



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Board of Trustees 46th session

UNITAR/BT/2008/2

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 46TH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) convened in Geneva from 15-16 May 2008 for its forty-sixth session.
2. The following members of the Board were present or were represented at the session:

Mr. Kazuo ASAKAI (Japan)

Mr. Kwame BAWUAH EDUSEI..... (Ghana)

Mr. Jean-Marc BOULGARIS (Vice-Chairman)..... (Switzerland)

Mr. Simon COMPAORE..... (Local authority)

Ms. Shirley FRANKLIN (Local authority)
Represented by Ms. Claire MC LEVEIGHN (Designated alternate)

Ms. Geraldine FRASER-MOLEKETI(South Africa)

Ms. Radha KUMAR..... (Academia)

Mr. Valery LOSHCHININ..... (Russian Federation)

Mr. Jean-Baptiste MATTEI.....(France)

Mr. Tõnis NIRK (Chairman)..... (Estonia)
Chairman
Represented by Mr. Martin LÄÄN (Designated alternate)

Mr. Henri PROGLIO (Private sector)
Represented by Mr. Dominique HERON (Designated alternate)

Mr. Carlos ROCHA DE PARANHOS
Represented by Mr. Julio Laranjeira (Designated alternate) (Brazil)

Mr. Chaiyong SATJIPANON..... (Thailand)

Ms. Kristin Anne SYDNES(NGO)

Ex Officio:

Secretary-General
Represented by Ms. Jan BEAGLE, Deputy Director-General, UNOG

Mr. Carlos LOPES, Executive Director, UNITAR

Secretary:

Mr. Brook BOYER

Observers:

Ms. Charlotte DIEZ, Special Assistant to the Executive Director, UNITAR
Ms. Ruth HOGLAND, Chief, Finance and Administration Section, UNITAR
Ms. Isabel HUBERT, Associate Director, Peace, Security and Diplomacy, UNITAR
Ms. Trisha RIEDY, Manager, Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution, UNITAR

3. The Executive Director called the meeting to order and welcomed members to the 46th session of the Board. Mr. Lopes announced that the session was convening under exceptional circumstances with the recent and unexpected hospitalization of Ambassador Nirk, Chairman of the Board. Mr. Lopes indicated that the Institute had consulted with most members and that during the consultations Ambassador Satjipanon had put forward the nomination of Ambassador Boulgaris to become Vice-Chairman. The Executive Director thanked him for having accepted this nomination and stated that a number of members had expressed support. Mr. Lopes then opened the floor to other possible nominations for Vice-Chairman. There were none, and the Board elected Ambassador Boulgaris as Vice-Chairman, who was asked to act as Chairman a.i.
4. The Vice-Chairman took his seat and thanked members for their trust. He asked Mr. Lään, the designated alternate of Ambassador Nirk, to convey on behalf of the Board his best wishes to the Ambassador for a speedy recovery. Mr. Lopes joined the Vice-Chairman in conveying his wishes to Ambassador Nirk, and extended his appreciation for the energy that the Ambassador had displayed in preparation for this session.
5. In contrast to previous sessions, the Executive Director indicated that the 46th session would go into the details of the Institute's programming and would include, immediately following the session's closing, a panel discussion with presentations of several of the Board's members. Mr. Lopes remarked that the session's timing corresponds to just over a year of his leadership of the Institute and that he was pleased to report that a number of reforms have already been implemented under the Strategic Reform Plan. In concluding his introductory remarks, he thanked

Ambassador Boulgaris for his continuing support and for having accepted to preside this session at such short notice.

