MINUTES OF THE
58th MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Geneva, Switzerland
19th – 21st March 2009
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Worship and Opening

Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, General Secretary, World Council of Churches, was invited to give the Reflection at the Opening Worship. He welcomed everyone to Geneva, and noted that this city, which is known as the “City of Calvin” could also be seen as the “City of Henry Dunant.” He noted the contributions of Henry Dunant as a pioneer and YMCA leader who worked for the international pursuit of human rights crisis, intervention, multi-lateral peace-making, relief and development (for full text of Reflection, see Appendix 1).

President Martin Meißenner thanked Dr. Kobia for his participation and valuable thought-provoking contribution to the meeting.

President Martin Meißenner opened the meeting. He welcomed all members and thanked them for their attendance. He made special mention of Father Gosbert Byamungu, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity of the Vatican; the Area Presidents of Africa, Asia and Pacific, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean; Dr. M.D. David, who is writing the History Book of the World Alliance; Wayne Perkins, the new President and CEO of YMCA Canada; from Y’s Men International: Rachelle Reeg, Liaison to the World Alliance, Rolando Dalmás, current Secretary General, and Ingvar Wallin, current President of the local YMCA in Geneva; and Bob Tobin, World Alliance Consultant on Resource Mobilization.

The President reflected briefly on the financial crisis, which is affecting all countries of the world – both in the North and South; however striking more severely on developing countries.

Welcome from YMCA Geneva

Ingvar Wallin welcomed and invited members to visit the YMCA of Geneva, despite the fact that this year the meeting could not take place at their premises. He made a brief introduction on activities carried out by the local YMCA in Geneva.

Message from Y’s Men International

Ms. Rachelle Reeg, Y’s Men Liaison to the World Alliance, presented greetings on behalf of the organisation and from current Y’s Men President V.S. Bashir who was unable to attend and thanked in her personal name and on behalf of Y’s Men for the opportunity of participating in the meeting. She drew attention to the continued and strong relationship and programmes between the organisations, in particular the presence of President Martin Meißenner, Secretary General Bart Shaha and Samuel Stephens, World Alliance Liaison at the 2008 Y’s Men International Convention in Denmark.

Roll Call and Apologies

The Secretary General Dr. Bart Shaha made the Roll Call. He also welcomed other Committee Members, namely Phil Denison, Masayoshi Katsuta and Martin Vogler (Investment); Paul Le Gros, Chair of the Election Committee for the 2010 World Council; Marísia Donatelli, YMCA of São Paulo; Jack Young and Karl Lau from the Host Committee of the Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong; Kohei Yamada; incoming General Secretary of the Asia and Pacific Alliance of
YMCA (APAY), subject to reconfirmation from the upcoming APAY’s Executive Committee meeting; the World Alliance Executive and support staff; Janet Chan, Young Professional; and Alister Bignell, Communications volunteer.

From the Members of the Executive Committee, the following apologies were recorded: Aisa Akapson, Maria Cristina Miranda, Vezi Mncwango, Caesar Molebatsi, Santiago Ortiz, Paola Petracchi, Howard Sabga; from Members of Standing Committees: Tor Marius Dahl, PM John, Chris Roles, Observer (see Appendix 1 for Attendance List and Appendix 2 for List of Committees).

In Memoriam

President Martin Meißner evoked the memory of the late Yip Kok Choong, General Secretary of the APAY, who died on 31 October 2008 at the age of 62. The meeting remembered him, his wife and family in silent prayer.

Adoption of the Agenda

The President tabled the Agenda (See Appendices 3 and 4).

Resolution 1: The Executive Committee adopted unanimously the Agenda as proposed.

Approval of Minutes of the 57th Executive Committee Meeting

The President tabled for adoption the Minutes of the 57th Executive Meeting held on 13th – 15th March 2007, at the YMCA Europe Training Centre, Litomyšl, Czech Republic, which had been sent on 18th July 2008.

Clifford Sileya, President Africa Alliance, moved to approve the Minutes; Ken Colloton, USA, seconded.

Resolution 2: The Executive Committee approved unanimously the Minutes of the 57th Executive Committee Meeting.

Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General, together with the Executive Staff, made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the main work accomplished in the past year, including the extensive work on Resource Mobilization. The presentation of the Report was based on the written report of the Secretary General, April 2008 – March 2009, that was e-mailed to all members of the Executive Committee on Friday 13 March 2009.

