

Report on Relations with IFMSA and Related Resolutions

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Joint Resolution International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations July 9, 1999

Recognizing that the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) share a common goal of peace and disarmament, and use their networks of medical students and health professionals to promote the abolition of nuclear weapons and foster a culture of peace,

Recognizing that strong informal ties between the medical students of the two organizations have existed for many years, including co-sponsoring and organizing three health and human rights training workshops for medical students in Uganda (1997), Zimbabwe (1998) and the Hague (1999) respectively,

Recognizing that increased collaboration between IPPNW and the IFMSA through the establishment of formal relations will strengthen the medical movement and foster the education and involvement of medical students in issues of peace, disarmament and human rights,

Be it resolved that IPPNW and the IFMSA will establish official relations with the following understanding:

- Designate one organizational liaison each to serve as primary contact persons;
- Invite and welcome at least one representative to participate in the respective governing council meetings of IPPNW and IFMSA (International Council and Board of Directors meetings and General Assembly and Executive Officers Meeting respectively) as official non-voting observers;
- Endeavor to define an annual joint IPPNW-IFMSA program of action and cooperation;
- Publicize the work of the other organization in newsletters, mailings, and other vehicles;

- Exchange national contact information and promote collaboration between the IPPNW physicians, medical students and health care workers and the IFMSA medical students at the local level;
- Cooperate on biannual IFMSA leadership training workshops, including an exchange of expertise on issues such as grassroots campaigning, political efficacy, conflict resolution, fundraising, financial management, and strategic planning;
- Communicate and coordinate with respect to all approaches to funding agencies that involve the use of the other organization's name.

IFMSA is a student organization representing 800,000 medical students from 68 countries. It is a forum for sharing ideas and expertise among medical students on public health, medical education, medical ethics and peace, health care for refugees and disadvantaged populations.

Notes from Discussion on IPPNW-IFMSA Relations
IFMSA General Assembly Meeting
6-12 August, 1999
Monterrey, Mexico

On August 9, I met with Mohammed El Batta, President of the IFMSA, Mats Sundberg, Director of SCORP (Standing Committee on Refugees and Peace) and new President of the IFMSA, and Marieke Blokzijl, acting representative of Elske Hornenberg, IFMSA Liaison to IPPNW, and discussed the resolution regarding the establishment of official relations between IPPNW and the IFMSA. We went through the seven steps leading to formal relations, as outlined in the resolution, and agreed on the following:

1 Designate one organizational liaison each to serve as primary contact persons;

As medical student liaison/contact for IPPNW, I will be primarily responsible for maintaining close communication with the IFMSA, particularly with my counterpart. The IFMSA will be officially appointing a new Liaison to IPPNW in early October 1999, during their Executive Board meeting. Until then, I will be in contact with those IFMSA individuals already involved (Mats, Marieke, Elske, Mohammed).

1 Invite and welcome at least one representative to participate in the respective governing council meetings of IPPNW and IFMSA (International Council and

Board of Directors meetings and General Assembly and Executive Officers Meeting respectively) as official non-voting observers;

My participation in the IFMSA GA meeting in Mexico was the first step. In turn, I extended an official invitation to the IFMSA leadership to participate in IPPNW's Board Meeting on 1-3 October 1999 in Boston, and IPPNW's XIVth World Congress on June 29-July 2, 2000 in Paris. (It is important to note that several IFMSA students expressed their interest in attending the Paris Congress).

1 Endeavor to define an annual joint IPPNW-IFMSA program of action and cooperation;

The three training workshops on health and human rights that took place in Uganda (1997), Zimbabwe (1998) and the Hague (1999) respectively, are examples of joint IPPNW-IFMSA projects. The upcoming workshop in the Philippines (20-29 October 1999), planned by IPPNW and IFMSA students, is yet another example of the two organizations working together on a common program of action. Moreover, IPPNW and IFMSA students are planning on holding a follow-up to the HAP meeting in Romania in April 2000, during which IPPNW students will also hold their European IPPNW student meeting. We all agreed that it is essential that the two organizations strive to work together on at least one common project each year. Ideas for future common projects can be discussed during each organization's annual meetings, as well as during the already planned common meetings (Philippines and Romania).

1 Publicize the work of the other organization in newsletters, mailings, and other vehicles;

I invited IFMSA students to write an article for the next issue of IPPNW's biannual newsletter, *Vital Signs*, scheduled to be published in early November 1999. Marieke and Elske will be contributing an article (approximately 350 words) on the IFMSA and its relation to IPPNW. Similarly, the IFMSA has asked IPPNW students to contribute an article of similar length to the next issue of their newsletter, *VARGUS*, which is also scheduled to come out in early November. Both these initial articles should aim at introducing the two organizations and their relation to their respective readers.