6. The Vice-Chairman recognized Mr. Lään, who briefly took the floor and expressed his appreciation for the Board's concerns and thoughtful wishes, and informed the Board that the Ambassador is recovering well from his condition.
7. The Vice-Chairman then announced that in accordance with Rule 15 of the Board's Rules of Procedure as amended at the 2007 special session and the rules empowering the Vice-President, he would approve the participation of Mr. Martin Lään, Mr. Dominique Héron, Ms. Claire McLeveighn and Mr. Julio Laranjeira as the designated alternates of their respective members with full powers to take part in deliberations and in any decision-making that may be required.
8. Under item 2, Adoption of the agenda, the Vice-Chairman invited members to comment on the provisional agenda. The Vice-Chairman requested that the Board consider that members move item 7 (any other business) to become the last item, and that the title of item 5e be revised to read "Resource mobilization and financial situation of the Institute." The Vice-Chairman requested comments. There were none, and the agenda was adopted with the requested changes by the Vice-Chairman.
9. Under item 3 of the agenda, Proposed organization of work, the Vice-Chairman proposed to conduct business from 10.00 to 13:00, after which members would be invited to a luncheon with selected heads of agencies and other personalities. He then proposed that the session would resume in the afternoon and possibly during the morning of Friday, 16 May, at which time the Board would consider and approve the draft report of the session. There were no comments and the organization of work as proposed by the Vice-Chairman was adopted.
10. Under item 4 of the agenda, Introduction of new members of the Board and tribute to members whose second term expired on 31 December 2007, the Vice-Chairman announced that the Secretary-General had nominated eight new members (as listed under the item's annotation) and renewed the appointment of Mr. Proglia for a second term. The Vice-Chairman welcomed the Board's new members. He also expressed sincere thanks to members whose term expired on 31 December 2007 (as listed under the item's annotation) and paid tribute to the Board's former Chairman, Ambassador Omar Hilale.
11. The Executive Director communicated information regarding several members who were unable to attend the session, including Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Ambassador Henri Lopes and Ms. Elena Martinez. Mr. Lopes joined the Vice-Chairman in paying tribute to the former Chairman, and indicated that Ambassador Hilale has remained in close contact with the Institute in terms of preparing missions to Gulf States.
12. At the invitation of the Vice-Chairman, new members and the alternate of the member whose term was renewed made brief statements and expressed their honor to sit on the Board and pledged to commit themselves to supporting the Institute at such an important, exciting and dynamic juncture.
13. Mr. Lopes wished to recognize the presence of Ms. Jan Beagle, Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, who was requested by the Director-General to serve as ex officio member of the Board representing the Secretary-General.

14. The Chairman then introduced item 5 of the agenda, Follow-up from the Rabat special session of the Board, and proposed that the Board address each sub item separately.
15. Under sub item 5a, Update on the implementation of the Strategic Reform Plan, the Vice-Chairman asked the Executive Director to provide a brief report. Mr. Lopes reported that the implementation of the Plan is advancing well and that among many measures, those regarding the establishment of human resources policies were among the most difficult. Since the convening of the Rabat special session, Mr. Lopes was pleased to announce that the Institute has complied with the Board of Auditors' recommendations on the creation of an Appointment and Promotions Board (APB). The Executive Director indicated that half of the members of the APB were elected by the staff and other personnel of the Institute, and that the APB is now fully functional.
16. In terms of developing partnerships and relationships with other entities, Mr. Lopes announced a number of recent developments.
17. Ms. Beagle expressed appreciation for the activities of the Institute since Mr. Lopes was appointed as its Executive Director, and indicated that the United Nations Office at Geneva was pleased to be a co-host of the Geneva Lecture Series. The Vice-Chairman welcomed the inputs from the representative of the Secretary-General and expressed his congratulations to Mr. Lopes for giving the Institute an increasingly appreciate role within the United Nations system.
18. A number of members welcomed the progress report and commended the recent efforts of the Executive Director, underscoring those aimed at addressing human resource related issues (e.g. establishing a transparent APB) and developing new partnerships (e.g. local authorities and the private sector) and innovate ways to reach out to the public (e.g. public meetings). With respect to private sector partnerships, several members suggested the need to exercise caution, however. Mr. Lopes took note indicating that collaboration with oil companies in the Niger Delta, for example, is to develop local content, and that the Institute is offering the possibility to train local authorities.
19. While welcoming the update provided by the Executive Director, one member made reference to the discussions at the 2007 special session with regard to informing the diplomatic communities in Geneva and New York on developments, and questioned whether more work could be done. In reference to the launching of the Geneva Lecture Series, another member asked if this would be something to consider taking forward also in other cities/venues. Several members underscored the important role the Institute plays and can play in terms of its strength as an impartial and universal convening venue for training and dialogues.
20. Mr. Lopes took note of the recommendation for better communication about the Institute's reform, and indicated that virtually every month the Institute communicates with missions in the form of *notes verbale*, and that he has met at least 30 Permanent Representatives in Geneva and over 20 such Representatives in New York since the Rabat session. With regard to the comments on the strength of the Institute's convening role, the Executive Director noted that in addition to organizing a second retreat of the United Nations senior most management in partnership with the United Nations System Staff College and the Department of Management, the Institute has also been requested to organize retreats this year with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. In responses to remarks made by members regarding collaboration with the private sector, Mr. Lopes

