaria	YMRF	6 votes	Not Present
Canada	YLC	No votes (not paid)	Not present
Catalonia	JNC	5 votes	Present
Denmark	RU	3 votes	Present
Denmark	VU	4 votes	Present
Egypt	Cairo Liberal Forum	No votes	Not present
Finland	SU	3 votes	Present
Germany	JuLis	6 votes	Present
Jordan	FTF	No votes	Not present
Lebanon	Future Youth	6 votes	Present
Lebanon	NLP	No votes (not paid)	present
Morocco	AJA	1 vote	Not Present

Morocco	Jeunesse Haraki	No votes	Not present
Netherlands	JD	5 votes	Present
Netherlands	JOVD	4 votes	Present
Norway	NUV	3 votes	Present
Poland	Project Polska	No votes (not paid)	Present
Russia	YMD “Vesna”	1 vote	Not Present
Sweden	CUF	4 votes	Present
Sweden	LUF	3 votes	Present
Ukraine	LDLU	1 vote	Present
USA	YDA	No votes (not paid)	Present

Votes present are 47.

10. Resolutions and Amendments to the Manifesto

All resolutions were presented as recommended through the standing committee.

- The Need for Blue Economy resolution was accepted. 56 voted in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
- Abolish Daylight Saving Time resolution was accepted. 48 votes in favour, 0 votes against, 6 abstentions.
- For a Better World we Need to End the War on Drugs resolution was accepted. 45 voted in favour, 3 votes against, 7 abstentions.
- End the Slavery in Libya resolution was accepted. 55 voted in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
- A Liberal Reaction to Trump resolution was accepted. 41 voted in favour, 11 votes against, 3 abstentions.
- The Current Situation in Catalonia resolution was accepted. 54 voted in favour, no votes against, 1 abstentions.
- Freedom of Expression in Turkey (motion as amended, including amended title) resolution was accepted. 42 votes in favour, no votes against, 13 abstentions.
- Resolution Regarding a Universal Space Policy resolution was accepted. 55 votes in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
- Dress to Impress Human Rights resolution was accepted. 47 votes in favour, no votes against, 8 abstentions.
- Resolution on IFLRY Working Group on Israel-Palestine Working Group resolution was accepted. 41 voted in favour, 8 votes against, 6 abstentions.
- Independence Referendum for the People of Western Sahara resolution was accepted. 35 voted in favour, 17 votes against, 3 abstentions.
- The Requirements to Stop Political Persecution in Hong Kong resolution was accepted. 49 voted in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
- Upcoming Election in Russia resolution was accepted. 43 voted in favour, no votes against, 6 abstentions.

Voted to change Adoption on the Budget 2018 agenda point name to Financial protocol amendments, financial protocol and membership fee proposals.

11. Adoption of the Financial Report and Audit Report
 - The reports were accepted. 29 votes in favour, no against, no abstentions.
12. Financial protocol amendments, financial guidelines and membership fee proposals
 - The budget 2018 was accepted. 37 votes in favour, no against, no abstentions.
 - Requests application for reduced membership fee for 3H, Turkey, for €50 was accepted. 36 votes in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
 - Requests application for reduced membership fee for Nasta Stranka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, for €100 was accepted. 36 votes in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
 - Requests application for €100 from solidarity fund for Civil Forum, Belarus, was accepted. 37 votes in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
 - Financial protocol amendments were accepted. 37 votes in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
 - Membership fee rules were discussed.
 - Proposal 2 in favour of a new system of calculating fees for MOs, was accepted. 21 votes in favour, 14 votes against and no abstentions.
13. Adoption of Statutes and Rules of Procedure
 - Vote to open up a vote on membership structure separately, not accepted. 11 votes in favour, 22 votes against, 4 abstentions.
 - Proposal for statutes as a whole was not accepted, as amended in statutory. 25 votes in favour, 17 votes against, 3 abstentions.
 - Future Movement, Lebanon, suggested to redo vote. 36 votes in favour, 6 votes against, 6 abstentions.
 - Proposal for statutes as a whole was not accepted, as amended in statutory. 37 votes in favour, 7 votes against, 5 abstentions.
 - Statutes adopted.
 - Rules of procedure proposal was accepted. 49 votes in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
 - Motion on timeline to downgrade membership was accepted. 45 votes in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
 - Motion to move IFLRY's office was accepted. 44 votes in favour, no votes against, no abstentions.
14. Any other business
 - Human rights program discussed by Bram Roodhart (JOVD, The Netherlands).
 - Working groups were discussed by Nickolas Pagonakis (IFLRY, Denmark).
 - Mood board was discussed by Pauline Kastermans (IFLRY, Netherlands).
 - IFLRY's Freedom Award 2017 was given to Liberal Pro-democracy activist in Hong-Kong, presented by Pauline Kastermans (IFLRY, Netherlands) and Olga Tsurkan (LDLU, Ukraine).
15. Date and place of the next meeting
 - Tone Bjorndahl (IFLRY, Norway) announced that the next GA to preliminary be 1-4 March in Ghana.
16. Closing