Bart Shaha introduced the Report by situating the same within the current world context. He then focused on the current financial crisis and shared in this context the Parable of the Banquet (Matthew 22, 1-10). He then noted the need for emphasising on Transformational Leadership in the Movement at large. He then reported on the Initiative for a UN Decade of Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, on the 17th World Council preparations, Finances, Investment, JR Mott Foundation, Secours Speciaux, External Relations, Governance and Staff matters and concluded the Report with a reflection and prayer on the Icon of the Christ of Maryknoll, noting that the barbed wires there represent the personal
and movemental struggles and sacrifices that we must go through to reach Jesus Christ. Simon Pluess reported on the current status of Implementation of the World Alliance Strategic Plan, Global Operating Plan as well as Emergency Preparedness and Response activities which had been undertaken in 2008. Clarissa Balan reported on activities carried out under Advocacy. Rebecca Morton reported on Communications and Knowledge Sharing (for full text of the Report, see Appendix 5).

President Martin Meißner expressed appreciation for the Secretary General’s Report and the work that has been carried out during the period, not only within the secretariat of the World Alliance office but in collaboration with and the participation of the whole movement all around the world. He then opened the floor for questions and/or comments.

Carlos Sanvee, General Secretary, Africa Alliance of YMCAs, thanked the team for the Report. He raised a concern about Secours Speciaux, which had previously been called Secours Speciaux/Staff Security Fund and had assisted staff going through emergency situations, including those with no pension at the time of their retirement. The Committee decided to return to its original name of Secours Speciaux, thus assisting only emergency situations. He indicated that the Committee’s role is to help the Secretary General in managing the fund and cannot decide as such, without the Executive Committee’s approval, to discard Staff Security Fund from its assistance, since this would be contrary also to the spirit of sustainability of the Global Operating Plan.

Secretary General Bart Shaha stated that he was aware of the situation and the concern for unsecured retirement and the need for more discussions on the subject. He informed the Executive Committee of the steps underway being taken by the Secours Speciaux Committee, under the leadership of Bonnie Mairs. He also informed that the Committee was discussing on ways to raise more funds for the unsecured retirement.

President Martin Meißner said that the Finance Committee could discuss the matter in its Agenda.

Sophie Ahadji, Togo, raised two points regarding:
- the strategy to fulfil the goal of the 17th International Aids Conference of no more Aids by 2015
- the potential accomplishments of the UN Decade of Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, which will be discussed by the Mission Committee.

Secretary General Bart Shaha responded that the year 2015 points more to the progress which can be accomplished; even if the set target is not achieved, and this is true also with the other Millennium Development Goals.

As regards the UN Decade, a decision needs to be taken since the Coalition responsible for the follow-up to the initiative requests a signed written statement from the YMCA to join the Coalition.

Sophie Ahadji then recapped that the question is whether the YMCA will join or not the Coalition.
Bart Shaha responded that it will depend on the recommendation of the Committee on Christian Mission and Ecumenical Relations.

Sam Stephens, Deputy President, thanked the staff team for the Report, which represents an analysis of work that is being developed. Through Advocacy, the YMCA is raising its profile to a different level. This will open opportunities to find resources - the more engagement; the more resources the YMCA can find. The question would be how to involve the area, national and local levels.

Kjetil Fretheim, Norway, thanked for the Report and highlighted the close work done with the Areas through the Global Operating Plan; and the fact that at the mentioned international events, the YMCA had been represented by young people and this should continue.

Sofía Sánchez, Argentina, thanked for a comprehensive and clear Report. She thought it would be interesting to complete it with a list of responsible staff for each activity, and indicators to measure the direct/indirect impact of each activity.

Bart Shaha responded by appreciating the suggestion and noted that detailed reports of each activity are regularly shared in YMCA World and other communications tool.

Sam Stephens supplemented the Secretary General’s comment pointing out that a quarterly dashboard report is available, which provides updated information.

Simon Pluess, World Alliance Staff, added that the 2009 Work Plan was inserted in the 2007-2010 Strategic Plan. This Work Plan has been shared with the Executive Committee. The added value of the Secretary General’s Report is that it not only provides reporting on activities undertaken but also deep analysis and perspectives.

There being no further questions/comments, the President tabled the Report for acceptance.

Ken Colloton, USA, moved to accept the Report; Martin Bauer, Switzerland; seconded.

*Resolution 3: The Executive Committee received unanimously the Report of the Secretary General.*

The meeting was adjourned at 13:00, and reconvened again at 14:30.

