

## **News Line 17**

May 2003

The New Year brings good news about INLW.

After having redone the former application to Economic and Social Council and submitting it to DESA of U.N. in April 2002, we were informed by U.N. officers, that the NGO Committee would have it on their agenda for consideration at the 2003 January session.

Knowing about it J. Alemany did not hesitate to go to New York in January 2003 personally, in order to defend INLW position. The 1 ½ hour questionnaire time was rough, but the outcome two days later satisfactory. INLW is recommended to be granted Special consultative status. Nevertheless this recommendation is still subject to approval of ECOSOC at its session scheduled for the end of April.

Another matter to comply with law was referring to our constitution. We needed to have an apostille put to our constitution, what happened last December.

### **INLW Budapest General Meeting March 2002**

INLW presented three resolutions to L.I. Congress, i.e. Marriage Reform and Women in Afghanistan and the Vienna Declaration. Once reviewed by INLW G.M. and L.I. commissions, all resolutions passed and were accepted by Congress.

A Manifesto presented by the Board was discussed, amended and approved by the G.M. and is a guide-line for INLW.

A document on Fundamentalism presented will be the basis for a future panel.

The G.M. agreed to appointment of Dahlia Sommer for Vice-Chair and Joaquina Alemany for Secretary General until the next Congress.

For future Prize of Freedom Award of Liberal International proposal is made in favour of Baroness Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, patron of INLW and Egyptian Nawal El Saadawi.

### **46th Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women**

Very few people could imagine back in 1946, when the different agencies of the United Nations were built, that a man would become chairman of the CWS. He is Othman Serandi, ambassador of Tunisia. In a speech of gratitude, he emphasized the efforts carried out in his country in order to improve women's status. Serandi believed that the status of women's improvement was linked to the sustainable development. During the 46th meeting of the Commission on Women, the speech concerning the state of the implementation of Beijing's Action Plan was submitted by the UN agencies. The Secretary-General emphasized the significance of the running actions in favour of women; and she also explained which a

Were the UN initiatives in favour women prisoners in the framework of war conflicts; she also emphasized the discrimination all women suffer in war conflicts. "Women play a decisive role during war period maintaining the social and economic relations, and it is regrettable that ancient habits prevent them from achieving their objectives.

Several NGO claimed for eradication of extreme poverty, and the need of foreseeing assistance of specially vulnerable situation of women in front of natural disasters.

The Commission passed several initiatives by vote and approved the CWS's work schedule for the 2003-2006 period:

2003: Participation and access of all women in the media and in the new technologies; use of its impact in favour of the status of women's progress.

2004: The role of people of all ages in carrying our gender equality. The women's participation in peaceable conflict resolution and reconstruction of peace.

2005: Fourth World Conference on Women and a Extraordinary UN Session; gender equality, peace development for the XXI st century, and drawing of strategic goals and steps to be taken in critical situations.

2006: Women's participation in all development processes; creation of favourable conditions for gender equality, specially concerning education, health and labour.

### **Caucus before the Commission**

Before the opening of the meeting concerning the Commission on the Status of Women, the NGO Committee on Women, chaired by Leslie Wright, organized a day's work dedicated to the topics in which the Commission was devoted. The conclusions of this day's work are related to two

aspects:

- The extreme poverty. It is publicly known that everywhere in the developed and underdeveloped countries, women suffer more poverty than men. The legal limitations, as well as the social structures imposed in the name of concepts that presently have no longer any sense are the cause for women to be in a more precarious situation. Among the existing drawbacks, the southern countries identify as bonds concerning women, their lack of financial autonomy, as well as the precocious marriage which prevents schooling. The participants in the day's work reported as well the widowed women's situation, who are deprived of resources; they represent a high percentage of women living of begging.
- Natural disasters. The persons responsible for the caucus underlined the need for women to have a protagonist role in all levels of prevention and sensitising in front of environmental destruction, as the deforestation, the soil's overexploitation, or the air contamination and water pollution.

The caucus conclusions were also handled by the NGO representatives in the 463rd commission's meeting.

(Summary of an article written by Jeannine de Boccard)

### **INLW Gibraltar Meeting September 2002**

Once again INLW Board confirms the need of strengthening the proper organisation and difficulty in increasing membership and communication. Essential for INLW also is to get consultative status from ECOSOC. Also the Website was an issue on the agenda. A large discussion was held about participation of women in political careers in their respective parties and countries. An Israeli representation suggested to make a statement against suicide-bombers, but there was no time for serious discussion about the issue.

### **INLW Website**

After having announced at the G.M. in Budapest and subsequently in other places that Website will be available, unexpected questions obstructed starting it. Now in that precise moment we can definitely affirm that the Website is ready.

### **News of Members**

Ms Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli

Canada

Albania

Yugoslavia Women of New Democracy Party organised a National Women's Conference, to debate women's human rights and decided to have another conference proposing a 30 % participation of women on party lists and in decision-making positions.

Will keep you informed about issues to be discussed in Casablanca Meeting on 28th March and of future activities.

### **Reminder**

We want to draw your attention to the fact that we need your contribution to INLW, and therefore ask you please to send the membership fee for the current year 2003 to the Secretary General, Joaquina Alemany i Roca, C/ Corçega 331-333 08037 Barcelona Spain and thank you in advance.