

Minutes from ASF-International Assembly Meeting 2014

Vienna City Library, 26 April 2014

Participants: see attached list of participants.

The Chair of AoG-Austria Gunda Maurer welcomed everybody to Vienna and to the GA meeting. Peter Newton, chairman of ASF-International, thanked AoG-Austria for hosting the GA meeting, welcomed all participants, and opened the meeting.

10h15 – Points 1-11 of the Agenda

01. Nomination of persons who will assume the positions of Chair and Secretary of the GA

On behalf of the Board, Dick Urban Vestbro proposed that Peter Newton of ASF-UK and Peter Burke from AÜG-Germany be elected as Chair and Co-Chair, and that Beatrice De Carli of ASF-Italia/ASF-UK be elected as Secretary of the General Assembly Meeting (GAM). It was proposed that Peter Newton verify the Meeting's minutes. It was **decided** according to the proposal.

02. A vote as regards approval of the agenda by the GA

It was proposed to add a point to the Agenda, regarding the approval of ASF-Jordan as a member of ASF-International. It was **decided** to approve the amended agenda with and work schedule of the meeting.

03. A statement and a vote on whether the GA was properly convened in accordance with the Statutes

It was **decided** to consider the GA meeting convened in accordance with the statutes of ASF-Int.

04. A statement on the representation of members and voting rights

It was **decided** to ask all participants to sign the list of participation and to urge member organisations to note clearly who has the voting right of each organisation. The list with signatures shows that **21** of ASF-Int's 27 member organisations had representatives present (either physically or by proxy). See attached list of presence.

Presentation of ASF-Jordan – Dick Urban Vestbro explained the procedures to become a member of ASF-International. He also reported that he received the official documents from the organisation (in Arabic) and an English copy of ASF-Jordan's Activity Plan. He reported that he had fluent Arabic speaking colleague review the documents and confirm that they were in order. These will be sent to the Barcelona Secretariat for filing. Based on documentation provided, Dick Urban Vestbro proposed that the General Assembly accept ASF-Jordan as the 28th member of ASF-Int.

It was **decided** to accept ASF-Jordan as a member of ASF-International, and to grant voting rights to Amani Alshaaban.

The decision brought the total number of represented organisations to **22**.

05. Approval of the annual Activity Report drawn up by the Conseil d'Administration

The Activity Report of the Board for 2013 had been sent out to members in advance of the meeting (see attachment). Dick Urban Vestbro presented the report and highlighted some achievements during the year, for instance the recruitment of new members since the last GA meeting, the consolidation of a functioning secretariat in Barcelona, the consolidation of the learning programme "Challenging Practice – Essentials for the Social Production of Habitat", the start of a new, functioning and more interactive website. Dick Urban Vestbro also highlighted a few weaknesses, such as the limited use of social media and the lack of coordination among members, fund-raising, and the continued dependence on membership fees and voluntary work (Secretariat).

It was unanimously **decided** to approve the Activity Report.

06. The Audit Report

Dick Urban Vestbro read the reports written by auditors Melissa Kinnear and Vassilis Kapereliotis (see attachment). Both reports confirm that the current Board can be discharged of their responsibilities.

07. Approval of the verified Financial Statements

The Financial Report for 2013 had been sent out to members in advance of the meeting (see attachment). Rune Asholt presented the Financial Report 2013 and highlighted some key figures: belated payments by a few member organisations, donations received, contributions by member organisations to support travel costs of members coming from farthest countries.

It was unanimously **decided** to approve the Financial Statement.

08. Granting discharge to the outgoing Conseil d'Administration

It was unanimously **decided** to grant discharge of the Board for 2013.

09. Election of members of the Conseil d'Administration for the next period

The proposal for a new Board, made by the Election Preparatory Committee (EPC), had been sent out in advance. The EPC was co-ordinated by Stephane Plisson (ASF-France). Richard Losalajome (ASF-RDCongo) of the EPC presented the proposal for the new Board, with mandates until 2016. The proposal implies that the number of Board members will increase from 10 to 11, which is the maximum according to the Statutes. This number includes the nomination of Amani Alshaaban from ASF-Jordan, which was advanced informally during the GAM and was not included in the original EPC Report.

Peter Newton and Dick Urban Vestbro explained the presence of "other nominated candidates" for the Board in the EPC Report. They noted that the names of persons who were consulted by the EPC but did not accept to put forward their candidature should not be included in the EPC Report in the future.

Peter Newton and Dick Urban Vestbro explained briefly the Elections Procedures, the motion put forward by AÜG with regards to election procedures (see point 14), and the Board's response to this motion.

Alexandre Frediani of ASF-UK proposed that two votes should be taken separately: a vote for the EPC proposal as included in the Information Pack distributed to members before the GA, and then a separate vote for the separate nomination of Amani Alshaaban. This proposal was reinforced by Ludovic Jonard from A&D. It was decided to proceed accordingly.

It was **decided** according to the proposal to elect Valeria Sciarretta of ASF-Italian Network, Inari Virkkala of Ukumbi, Finland, Guruprasad Rane of ASF-India Society, and Ludovic Jonard of

Architecture & Développement for the period 2014 to 2016.