underscored that all 12 CIFAL Centres entertain relations with the private sector, and that one private entity, *Veolia Environnement*, was represented on the Board.

21. Returning to the discussion on human resources and administrative circular establishing the APB, one member questioned if the APB would also advise the Executive Director on posts above the P5 level (e.g. D1). Mr. Lopes later informed the Board that for such senior-levels posts, the Institute Statute requires consultations with the Secretary-General, and it was for this reason that the circular did not include levels above P5.
22. In closing debate on the sub item, the Vice-Chairman summarized the Board's discussions and noted the remarkable difference in the form, shape and status of the Institute today compared to its position many years ago, and he congratulated the current Executive Director for his efforts and also those of his predecessor. The Vice-Chairman underscored the Board's general feeling of satisfaction and took note that there have recently been some major successes for which Mr. Lopes should be applauded. It had been suggested during the discussions that the Institute pursue the recent collaboration with CNN with other media channels, and noted that the Niger Delta activities have received broad support and that the Executive Director was disposed to extending such collaboration with local authorities to other regions. **The Vice-Chairman announced that the Board take note of the general situation of the Institute.**
23. Under sub item 5b, Full integration of UNOSAT into the Institute, the Vice-Chairman asked the Executive Director to elaborate. Mr. Lopes underscored the excellent work of UNOSAT colleagues and noted that UNOSAT represents a very important contribution to the United Nations. He noted that the ambition is to integrate UNOSAT fully into UNITAR, and that this process would require the collaboration of UNOPS. The Institute has placed three conditions on a full integration: 1) there needs to have a declaration by UNOPS managing UNOSAT finances that there are no liabilities; 2) there needs to be a legal opinion on all of the implications of this transfer; and 3) there needs to be clarity on the status of recruitment regarding contracts and human resources of UNOSAT personnel. Mr. Lopes announced that the process is unfortunately taking longer than expected, but that the process is underway and that between the Rabat session and now, the Institute is managing the resources of two projects that UNOSAT is executing. **The Board took note.**
24. Under sub item 5c, Review of Mandates, the Vice-Chairman reminded members that the Board has already examined this question, and referred to the annotations under the item.
25. One member requested an elaboration on the current status of the review of mandates. One member encouraged UNITAR to further its collaboration with UNU. For the benefit of the new members, Mr. Lopes provided background on the review process and its relationship to UNITAR. The Vice-Chairman thanked Mr. Lopes for the elaboration. There were no comments and **the Board recommended that the Institute continue monitoring events and report to it as may be required.**
26. Under sub item 5d, Update on request for funding for the Institute's core diplomacy training, the Vice-Chairman indicated that UNITAR had made an important step forward with the adoption of the resolution (attached in annex 3 of the session's documents) and the request for the Secretary-General to provide a report to ECOSOC at its 2008 substantive session.

