

# **Minutes from the general ARC•PEACE meeting Thursday 17 April 2008 at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona**

**Present:** see attached list

## **1. Opening of meeting**

*Jordi Balari* – International officer of ASF-Espana and chairman of ASF-International – welcomed everybody to Barcelona and to the ARC•PEACE meeting.

*Dick Urban Vestbro* – Co-Chair of ARC•PEACE – welcomed all present and expressed gratitude to Jordi Balari and ASF-Espana for generously hosting the meeting (including a registration and service desk and for offering free coffees and meals during the meeting). He then formally opened the meeting, which is the 15<sup>th</sup> since ARC•PEACE was founded.

## **2. The background of ARC•PEACE**

With reference to the presence of many new members, who may not know the background to ARC•PEACE's development, Dick Urban Vestbro offered to make a short presentation about ARC•PEACE, which was accepted. The presentation included details about the founding meeting in 1987; the importance of the nuclear arms threat; the main ideas behind the ARC•PEACE Charter; a list of the previous 14 ARC•PEACE conferences; a list of former and new members; how ARC•PEACE became an NGO of consultative status to the UN, and examples of activities of ARC•PEACE members.

## **3. Formal matters**

It was **decided** to elect Bijay Misra as chairman and Dorota Wlodarczyk as secretary of the meeting. The proposed agenda was accepted with minor changes.

## **4. Presentation of participants**

Each participant introduced her/himself and his organisation. Dick Urban Vestbro referred to printed reports from Cuba Solar, ARC•PEACE Sudan, SGR of UK and Centre for Architecture & Human Rights (CAHR, Bangkok, not yet a member of ARC•PEACE).

## **5. Report from the Stockholm Co-Chair**

A 4 page report from the Stockholm Co-Chair for the period 2004-2008 had been sent out in advance to all members, and was also distributed to the participants. Dick Urban Vestbro presented the report orally in summary.

## **6. Global events and the situation for our professions in relation to the Charter of ARC•PEACE + General discussion on the role of ARC•PEACE**

The participants engaged in a discussion about the four main aims of our organisation in the light of assessments made of global economic and political changes. Among other things it was pointed out that the threat of nuclear war is as much present as it was in 1987, when ARC•PEACE was founded; that professional commitment to housing the poor is more urgent than ever, and that architects and planners often do not take sustainable development seriously. It was pointed out that the issue of disaster management deserves a more prominent place among ARC•PEACE activities, and also that we should engage in the removal of remaining mines in war zones, perhaps in collaboration with International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms.

## **7. Administrative affairs of ARC•PEACE**

### *a. Membership situation*

The most recent list of members was distributed. It shows that ARC•PEACE has ten organisation members and another 20 individual members. Dick Urban Vestbro explained that ARC•PEACE Bolivia and ARC•PEACE Aotearoa (New Zealand) have not been included since it is unclear whether

these exist as organisations. Neither is CAHR of Bangkok included, since a reply has not yet been received about membership. Some members have not paid membership fees.

*b. Financial report, accountant*

Economic reports by accountant Rolf Johansson for 2006 and 2007 were distributed. The reports show that the annual incomes vary from USD 700 to 1300. Dick Urban Vestbro explained that it has been difficult to do the necessary invoicing, and that fund-raising efforts have been absent. The only costs existing are travel and accommodation of members from poor organisations. Rolf Johansson wants to step down as an accountant after fulfilling this duty since 1990. Dick Urban Vestbro said that he had found a candidate willing to take over the role as accountant, namely Örjan Svane at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, who had previously served as an auditor of ARC•PEACE Sweden (no longer existing). It was pointed out that ARC•PEACE has a Swedish registration number and a Swedish postal giro account. To register the organisation in another country may require a new constitution and possibly costs for a legal advisor.

It was **decided** to appoint Örjan Svane as new accountant to pay invoices and sign documents ('teckna föreningens firma' in Swedish) on behalf of International Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility ARC•PEACE. Örjan Svane is to replace Rolf Johansson in these tasks.

*c. Board composition*

The meeting discussed how to arrange for a more even distribution of tasks for the coming period. Dick Urban Vestbro announced his intention to step down as Co-Chair, while remaining Secretary if the meeting so wishes. He proposed that a leadership group be composed consisting of Co-Chairs, perhaps a Vice-Chair and a Treasurer. It was **decided** to elect Bijayanand Misra as new Co-Chair, Osman El Kheir as new Vice-Chair, Mewahib Yagoub Mohamed as new Treasurer, and Dick Urban Vestbro as Secretary. It was **decided** to ask Luz Maria Sanchez whether she wants to remain Co-Chair. It was **decided** that the four mentioned functionaries be referred to as *the Executive Committee* (to be incorporated into the revised Charter/statutes, see further below).