1 Exchange national contact information and promote collaboration between the IPPNW physicians, medical students and health care workers and the IFMSA medical students at the local level;

We agreed on the value of exchanging contact information, and committed ourselves to sharing all relevant information with each other. I will circulate a list of IPPNW's email list servers to the IFMSA, so that their students can subscribe to them. Similarly, the IFMSA invited IPPNW students to visit www.onelist.com and subscribe to whichever IFMSA email list servers they find interesting. In addition to this, we agreed to share the basic contact information of each other's affiliate offices/national organizations.

1 Cooperate on biannual IFMSA leadership training workshops, including an exchange of expertise on issues such as grassroots campaigning, political efficacy, conflict resolution, fundraising, financial management, and strategic planning;

The IFMSA holds so-called Leadership Training Workshops during every IFMSA event. These workshops are aimed at training IFMSA students in the areas of communication, advocacy, teambuilding, fundraising, leadership, strategic planning, and conflict resolution, among others. The IFMSA invites physicians, professors, community leaders, etc., to speak about their experiences, share their knowledge, and train the students in these fields. IPPNW doctors have been invited to be part of these training workshops in the past (during the HAP student meeting, for example), and have proven to be extremely helpful and inspiring to the students.

However, the IFMSA would like to see an increased participation of IPPNW members in these training workshops. To date, they feel that they have only tapped into a limited pool of IPPNW talent and expertise. I agreed to act as a liaison between IFMSA students and IPPNW physicians, helping to identify which physicians would be of particular help in each respective field. This way, more IPPNW physicians could share their knowledge and strengths, and be directly involved in student training.

1 Communicate and coordinate with respect to all approaches to funding agencies that involve the use of the other organization's name.

We reiterated the importance of sharing information on each organization's fundraising activities when they involve the use of the other organization's name, in order to avoid complications and the duplication of our work.

**UPDATE ON RELATIONS BETWEEN IPPNW AND THE IFMSA
19 January 2000**

On December 16, 1999, Amer Karam, director of the IFMSA's Standing Committee on Refugees and Peace (SCORP), visited IPPNW's Central Office. Amer, a medical student

from Lebanon, was doing a clinical rotation here in Boston, and found the chance to stop by and visit with us for a few hours. Amer strongly identifies with IPPNW's aims and projects, and is very interested in establishing an IPPNW affiliate in Lebanon. His visit enabled us to learn more about medical student activities in Lebanon, but also to supply him with information and materials on IPPNW's campaigns. Amer left with a much better sense of what the organization is all about, and took with him the necessary forms to apply for affiliation.

On January 13, 2000 Anna Hellman, the IFMSA's liaison officer to IPPNW, visited the Central Office and spent the day with us. Anna is a medical student from Sweden, and is both an IFMSA and IPPNW member. In fact, she is a board member of SLMK, and took part in the recent IPPNW delegations to Moscow and St. Petersburg. Anna was appointed liaison officer to IPPNW in October 1999. She was on her way to Philadelphia, where the IFMSA held their Executive Board meeting, and decided to stop by Boston and meet with the Central Office staff. Her visit gave us the opportunity to get to know each other better, and to discuss in depth the relations between IPPNW and the IFMSA.

Basically, we revisited the 7 steps outlined in the resolution on formalizing relations between IPPNW and the IFMSA, in an effort to see where we're at, and what further steps need to be taken to fulfill all provisions of the resolution.

1. Designate one organizational liaison each to serve as primary contact persons

Anna was appointed by the IFMSA to act as liaison to IPPNW, and I, as IPPNW's medical student contact person, have been acting as liaison to the IFMSA. However, should we feel the need to appoint or elect an IPPNW medical student to act as official liaison to the IFMSA, we could potentially decide that during the Paris pre-Congress student meeting (28-29 June 2000).

Anna and I discussed the role and responsibilities of the liaison, and agreed that this person must be responsible for all communication and contact with the respective organization, and available to attend the organization's main annual meetings. This means that Anna and I should be aware of all contact made between IPPNW and the IFMSA, and should facilitate the communication and collaboration between the two organizations. So, for example, if an IPPNW member wishes to approach someone in the IFMSA, I can act as a liaison or resource person, or at the least I should be made aware of such communication (by way of CC-ing me on email, for example). The same applies for an IFMSA member. Moreover, if an IPPNW member has a question about the IFMSA, the person to write to would be Anna, with a CC to me. This way, both of us can be on top of things, and aware of the networks built between the two organizations.

