

WFM-IGP Presentation at CGS Annual Meeting
March 21, 2009

WFM-IGP: The experience and relevance of a Global Movement

1– WFM-IGP: the movement, its governance structure and its work

As you may already be aware, the World Federalist Movement evolved out of a series of national organizations and efforts that started in the 1930s as a response to the failure of the League of Nations and in the attempt of creating the kind of global order that could prevent world war. At the end of the Second World War, numerous citizens' groups formed across Europe and North America to address the need for effective mechanisms of ensuring international peace and stability, realizing that the United Nations with its original structure would not be able to meet its first preambular goal: 'to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war'.

The groups started working independently of each other, publishing newsletters and pushing for reform and monitoring of the newly formed United Nations. By 1947 these independent groups recognized the need for unity in their movement if they were to achieve unity in the world. They agreed to meet in Montreux, Switzerland in August 1947 to work on forming a cohesive group, creating what is known today as the World Federalist Movement.

WFM is an international citizen's movement working for justice, peace and sustainable prosperity. It calls for an end to the rule of force, through a world governed by law, based on strengthened and democratized world institutions accountable to the citizens of the world.

In 1983, IGP was created as a research, publications and policy analysis tool to the WFM. IGP now serves as the primary education mechanism of WFM and seeks to promote better understanding of the UN system and other international organizations. IGP also promotes debate on key issues of global governance in the media and other fora.

Today, WFM is composed of 32 Organizations: 17 member organizations (Citizens for Global Solutions being the largest of these), and 15 associated organizations. Delegates from each of these organizations meet every 4-5 years at a global Congress of the WFM to set-up the overall policy for the movement, elects its Councilors (to represent Organizations) and the Councilors elect the Executive Committee members. The last Congress was held in Geneva and Montreux, Switzerland to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Movement. The

Council meets each year to discuss current issues of international affairs, review governance practices, pre-approve the budget and evaluate the activities of the International Secretariat.

WFM is committed to strengthening the presence of its members around the world. We are currently increasing outreach efforts to new associated and member organizations as well as a new Individual Members Organization is being established to allow individuals to participate directly with the Movement. In addition to CGS, WFM enjoys strong membership throughout Europe where the theories and ideals of federalism are being tested daily in the nascent governance of the European Union. In Japan, WFM Japan has been very successful recently steering the successful advocacy campaign for Japan's accession to the Rome Statute and an unprecedented resolution on World Federalism adopted by Japan's Diet. WFM's recent membership growth has primarily taken place in Latin America as Planetafilia of Mexico and Democracia Global of Argentina joined. You heard yesterday from Fernando Iglesias of Democracia Global on their efforts and recent successes particularly with the UNPA campaign.

In light of current events, the foundational philosophies of federalism are not only valid but essential. In the cases of emerging democracies such as Nepal and Iraq that are struggling to establish strong federalist constitutions, it would be good to have the support and the over forty federalist democracies (most being developed nations) to share their lessons learned. In this capacity, our global network of members could play a role in connecting these ideas.

WFM has 6 priority areas: federalism and global governance; peace & conflict prevention; rule of law and human rights; international democracy; economic governance and environmental governance.

As you may know, the overall vision of the movement is implemented and disseminated through the coordinated efforts of the Members and the International Secretariat (co-located in New York and The Hague). The IS is the administrative and coordinating body of the Movement and as such currently serves and directs 6 programs and projects: CICC, R2P, RUN, UNEX, PBC and GPO, these programs and projects are strengthened and enhanced by the participation and expertise received from the WFM organizations. The IS ensures coordination and information dissemination, and encourages our members to mobilize around these projects within their own communities and to lobby local and national representatives.

On these issues, CGS has proved to be a tremendous partner for WFM, providing grassroots advocacy within the US from neighborhood community centers to Capitol Hill. A recent example of this was when the ICC issued an arrest warrant for President Al-Bashir of Sudan, CGS coordinated with WFM's CICC, a press briefing at the National Press Club in DC to highlight these developments and raise awareness of the current US position towards the ICC. Similar efforts and events by our Members took place in other countries too. It is precisely this mutually reinforcing relationship that is essential to the continued success of the Movement's

shared projects and goals. As a part of the global Movement, the efforts of CGS in the US are compounded with those of members working in Nepal, Italy, Canada, Argentina, etc.

My hope is that this network would continue to strengthen its capacity, as members share with one another the lessons learned from their in-country efforts and campaigns, encourage each other with their successes and better coordinate global momentum on these current issues that communicate the relevancy of World Federalism in our world today.

