

Present :

Presidency : Winds of Hope (WoH)

15 Active members : Association d'Entraide aux Mutilés du Visage (AEMV), Bilifou-Bilifou, Ensemble pour eux (EPE), Gegen Noma, Gesnoma, Hilfsaktion Noma e.V, Hymne aux Enfants, Label Vert, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Noma-Hilfe Schweiz, (NHS), Persis Burkina, Persis Valais, Sentinelles, Voix du Paysan, Winds of Hope.

1 Partner Member : Chaîne de l'Espoir.

1 Candidate : Fondation Gertrude Hirzel.

6 Guests : OMS (Isabelle Wachsmuth), SNIS (Dr Denise Baratti-Mayer, Dr Iona Cismas, Anaïs Galli et Nora Monnier), Hervé Pfister (A visage découvert, réalisateur).

Apologies

10 Actives members : Antenna Technologies, Au fil de la vie (AFV), Avec Mali-Jura, Aviation sans Frontières (ASF), Cheira, Enfants du Noma, Idées'Elles, Kasnoma, PhysioNoma, Vaincre Noma,

Absents

7 Active members : Facing Africa, Gigip, Maison de Fati, Mamma Project, Non au Noma en RDC, Peter Ustinov Foundation, Project Harar.

1 Partner member : Mercy Ships,

3 Associate member : Centre Nopoko, New Face, Prométhée

1. Welcome and introduction

Philippe Rathle (PhR) welcomed the Assembly and expressed his satisfaction at seeing the members in person after two very special years. First of all, he would like to thank the Geneva Health Forum and its director Eric Comte, in particular for hosting this day devoted to our fight against noma within the program of their forum.

This year, the simultaneous translation, which Marianne Wanstall has been doing voluntarily for many years, will not be possible. She is currently travelling abroad. Unfortunately, for budgetary reasons, it has not been possible to find an alternative solution for our English and German speaking friends. To make up this inconvenience, a translations of the main points of this meeting, and in particular the speeches by the Presidency, has been produced and is available from Valérie. During the short individual speeches, everyone speaks in their own language and we can count on the multilingual members of the Assembly to take it in turns to provide a translation for those who have not understood everything. However, the minutes of both the General Assembly and the Round Table will be published in French and English as in the past.

After two years of pandemics, Philippe is particularly happy to welcome today, in person 16 members out of a total of 37 members of the Federation represented by 26 participants.

PhR welcomes the presence of :

- Me Catherine Ming, President of the Gertrude Hirzel Foundation, candidate for membership of our Federation.

PhR also welcomes the presence of two representatives of this beautiful African continent :

- Mrs Persis Zala, representative of Persis Burkina and daughter of Dr Zala, the soul of the Persis Centre in Ouahigouya. Persis is a general practitioner, she finished this summer a postgraduate of 3 years at the HUG in neonatology and is applying for another 3 years in pediatrics while doing a thesis on protocols for newborns.

- Mr Adama Sougouri, Director of the local radio station "La Voix du Paysan" in Ouahigouya created with Frank Musy from Radio Suisse Romande. Adama is here with us thanks to the generosity of Timbukutu 53 association.

- Dr Bukola Oluyide, member of the MSF delegation from Niger.

PhR wishes them all a warm welcome.

PhR would like to regret the absence for health reasons of Elisabeth Simon from Avec Mali to whom we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Dr Bertrand Piccard, President of Winds of Hope and the Solar Impulse Foundation, will be with us shortly for the two important Round Table events that will follow at 11 am and 2 pm.

PhR declared open the 17th General Assembly of the International NoNoma Federation.

2. Adoption of the minutes

2.1. Adoption of the minutes of the 16th GA 2020

The last General Assembly of our Federation took place in November 2020 for the first time entirely online with more than 50 participants thanks to the technical support of MSF.

The two founders Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones participated together for the first time since 2004. Bertrand gave an introductory message to the assembly. Michèle Piccard, a member of the Winds of Hope Board, gave a closing speech.

On this occasion, two new members were accepted into the Federation : Médecins sans frontières and Cheira. You all received the minutes of the General Assembly by email last Thursday, which will also be available on the Winds of Hope and NoNoma websites. There being no comments, we will proceed directly to the vote.

The minutes of the 16th General Assembly were approved unanimously by the members present.

