

## **News Line 22**

January 2010

### **INLW Management Board Meeting January 25th 2009 Strasbourg/France**

The Thailand/Bangkok LI Executive Committee Meeting in December 2008 was cancelled, due to unrest in this country, so the Strasbourg Meeting had been set up instead. A point discussed was a draft proposal to amend INLW Constitution, suggesting a lengthening of the posts of Board Members in case no succession is found and to ensure a continuation of the work of the Board. Before LI has applied the same procedure in their constitution. It was agreed to make a new proposal to be circulated between Board members.

More effort is to be done by INLW to involve members to participate in UN events, like ECOSOC etc. INLW was asked for the first time to participate at a Round Table in Stockholm organized by the European Liberal Women's Network and a Swedish liberal party.

Vice-president Jeannine de Bocard reports on the activities of the Human Rights Council.

Moreover she had been active on the Durban Declaration on widowed aging women.

The INLW resolution for the LI Executive Committee Meeting in Bangkok titled: "Human rights and democracy" was adopted without amendments by the 181st LI Executive Committee Meeting.

### **53rd CSW Session of the Commission on the Status of Women March 2009 in New York**

INLW attended with president Joaquima Alemany, Secretary General Margaret de Vos van Steenwijk, Vice-president Jeannine de Bocard and up to seven members. Only a member from Taiwan at the end was not allowed to attend.

The event focussed on "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/Aids".

INLW submitted an oral statement on this specific subject and a written statement on the review theme: "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels".

### **INLW Management Board Meeting April 30th 2009 Vancouver/Canada**

Joaquima Alemany INLW president communicates the passing away of Anália de Victoria Pereira, leader of the liberal Angola Party, and member of the INLW Board. We would like to have her name added to the Hall of Freedom.

The funding about setting up a Western African Women's Network did unfortunately not work out. For the forthcoming GM in October in Cairo agreement was sought and decisions were taken on the future Board nominations and several amendments to INLW constitution and two proposals for resolutions to be submitted to LI Congress.

Moreover INLW president launches the idea to make a booklet with articles about some famous women "femmes d'honneur" sponsored maybe by some liberal think tank.

To the 182nd LI Executive Committee Meeting, which we attended was held in conjunction with the Canadian Liberal Party Convention, INLW submitted an Urgency resolution titled "Afghan Women's rights in Danger", recalling that the new Afghan family law bill is in complete contradiction with the Afghan Constitution, wherein is stipulated that Afghan citizens, whether men or women have equal rights and duties before the law.

### **Isaiah Berlin Lecture September 2009/London Liberal Club**

The Honourable Mr. Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Liberal party of Canada was the invited person to give the lecture on the following issue:

INLW President, Joaquima Alemany and Secretary General, Maria Luisa Florensa attended the event.

### **INLW Management Board Meeting November 21 2009 Barcelona/Spain**

Since the ELDR Congress (the Liberal European Party Congress) was convening in Barcelona, INLW took the opportunity to celebrate a Management Board Meeting. INLW president would like to have a survey from liberal women's organisations all over Europe on the actual accomplishment of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the main theme on the agenda of the 54th Commission on the Status of Women, taken place in March 2010 in New York. Deputy president proposes INLW Vice-presidents to send a report from their regions about this item, so as to have a liberal women's review worldwide.

It was agreed to update the website and to install a section for Vice-presidents reports from their respective regions and also to urge liberal party leaders belonging to LI to recommend their women members or organizations to become members of INLW.

### **INLW General Meeting October 30th 2009 Cairo/Egypt**

Joaquima Alemany, INLW president welcomed the assisting audience and briefly reviewed the activities since the last GM of Belfast. Jeannine de Bocard representing INLW at the UN Human Rights Council reports on the ongoing matters at the Geneva headquarters. The treasurer presented and explained the 2008 financial report and 2009 budget, and insists on the importance to have much more members to join our organization. There were suggestions on how to set up sponsoring tools to be taken into account.

Proposal of INLW constitutional changes, which had been circulated beforehand were adopted as well as the new composition of the Board members. The president thanks Mrs Jeannine de Bocard, stepping down as Vice-president for all the years of intensive work and appoints her member of the newly created INLW Consultative Commission (art. 4.5)

INLW assisting the 56th LI Congress in Cairo also submitted a resolution titled: "Ending impunity in Burma".

Following the INLW GM took place a Round Table on "Women and Education for the XXI Century" with speakers Mrs. Bothaina Kamel/Egypt, Mrs. Rawda Seibi/Tunesia and Mrs. Gemma Aubarell/Anna Lindt Foundation.

54th CSW Session of the Commission on the Status of Women March 1-12 2010 in New York "15-Year Review of the implementation of Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third Special Session of the UN General Assembly".

The session was attended of INLW President Joaquima Alemany, Deputy President Margaret de Vos van Steenwijk, Vice-president Christine de Saint Genois, Secretary General Maria Luisa Florensa, Consultative Commissioner Jeannine de Bocard, Deputy Assistant Silvia Flury and four more members of the organization.

INLW submitted a written statement on the review mentioned, especially on women in armed conflicts, education, health, violence, girl-child and participation in decision-making processes and an oral statement on the perception of Civil Society on the actual accomplishment of the "Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action".

Before starting the session UN General Secretary Ban Ki-Moon announced the creation of a UN Women's Agency with a Under Secretary General as director, a good news for starting but surely with many uncertain issues on how it has to work and how to be financed.

INLW is of the opinion, at the end of a very badly organized session, that another "Review of Beijing Declaration" will not taken place any more and that the twelve strategic objectives ("critical areas of concern") will be shifted over to the MGD's to be reviewed in September 2010. Hopefully things will turn out in a positive way.

**Forthcoming event: INLW Management Board Meeting June 11,12 and 13 2010 in Berlin/Germany.**