- GA was closed at 17th at 12.50h by Tanya Lyubimova (Civil Forum, Belarus).

Appendix

Minutes of the Standard Committee (SC): Status and Rules of Procedure

Chair: Tanya Lyubimova

Secretary: Carlijn Olde Reuver of Briel

Bureau representative: Pauline Kastermans

Number of international officers: 14

Tanya opens the standard committee and expresses the importance of the documents. The documents were rewritten and uploaded as new documents.

Pauline: We have restructured the document with some substantial changes like the membership chapter.

We will go through the document step by step.

Tanya tells everyone to raise hands when someone has a question. There will be a positive recommendation to the GA when there is a 2/3 majority vote.

Deadlines

Pauline: there was one separate document proposed to streamline all the deadlines.

Sigrid (Radikal Ungdom): states we already discussed this in a previous GA.

Pauline: we did change the deadline for statutes but not ROP. But we were looking at all the documents separately instead of having a holistic approach and we would like to streamline the deadlines at this GA.

Recommendation to GA: in favor: all

IFLRY Statutes

Tanya explains the procedure. We will first discuss the chapters and amendments and then discuss the document as a whole.

Pauline: There can still be amendments on the documents if a MO disagrees to the proposal.

- *Chapter 1*

Tanya explains there are no specific changes

Questions: none

Recommendation to GA: in favor: all

- *Chapter 2*

2.1.

Tanya: we have amended section 2.1.

Pauline: We have had this discussion at previous meetings. This is the first chapter we discuss associate membership.

Katharin (JuLis): we are against this amendment. We believe that this amendment is not the right way to tackle the issue it supposed to solve. We see problems in the long run. We are concerned that we will lose a lot of full members and that IFLRY will get less income because of the incentive change. We believe that the European (wealthy) organization can pay for full membership. Also, we believe that MOs can misuse this new structure to say that if a candidate is not elected for bureau for example, then the organization will go from full to associate

Bram (JOVD): it will help MO's to become members. Also, my hands are tight because JOVD needs this amendment to be accepted.

Katharina (JuLis): I don't see the need because we have already good instruments to solve those problems stated by Bram to help organizations who can't pay for full membership.

Bram (JOVD): When someone is a candidate membership and the observer is for four years. So, it wouldn't be fair for organizations to just try by getting associated membership status.

Dennis (JD): what I like to know who is going to be associate member in this room when this amendment is approved?

Pauline: We went through this process with the working group. For us, this amendment is added for the organizations that are not able to come to our GA. We believe that if we introduce associated

membership this will help MO's who are not able to come. We want a platform globally and if we talk about finances as a bureau it can go in two ways. In that case we would reduce the fee a bit. Personally, I believe that as IFLRY we will be able to attract more MO's, like for example the African organizations who were with us in Greece.

Tanya: are there comments?

Katharina (JuLis): Thank you, I want to comment on one point, about the organizations who are not present. I believe the reason that they are coming is because of the flight ticket fees rather than the IFLRY membership fee.

Pauline: it feels like 50% of the work IFLRY does is talking about invoices. Therefore, I feel like when the fee is lower this will make money less of a point.

Bram (JOVD): it is either an associated membership or we need to step out of IFLRY as JOVD.

Katharina (JuLis): of course, JuLis are not going to leave the full membership. But that is our concern that if a lot of big organizations that's going to downgrade why would we stay?

David (Young Democrats): Our party structure makes it really difficult to participate in full membership. Our funding has been coming from private owners. I believe that associated membership will increase the inclusion and collaborations of MO's.

