



MINUTES OF THE 16th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 8, 2017 – Fortaleza, Brazil

1.0 WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President, Roberto Hidalgo welcomes all the members and declares opened the 16th MILSET General Assembly.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE QUORUM

The quorum is confirmed by the Electoral Commissioners.

3.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda is unanimously approved with the following corrections:

4.0 APPROVAL OF THE MILSET GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2013 MINUTES

The minutes of the MILSET General Assembly, held on July 22, 2015 in Brussels, Belgium, are unanimously approved.

5.0 MILSET ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES – 2015-2016

The President, Mr. Roberto Hidalgo and the Vice-President, Mr. Reni Barlow, present an overview of the MILSET Annual Report of Activities for 2015-2016.

A section of the report is targeted to the MILSET programs, Expo-sciences, Leaders Congress, Young Citizens Conferences and Science Photo Contest. In matter of governance, it is noted that the Internal Rules, the Board of Directors Code of Conduct and the Branding Policy have been modified. New policies were also put in place related to online accounts.

The MILSET global office in Mexico continues its collaboration with the Universidad Popular Autonoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP). In 2015, an agreement enabled us to add Liz Vela to the MILSET staff as Communication Manager. In 2016, Bere Suarez joined the staff as Managing Director.

6.0 STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2015-2016 FINANCIAL RESULTS 2015-2016

On behalf of the Treasurer, Carole Charlebois, the 2015 & 2016 Statements of Financial Position, approved by the Board of Directors, together with the 2015-2016 Financial Results are presented.

The Unrestricted Assets as per December 31, 2016 shows a total of 95 996,97 €. The surplus (deficit) of Revenues on Expenses, as per December 31, 2015 is (332,04 €) and as per December 31, 2016, is 4 779,17 €.

7.0 MEMBERSHIP FEE – 2018-2019

It is proposed to keep the MILSET membership fee at 100€ per year for 2018-2019.

It is proposed by Mr. Ali Al-Murzoqi (ACTVET) to raise the MILSET membership fee to 200€ per year. The motion is defeated.

After discussion, it is approved by the majority to keep the MILSET membership fee at 100€ per year for the next two years.

8.0 STATUTES – MODIFICATIONS

Proposals approved by the Board of Directors to modify the MILSET Statutes are presented, for ratification. In reviewing the Internal Rules to add articles related to national organisation, it became clear that a review of the Membership Definition and Composition was necessary.

The new version of the articles 6 and 7 of the MILSET Statutes is approved unanimously, as shown below:

Article 6: Definition and Composition

Members shall be organisations, institutions, agencies, foundations, or networks active in science, technology, engineering, and math education or the promotion of science and technology for children and youth.

There shall be two (2) levels of membership:

- Member;
- Affiliate Member.

Members are those that have paid the annual membership fee.

Affiliate Members are Members that have not paid their annual membership fee.



Associate Organisations are organisations with interest in collaborating with, or a future membership in MILSET.

Article 7: Rights and Obligations

Members

Members shall have the right to participate in:

- General Assembly meetings;
- Regional Assembly meetings for the Region in which they are a Member; and
- Activities of the Organisation.

Members shall agree to abide by the Charter and the Statutes of the Organisation.

Affiliate Members

Affiliate Members shall have similar rights to Members; however, they shall not participate in the governance of the organisation and may have limited rights to participate in activities of the organisation.

Affiliate Members shall agree to abide by the Charter and the Statutes of the Organisation.

Associate Organisations

Associate Organisations have no formal relationship, status, or rights within MILSET; however, they may identify themselves as MILSET Associate Organisations.

7.0 STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019 - REPORT

Reni Barlow – Chairman of the MILSET Strategic Planning Committee – presents an updated report on the Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

During ESI 2015 in Brussels, we reported on the first phase of a new strategic plan to give MILSET a more consistent approach to its operation and programs. The new statement of program and event philosophy and rules for use of the MILSET brand are now well established; however, several of the remaining tasks proved to be more challenging. Work is still continuing on new quality standards for programs and events and on the statements of benefits to member organizations and sponsors. The new target for their completion is December 2017.

Also in Brussels, the Board of Directors selected three priorities to achieve by September 2019:

1. MILSET programs and events are characterized by interactivity and engagement, and directly reflect the mission through a focus on motivation, cooperation, and networking for youth and adult participants;



2. MILSET ESI is the most prestigious non-competitive science event for youth in the world; and
3. MILSET uses its online presence and social media to enable youth from around the world to connect, collaborate, and share their passion for science and technology.

For the **first priority**, the Executive Committee chose to focus on improving the experience at Expo-Sciences through program activities to help youth meet each other, visit and learn about their projects, and improve their skills in science communication. Various activities were tested at the first MILSET Vostok Regional Expo-Sciences in Moscow in November 2016. Several of these activities have been included in the ESI 2017 program and we look forward to receiving feedback from participants.

The **second priority** is challenging to measure, as ESI is one of the only non-competitive international youth science events. In the ESI 2015 participant survey, we asked youth and adults who had participated in other international youth STEAM events (including competitive events) to rate how MILSET ESI 2015 compared in experience and prestige. Although the sample size was small at 59, ESI 2015 was rated as being:

- slightly less prestigious than Intel ISEF;
- about the same level of prestige as I-SWEEEP and the Taiwan International Science Fair; and
- somewhat more prestigious than previous MILSET ESIs, the Asia, Europe and Amlat Regional Expo-Sciences, GENIUS Olympiad, and INESPO.