27. Mr. Lopes provided an update to new members on this outstanding issue before the Board. The Executive Director indicated that core diplomacy training represents 5 per cent of the budget of the Institute, and the activities consist of short, intensive training activities targeting diplomats in NY, Geneva and other venues where the United Nations maintains a significant presence. In 2006 the Institute approached the Second Committee of the General Assembly to find a solution to this deficit. As a result the Committee deliberated on the matter with the adoption of the resolution 62/210, indicating that Member States need to find a solution to the funding of this training. This resolution requested that Secretary-General to produce a report by the end of May 2008. Mr. Lopes informed the Board that the core diplomacy training is operating with an annual deficit of \$600,000. Mr. Lopes indicated that there is an array of possibilities for addressing the deficit, and that he would fully support any recommendations that the Secretary-General may put forward in his report. In concluding, the Executive Director underscored the uniqueness of this training, which reaches out to diplomats from virtually all Member States. **The Board took note of the question as it stands.**
28. Under sub item 5e, Resource mobilization and the present financial state of the Institute, the Vice-Chairman proposed that the Board address the two issues under this sub item separately, beginning with a status report by the Executive Director on the Institute's recent resource mobilization efforts.
29. Mr. Lopes stated that it was important to underscore that it was only in May 2007 that the Board approved the Strategic Reform Plan and that a Resource Mobilization Strategy was only in place since December 2007. Although contacts had been initiated earlier with several countries, including Finland, Norway and Sweden, Mr. Lopes indicated that the Institute would expand its donor base by approaching new ones. Mr. Lopes reported that Sweden agreed to fund two programmes, one related to peace and security and one related to human rights. The Institute was also in the process of finalizing a request in partnership with the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI) and that collaboration with a Finnish university, the University of Joensuu, had commenced.
30. The Executive Director reported that the President of Kazakhstan has agreed to support the Institute in the order of \$1 million per year for three years, and that there are ongoing discussions with Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Russia and Spain. With regard to Spain, Mr. Lopes indicated that he was hopeful that initial support would already materialize before the summer and would increase in 2009. He also reported on 2008 developments with South Africa and mentioned that negotiations were beginning on the establishment of an office there. The Executive Director indicated that overall, the prospects of mobilizing funds to meet budgetary requirements were very good.
31. A number of members took the floor and welcomed the status report, and some members or their designated alternates provided information and/or suggestions in view of further mobilizing support, in particular new donors including suggestions for mobilizing additional support from private sector entities. Several members questioned the small or absent contributions from some Member States.
32. Mr. Lopes responded to a number of comments and gave details of recent meetings he had with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) regarding the core diplomacy training of the Institute, and the favourable view that CDT is not considered as an administrative cost but rather as a training service.