Pauline: being a full member is not only about votes but also about other decisions, I hope you will vote in favor of this issue.

Tanya: we are with 14 so we need 9 votes to have this paragraph passed.

Recommendation to GA: in favor: 10, against: 3, abstention: 1

2.2

Recommendation to GA: in favor: all

2.3

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

2.4

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- *Chapter 3*

3.1

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: 13, against: 1, abstention: 0

3.1.1.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.1.2.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.2

Tanya: we go through all the paragraphs and then vote for the chapter as a whole.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- *Chapter 4*

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- *Chapter 5*

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- *Chapter 6*

No changes

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- Chapter 7

no changes

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

Vote for all the chapters, total document:

Recommendation to GA:

In favor: 11 against: 1 abstention: 2

This is 2/3 therefore there is a positive recommendation to the GA for the new IFLRY statutes.

IFLRY Rules of Procedure

- Chapter 1

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- Chapter: 2

Tanya: again, it is about the associated membership.

Pauline: this is one of the steps to define what the definition is of the types of membership.

Katharina (JuLis): I would delete the word 'to vote' at associated membership.

Louise (Young Liberals of Norway): I think the adjustments that are described is the right way to tackle the issue

Sigrid (Radikal Ungdom): I fear that if we remove the right to vote, it might not make that much sense to be part of IFLRY.

Bram (JOVD): We would like to make an amendment for the Associated members to be able to vote on the resolutions but not during elections on bureau members

Amendment regarding only vote for political proposals

Recommendation to the GA: In favor: 12, against: 0, abstention: 2

In favor of paragraph with amendment

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

2.2

Sigrid (Radikal Ungdom): when do the MO will get access to the membership applications?

Pauline: if the deadline is 4 weeks than it will be available 3 weeks before the GA. So there is one week in between.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

2.3

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

2.4

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

2.5

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- Chapter 3

3.1/3.2

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.3

Pauline: we would like to streamline what we have written in the statutes. So if we have this downgrade that if your organization only has 1 vote or more we would allow the number of delegates. So 5 votes means 5 delegates.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.4

Pauline: we have 3 proposals moving from extreme to 'softer' scenarios.

Tanya explains procedure on how the committee is going to vote.

o Model 3

Dennis (JD): We disagree with this model because we believe it is unjust to reward associated membership.

Sigrid (Radikal Ungdom), Gyulfie (Youth of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms): we agree with Dennis.

Vote model 3:

Recommendation to the GA: In favor: none, against: 13, abstention: 1

o Model 2

Bram (JOVD): we abstain, but the point is to have the smaller organizations to have more influence.

Katharina (JuLis): we had this discussion before and did not have the majority. The outcome is that we have to decide on that because of the voting before.

Sigrid (Radikal Ungdom): what I like about model two it needs fewer associated members to match the full members

Vote model 2:

In favor: 7 against: 4, abstentions: 3

o Model 1

May (Future Youth): model number 1 will be the best. One vote that is extra means that the associated members would have the right to vote and give their opinion but won't affect the total member of votes.

Bram (JOVD): agrees with Future Youth.

In favor: 9, against: 4, abstention: 1

Discussion

Nicolay (VESNA): I don't know who counts the number of members of organizations?

Robert (Bureau): associate member votes do not depend on the number of members. They will just get the number of votes that we decide upon now.

Sigrid (Radikal Ungdom): we should elaborate on which model we prefer: one or two.

Gyulfie (Youth of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms): model 1 is better

Laura (Svensk Ungdom): We prefer model 1.

Dennis (JD): I just vote for number 2 just to have a recommendation

Katharina (JuLis): I voted for proposal number 2: advantage is that the difference is clear between the types of membership. We do not want smaller organizations to get a disadvantage from this system.

We believe there should be enough difference therefore we vote for number two.

May (Future Youth): We believe model 1 is better. But then again, I don't want to change the status quo of the number of votes for smaller organizations.

Katharina (JuLis): maybe we can have a vote on who would go for model 1 or 2 and then further discuss this.

Voting on what model:

Model 2

In favor: 11

Model 1:

In favor: 7

2/3 for model number 2.

Vote on the paragraph:

Recommendation to the GA: In favor: 11, against: 3

Tanya: We include model number 2 in the recommendation

3.5 chair and returning officers

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.6

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.7

Pauline: here we specify that we make a distinction between organizational, political and urgency proposals.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.7.2

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.7.3.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

2.7.4.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.7.5.