2. Invite and welcome at least one representative to participate in the respective governing council meetings of IPPNW and IFMSA (International Council and Board of Directors meetings and General Assembly and Executive Officers Meeting respectively) as official non-voting observers

I attended the IFMSA's General Assembly meeting in Mexico in August 1999. The IFMSA has also extended an invitation to the Central Office for one of its staff members to attend their Exchange Officers' Meeting (EOM), scheduled to take place in Finland on 3-8 March 2000. Similarly, Anna, and other IFMSA students, will be attending IPPNW's XIVth World Congress in Paris on 29 June-2 July 2000. Obviously, apart from the minimum of one official representative attending the respective meetings, additional IFMSA students are welcome to attend IPPNW's World Congresses. In the same vein, IPPNW physician-members and students can also participate in the IFMSA's annual meetings, either as speakers or trainers, or just mere participants.

3. Endeavor to define an annual joint IPPNW-IFMSA program of action and cooperation

Past joint projects have included the Health and Human Rights training workshops in Uganda, Zimbabwe, The Hague, and the Philippines. For the year 2000, two joint IPPNW-IFMSA projects are being planned: (i) a post-HAP meeting, as well as an IPPNW European student' meeting, scheduled to take place on 7-10 April 2000 in Romania. This meeting is being organized primarily by IPPNW students, though IFMSA students are also planning on participating; (ii) a Children and War workshop, scheduled to take place in September 2000 in Sarajevo, Bosnia. This meeting is being planned jointly by IPPNW and IFMSA students.

4. Publicize the work of the other organization in newsletters, mailings, and other vehicles

Anna and I agreed that it would be valuable to continue contributing to Vital Signs and VARGUS respectively. Two IFMSA Dutch students wrote an article about the IFMSA, featured in the latest issue of Vital Signs. In the same vein, I wrote an article introducing IPPNW and its relations to the IFMSA for the latest issue of VARGUS. Both these articles aimed at introducing the two organizations to the respective audiences. Our wish is to continue this, and have a permanent contribution to both these newsletters. Anna will be responsible for identifying authors from the IFMSA, and I will be responsible for finding IPPNW members -students and physicians- who are willing to

write an article for VARGUS. Now that the initial introductions have been made, the articles can be on any issue, campaign or project the two organizations are working on.

5. Exchange national contact information and promote collaboration between the IPPNW physicians, medical students and health care workers and the IFMSA medical students at the local level

I will be sending copies of IPPNW's major publications, newsletter, annual report, brochures, etc., to the IFMSA Secretariat in France, and to Anna. In return, Anna will be sending me copies of the IFMSA's major publications as well. We both agreed that it is important to set up a mini-library with information and materials on each other's organization in our respective central offices, which will include at least one copy of all major publications. This way, we will each have easy access to useful information on both organizations. Moreover, we have agreed to share information on the national affiliates/chapters of each organization, including the contact information (address, phone/fax, email) and the name of a contact person. IPPNW's affiliate contact information is now available on our updated website (www.ippnw.org). Anna will be sending me the contact information on the IFMSA's national chapters shortly. Moreover, we have shared information on the email servers of IPPNW and the IFMSA, in case members wish to subscribe to them. Anna and I are responsible for making this information known to everyone. Finally, we reiterated the importance of using each other's networks to promote issues and campaigns -for example, by circulating letters and petitions, action alerts, etc.

6. Cooperate on biannual IFMSA leadership training workshops, including an exchange of expertise on issues such as grassroots campaigning, political efficacy, conflict resolution, fundraising, financial management, and strategic planning

The next IFMSA leadership training workshop (LTW) will be taking place during the EOM meeting in Finland (5-8 March). Zana Khan is the leadership training program (LTP) director for the IFMSA, and she has already approached some IPPNW physicians. However, Anna and I both agreed that this should be done in coordination with us. As agreed in the past, I would be able to help identify IPPNW physicians who are experts in a particular field, and therefore most suitable to be trainers. So, the IFMSA can approach me, let me know what kind of training they are looking for, and then I could help identify the appropriate IPPNW physician.

7. Communicate and coordinate with respect to all approaches to funding agencies that involve the use of the other organization's name

We just reaffirmed the importance of keeping each other aware of fundraising efforts that use the other's name. For example, if the organizers of the IPPNW-IFMSA student meeting in Romania, scheduled for 7-10 April 2000, begin to fundraise for this meeting, Anna and I both need to be notified. If IPPNW's and the IFMSA's names are going to be used, then IPPNW and the IFMSA need to know which funding agencies will be approached and for how much money.