

REPORT TO COUNCIL - WORKING GROUPS WSA Membership Maya Korzybska May 2012

As part of the revision of organizational aspects of WSA, one of the proposals that came from World Congress in New Zealand was to review the question of WSA membership.

Maya Korzybska (Executive), Paloma de la Viña (Zone 3 rep), Pavel Rodrigo Mudarra (Zone 8 rep) and Mauricio Castillo (Zone 9 rep) have looked at the concerns. It is difficult to make clear proposals as there is a side to this which goes beyond simply being organized, thus we hope to simply present the current situation as well as options, for the council and the countries to look at over the next 6 months. The final proposal must be presented to the WSA Countries one year prior to World Congress if there are any outcomes that could need changes to the bylaws or the constitution.

The important thing about all this discussion is that efficiency must not over rule the essence of Subud which should be open to feelings coming from the latihan kejiwaan and understanding of what is important in the big picture.

WSA VOTING COUNTRY MEMBERS

At this point probably the most important thing to be clear of is that WSA does not follow its bylaws in questions of voting at World Congresses (or in fact at any other time). Our bylaws say that the WSA member countries are the voting members and yet at a World Congress every single country present that has a few members is given a vote. We do not wish to judge whether this is right or wrong, but simply have to point out that we are not acting in accordance with our bylaws, so we have to choose, either we only allow member countries to vote, or else we change our bylaws.

The ideal thing of course is to have as many countries as possible, become WSA members. Those countries who do not fulfil minimal requirements to become members could be represented by their zone rep at the moment of voting, but this requires that the zone rep. have discussions well in advance and get input from their countries, so as to give as democratic a vote as possible.

- 1) This would require a change in the bylaws which would add the vote of the zone reps. in representation of the countries within their zone where Subud is present, but are not as yet a WSA member country. The other possibility could be to make these countries, who do not fulfil the minimum requirement to be a voting member of WSA, non-voting WSA members, represented by their zone reps. for voting.

Still there are various consequences to voting and at this point very few conditions or guidelines even for being a member country of WSA.

Thus our first and main proposal is to say that we need to revisit our membership form which at this point is minimalistic, IF we wish to function in a more efficient manner. * (scroll down for current membership form)

- 2) The membership form should be revisited, specifying certain minimal requirements, as well as the process if a country no longer fulfils the minimal requirements for being a member country. Minimum commitments should be, number of members, national committee and helper dewan, something to the effect of: To follow the principals of Susila Budhi Dharma and the protection of the latihan kejiwaan of Subud as passed on to us by Bapak, (it may be important to state this rather than simply saying agree to the bylaws) and financial commitment. Agreeing to our constitution should also be included. Copies of both the

constitution and the byelaws should be submitted to a country before they become members.

New countries should also be requested to read and sign the MOU between WSA and the WSA member countries.

Once as many countries as possible become members there still remains the question of informed voting as opposed to uninformed. When country delegates vote 'instinctively' on matters that have not been looked at within the country and their membership, it does not help the carrying out of a resolution or proposal.

Should WSA member countries have the option of being voting members or non voting members? This would also require a change in the bylaws.

Conclusion is that we could have two types of WSA member countries: Voting and non Voting.

Voting members would be member countries with a full structure, committee and helper dewan, who are fully involved in the voting process, i.e. correspond through the year, attend zone meetings and discuss issues with their membership. The choice to be a voting member requires a minimal commitment and contribution.

Non-voting members would be represented by their zone rep in the voting process, these non voting members could either be countries who do not fulfil minimal requirements or countries that prefer to give their vote to their zone rep. These could also be isolated individual members in countries where they may be alone and would also have a representation in the voting process.

A discussion would be needed around whether a zone rep. would have a full vote for these countries, or maybe half a vote....to avoid one zone rep. having too much voting power.

FINANCE COMMITMENT OF WSA MEMBER COUNTRIES.

The issue usually boils down to finances, money or lack of. We feel that a stronger emphasis should be put on the financial commitment of WSA member countries. WSA members and individual Subud members expect a lot, however much they say that they are not interested in the organization; they expect the benefits such as International Helper visits and participation of supported delegates to World Congresses.

We feel that within the WSA membership form, countries should be aware that the commitment they sign is real and should be fulfilled. Other than maybe certain African Countries, there is no Subud Country in the world who cannot afford at least 10 dollars a month 120 \$. This simply involves the commitment of the membership. Countries who cannot fulfil this should be looked at as particular cases and the WSA Treasurer should be allowed to remind the member countries of their obligations.

Member countries cannot be voting resolutions which have budgets, without making serious efforts to commit financially, so that WSA are able to carry out the resolutions.

- 3) A recommendation could be that member countries must commit to 120\$ a year minimum and then base their donations on a minimum of 10\$ per member per year, so that if a country has 20 members, they should be contributing a minimum of 200\$ a year.
- 4) At the time of voting a resolution an approximate budget (per year, over 4 years) is added to the resolution and that countries are aware of this when voting.

- 5) Helpers should work with members through testing to understand the importance of supporting financially and not consider that someone else should pay....even if there are those who can pay substantially more, members should feel their own commitment in this sense and not be simply dependent on others.

ISSUES WITHIN WSA MEMBER COUNTRIES.

Some of the greatest concerns expressed by the working party are related to the issues within WSA member countries where precisely they are not ' Following the principals of Susila Budhi and Dharma and the protection of the latihan as passed on to us by Subud's founder Bapak M. Sumahodiwijoyo '.

This may be due to mixing, to the wish to create separate entities simply because of personal differences, to wishing to exclude certain members because they are not accepted for reasons that are not related to practising the latihan kejiwaan of Subud.

This type of issue has appeared in various countries over the years, luckily a certain number have been resolved by gentle 'intervention' of either the International Helpers or the WSA Chairperson and executive body.

- 6) We have to establish some sort of process for 'how to deal with these types of issue' within WSA member countries.
- 7) Following that, we need to establish the process for how to deal with countries where the problem continues, putting in peril the good name of Subud and whereby at some point the country should be requested to no longer be a member of the WSA or at worst is simply barred from the Associations. These may be drastic measure, but this situation could come about and we need to prepare, we may need to establish a body that would ultimately be responsible for this.



WORLD SUBUD ASSOCIATION
WSA Executive
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WSA@Subud.org

Please direct questions to Silvana Evans, WSA Secretary, at wsa@subud.org.
After receiving this form, the WSA executive will mail a membership certificate to you.
Send the completed form to:

Maxwell Fraval
WSA Executive Chair
51 Learmonth Drive
Kambah ACT 2902
Australia

Application To Become A Member Of The WORLD SUBUD ASSOCIATION

Date: _____

I, the undersigned, _____, as duly elected chairperson of
Subud _____ hereby confirm that:

a) Subud _____, wishes to become a member of the World Subud
Association,

b) Subud _____ agrees to accept the by-laws of the World Subud
Association

c) Subud _____ will pay the minimum membership fee of USD 1
(one US dollar) per annum.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Subud _____