33. The Vice-Chairman concluded discussions on the Executive Director's status report and indicated that absent any objections, **the Board would take note with satisfactory progress on resource mobilization with a number of countries, including those targeted in 2008 and other countries in which the Institute is targeting for the future.**
34. With regard to the current financial situation of the Institute, Mr. Lopes requested that Ms. Ruth Hogland, Chief of the Administrative and Financial Section brief the Board. Ms. Hogland stated that it was considered too early into the biennium to produce formal tables to present to the Board. The results to date in 2008 are very satisfactory. The budget for the biennium 2008-09 was discussed in detail in Rabat in December 2007 and was considered as ambitious but realistic. The programmes have been performing well such that expenditures to date at 30 April 2008 are just over \$6 million. The biennium budget is \$36 million, and the proportional amount for four months is \$6 million, such that the Institute is on target. In addition, the income to the General Fund for the four months is almost \$900,000. This amount is considerably higher than the proportional income in 2007. The Institute is satisfied with these results to date, in particular with the accuracy in comparison with the budget.
- 35. The Board agreed that it may be useful to establish subsidiary bodies other arrangements to follow detailed financial matters and resource mobilization. The secretariat is invited to make a proposal for the next session of the Board in this regard. Such a proposal should consider the possibility of expanding the Board's role on resource mobilization and change the rules of procedure to avoid having to discuss financial matters at each session.**
36. Under item 6 of the agenda, a presentation was made by Ms. Isabel Hubert, Associate Director for Training and Head of the Peace, Security and Diplomacy Unit. Ms. Hubert described the Unit as being composed of four of the Institute's programmes, namely international law, multilateral diplomacy, peacemaking and conflict prevention, and peacekeeping. Following an introduction to the institutional setting and to major beneficiaries of the training offered by the Unit, Ms. Hubert reviewed the various categories of training services and capacity development activities, including face-to face activities, tailor made activities, global and regional fellowship programmes, high level meetings, training of trainer components, distance and e-Learning opportunities as well as training tools and publications. Ms. Hubert also provided an overview of the methodology applied unit-wide which consists of four pedagogical pillars designed to provide trainees with hands-on and practical training experience. Explanations of resource persons and partners in the execution of training activities were given as were facts and figures from the biennium 2006/7. The outlook on the Unit's objectives for 2008-2009 was complemented by the respective budgetary information. Ms. Hubert then invited her colleague, Mr. Brook Boyer, in his capacity as Manager of the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme, to make a live demonstration of an e-Learning course running online for some 230 participants from over 80 countries.
37. A number of members congratulated the Institute's staff for the presentations and found them quite useful in describing the work of the Unit. Members also commented on the presentations and asked questions on issues related to the profile of its beneficiaries/participants, selection processes, identifying training needs, monitoring and evaluation processes, methodology and training of trainers, and developing synergies and partnerships. Several members suggested training avenues to develop or further develop, such as human rights. A number of members also provided suggestions on further mobilizing resources for the activities and programmes of the

Unit which the Executive Director welcomed and confirmed would be followed-up. The Executive Director follow-ed up with a number of comments and provided further examples of training initiatives, methodologies and the establishment of training partnerships.

38. The Vice-Chairman summarized discussions and noted that the Board congratulated the secretariat for the presentations. He noted the extremely important role for training in the United Nations system, and that the Institute brings a valuable element in the form of content and methodologies, particularly given the Institute's focus on short-term 'executive' training activities for professionals. The Vice-Chairman also noted that it would not be appropriate for the Institute to fully harmonize evaluations, although he further noted that there was already some degree of harmonization within certain categories of activities.
39. The Board took note of the consolidated legal opinion on UNITAR's autonomy which was issued by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, and looks forward to further discussion on this matter at its next session.
40. The Board has decided that its next meeting would take place in the window of January to February 2009 at a venue outside of Geneva. The Executive Director will pursue consultations and will inform members of the venue and final dates.
41. The Board took note of the fact that its Secretary will be entrusted with other tasks and thanked him for his efforts during his tenure.
42. Mr. Lopes announced that the following members are scheduled to complete their present terms on 31 December 2008: Ambassador Kazuo Asakai, Ambassador Jean-Marc Boulgaris, Ambassador Kwame Bawuah Edusei, Ambassador Valery Loshchinin, Professor Kafya Radaman and Ambassador Chaoyong Satjipanon. The Executive Director extended his deepest appreciation to these members for their dedication and support, and paid tribute in particular to the two members completing their second term, Ambassador Jean-Marc Boulgaris and Ambassador Kwame Bawuah Edusei, and who will not be at the Board's next session scheduled for early 2009 given the limitation of appointments in the Statute. Mr. Lopes also extended once again his special thanks and appreciation to Ambassador Boulgaris for having accepted to preside over this session and for his extended services to the Institute.
43. Two members completing their second term expressed their deep appreciation for the opportunity given by the Secretary-General for them to serve on UNITAR's Board and pledged their continued commitment to the Institute.