

## **Minutes of general assembly meeting of GWA**

**20-3-2006**

**Mexico city**

Present: Ethne Davey (chairlady of GWA), Joke Muykwijs (Executive director GWA), Simi Kamal, Kusum Athukorala, Barbara Schreiner, Sara Ahmed, Laura Ruiz, Ninon Machado, Demetrios Christofidis, Edvalda Pereira Torres Lins Aroucha, Hebe M. Barber, Jeanne Nzungize Bushayija, Seema Kulkarni, Annelieke Douma, Yolanda B. Gomez, Eirah Gorre-Dale, Helen Derbyshire (Steering Committee member), Marcia Brewster (Steering Committee member), Denise Soares, Edna Cali, Karla Priego, Lilliana Arieta, Carmen Ledo, Ian Smout, Prabha Khosla, Joakim Efebi, Betty Soto, Carolina Vergara, Karin Krchnak (Steering Committee member), Alan Hall (Steering Committee member), Barbara van Koppen, Mariela Garcia, Mary Renwick, Sandra Bastidas, Esther de Jong (Programme Officer GWA, minutes), Alejandra Acosta (Admin. Fin. Officer GWA, translations).

Non members:

Naseer A Ullani (Pakistan), Farzana Saleem (Pakistan), Missaka Hettiarachch (Sri Lanka), Badra Kamaladasa (Sri Lanka), Andrea Carestiato (Brazil), Lydia Richardson (evaluator), Chicu Lokgariwar (India), Jutta Himmelsbach (Germany), Johdah Bokhari (Pakistan), Anna Virginia Machado (Brazil), Hamida Masood Shah (Pakistan), Mir Aurangzaib (Pakistan), Kathleen Shordt (The Netherlands), Erma Uijtewaal (the Netherlands).

The meeting starts with the introduction of the members of the Steering Committee of GWA that are present in the meeting.

### **Opening Statement of the Chairlady of GWA (attached as separate file)**

The chairlady looks back on the achievements of GWA in the last five years and specifically on the time she was a chairlady. She also looks towards the future and the work that has to be done still. She calls upon the members to commit themselves to the strategic plan for the next 5 years and to lead by example in achieving these goals.

### **Issues to discuss**

The Executive director asks the members to bring in issues they would like to discuss.

The following issues were raised and briefly discussed:

- The network being an international network has a problem with language barriers. Many information is given in English and this is an obstacle for (amongst others) the Portuguese members.  
Reaction: GWA has to pay attention to this and the resource guide will be translated to Portuguese as well.
- How do the regions fit in the Strategy of GWA? And how are these represented in the steering committee?  
The regionalization could be better discussed with the people from the region itself, than in a plenary meeting as this. It is important to know what is going on in the

specific region as they are all different from each other, and only after that decide what to do.

With respect to the Steering Committee, it tries to represent different regions and different water sectors. It is not a perfect system, but GWA tries to work it as good as possible. Just to remind you: you will receive an e-mail to vote for the new steering committee members, please respond to this e-mail! The difference between GWP and Cap-Net is that GWA is a member organisation, so our procedures are different.

- The Executive director raises the point that as she is managing the network, she sometimes has to make decisions without being able to consult with all people in the network. She would like to use the capacity of the members, but as she does not know them personally, she needs the support of the members. She calls upon the members to only recommend good people that have time to do the work if GWA is looking for somebody to do a project in name of GWA. As we are all equal within the network, it is the only way it can work.

### **GWA Strategic Plan 2006-2010**

There is much confusion about the goal of the meeting and many members did not read the reports that were sent to them in advance, contributing to the confusion. The chair expresses her concern about the fact that members did not read the report. The meeting is continued by discussing the GWA Strategic Plan 2006-2010 point wise.

Output 1: Network of GWA members managed, strengthened and operating effectively. The Executive Director is aware that she did not inform the members sufficiently because of time-constraints. There were a lot of requirements from the outside (like the resource guide) and these have to be met first. The priorities lie there. In the future she intends to inform the members better and more often.

Output 2: Knowledge and information on gender mainstreaming policies, practice and experience collected, recorded and shared by GWA members and other key stakeholders. The resource guide which has been launched here at the water forum, still has to be adjusted a bit. If you have any recommendations regarding the resource guide, please forward these to the secretariat before the end of May 2006. These comments can than be incorporated in the new version and CD that will be printed in July.

Output 3: Capacity to mainstream Gender in IWRM amongst target groups significantly increased.

Remark: GWA should also focus on river basin level, and transboundary level, not only on regional or national level.

Answer: This summary of the programme is not limited to the activities mentioned, it is just a very brief summary and you all have received the complete document of around 15 pages.

Laura Ruiz: I have read the documents you sent to us by e-mail. In Latin America we are just a small group, and especially in Mexico. In the last few years we have been very active in the network, we are women that are working a lot in these areas. We have participated in other network, we are really interested in working in the network of the GWA. We already have a plan about regionalisation of the work in Latin Amerika. We

are making a proposal with a budget and will sent it to the SC for commenting. I would like to thank GWA from the group of Latin America.

Carolina Vergara: We have received all the documents, but there is a language problems; in Latin America we do not all speak English. We are interested, but we can not read them, so we are disadvantaged with the other members. So it would be good to translate the documents in Spanish so all members can participate. If everybody can participate the network can be much bigger.

**Output 4: Significant Progress in the incorporation of Gender Issues in the development and Implementation of National Water-Related Policies in targeted countries**

**Output 5: International conferences and events**

The chairlady asks the members if they approve of the strategic plan as outlined before. By acclamation the meeting approves.

**Closure of the session by chairlady**

The chairlady thanks everybody for joining the meeting. As this was the first general assembly we still need to learn how to do it, but she hopes that next meeting will be better.

Prabha Khosla thanks the steering committee and staff of GWA for all the work they have done in the last 5 years.