Sigrid (Radikal Ungdom): could you explain the first sentence?

Pauline: it means that you can't add an amendment out of the blue. For example, if we have the list of resolutions people could still amend. But amendments have to address the resolutions and not a new proposal. Maybe the sentence is a little confusing.

I will take the sentence out. We do not need to vote about it

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.8

Pauline: vote for this proposal as a whole.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.9

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

3.10

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

Tanya: we vote as this chapter as a whole.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- Chapter 4

Pauline: here we have specified the situation that we saw last year: that we had multiple bureau members disappearing and the bureau couldn't properly communicate this to the MO's. We would like to have these adjustments so that we can handle this situation properly in the future.

Sigrid (Radikal Ungdom); just to clarify, is the 2/3 among all or the present bureau members.

Pauline: its total (all bureau members), but we can add it to specify this.

Christian (auditor): as you remember last year we had 2 disappearing bureau members. You can only dismiss them at the next GA. This concerns the auditors. He explains with different examples.

There has to be a mechanism that can tackle this issue before the GA.

Pauline: as a Bureau we decide not to accept this as a friendly amendment because of the importance of the amendment and we care about MO's opinion.

This proposal can only be used in extreme circumstances. For example, a criminal activity of a bureau member.

May (Future Youth): we believe that there won't be an extreme case like this.

Christian (auditor): people sometimes do silly things, as IFLRY we need to find a way to deal with that.

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Vote:

Recommendation to the GA:

In favor: 7, against: 6, abstention: 1 - no recommendation

Vote Chapter 4 as a whole (without the amendment):

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- Chapter 5

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- Chapter 6

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- Chapter 7

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

Tanya: Now we will vote about the whole document RoP:

Recommendation to the GA: In favor: 11, against: 2, abstentions: 1

This is 2/3 therefore there is a positive recommendation to the GA for the new IFLRY Rules of Procedure.

Sunday 17 december – Standard Committee Organizational motions

Chair: Tanya Lyubimova

Secretary: Carlijn Olde Reuver of Briel

Bureau representative: Pauline Kastermans

Number of international officers: 14

Tanya opens the session and explains the procedure (we need 2/3 of the votes).

- *Organizational motion 1*

Pauline explains the organizational motion.

May (Future Youth): question are they about the new memberships?

Pauline: it's about the members who have their status changed in 2018

Sigrid (Radikal Ungdom): will they be full members until they decide otherwise?

Pauline: they won't be able to be full member when the elections are.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

- *Organizational motion 2*

Pauline explains the purpose of the motion.

Bram (JOVD): do we give mandate for the bureau to decide on their own where the bureau will be?

Pauline: yes, the question is if we could get a positive recommendation then we will have this mandate but ofcourse we will include the opinion of the MO's.

Katharina (JuLis): we trust in the bureau to make a right choice. So I am in favor.

Recommendation to the GA: in favor: all

This is 2/3 therefore there is a positive recommendation to the GA for both organizational motions

Standing Committee on Resolutions – Minutes

16 December 2017

Beirut, Lebanon

Chair: Grunde Almeland

Minute Taker: Elizabeth Radtke

Bureau: Nickolas Pagonakis

Notes:

- Will be discussing non-controversial resolutions first and have a roundtable on the Israeli-Palestine and Western Sahara resolutions.
- Mergers of resolutions: End the slavery in Libya has been merged with stop the illegal detention of refugees in Libya
- Merger of a liberal reaction to Trump and the reaction of xenophobia in the USA

Resolutions Discussion:

The Need for the Blue Economy

Victor Sole defending resolution

No amendments

Voting: no objections – vote passed by acclamation

Abolish Daylight Saving Time

Radikal Ungdom supporting

Amendments: JD worried about no clear scientific evidence supporting the mention of suicide, thus they wanted to submit the amendment.