**Working Session on Resource Mobilisation**

Bob Tobin, Consultant, William Group, Michigan, USA, made a presentation on the process of Resource Mobilisation that has taken place (see Appendix 17).

He presented the work being undertaken by the Global Staff Team, work that has been effected and ongoing plans for the Resource Mobilisation Strategy. He said that resource mobilisation is aimed at “developing new resources at the local, national, regional and global levels and “…that the strategy can transform and strengthen the YMCA and help ensure its long-term sustainability and relevance.” He then went on to outline the framework for resource mobilisation elaborated by the World Alliance and the Global Staff Team and which is based on the three main areas of Programme, Capacity and Communication. Lastly, he described the tremendous work that has already been undertaken, the various Area Plans and actions needed.
It was noted that mission was important as this would lead the programme elements of the strategy.

Bob Tobin described the activities currently going on and explained that there is already a lot of work that has taken place within the areas of Asia, Africa and Europe.

He outlined the extraordinary amount of work that has already taken place for relatively little money and it was confirmed that the process of developing the Resource Mobilisation Strategy was as important as securing the end result itself!

The need for discussion and ownership of Resource Mobilisation by staff and volunteers throughout the YMCA was highlighted. In this regard, Bob Tobin highlighted the role of the Executive Committee members as ambassadors for resource mobilisation in the movement.

Bob Tobin underlined the benefits of being a donor as this would enable the giver to be an advocate for the process – speaking for it and encourage participation.

He explained the main advantages of being a donor:

1. Money makes a difference – USD 126,000 was spent in 2008 and has paid for all the work achieved to date – all the work so far done has come out of that
2. Being a donor gives credibility when asking others to contribute
3. It promotes a good practice – governance at every level adds credibility to the process
4. Being a donor gives a story to tell – why you cared enough to give to it.

Discussion showed that volunteer leadership is critical to the process.

It was noted that the YMCA is currently missing the opportunity to tell the YMCA Story. The movement needs consistency world wide with regard to the message it gets across and needs a common visual identity.

It was discussed that being a Christian organisation does not affect donors as much as the fact that the YMCA is not getting its message across.

Participants noted that the presentation had led to greater clarity and understanding of the role and importance of Resource Mobilisation in the development of YMCAs as well as the need to engage all levels of the movement in developing a culture of fundraising. They also affirmed the importance of the collaborative work being undertaken by the World Alliance together with the Area Alliances and the Global Staff Team as fundamental to its success.

**FRIDAY 20th MARCH 2009**

**Presentation on the 17th World Council of YMCAs**
**by the Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong**

Martin Bauer, Switzerland, Chair of World Council Planning Committee, introduced Jack Young and Karl Lau, Host Committee of Council of YMCAs of Hong Kong, who presented a Video on Hong Kong city and a PowerPoint on the YMCA Wu Kwai Sha Youth Village, venue of the World Council.
Jack Young informed that the Opening Ceremony of the World Council will take place at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Thereafter, dinner will be served at the YMCA Hong Kong Salisbury, which is in walking distance from the Centre. Following dinner, participants will be transferred to Wu Kwai Sha.

Jack Young gave a detailed explanation of the venue, its structure/premises, facilities, transportation, accommodation, and encouraged all Council participants to stay at the YMCA Village, and not at nearby hotels. He also presented proposals on post conference tours, cultural exposures (including China and Macau), tutorial classes and cultural performances on Chinese culture. He observed that the theme “Global citizenship” is closely related to the Chinese saying “four seas, one family”, implying that people are spread everywhere but the sense of one family prevails as in John 17:21 too. Finally, he encouraged and welcomed all to come to Hong Kong and enjoy the warm hospitality of the YMCAs there.

**SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2009**

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 a.m. in plenary session.

Before presentation of Committee Reports, President Martin Meißner welcomed Fr. Dr. Gosbert Byamungu to share greetings and a message from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity of the Vatican. Fr. Gosbert expressed his deep satisfaction with his participation at the YMCA meetings. He said that the Pontifical Council he is representing is very appreciative of the work of the YMCA, particularly in regard to the social responses and the focus on youth and spirituality.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Report of the Committee on Social Relevance**

Kjetil Fretheim, Norway, Chair, informed that the Report of the Committee will be presented in three sections, as per the Sub Groups that compose the Committee (see Appendix 6 for compiled Report).

He gave the floor to Martin Bauer, Switzerland, Acting Chair on behalf of Howard Sabga, who presented the Report on Emergency Preparedness and Response.