Amani Alshaaban from ASF-Jordan briefly presented herself and the organization. It was **decided** to elect Amani Alshaaban for the period 2014 to 2016.

The General Assembly Meeting welcomed the new Board of ASF-International.

10. Election of Auditors for the next period

It was **decided** to elect Peter Burke of AÜG-Germany and Rune Asholt of ASF-Denmark as auditors for the next period (2014-2015).

11. Appointing the Elections Preparatory Committee for elections in the next period

It was **decided** to elect Dick Urban Vestbro of ARC-Peace, Naomi Shinkins of ASF-UK and Jordi Balari of ASF-Spain to serve as the Election Preparatory Committee for the next period (2014-2015).

11h45 – Speed-Networking Event

After the Elections, a Speed-Networking event followed.

Based on a proposal by Naomi Shinkins, Peter Newton gave instructions and coordinated the event.

14h00 – Activity Plan workshop

After the break, a workshop about the Activity Plan 2014-2016 followed.

Beatrice De Carli presented the proposed Activity Plan to the Assembly and highlighted some questions for discussion and gave instructions for the group work.

After the group work each group summarised its proposals orally, submitting ideas for compilation and possible integration into the Activity Plan.

15h00 – Words by Dick Urban Vestbro

Dick Urban Vestbro gave a brief speech to the Assembly, marking the end of his 7-year mandate as a Secretary of ASF-International.

The General Assembly warmly thanked Dick Urban Vestbro for his vital work and his fundamental contribution to shaping ASF-International.

15h15 – Points 12-15 of the Agenda

12. Decision on membership subscriptions and budget for the next period

Peter Newton presented a proposal made by the Board concerning membership fees – proposing that the present fee structure remain in place. Rune Asholt made a proposal that the Reduced Fee level be lowered to 100€, rather than 150€. After modification of the proposal it was **decided** to approve the following fee levels:

Budget of last year	Membership fee
> € 50.000	€ 450
< € 50.000	€ 300
Reduced Fee	Down to € 100 (after application to the Board giving reasons)

Rune Asholt presented the proposed budget for 2014 (see attachment). The question was raised why 300€ are spent every year on the French address. Additionally, AoG-Austria highlighted that the GA Meetings are one of the most important activities of ASF-Int and this should be somehow reflected in

the proposed budget. It was **decided** to accept the proposal by AoG-Austria for the budget for 2016. After discussion, it was **decided** to approve the proposed budget for 2014.

13. Decision on planned activities for the next period

An Activity Plan made by the outgoing Board had been sent out in advance. Beatrice De Carli had previously presented the proposed Activity Plan for 2014-2016, which was discussed during the Activity Plan workshop (see above).

It was **decided** to approve the proposed Activity Plan. It was also **decided** to ask Beatrice De Carli to compile the proposals from the workshop, to structure them in relation to the existing priorities identified by the Board, to circulate a revised version among members (in 2 weeks) for further comments (further 2 weeks), and finally to add a revised version of the proposals to the final Activity Plan.

14. Topics and other proposals for the next period (including Motion to the GA Meeting by Architekten über Grenzen Germany)

Dick Urban Vestbro summarised the motion of Architekten über Grenzen Germany, and the Board response to it (see attachment). AuG commented that they are satisfied with the Board's response.

It was **decided** to accept the Motion as reformulated through the Board's response.

15. Any other business

Beatrice De Carli announced that in the course of 2014-2015, the Board will elaborate a proposal for the long-term Strategic Plan of ASF-International, to be discussed during the GA Meeting 2015. This will be based on previous consultations with members. Further information on the process will be circulated during the summer.

18h00 – Presentation of new members

After a break new members of ASF-Int made short presentations of their organisations:

- ASF-Veneto, Italy (Maurizio Poletti)
- AVRA, RD Congo (Djiferdin Masudi)
- Kito Onlus, Italy (Paola Vecchiato)

These were followed by a presentation by Andrea Fitrianto (ARC-Peace member) about his work with CAN – Community Architects Network.

16. Closing of meeting

On behalf of the whole GA meeting Peter Newton thanked again Dick Urban Vestbro for his dedicated work in the Board during many years. Thanks are also to be conveyed to resigning Board members Naomi Shinkins and Rune Asholt.

Chair Peter Newton thanked AoGA for its superb hosting of the meeting and all participants for constructive contributions, and then closed the meeting.

Minutes signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beatrice De Carli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark above the 'i' in "Carli".

Beatrice De Carli, GA Meeting Secretary

Minutes verified:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Newton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Peter Newton, GA Meeting Chair

Attachments:

01. Excerpt from the GAM 2014 Information Pack, including: Activity Report 2013, Financial Report 2013, Report from the EPC Committee, Proposed Activity Plan 2014-2016, Proposed Budget 2014, Motion to the GA Meeting 2014 by AuG Germany and Response to the Motion.
02. Attendance List
03. Audit reports by Melissa Kinnear and Vassilis Kapareliotis