Discussion:

JuLis: there is sufficient scientific evidence concerning the link of suicide and daylight savings

Vote on amendment 1: 1 against, 17 for - PASS

Vote on amendment 2: 5 against, 7 abstentions – FAIL

Vote on resolution: 13 for – PASS

For a better world we need to end the war on drugs

JD spoke to support amendments

Vote on amendment 1 (delete bullet point): 12 against, 2 abstentions - FAILED

Vote on amendment 2 (switch word EU on States): 12 for, 2 abstentions - PASSED

Vote on resolution as a whole: 12 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions – PASSED

End the slavery in Libya

Center party youth supporting the merged resolution

Vote on merger of resolution: 15 for 0 against – PASSED

A liberal reaction to Trump

JNC supporting the resolution

Note: Was merged with xenophobia and climate change resolutions

Discussion:

JVOD: speaking against resolution – we are not talking about a dictatorship but a country, US has chosen Trump through democratic means and he has the power to determine his own policies – it is not our place to condemn his democratically chosen foreign policy

YDA: speaking for the resolution – even though Trump won the electoral college, he did not win the popular vote. Americans are feeling the daily experiences of xenophobia and racism, and it is something they are very uncomfortable with. YDA is asking for the support of the group.

JD: speaking for the resolution, it is up to IFLRY to speaking up for or against any international foreign policy around the world. As liberals, we should respond to any violation to international agreement.

Vote on merged resolution: 11 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions – PASSED

The current situation in Catalonia

JNC speaking in favour of the resolution

JuLis created amendment on first point of IFLRY calls for (deletion including the release of the aforementioned prisoners).

JuLis speaking in favour of amendment: according to the rule of law, it should be up to the Spanish courts to decide on imprisonment

Discussion on resolution as whole:

JD: wanting clarification on final bullet point of 'take note of the result...'

JNC: it is self-explanatory – it is re-affirming that violence has happened. For political prisoners, we are in favour with the rule of law, however there are problems with the judiciary system in Spain. In Spain, the public prosecutor is appointed directly by the Spanish government – this creates a political problem.

Vote on amendment of deletion: 3 for, 8 against, 3 abstentions – FAILED

Vote on resolution as whole: 13 for – PASS

Freedom of expression:

JNC speaking in favour of resolution

Amendments:

1. JuLis – addition to title

-- Freedom of expression is an important topic around the world but we need to be clear on what we are asking in the resolution. Therefore, since 80% of the resolution talks about the situation in Turkey, we should clarify that in the title.

-- Bureau: these kind of amendments are appreciated by the Bureau

Vote on amendment: 14 for- PASSED

2. JuLis proposal (addition to text)

Vote: 14 for – PASSED

3. *Vote:* 11 for, 2 abstentions – PASSED

4. *Vote:* 8 for, 5 abstentions – PASSED

5. JuLis proposal – need a more differentiated approach to media and journalistic freedom. The wording was too broad in original text.

Vote: 10 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions – PASSED

6. JuLis proposal – address the Turkish government

Vote: 11 for, 1 abstention – PASSED

Secondary proposals:

1. DSLY: delete 3rd point under IFLRY – it is difficult to measure was an attack on freedom of speech is. Because of loads of misinformation online and technology, it would be hard for the UN to tackle this.

Vote: 6 for, 1 against, 6 abstentions – PASSED

Vote on resolution as a whole: 12 for, 2 abstentions

Liberal figures need to take action

NUV supporting the resolution – no amendments

Discussion:

JVOD: voting against resolution, cannot condemn certain actions in the resolution – targeting two very specific politicians and it targets these two politicians not following up on campaign promises. We should then focus on other politicians. We can condemn certain actions but not specific politicians.

Vote: 5 for, 6 against, 3 abstentions – FAILED

Resolution regarding a universal space policy

LYS supporting resolution

Vote: 14 for – PASSED

Antibiotics (dress to impress resolution)

Supported by JD

Amendment proposed by JNC

Vote on amendment: 14 for, 1 against, 1 abstention – PASSED

Vote on resolution as a whole: 12 for, 2 against – PASSED

Resolution on IFLRY Working Group on Israeli-Palestine Conflict

Many amendments proposed during the working group time.