*Resolution 4: The Executive Committee received unanimously the Report of the Sub Group on Emergency Preparedness and Response.*


On the recommendation that the keynote address should be a woman, Bart Shaha reminded that the keynote address should be related to the theme of the World Council. There could be several keynote addresses but the main thrust of the Council would be movement strengthening, and the keynote speaker could be a woman but developing a broader subject and not only gender.
Martin Meißsner suggested that gender should be one of the important subjects to be dealt with at the Council.

Hiromi Nagao, Japan, proposed that the keynote speaker be a woman who can speak on the World Council theme through a woman’s and world-wide perspective.

Sandy McIntyre enquired about the proposed Forum on Global Citizenship to be held in October 2009.

Charles Habiah answered that the Forum responds to the Resolution adopted at the 16th World Council of YMCAs, 2006. The APAY has already started working on the subject; YMCA Europe is also interested. Through organising a forum on education/training on global citizenship, the World Alliance will generate more enthusiasm towards and leading to the World Council.

Jai Chang Park, Korea, emphasised that the major reason to organise the Forum, prior to the World Council, is responding to a mandate of the 16th World Council in order to present its concrete outcomes to the 17th World Council in 2010. The “special prize” in the Report refers to proposed educational tools/curriculum for national movements.

Fernando Ondarza, Treasurer, while recognising the importance of global citizenship, called attention to the lack of resources. Therefore, he suggested a virtual forum, like those used by LACA, on global citizenship, could be introduced to enhance dialogue, exchange, conferences, through the Internet.

Philip Kwok, Hong Kong, supported the creation of a website for the forum so that people could communicate easily.

Bart Shaha stressed again the importance of global citizenship as one of the main topics of the 17th World Council. The World Alliance has initiated work with Dr. Park and Ken Holmes, YMCA England, towards fund-raising for an event before the World Council.

Resolution 5: The Executive Committee received unanimously the Report of the Sub-Group on Gender and Global Citizenship.

Courtney Lawrence, USA, presented the Report on Advocacy and Partnerships.

Peter Posner, YMCA Europe, indicated that YMCA Europe has young people representing the movement in international organisations such as the European Union and the Youth Forum.

Simon Pluess recommended that strategic partnerships should not only entail advocacy but also operational agreements in the area of emergency and development work. These agreements provide a high potential for multilateral funding for the YMCA.

Courtney Lawrence agreed that partnership agreements should go beyond advocacy and may also include non-UN multilateral organisations.

Fernando Ondarza proposed to include advocacy on non-violence and drug prevention, particularly amongst young people; a workshop at the World Council could be organised.
Bart Shaha reminded that violence is currently oftentimes the result of misunderstanding and tensions between religious fundamentalist groups, and therefore highlighted the need for understanding and cooperation amongst people of different faiths.

Resolution 6: The Executive Committee received unanimously the Report of the Sub Group on Advocacy and Partnerships.

Report of the Committee on Youth Participation and Leadership

Sofía Sánchez Acosta, Argentina, on behalf of Maria Cristina Miranda, Chairperson of the Committee, presented the Report (see Appendix 7).

Carlos Sanvee deemed that it is appropriate to have a working sub-group on social media for connecting YMCA youth (including Facebook, for example) but this should be directly linked to the grass-roots, i.e. Areas should have representatives therein.

Sofía Sánchez acknowledged that two members knowledgeable about communications should be Area representatives.

Resolution 7: The Executive Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the Committee on Youth Participation and Leadership.

Report of the Committee on Christian Mission and Ecumenical Relations

Rev Samuel Stephens, India, Chairperson of the Committee, presented the report (see Appendix 8).

Carlos Sanvee raised Africa’s concern about representation in Edinburgh 2010; that this should be extended to all Areas and not only Europe, in order to contribute in a critical way towards the programme.

Clarissa Balan stated that the World Alliance seeks the participation of young people, and that representation will not be exclusively European but from other parts of the world and in this way to demonstrate the evolution of the concept of mission from 1910 to 2010. YMCA Scotland would represent the YMCA at the Youth Reference Group, as they prepare for the event.

Martin Bauer was in favour of participation from around the world.

Miguel Blasco stated that more than seeking participation in events, what is more important is to build a ‘representative’ delegation, preceded by a broad consultative process and to secure reporting after and before the event.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik also supported broader participation. Representation at the event should bear real impact, and for this representation from other Areas should be secured.

