

**News Line 20**  
November 2006

**UN Economic Commission for Europe, 14-15 December 2004 in Geneva**

UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10 year review of implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action, was attended by INLW President Joaquina Alemany and Silvia Flury.

**INLW Management Board Meeting on the 22nd January 2005 in Andorra.**

The INLW Board mainly prepared the forthcoming LI Congress and the resolution to be submitted and also attended a women's meeting of Liberal Party of Andorra and participated on panels "Women in politics" and "Women in leadership positions".

**49th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women/CSW 28 February-11 March 2005, New York.**

This commission focussed on: the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action and the outcome documents of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the XXI century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: current challenges and forward looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls". The commission was attended by INLW President Joaquina Alemany, Vice-President J. de Bocard, Secretary-General M. de Vos van Steenwijk and an INLW delegation.

INLW presented a written statement on the "Necessary institutional mechanisms and reforms for the effective implementation of women's advancement."

and an oral statement on "Women's participation in peace-building"

In September 2005 INLW submitted a contribution to the Report of the Secretary-General of the UN, on "Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action". The report dealt with a specific programme commemorating the sixtieth Memorial Day of the freedom of the survivors of the concentration camps set up during the II World War in Germany.

**INLW General Meeting 13 May 2005 Sofia/ Bulgaria**

A numerous audience attended the meeting on the issue of "Women, Europe and the Constitution" by the guest lecturer Dr.Teresa Freixes, who reported on the Treaty, establishing a constitution for Europe and the status of women in the new constitution.

INLW also submitted 2 resolutions, which were adopted by the LI Congress:

"Equal opportunities for women and men in politics" and "Women and the right to development".

**INLW Management Board Meeting 4th November 2005 in Mallorca**

Besides having our Management Board Meeting, we submitted two Urgency resolutions to the LI Executive meeting, one on the "Parliamentary Elections in Angola" and the other on "Women and alphabetisation" in view of the forthcoming World Summit for the Information Society. Both were not admitted for discussion.

**50th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women/CSW 27 February – 10 March 2006, New York**

The commission focussed on continuing with the strategic objectives and actions in critical areas of concern: "enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work"

The commission was attended by INLW President Joaquina Alemany, Vice-President J. de Bocard, member of INLW, Carmen Solsona and an INLW delegation.

INLW presented a written statement on "Education, Health and Work with 16 recommendations" and a oral statement on "Women are an essential human factor for Peace", which however was not able to be delivered, due to the lack of opportunities given to NGO's to speak and deliver their oral statements.

### **INLW Management Board Meeting 23 June 2006 in Manila/ the Philippines**

INLW submitted a resolution to the L.I. Executive on the subject of this meeting: "Women, population, changing demographics and migration" which was amended and then adopted. The INLW Management Board Meeting took place on the 23 June 2006.

Our INLW Human Rights Officer standing member in Geneva, Jeannine de Boccard attended the first session of the newly set up Human Rights Council, former Human Rights Commission, which in the first sessions is trying to reorganise and restructure itself and we hope to the good.

### **Liberal International Conference in Cairo/Egypt 21-23 July 2006**

This conference meant a real challenge to all participants in putting together a declaration on the issue of the existing conflict in the Near East and the outcome was a correct "Cairo Declaration" which could be approved by everybody there. See LI website.

At the same time members of the countries present, could convene on the setting up of a Liberal Network. INLW was represented by INLW President Joaquina Alemany, Secretary-General, Margaret de Vos van Steenwijk and Deputy Assistant, Silvia Flury.

DPI/NGO Conference "The Unfinished Business" held in New York from 6-8 September 2006 dealt on all the standing and properly unfinished issues of the Millennium Development Goals set up by the UN and agreed upon to be achieved worldwide by 2015. At the closing of the conference, the leaving UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, had encouraging words to the audience, State Members and NGO's, to work hard in order to tackle the challenges of the MDG's as the only possible future of mankind. The conference was attended by INLW Deputy Assistant, Silvia Flury and Secretary-General of Catalan Liberal Women's organisation, M<sup>a</sup> Carmen Solsona.

INLW Secretary-General, Margaret de Vos van Steenwijk, attended and spoke at the Catalan electoral parliamentary campaign, of the Catalan sister Party, CIU in October 2006.

### **INLW General Meeting, 11 November 2006 Marrakech/Morocco**

The meeting was attended by a great number of members and dealt with the amended INLW constitution, which especially enlarged the number of members on the Board, creating 5 vice-presidencies, in order to have direct contacts with members and to cover all regions worldwide. This truly establishes INLW as a globally operating organisation.

INLW submitted for adoption to LI Congress a resolution on "Women's Participation in Economy for a sustainable development", which was adopted by the LI Congress.

INLW President, Joaquina Alemany announced a conference following the meeting on the issue of "Women and peace, essential condition for a sustainable development" and the newly elected Vice-presidents presented their individual programmes.