Secondary amendments:

JuLis – Delete first sentence of bullet point 4 (will be voted on with other amendments)

Amendments:

1. Future Youth: Add another UN resolution to add legal clarity

Vote: 9 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions – PASSED

2. *Vote:* 8 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions – PASSED

3. *Vote:* 8 for, 1 against, 5 abstentions – PASSED

4. *Vote 1:* 4 for, 7 against, 2 abstentions – FAILED

Vote 2: 12 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions – PASSED

5. *Vote:* 10 for, 5 abstentions – PASSED

6. *Vote 1* (replace whole text): 1 for, 7 against, 7 abstentions – FAILED

Vote 2 (add monotheistic): 8 for, 7 abstentions – PASSED

7. Add text on civil society – *Vote:* 5 for,

2 against, 8 abstentions – PASSED

Vote on resolution as a whole: 10 for, 1 against, 4 abstentions – PASSED

Independence referendum for the people of Western Sahara

No amendments were proposed during the working group time.

Discussion on creating of a further working group on the matter:

- Morocco wishes to create a working group on the topic
- RU agrees but states that voting on the matter now does not affect the possibility of creating a working group.
- Note: if members do not want to vote on the resolution now before a working group is created, then they have to vote against the resolution today.

Vote on resolution as a whole: 8 for, 4 against, 3 abstentions – PASSED

Final vote on resolutions will be passed tomorrow during the end of the GA. The standing committee does not recommend further debate at the GA, although it is allowed.

The standing committee did not have the time to discuss resolutions prioritised 10 and onwards. There is not sufficient time to discuss the resolutions and as such, they will need to be presented at the next GA. The bureau will reach out to member organisations who's resolution had not passed or had not been discussed for further steps.

The following two resolutions underwent a vote without any debate or discussion.

Resolution on Hong Kong

13 for – PASSED

Upcoming election on Russia

Vote: 14 for – PASSED

Minutes of the Standing Committee on Membership Issues

GA 2017 in Beirut, Libanon

Friday, the 15th of December 2017, 18:40 – 19:35

Chair: Myrna Mneimneh

Minutes: Beret Roots (JuLis)

Suspensions: (see recommendation list)

Q.: Dennis van Driel (JD) States that other MOs (for example YDA, YLC), who aren't paying are not on the list and finds them more urgent.

Response Robert Landheer (Treasurer)

Tone Bjorndal (Secretary General) other MOs have intent to pay

Anders Rehnberg (VP) also responds

Q.: Katharina Schreiner (JuLis): asks for list of other MOs affects

And several other questions about other MOs

Gyulfie Arnaudova (Youth MRF) responds

Katharina Schreiner (JuLis) remarks, that she is in contact with the Jungfreisinnige and they are looking to get more active internationally

Anders Rehnberg (VP) responds: this is a suspension, not disaffiliation. It would be good, if they get more active, but with changing leaderships in MOs one cannot wait

Q.: Katharina Schreiner (JuLis) another question about the MO in Cote d'Ivoire (Tone Bjorndal and Anders respond), with whom she is in touch, speaks in their favour.

Myrna (Chair): it is prime responsibility of the IO to get in touch with IFLRY, not to wait to be pushed. A suspension is an alarm and they are welcome any time.

Vote: Suspension recommendation for the GA unanimous.

Disaffiliations: (see recommendations list)

Myrna and Anders: there have been several attempts to contact over years, no success whatsoever. Therefore the recommendation is to disaffiliate.

No questions from the committee.

Vote: Disaffiliation recommendations for the GA unanimous.

Applications:

1. Progressive Youth Movement (PYM, Ghana) applying for Candidate Membership

Emmanuel Osei presents the organization:

Organization founded several months before the election. Progressive gains in votes though the last elections.

Has the simplest platform in the country: a 10 points agenda. Liberal values: goes by the individual, rule-of-law, laws shall not restrict individual freedom.

Concept of a „disciplined society“.

State in Ghana has highest purchasing power. PYM demands the state use this purchasing power to improve the lives of their citizens (e.g. job creation).

Mother party (Progressive Peoples Party) is strongly committed to its affiliations, e.g. African Networks, and promises we would never have such problems as with those MOs disaffiliations / suspended.

Trains their youth before e.g. radio interview.

Q.: Casper Pedersen (VU): how is membership counted? Membership fee would be very high? Your Budget is probably not very high? How will you ensure you can pay?

Answer: we have active and passive membership. We raise funds. Several members are in high positions, own businesses, have high salaries. He himself would pay. Finances are intact and commitment is high.

Q.: Katharina Schreiner (JuLis): Glad to see this application, esp. from a country like Ghana with a strong democratic history. Question about mother party: is registered as a corporate entity with the purpose to better the economy through bringing goods back home for the youth. Does this mean subsidizing the economy, the government carrying it?