Clarissa Balan stated again that YMCA Scotland is only representing at the Youth Reference Group that is planning the Conference. She commended the strong interest from Areas to participate. It is also to be reminded that the YMCA in many countries is the product of the missionary process.
Bart Shaha referred to the contextualisation of mission, i.e. how to give Christian witness in multi-religious contexts, which will be included in the World Council programme as well. By securing representation from YMCAs around the world in Edinburgh 2010, the YMCA will be able to share how contextualisation is taking place in current times.

Regarding the item on being part of the proposed Coalition for a UN Decade on Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Understanding, Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace, the Committee strongly recommended that the World Alliance be part of the Coalition.

Lucy Wanjiru, Kenya, requested a copy of the proposed agreement of the UN decade. This was circulated at the meeting.

Resolution 8: The Executive Committee received unanimously the Report of the Committee on Christian Mission.

Report of the Committee on Constitution and Membership

Mary Benson, USA, on behalf of Sophie Ahadji, Togo, Chairperson of the Committee, presented the Report (see Appendix 9).

Martin Meißner sought clarification from Paul Le Gros as to what recommending Y Care International for Associateship at the next World Council in 2010 will entail, as such Associateship is provided for in the Constitution of the World Alliance.

Paul Le Gros, New Zealand, who conducted a detailed review of the Constitution in 1994, confirmed that the YMCA of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, will have to be informed and if they accept the recommendation for Y Care International to be received as Associate in 2010, only then can the World Alliance take it to the World Council.

Sofía Sánchez, Argentina, requested clarification on the status of Associate.

Paul Le Gros, New Zealand, replied that Associates have no power to vote at World Council; however they can pay Fair Share as negotiated with the World Alliance.

Carlos Sanvee requested a list of the twenty-four (24) movements in danger of suspension, so he could contact the movements in Africa.

Martin Meißner requested a change of wording: “delinquent” in the Report. Bart Shaha proposed the term “defaulting”.

President Martin Meißner read the list of 24 movements (copy attached to Report).

The Executive Committee agreed unanimously to withdraw the suspension of the National Council of YMCAs of Bangladesh with immediate effect.

In regard to the Constitutional change of the YMCA-YWCA of Norway, Hiromi Nagao, Japan, enquired whether the YWCA of Norway accepts men as members.
Martin Meißner clarified that in Norway the YMCA-YWCA is one movement and they have recently merged with the YMCA-YWCA Scouts. He was asked by the Committee to write to them to clarify the situation/structure.

Resolution 9: The Executive Committee unanimously accepted the Report of the Committee on Constitution and Membership.

Report of the Committee on World Council Planning

Martin Bauer, Switzerland, Chairperson, presented the Report of the Committee, which basically asked for agreement on the Concept Paper and draft Programme Schedule (see Appendix 10).

Carlos Sanvee referred to objectives 1 and 2, which are linked to the theme. He felt that a large part of the YMCA movement in Africa do not see themselves as “global citizens” and therefore requested a review of the wording of the theme.

Martin Bauer, replied that a reflection on the meaning of “global citizenship” will be elaborated in the Workbook of the World Council.

Sofía Sánchez pointed to objective 2 which could include the celebration of the rich Christian heritage of the YMCA.

Charles Habiah said that the programme could show more visibly the theme of “global citizenship.”

Carlos Sanvee added that as it is written, there is an assumption that ‘we’ are global citizens transforming communities. In the case of Africa, this is not the case.

Bart Shaha, while noting this concern, responded that the theme also aims to express what we want to ‘be’. It refers to the dream of creating a new world, where everyone is truly a global citizen.

A dynamic and exhaustive exchange of proposals/suggestions took place between those present as to the wording of the theme, whereby new ideas were proposed. In conclusion, the World Council Planning Committee was requested to further consider the suggestions and if no better wording for the theme is found, then to keep it as it is worded now.

Resolution 10: The Executive Committee received the Report of the World Council Planning Committee (with one abstention).

Report of the Committee on Resource Mobilisation

Philip Kwok, Hong Kong, Chair of the Committee, presented the Report (see Appendix 11).

Sofía Sánchez indicated that to mobilise support with a conceptual framework only, without a concrete plan, would reduce the scope of Resource Mobilisation only to fundraising.
Carlos Sanvee asserted that the framework calls to build the capacity of the Movement to access external resources to raise funds. Each Area has its plan with clear indicators. What is needed is seed money to build these capacities.

