**1% FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**MINUTES OF THE 2ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 2017**

**WEDNEDSDAY, 17 JANUARY 2018 AT 18.00**

**ROOM III, R3 SOUTH, ILO**

**Attendance and proxies:** 25 members in attendance and 46 members represented by proxies. The quorum having been reached, the meeting could proceed.

**1. Election of the Chairman**

Friedrich von Kirchbach, President, thanked the members for attending the 2nd General Assembly of 2017. He asked the members in attendance whether there was a candidate to chair the meeting, and the name of Susan Teltscher was put forward. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

At the invitation of the Chairperson, the General Assembly adopted the agenda.

**3. Report of the President of the Fund: Friedrich von Kirchbach (page 3)**

***Most recent Fund news***

Friedrich von Kirchbach thanked the members in attendance.

Friedrich announced that the current General Assembly was the Fund’s 83rd. The previous five months had been difficult, as Sylvie Pichelin had been absent for a long time for health reasons, and he had been unable to devote much time to the Fund because of his activities in Bourg-en-Bresse. He thanked the other members of the Management Committee, such as Christopher, who had done much to improve the computer tools. He also thanked Paul for his project follow-up work.

Regarding promotion, he referred to the craft sales organized by Isabelle at the ITC, the ILO, the UN and WTO. The Fund had made a profit of CHF 4,000 and above all collected the names of over 20 visitors who had signed up to receive information. The Fund had also organized a golf tournament, for the second time. Friedrich had presented the Fund on *World Radio Switzerland*. A raffle had been organized during the same period. Friedrich announced that he had had a Skype meeting with members of other funds. In June 2018 he would organize a working meeting to study the concept of “sustainable development” in the Fund’s projects with certain members of the Management Committee.

Friedrich also announced that the Fund currently had 192 members. He would be stepping down after four years as the Fund’s president. He gave the following assessment of that period:

1. A steady stream of members had stepped forward for the Management Committee and they were doing good work within the Fund; he was therefore not worried about the Fund’s future;
2. For the four years he was President, the Fund had spared no effort to reverse the decline in member numbers;
3. The celebration of the Fund’s 40th anniversary at Victoria Hall, with a concert offered by the United Nations Orchestra, had been a happy occasion;
4. He had fond memories of the Fund’s many highpoints during the discussions that had taken place in France, at his home in Bourg-en-Bresse, and of the work achieved;
5. He also recalled the Internet meetings he had held with the members of other funds.

In conclusion, he found that the Fund should continue to debate its future in discussions among its members.

The Chairperson thanked Friedrich for his report and his optimistic position on the Fund. Maurice Allal thanked Friedrich for the wonderful years of his presidency and for the enthusiasm he had brought to his position.

**4. Election of the Management Committee (page 3)**

The Chairperson reminded the members present that a list of all the candidates for the Management Committee and their current tasks was to be found on 3 of the convocation to attend the General Assembly. She asked whether there were any questions. The list was approved and the Management Committee thereby elected. As usual, the Management Committee could co-opt other candidates as required. That proposal was agreed by the members present.

Friedrich took the floor to inform the members that the next meeting of the Management Committee would elect the new President and Vice-President. Indeed, neither Friedrich nor Maurice would be present any longer. Friedrich recalled that Maurice had always taken part in the Fund’s management and had always acted selflessly in the Fund’s best interests. He would not be forgotten by the Fund’s members, and Friedrich proposed that a programme be named after him and that he be appointed Honorary President. The decision had been made to give him a Fnac gift voucher. All the members agreed with those decisions and the GA gave Maurice a standing ovation!

Maurice said that he was speechless and deeply touched. He confessed that he had thought about stepping down earlier, but had wanted to organize the new project evaluation and follow-up tools, which had delayed his departure. Now, given the quality of the people on the Management Committee, he felt reassured and no longer feared for the future. From now on he would have to convince Linda to travel with him for pleasure. He thanked the members for their kindness.