Concerning the composition of the rest of the Board it was **decided** to ask all organisation members to confirm who is to represent them in the Board. Until new decisions are taken, the Board consists of the following persons:

**Full Board members**

*Luz Maria Sanchez* (Co-chair), ARC•PEACE Peru  
*Bijayanand Misra*, (Co-Chair) Yojanajar, India  
*Osman El Kheir*, (Vice-Chair) ARC•PEACE Sudan  
*Dania González Couret*, Cuba Solar  
*Kate Macintosh*, Scientists for Global Responsibility, (SGR), UK  
*Sandra Hernandez-Colon*, ADPSR, USA  
*Beatriz C. Maturana*, Architects for Peace, Australia  
*Tomasz Rozwadowski*, ARC•PEACE Poland  
*Peter Makachia*, ARC•PEACE Kenya  
*Valery N. Bgashev*, ARC•PEACE Russia

**Adjuncted members:**

*Dick Urban Vestbro* (Secretary)  
*Mewahib Yagoub Mohamed*, (Treasurer) ARC•PEACE Sudan  
*Sven Thiberg*, Sweden  
*Ahmad al-Jowder*, Bahrain  
*Dorota Wlodarczyk*, ARC•PEACE Poland  
*Jean d'Aragon*, Canada  
*Stephan Hawranick*, France  
*Ryoichi Shuto*, Japan  
*Malika Bourenmane*, Qatar  
*Goran Vodicka*, Croatia

*d. Charter, statutes*

The present Charter was revised in June 2000. It comprises both the political platform and the statutes of ARC•PEACE. The document is only 1,5 pages, i.e. considerably smaller than statutes of organisations similar to ours. It was **decided** to commission Bijay Misra, Osman El Kheir, Norio Okada and Dick Urban Vestbro to review the present Charter in order to assess whether the Charter needs to be updated.

*e. Website and website editor*

It was noted with thanks that ARC•PEACE Sudan had established the new ARC•PEACE website and paid for the web hotel. Special thanks were directed to *Elisa Ceria* for designing the new website, and to *Munzer Maali*, who has managed the website excellently since the start.

*f. Newsletter and newsletter editor*

It was noted that rotating responsibility for the newsletter has been working fairly well during the last year. Bijay Misra offered to be the editor of the next issue. This was accepted. It was **decided** attempts should be made to continue with the rotating responsibility, and that the new leadership group is to make a scheme for such a rotating editorship. It was **decided** that special issues of the newsletter be issued in Arabic, Russian, Spanish etc (depending on willing editor/translator).

*g. Work plan*

It was noted that ARC-PEACE does not have a work plan for the coming period. Bijay Misra proposed that such a plan be worked out by a group consisting of the Co/Vice-Chairs and the Secretary and sent out for email decision within the coming 6 months. It was **decided** according to the proposal.

*h. Working groups*

It was proposed that special working groups be composed, for instance for support to the UN representative; for fund-raising; for upgrading of informal settlements etc. Time did not allow further discussion on this issue.

## **8. Our work in the United Nations**

Our UN representative Branislava Saveljic-Balac distributed a report about her activities during the period she had been in charge (since 1 January 2007). She also reported orally. She has been present at all major events within the ECOSOC (economic and social affairs + environment & human rights). She also serves as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Human Settlements. For the coming period Dr Saveljic-Balac suggests that ARC•PEACE participates in an event on Water and Sanitation in May, and in the World Urban Forum in Nanjing in October 2008.

## **9. Future activities, coming meetings**

No proposal had been prepared about time and venue for the next ARC•PEACE meeting. Alexander Bazhenov and Elena Bazhenova invited ARC•PEACE to come to Russia next time. It was **decided** to leave it to the Executive Committee to work out proposal for the next meeting.

## **10. Other business**

There was no other business to discuss.

## **11. Closing of meeting**

The Chairman Bijay Misra closed the meeting and thanked everybody for their contributions.

Secretary



Dorota Wlodarczyk

Verification of minutes



Bijayanand Misra



Dick Urban Vestbro

## Participants in the ARC-PEACE conference 17-21 April 2008 in Barcelona

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Geoffrey Payne	<a href="mailto:gkpayne@hotmail.com">gkpayne@hotmail.com</a>	Invited guest
<b>Regrets</b>		
Dania Gonzalez		Cuba Solar
Luz Maria Sanchez		ARC-PEACE
Beatriz Maturana		arch peace Australia
Ryoichi Shuto		Japan
Elisabeth Lynne		ADPSR
Kate Macintosh		SGR, UK
Jean d' Aragon		Canada
Sven Thiberg		Sweden
Malika Bourennane		Qatar
Stephan Hawranick		France
Peter Makachia		ARC-PEACE Kenya