We are pleased that, at least for the participants, MILSET ESI is considered to be among the most prestigious international youth STEAM events. We will measure this again after MILSET ESI 2017.

The **third priority** is currently our greatest challenge. The MILSET web site was developed 10 years ago and is now obsolete in technology and design. Newer sites have been created for programs and for every ESI and Regional Expo-Sciences, each with its own appearance, navigation structure, branding, and management. Several regional offices have built their own separate sites because the MILSET site was difficult for them to use, or to use a language that it could not easily accommodate, such as Arabic.

The result is a collection of inconsistent and disconnected sites that inhibits the sharing of stories and information between regions, programs, and events, the aggregation of data, and oversight by the MILSET office.

In January 2017, MILSET contracted a software development company to review the organization's online presence, identify issues, and make recommendations. Their report was received in late March and their proposal in late April. The Executive Committee has



been considering the recommendations and will make a decision soon on how to proceed.

Over the next two years, MILSET will focus on completing the remaining tasks from 2015, continuing to improve the program and event experience, and building a more effective online presence.

10.0 ESI 2017 – REPORT AND INFORMATION

Mr. Helio Brochier, translated by Eduardo Batista, presented a brief report on ESI 2017 highlighting that the organizers faced a variety of challenges, including economic issues and reduced participation due to travel costs and visa approvals, but their organizing committee tried their best to give everyone in attendance a memorable experience. The President thanks Mr. Brochier and the ESI 2017 organizing committee for an excellent event.

11.0 ESI 2019 – PRESENTATION

Mr. Ali Al-Murzoqi, representing ACTVET, the host institution who will organize MILSET ESI 2019 presents a video on Abu Dhabi. He gives a brief description of their plans to ensure that ESI 2019 will be a great success.

Dates

ESI 2019 will be held on September 22-28, 2019.

Location

The event will be held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), where will be located all the facilities for meals and meetings rooms, including an auditorium. All hotels are located at a walking distance of the Exhibition Centre.

Participants

The target number of participants has been set at 2000. School visits will be important as the school year will already have started.

Registration fee

The registration fees will be the same as the ones charged in 2017.

12.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Regional Offices elected/appointed their representatives to sit on the MILSET Board of directors:

AFRICA

In process



AMLAT

- Eugenio Urrutia Albisua – Mexico
- Hélio Luiz Brochier - Brazil

ASIA

- Dawood Al-Ahmad – Kuwait
- Adnan Al-Meer – Kuwait

EUROPE

- Eduardo Batista - Portugal
- Antoine van Ruymbeke – Belgium

NORAM

- Reni Barlow – Canada

VOSTOK

- Alexander Leontovitch – Russia

The Individual College representatives elected by the MILSET Board of Directors are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| - Carole Charlebois – Canada | - 2 years |
| - Roberto Hidalgo – Mexico | - 4 years |
| - Salomé Matos – Portugal | - 2 years |
| - Ksenia Salnikova – Russia | - 4 years |

13.0 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

ESI

Mr. Nokhtari Abdellah on behalf of the Ligue Activités ST des jeunes Wilaya de Bejaia from Algeria, translated by Nader Serrid, proposes that MILSET consider holding ESI every four years instead of every two, to generate greater anticipation and participation.

Mr. Piyush Madhav on behalf of Science Societies and Public from India presents the following proposals and comments:

- Initiate Science Exchange Programs in schools (i.e., teams of students from different schools in a country visit another country and attend classes on science and laboratory applications in different schools of that country).
- Initiate Science Tourism Programs with associate countries.
- Connect laboratories operating in MILSET member countries with others through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and invite government support.
- Initiate an international social media platform on science and innovation, similar to Facebook or Twitter.



- Research and innovation are known worldwide as part of higher education, but should also now be accepted at the elementary and secondary school level. Schools are not just places for study, but for research, innovation, and its applications too. Schools are now known as classroom operations, focused mainly on book study, but now we require them to be more active in laboratory operations.
- Promote the value of, and permit the setup of MILSET national offices like MILSET Romania, including granting our request to operate under the MILSET India brand.

JOSE

Alexander Leontovich presents the MILSET Journal on Science Engagement structure, elaborated by the international Editorial Board and invites MILSET Members and Regional offices to submit materials. He also presents the draft of the 4th issue, noting that the final version will be available soon on the MILSET Website.

Leader Congress

Reni Barlow announces the program of the Leader Congress which will be held today after lunch and invites all organizations representatives to take part in it.

Sticker Activity

Ksenia Salnikova presents the sticker activity, which has been implemented at ESI this year to motivate youth participants to interact and to visit each other's projects. She emphasizes how important it is for students to present their project not only to each other and to the general public, but also to scientists, teachers and educators, who can discuss their work more substantively. She invites supervisors and organization representatives to take part in the sticker activity and to engage youth participants in scientific conversations, especially those who have fewer stickers on their stands.

14.0 MILSET VOLUNTEER AWARD

Following a nomination process open to all regional offices, the President is pleased to announce that the MILSET Volunteer Award is given to José Alberto García from Mexico.

15.0 CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The President thanks everybody for their contribution and officially closes the meeting.

Carole Charlebois

Carole Charlebois
General Secretary