**5. Presentation of a 1% Fund project in Uganda: William Speller, member of the Project Evaluation and Follow-up (PEF) Committee, who visited the project**

*Sunrise Child Initiative Uganda (SCIU)*. A subsidy of CHF 8,500 had been granted to support the income-generating activities of 25 families in the Sebei region, in eastern Uganda. The beneficiaries were parents who had lost their spouses to HIV/AIDS and who in many cases cared for the children of deceased members of their expanded families. The families received between CHF 100 and 500 CHF, to start a small business, engage in trade, open a shop or raise goats, chickens and pigs, including matooke plantations. The NGO also provided the beneficiary families with basic business training. The aid provided had genuinely transformed the families’ lives and their businesses had met with considerable success, enabling them to pay the school fees of the children dependent on them. William had visited the project in April 2017 and had been particularly impressed by the professionalism and diligence with which it was being implemented by the NGO.

The Chairperson thanked William for his presentation and asked whether there were any questions. One member asked from the floor whether the project’s beneficiaries were obliged to reimburse the money they had received for their business. William replied that the project did not require reimbursement but rather a high rate of success in the beneficiaries’ business activities. It was more important to create opportunities for the families, who often lived far from towns, to enable them to progress in the region.

**6. Report on follow-up of funded projects: Paul Bailey, project follow-up coordinator (page 5)**

The Chairperson gave the floor to Paul Bailey.

Paul Bailey said that 29 projects had been followed up during the period under review. Nine new projects had been approved at the General Assembly in June 2017 and three others that were part of an ongoing programme had been previously approved. Nineteen projects were ongoing. At the end of December, recent information had been received on 26 projects and 10 final reports had been submitted, seven of which had been ranked 4. The three other final reports remained to be examined. All the new projects had confirmed that they had received the funds (first tranche or single payment). A project in Senegal had been cancelled and the money returned to the Fund.

Paul gave a slide presentation containing a list of all the evaluators and projects by country and a list of all completed projects, illustrated with photos. He then gave a demonstration to help members access the database, which contained over 800 projects financed by the Fund and could be found on the “members” section of the website. Paul reminded members that they could also visit the projects financed by the Fund.

**7. Presentation and adoption of new projects: Gwenn Ward (page 7)**

The Chairperson gave the floor to Gwenn, PEF co-coordinator, who would present the report instead of Sylvie. Gwenn said that the Fund had received 104 requests for funding since June 2017. The requests had been handled as follows: 17 questionnaires (14 at the previous session) had been sent, essentially to Africa. Seventy projects had been immediately informed of their rejection (33 at the previous session) because the requests did not meet the Fund’s criteria. Seventeen projects had been assessed by the PEF (11 at the previous session). Of the 17 project proposals assessed by the Fund, five had been rejected because they did not meet the Fund’s criteria.

At the previous GA, in June 2017, it had been decided that the two projects presented that were part of a programme in Benin should be approved by the Management Committee. The project Burkina Faso 2017/01 was presented to the members. It had been the subject of extensive correspondence between the evaluator and the NGO. The project was finally adopted by the members. A second project from Burkina Faso (Burkina Faso 2017/02) was also adopted by the members. Two projects from Cameroon (Cameroon 2017/01 and Cameroon 2017/02) were also presented to the members. Project Cameroon 2017/02 prompted a few questions that the evaluator was not immediately able to answer. It was decided to contact the NGO again to submit those questions, after which the Management Committee would take a decision on the basis of the answers received. All the other projects were adopted without question by the members present.

The Chairperson thanked all the evaluators for their work and moved on to the next item on the agenda.

**8. Other business**

Donna Wood informed the members that she was organizing a raffle with the help of Brian Ruane and Linda Ollerenshaw. It was an official raffle that had the approval of the Geneva authorities. They had to collect money and prizes in order to be able to sell 2,000 tickets that would be sold at 5 CHF per ticket.

Two members of the NGO *Greycells* were attending the GA. Friedrich welcomed them and said that the Fund should cooperate more actively with the association. Alejandro and Manuela thanked Friedrich for the welcome and announced that their association had no funds but rather knowledge, which it made available to the Fund. Thanks to a bilateral agreement between the 1% Fund and Greycells, each NGO had become a member of the other.

The Chairperson thanked all the members for attending and asked them to spread the word about the good management of the 1% Fund.

Maurice and Friedrich invited the members to share a pizza at the usual venue. The meeting rose at about 20.00.

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