

# **Tone Bjørndal for Secretary-General of IFLRY**

My name is Tone Bjørndal, and I am running for Secretary-General of the International Federation of Liberal Youth. Below, I have written my motivation to do so, together with my objectives and vision for the next Bureau period.

## **Motivation**

My first meeting with IFLRY was in 2009, at COP15 in Copenhagen. Although the conference ended with disappointment, my encounter with IFLRY was a good one. I have been active within the Liberal Youth of Norway (NUV) both on local and national level since 2009; as Board Member and Vice President of the Young Liberals of Bergen, as member and later leader of the Young Liberals of Norway's Committee on Climate and Environment. However, it was not until 2014 that I started working actively with IFLRY again. This time, as Climate Change Programme Manager. Working with the Climate Change Programme and IFLRY has been a great experience. I have represented IFLRY at numerous events, and headed our delegations to the COP20 in Lima and recently, COP21 in Paris. I have cooperated with several member organizations, and worked for better inclusion of them in our work, as well as trying to lead a transparent Programme, with a clear focus on communication.

Working with the programme and the organisation has also made me aware of some specific areas I want to improve: increased international cooperation, more sustainable programmes, and better communication.

## **International organisation - global cooperation**

Being an international organization gives us a lot of opportunities. However, that depends on our ability to take those opportunities and make full use of them. I want to work towards stronger cooperation with our member organisations across the world, which I think is crucial to increase influence, and to truly have an international organisation. During my time as Programme Manager, I have worked a lot with with the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), ensuring a better cooperation between IFLRY and CALD. This has made me seen the need for increased cooperation between different regions, and with current and potential organisations. As a Programme, we have strived for such diversity. For instance, this is clearly reflected in our recent delegation to COP21, where we had delegates from three different continents, and from five different countries.

I want to work towards stronger cooperation with our member organisations across the world, and for better representation from all continents and regions. Such cooperation is nothing but beneficial for both IFLRY, our member organisations, and members. IFLRY must embrace its role as an international organisation.

## **Sustainable programmes**

The different programmes are a great way for members to interact with IFLRY, as well as for IFLRY to work with member organisations and also to work with specific issues. However, the lack of structure surrounding the programmes is weakening their ability to reach their full potential. The creation of the Council that includes the Bureau and Programme Managers is a good start, but more needs to be done. Programme Managers are requesting more feedback and cooperation with the Bureau, and I believe this is something that will gain both. With a Bureau who is following up the programmes more closely when needed, together with a focus on Programme Manager and Programme collaboration, we can ensure more activity and inclusion of members.

**Better communication**

Communication is key to be able to function on a day-to-day basis, especially for an international organization. We are not able to meet in person all the time, and it makes communication even more important. This is something that always can be improved, and something I will work for. It is essential that people can rely on the Bureau to get back to them, no matter the issue. It is also crucial that the communication and information from the Bureau to member organisations is consistent, so that it is always easy to follow the Bureau's work. This includes social media, ISSUES, as well as general and direct communication through email, Skype and so on. As a Programme Manager, I have strived to be available for team members, member organisations and the Bureau at all times, and to make sure that information about the programme and our work always is available and easy to find. Communication and information have thus been crucial focus areas for the Programme, and I want to bring this into the new Bureau.

With my experience from both NUV and IFLRY, together with my personal motivation and working capacity, I will do my best to fulfil the tasks and responsibility of the IFLRY Secretary-General. I hope you, your Member Organisation and the General Assembly wants to support my candidacy. Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tone G. Bjørndal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tone Gjesdal Bjørndal