I would highlight one member organization that is actively engaging and training the next generation of World Federalists, is JEF, the Young European Federalists. They currently have national chapters in every member country of the EU as well as many European countries that do not belong to the EU. JEF has been very successful in rallying its members to participate in Flash Actions: highly visible demonstrations in capitals and cities to raise awareness on issues of concern. Their latest was this Thursday's 3rd annual pan-European Flash Action calling for a free and democratic Belarus. However, JEF's efforts are not limited to demonstrations. In conjunction with the Altiero Spinelli Istituto di Federalismo, JEF coordinates an annual International Seminar on World Federalism on the island of Ventotene, Italy. The 5-day training seminar on the fundamentals of federalism and its application draws students and young federalists from around the world to debate current issues in federalism. I would highly recommend your organization encourage active young members to take advantage of this seminar (this year's will take place August 30 – September 4) as it provides a truly unique opportunity to engage with fellow world federalists. This is a network we must cultivate and strengthen in order to continue to grow as a Movement.

CGS is already actively engaged in several of the Movements projects. As I mentioned earlier, CGS has taken a lead role in advocating for the ICC in the US (publicly opposing the BIAs, raising awareness of the situations being investigated and tried by the Court, etc).

- CGS has also been a great supporter of the Movements efforts on R2P. Since 2003, R2P Cs has worked to advance the norm of the Responsibility to Protect to better enable governments, regional and international organizations, including the UN to protect vulnerable populations in situations of mass atrocities. At the beginning of 2007, WFM-IGP embarked on a new initiative: to build a global civil society coalition on the R2P for CSOs to recognize they play a crucial role in advancing the norm. It is indeed imperative that the message and understanding of the norm is right as R2P knowledge is limited and has been too broadly used as to encompass all threats or too narrowly used emphasizing only military intervention. Through a series of consultative regional roundtables, we have been able to get ready to articulate the goals of a global R2P Coalition. WFM-IGP; along with seven other Steering Committee members launched the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) on 28 January 2009.

- GPO

Another project CGS can engage with is our genocide prevention project which focuses on early warning mechanism and provides through its website information on the genocide prevention tools within the UN system as well as information on situations currently in crisis and at risk for mass atrocities by monitoring NGO, UN and media reports. IGP activities include:

1. coordinating and mobilizing of a network of concerned NGOs and experts around the re-appointment and strengthening of the UN Special Adviser's office;
2. building on the existing relationship with the SAPG office;
3. strengthening the international commitment to genocide prevention by widely distributing information on the SAPG mandate and reminding member states of their international commitments to prevent genocide, specifically those made during the 2005 World Summit;
4. increasing our information and outreach capacity by drafting our outreach questionnaire, developing media contacts and building a website, recently launched last September.

- PBC

WFM-IGP through its project on the UN Peacebuilding Commission, has played a unique role in the evolution of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and has been instrumental in ensuring that local voices have been heard in the PBC's efforts to develop better integrated and sustainable peacebuilding in Burundi and Sierra Leone. WFM-IGP has been a leader in calling for civil society engagement with the UN, facilitating timely and relevant input to PBC processes from civil society and ensuring that important actors around the world have access to information and analysis about the PBC.

Together for a Better Peace project works to ensure that civil society has a voice in developing integrated and sustained approaches to peacebuilding through the PBC. The project main activities focus on:

1. establishing a civil society constituency to assist the Commission in pursuing better peacebuilding policy and practice;
2. building the capacity of civil society organizations to contribute to the work of the PBC;
3. supporting the development of a transparent and effective PBC.

Today, we are a premier source for regularly updated information and analysis on the PBC and civil society's related peacebuilding efforts. The project continues to be the only full-time effort focused on building an informed civil society constituency prepared to engage with the PBC on peacebuilding challenges facing communities in all countries on the PBC's agenda. Another important set of activities under this project will

be to elaborate a civil society input regarding the 2010 review of the Commission, as well as monitor any relevant funding from the PBC Fund to RtoP-related emergencies.

- Reform the UN and UN elections

Since the 2005 summit, WFM-IGP has monitored the reform process of the UN, especially Security Council reform, System-wide Coherence through participating in the GEAR campaign.

Extending the experience that WFM-IGP had in the nomination process of the ICC judges, by convening panels with the candidates and reiterating the requirements involved in the position, WFM-IGP has a similar mechanism for high-level positions' nominations and candidatures that countries have at the Human Rights Council. The main purpose being to ensure a transparent and efficient nomination/selection mechanism based on merits and not politization.

3 – Concluding remarks

WFM-IGP's members provide the foundation and the momentum for these and other efforts around the world. The whole of the Movement is truly greater than the sum of our parts and I would encourage each of you to share with your local chapters how the work you do from Missouri to Minnesota is relevant not only effects Washington, but the World. You are part of a global movement of like-minded citizens working for justice, peace and sustainable prosperity and a world free of the rule of force, governed by law, based on strengthened and democratized world institutions accountable to the citizens of the world. As such, we welcome you to share your efforts with WFM and encourage you to get involved with fellow world federalists via our website, the facebook group, attending the Ventotene Seminar, or the upcoming Annual Council meeting of the WFM. I think these are ways to achieve together the long term effectiveness Scott Hoffman was referring to. I am certain that together, our efforts will prove fruitful.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you today.