Answer: Government has highest purchasing power, e.g. construction. Often local companies are deprived by purchasing only low quality goods locally, buying abroad for government projects is depriving company. Buy locally e.g. from a local small farmer (creates buying security and employment).

Corporate entity: every political party must be registered by national party law. One requirement is a certain amount of offices across the country, have to pay rent for two years (to ensure sustainability). Registration is done by national agency. This registration (as a corporate entity) is a regulation that must be followed.

Q.: May Masri (Future Youth): Are you not registered yet as a political party? You used to be associated with the socialist party?

Answer: it is true we were affiliated. We wanted to encourage them with liberal ideology. But they remained radical socialists, and we had to break our way.

Q.: Victor Sole (JNC): Can you ensure participation at least in all our GAs? We need more diversity, esp. from Africa.

Answer: Promise on behalf of organisation. Committed to African diversity, their organisation pays for (young) people to be at events with translation to give them a platform.

Internal discussion:

Anders Rehnberg (VP): Is the most highly respected African Youth Organisation right now and we need African diversity. Recommends their application granted.

Bram Roodhart (JOVD): met the speaker at the Training of Trainers in Gummersbach and vouches for him.

Lidia Rauch (African Youth League): clarification on the issue of socialism: transitioning from socialism to liberalism is normal and common in Africa.

Vote: Recommendation to the GA to grant Candidate Membership Status unanimous.

2. Vente Joven, Venezuela applying for Candidate Membership

Pedro Alejandro Urruchurtu Noselli presents the organization.

Have been in touch with IFLRY for a long time, but it took a while to take the step to apply, because domestic projects had priority and one wanted to ensure, that not only the ideology matches, but the membership obligations can be met.

1500 members in the country. All accounts have rigorous audits.

In the past year they have raised awareness of the benefits of a liberal market after the economic crash in the governments responsibility. Willing to fight for freedom.

Q.: Victor Sole (JNC): What is the difference of your MO and other opposition parties?

Answer: they will be the first liberal organization to be in a liberal network (IFLRY) in history.

Politicians think, since their country has oil, they must have a big government.

Other parties are more left or center left. They are the only ones with a frontal approach and defending freedom as a main body.

Internal discussion:

Anders Rehnberg (VP): Of all liberal organizations, this is one that is fighting the hardest at a humanitarian crisis and still has the energy to support other latin american organizations and apply at an international organization. This alone speaks for Vente Joven as an exceptional candidate. Have been in contact for 4 years, most vetted application. Highly recommended.

Caspar Pedersen (VU): there has been contact at so many events, he was surprised they weren't already members. No question they should be one.

Victor Sole (JNC): Clarification why he asked the question: In Spain we know a lot about the situation in Venezuela and there is conflicting information because of conflicting interests. In the opposition there are many groups that don't get along.

Anders Rehnberg (VP): As Pedro mentioned due the dictatorship and difficult political procedures they were not able to become a party before and therefore couldn't apply but IFLRY has supported them for a long time due the importance / the situation in Venezuela.

Vote: Recommendation to the GA to grant Candidate Membership Status unanimous.

Minutes of the Standing Committee on Finances

Eva Tovmasyan (chair),
Robert Landheer (Treasurer)
Emmanuel Osei (secretary)

1. Opening & adoption of the agenda

Eva Tovmasyan introduced the 9 points agenda for the committee.

Agenda is adopted by a unanimous approval.

Eva Tovmasyan introduced Robert Landheer, the treasurer.

2. Financial documents 2017 (approval after discussion of 3. Auditors' report)

Robert Landheer tells about the situation of the last budget in Tesolonika and the expenses made with respect to correction.

Christian Holm, indicated his happiness about the bureaus effort. He indicated his concern about the executive director not working full time. He called the Bureaus office to be well structured. He indicate simple mistakes relating to booking and others were made by the bureau. He also indicated change of staff to the office should be considered by the bureaus and also cash handling be reduced.

Robert Landheer point out that barred debt from MO's has been reduced and that members should be encourage to pay their dues. He also reiterated the need to update membership dues to know who is or not in good standing.

He also pointed out the need to encourage members to pay their membership fees to help main funds to run the office.

Robert- Further indicated with the office change, it's not sustainable. He indicated the need for the bureau to act quickly in the office change. He also indicated Belgium is a difficult country to have associations registered. He indicated the need to keep the Belgium account and change it only when we move the bureau.