Martin Meißner reaffirmed that Resource Mobilisation implies more than simply fundraising. He expressed satisfaction with the progress of the process.

Philip Kwok agreed with Martin Meißner.

Fernando Ondarza reiterated that Resource Mobilisation is not only about finances but also human resources, experience, knowledge, etc. from each region/national movement. No models will be imposed, participation will be voluntary. The seed money will be shared with Areas, and national movements. He reminded those who committed funds to transfer their funds, so that the World Alliance could proceed in time with the process initiated.

Sofía Sánchez recapped that if Resource Mobilisation implies a culture of sharing, then there is more need of a clear and transparent plan with roles and responsibilities.

Charles Habiah said that with a clear benchmark; achievements of the plan could be measured.

Bart Shaha said that each submitted plan of the Areas would include an evaluation and monitoring system. This will enhance the interest and increase the resources.

Simon Pluess noted that the World Alliance and the Areas have clear plans.

Jai Chang Park asked whether Resource Mobilisation will achieve certain objectives.

Martin Meißner recalled that Resource Mobilisation itself is necessary for Movement Strengthening. The more there is conviction on Resource Mobilisation; the greater the participation of others in the process.

Bart Shaha suggested to include as a Preamble to Resource Mobilisation with the three pillars of Movement Strengthening.

Clarissa Balan stated that the World Council could build momentum for Resource Mobilisation.

Selma Zaidi said that with a clear vision statement on issues facing youth, the communities will be stronger and thus the demand for Resource Mobilisation will be reconfirmed. The process for Movement Strengthening should have clarity.

Resolution 11: The Executive Committee accepted the Report of the Committee on Resource Mobilisation (with one abstention).

Report of the Committee on Investment

Martin Vogler, Switzerland, President of the Committee, presented the Report (see Appendix 12).

Leopoldo Moacir Lima, LACA, enquired about the part of losses in investments in UBS bonds, which are due to sub prime investments.
Martin Vogler replied that losses were not directly linked to sub primes, but to the weakness of UBS and other company bonds.

Leopoldo Moacir Lima asked about how much value is exposed to UBS shares in case of the collapse of UBS.

Martin Vogler replied that the exposure would be directly about CHF 35’000, only if UBS collapses.

Leopoldo Moacir Lima enquired whether the liabilities in the amount of CHF 527’000 are used for the loan.

Suzanne Watson, World Alliance Staff, clarified that the interest free credit line of CHF 200’000 is fully deployed, as well as CHF 150’000 at a reduced interest of 4%.

Leopoldo Moacir Lima asked if the total accumulated loss in the JR Mott Fund was CHF 4 million and whether UBS could predict some percentage of losses in the market.

Martin Vogler reconfirmed that the Mott Fund lost some CHF 4 million in value and that no projection on losses could be predicted.

Paul Le Gros enquired whether more secure investments could be sought, for example in real estate.

Martin Vogler replied that when calculating expectations in order to increase real estate, equities would have to be sold at a low price and incurring losses. Potential is given to the equity market to raise the value. Having addressed the risks and future perspectives on profits, the real estate might improve but if the market recovers this will refrain some developments. The World Alliance holds a balanced portfolio with a mix of assets to spread risk/return.

Martin Meißner proposed that the Report be accepted, including the recommendation that Masayoshi Katsuta and Peter Posner continue as Members of the Investment Committee until 2012, with the latter functioning as Vice-Chair; and that Martin Vogler will terminate his period of service as President in 2010 (after the World Council).

Resolution 12: The Executive Committee received the Report of the Committee on Investment (with one abstention).

Report of the Committee on Finance

Fernando Ondarza, Mexico, Treasurer and Chair of the Committee, presented the Report (see Appendix 13).

Mary Benson recalled that the Officers are being authorised to suspend those members having received a moratorium.

Ken Colloton suggested to change the wording as regards the Fair Share review, to read: “The model that was being developed with the help of Tor Marius Dahl will be advanced to incorporate….”
Hiromi Nagao asked whether suspension implies not using the YMCA logo.

Martin Meißner replied that according to the Constitution, this is the case; however, it would be very costly to implement.

Peter Posner confirmed that as soon as the investment values reached a suitable level the loss carried in the accounts could be covered by the general reserves.

Fernando Ondarza agreed that, the losses would be covered by the general reserves when the Finance Committee deems it appropriate.

Kohei Yamada asked whether a definitive proposal on Fair Share Review could be tabled at the next World Council for adoption.

Fernando Ondarza answered that Tor Marius Dahl is working on the proposal, to put forward a review and a formula that can be applied at different levels, and which will consider several indicators such as membership, size of country, and others, to be presented to all national movements.

Kohei Yamada reminded that unless a decision can be taken in 2010, another four years until the next World Council will have to pass.

On the issue of Staff Security Fund raised by Carlos Sanvee, Bart Shaha reminded that at its meeting in 2008 the Committee had decided to revert to its original name of Secours Speciaux, a decision which had been reconfirmed by the last Executive Committee. Nonetheless, the group remains sensitive to staff needs and to the Secretary General’s proposals, case by case. Currently, there are negotiations on two Staff Security (retired YMCA secretaries) cases in Africa. The Secours Speciaux Committee at its recent Conference Call meeting, decided to constitute a small Task Group of three persons who will, together with World Alliance staff, take further steps to address the issue of Staff Security.


Report of the Board of the John R. Mott Foundation

Terry Ratcliffe, England, President of the Board, presented the report of the Foundation (see Appendix 14).

Resolution 14: The Executive Committee received with appreciation the Report of the Board of the John R. Mott Foundation.

Report of the Committee on Election

Paul Le Gros, New Zealand, Chair presented a brief oral report. National movements have received by email and air mail a circular, together with a Nominations Form and information on the process, which was sent on 19th January 2009. Two reminders will be sent in the course of the year, i.e. in April before Easter and end of July. The closing date is 21st September 2009 but
if necessary, the deadline could be extended to March 2010. Paul Le Gros requested members to encourage their respective national movements to submit names of candidates, and in doing so, to choose the most qualified who can contribute and collaborate in the current work and thrust of the World Alliance. He also encouraged Areas to bear in mind that according to the Constitution a quota for young people and women needs to be secured.

President Martin Meißner encouraged those current Committee members to re-present themselves for the new period of 2010-2014, if they fulfil the criteria.

Resolution 15: The Executive Committee received unanimously the Report of the Committee on Election.

Report of the Committee on Personnel

Martin Meißner, Chairperson, presented the Report of the Committee, which calls for the adoption of two documents “Roles and Functions of the Secretary General” and “Terms of Reference of the Search Committee” (see Appendix 15).

The Search Committee has been formed as per decision of the Executive Committee in 2008.

The Middle East representative will be nominated in a week.

As the Committee was lacking a woman/young person, the Africa Alliance was requested to nominate an additional person within this category. By email of 9 March 2009 to Martin Meißner, Clifford Sileya, President of the Africa Alliance, informed that their nominee is Evelyne Gueye Sadio, from Senegal. Martin Meißner mentioned that he had waited for the Committee to decide on this nomination due to her age; however, the Committee agreed to accept her nomination.

Resolution 16: The Executive Committee accepted unanimously the Composition of the Search Committee.

A discussion followed on the document entitled “Roles and Functions of the Secretary General”.

The Personnel Committee met through Conference Call and discussed inputs received from some Executive Committee members. These were incorporated in the paper.

Mary Benson clarified that there was no priority in the list of “Expectations of the Secretary General”.

Martin Meißner reaffirmed that all criteria were equally important

Clifford Sileya wondered whether key areas for the job should be highlighted.

Kjetil Fretheim thought that importance/priority should be based on what the movement needs at this time. He thought that being the YMCA, it was important to state that the next Secretary General be a young person. He also noted that in this case, “To develop, lead and manage resource mobilisation strategies” is relevant.
Martin Meißner recalled that Kjetil had already made this proposal in writing about the importance of being young. However, one needs to acknowledge that normally the Secretary General is the highest position in the career of a YMCA professional.

Mary Benson indicated that to set an age limit might seem discriminatory.

Kjetil Fretheim responded that the question is not to set a limit but that if a young candidate is capable, he/she should not be discarded because of his age against an older one.

Martin Meißner re-affirmed that young candidates would not be discriminated against.

Kjetil Fretheim responded that still the opportunity for a young candidate to be nominated and selected as Secretary General should be mentioned.

Peter Posner indicated whether the difference would be between what is necessary and what is desirable. Hence, some prioritisation might be expected.

Sandy McIntyre recalled that the decision to select the next Secretary General lies on the Executive Committee.

Referring to the difference in age of retirement of women and men, he asked the question about gender equality. Martin Bauer noted that Swiss law would change as far as retirement age is concerned, bringing equality between women and men.

Martin Meißner indicated that Swiss law would be applied at the time of signature of the contract.