Marit Auditor- she reassured the committee of strengthening the process on the bureaus expenditure. He threw more light on MO's not paying their dues.

Vote: everyone in favour. Recommendation to GA - approved.

3. Interim Auditors' report 2017

Marit van der Pol: A lot has happened during the audit. A lot of mistakes need to be taken care of.

There were different kinds of explanations for the flaws for example: multiple people were responsible for the same tasks, everyone was new and the treasurer and other members of the board were replaced.

Christian Holm: indicated here should be an amount of time that a new board member should spend with the one that is leaving.

4. Budget 2018 (approval)

Robert Landheer explains the budget is not different from other years. He indicated

Some of the points: Participation fee in general should be the same amount as last year.

More expenditure on some events.

Robert Landheer: We hope libel can generate income from other sources to strengthen its financial base. He indicated the bureaus has six month rent left and also it's difficult for two to three people working in the office. There is the need for a bigger office.

He spoke about promotional materials like desk, laptops among others. He also indicated it will probably be higher next year. He indicated the bureau will incur some loss due the movement (change of office).

Katheirne: Asked where the income of 500 euros from libel is coming from?

Victor Lopez (JNC); Asked what are the options for the new office.

Pauline: indicated it will be discussed when GA reconvenes later in the day (GA). She also indicated we had proposals from Ukraine, Germany among others with respect to the office and will be

discussed. She further indicated an EU country is most preferred because the funds comes from EU organizations.

Voting: All voted in favour. Recommendation to GA - approved.

5. Reduced Membership Fee 2018 Application

Robert Landheer: Says we have received two membership fee recommendations. He indicated the bureaus has strong recommendation for 3H Movement form Turkey application.

Pualine: Indicated 3H Movement form Turkey has not been able to organize a conference in the past few years and have been struggling.

Marit van der Pol: He indicated if the treasurer could explained the debt fee of 3H Movement from Turkey.

Robert: indicated he recommends they apply for solidarity.

Pauline: Also made it known that it's not possible for members to apply for reduced membership fee during the year.

6. Solidarity Fund Applications

Application from 3H Movement form Turkey received (Unanimous) a positive recommendation.

Application: youth of Nasa Stranta

Christian Holm: Asked where they will be getting funds from.

Gyulfie Arnaudova (Bulgaria): She indicated they (Youth of Nasa Stranta) is facing hard time but the situation is getting better and hoping to meet us financially.

Youth of Nasas tranta application received (Unanimous) positive recommendation to GA.

7. Financial Protocol amendments (see website)

Robert introduced the Financial Protocol amendments indicated technical adjustments were made with respect to flight booking, deadlines etc.

He indicated if MO fees are not paid in two years, an application will be filed to suspend membership. He indicated if a members fails to pay one year after suspention, the member organisation will be expelled.

He also indicated work in progress to improve the invoices to keep track of our membership payment and status.

Financial Protocol amendments recieved a positive recommendatin to the General Assembly (GA).

8. Guidelines Membership Fees 2018 - Proposals

Robert introduced the proposed membership fee.

Proposal 1

Old system (MO fees)

Proposal 2 (New System)

Introduces votes for associate membership. Bigger difference between associate members and the smallest full Mos.

Proposal 3

Introduces votes for associate membership. Huge difference between associate members and the smallest full Mos.

Bram Rooddhart-He indicated JOVD has interest in the candidate membership and welcome discussions on it.

Sophie (Radikale Ungdom): Asked for more explanation on the membership numbers and the accompanying fees with respect to proposal 1.

Robert Landheer: Indicated nothing has really changed in proposal one.

Katherine Scheriner(JuLis, Germany): Indicated that, she doesn't want to support proposal two (2) because it's likened to trading money for votes.

Robert Landheer: Also indicated that it is for members to disucss and take a stand on its adoption.

Pauline: Made it known that, it's necessary for concerns to be raised and it will surely be addressed at the GA.

Sophie (Radikale Ungdom); Also asked for more elaboration on what and how the outcome of Standing Committee on Finances meeting will mean at the GA.

Voting: Proposal 2

Nine (9) voted in favour of Proposal 2 adoption.

Four (4) voted against Proposal 2

9. Any Other Business

Nil