Clifford Sileya enquired about the minimum education qualifications.

Kjetil Fretheim proposed to add “a relatively young person who is able to represent young people and the YMCA movement in a credible way”.

Martin Meißner indicated that when sending the job description to national movements, this might discourage a person of 50 years of age.

Kjetil Fretheim said that what he wanted was the focus on youth.

Paul Le Gros proposed “the successful applicant should be required to demonstrate a good understanding on youth issues and advocate on behalf of those issues.”

Resolution 17: The Executive Committee accepted unanimously the Roles and Functions of the Secretary General with the proposed amendment.

Thereafter, discussions followed on the Terms of Reference of the Search Committee.

Martin Meißner said that he had benefited from the experience of Martin Vogler, the Chair of the previous Search Committee. The Terms of Reference being proposed to be changed to reflect the amendment in the Constitution, i.e. that the Executive Committee appoints the Secretary General and not the World Council, as was the case in the past. The 17th World
Council of YMCAs in 2010 will be the first World Council where this provision will be applied.

The main question is whether the Search Committee will present only one or 2-3 persons to the Executive Committee for it to appoint.

Mary Benson preferred the option of a single candidate since the Search Committee is representative of the world movement. She stated that if 2-3 persons were presented, there would be concern on lack of confidentiality or a feeling that there will be one winner and 2 losers.

Martin Meißner noted that if the option of 2-3 persons is preferred, there would be need for a meeting of the Executive Committee at the beginning of next year so the decision could be made in good time.

Martin Bauer enquired what would happen if the only candidate proposed is refused by the Executive Committee.

Martin Meißner stated that the Executive Committee might not agree with the Search Committee. The decision-making body being the Executive Committee; the process would need to re-start.

Sandy McIntyre indicated that if the candidate endorsed by the Search Committee is not accepted by the Executive Committee, then the other candidates might be approached. He asked about relocation and salary.

Martin Meißner referred to the section “Appointment of the Secretary General”. When the decision on the person is made, the President will discuss the contract with him/her.

Kjetil Fretheim indicated that he was in favour of the option 1, as long as confidential discussions take place within the Executive Committee.

Sofia Sánchez was of the opinion that the method of selecting one candidate by the Search Committee was less democratic. A more representative democratic process will take place if the 2-3 candidates option is preferred.

Peter Posner indicated that he is in favour of the 1 person option, since the Search Committee is composed of a strong representation of the world movement. If the option of 2-3 candidates is preferred, the Executive Committee will have to conduct interviews of each candidate.

Lynda González said that the Secretary General is a staff position. In this sense within national movements, the Board of Directors appoints the top leader of a movement.

Martin Meißner said that there are different experiences at national level.

Simon Lazarre Badiane indicated that to select the top Executive is a technical decision, not a political; hence the importance of the process to be followed.
Sofía Sánchez said that if this is a technical/professional decision, then people specialised in human resources may be needed, since the Search Committee as it is now represents mostly the Area Presidents and other representatives from Areas, who may not be specialised in recruiting.

Martin Meißner announced that a secret ballot would take place to decide on the option of one or several candidates to be proposed by the Search Committee.

Results of the secret ballot:
16 in favour of one candidate
5 in favour of several candidates

Peter Posner proposed the wording “One person to be recommended to Executive Committee for appointment as the next Secretary General.”

Resolution 17: The Executive Committee accepted unanimously the Terms of Reference of the Search Committee, with the proposed amendment.

Martin Meißner announced that the Search Committee will meet at 6:00 PM to decide on the process to be followed for the selection of the next Secretary General, such as when the Search Committee will meet to interview candidates and thereafter propose a candidate to the Executive Committee, which will appoint the next Secretary General at its meeting immediately before the 17th World Council meeting in Hong Kong in 2010. He noted however that their plan is to have a proposal by March 2010 so that there will be enough time for further steps leading to a smooth transition in the position.

Date and Venue of next Executive Committee Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place prior to the 17th World Council of YMCAs, to be held in Hong Kong, on 19th – 24th July 2010.

Closing and Acknowledgements

President Martin Meißner expressed deep thanks to all present - Officers, Committees’ Members, the Secretary General and all World Alliance Staff, and wished everyone a safe travel home.

Samuel Stephens proposed a vote of thanks to President Martin Meißner, which was accepted with acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM with reflection and prayer by Rev. Samuel Stephens, Deputy President.

Minutes recorded by World Alliance staff