3.a Members, Membership :

We have this year the adhesion of a new member that we have all known for many years, the Gertrude Hirzel Foundation. It was a member of our Federation from 2003 to 2013 during the time of Mrs Hirzel, who actively supported the work of Gesnoma and the University Hospitals of Geneva in favour of children suffering from the consequences of noma.

I give the floor to Catherine Ming, President of the Foundation, who will say a few words.

Catherine Ming reiterated the interest of the Hirzel Foundation to join the Federation again.

Mrs Ming then left the room for a few minutes and the discussion was opened among the members. The response was unanimous and we accepted the Gertrude Hirzel Foundation into the International NoNoma Federation.

We welcome Mrs Ming back into the room and announce the result. The assembly applauds and everyone is delighted with the results.

3.b Membres, cessation of activities

This year, two members are leaving our Federation due to cessation of activities.

First of all, Gesnoma, a founding member of our Federation, which was created by Prof. Denys Montandon and which carried out so many studies on noma. I give the floor to Dr Denise Baratti-Mayer.

Denise explains that Gesnoma's activities are indeed at a standstill due to a lack of funding. But it is not excluded that in case of new financing, their activities will start again.

Philippe thanks Denise.

It was then proposed to keep Gesnoma as a "passive" member and thus open a new category of members for those cases where the activities are "dormant" but where there is still a possibility of recovery.

Then the association Avec Mali - Jura, chaired by Elisabeth Simon, applied for membership of our Federation in 2016. It was strongly committed to the fight against noma in eastern Mali. The network that Elisabeth had set up had made it possible to discover several victims of noma and to refer them to the Persis Center in Ouahigouya at Dr Zala's.

Elisabeth Simon's work was first stopped by the pandemic before she herself encountered health problems.

4. New organisation of the Round Tables

In 2019 a working group was set up to draw up the outlines of a new organisation of the Round Tables. This group met twice in March and November of this year 2019 and made some interesting proposals. Unfortunately, the pandemic situation interrupted this beautiful momentum.

The invitation of the Geneva Health forum gives us the opportunity to put the subject back on the table with the following framework that I present to you :

- The Round Tables will take place alternately every other year :
 - At the Geneva Health Forum with a round table open to the outside world. This is the format for this year 2022.
 - At the Winds of Hope Foundation with a roundtable discussion focused on our issues. This will be the format for next year 2023.
- They will be held in a one-day format to reduce costs.
- Travel costs will be borne by the participants. This last point obviously does not favour the coming of our African members. One of the points to be discussed between us will be the possibility of finding funding for their air travel.
- The annual membership fee of CHF 50.- per association, which had been suspended since 2018, will be reinstated from next year 2023 to allow Winds of Hope to organise our meetings on an annual basis.

For this edition, we were hosted by the Geneva Health Forum. In view of the few problems we had in finding food as planned, the GHF management, in the person of Eric Comte, decided to generously offer us all the tickets.

What remains is to finance the travels of our African members ! The aim is to raise a budget of approximately CHF 5000.-. At the first meeting of the Working group in 2019, Hilfaktion and Noma-Hilfe offered to provide this funding.

The discussion opened around this topic and two things were proposed :

- 1) The creation of a support fund : who, how much, etc. remains to be determined.
- 2) Antoinette Campéglià proposed holding these meetings online, which would solve the problem of Africans coming to the meeting. They could follow it from home.

This proposal did not meet with unanimous approval, as the online meeting does not allow for the networking that occurs naturally when people meet in person.

However, Antoinette said that she prefers face-to-face meetings, but that the proposal was mainly aimed at solving the problem of the cost of bringing members from abroad.

Ronan Grippay then proposed a mixed format, with some participants online and some in person.

Philippe pointed out that, at present, it is not possible for Winds of Hope to do a mixed format for technical reasons. He asked the question : would any of the members be able to provide the technical means to FINN ? The question remains open.

The other advantage, which is not negligible, is that it would improve the visibility of the activities of the FINN. Ariane Vuagniaux supported the mixed broadcast proposed by Ronan Grippay.

Adama Sougouri mentioned the possibility of granting scholarships. In this case, it is necessary to identify the projects that work and focus on these people.

Sylviane Collomb underlined the fact that online formats are not comparable to-face-to-face meetings as they are today; all the little discussions in between, the breaks, etc. are missing.

Ariane highlights the technological achievement of the last meeting, which was held online during the pandemic. However, the end result is not the same.

Chaîne de l'Espoir also supports a mixed version so as not to miss out on an intervention.

In other business, Philippe reminded the meeting that Winds of Hope had some Noma Posters in stock, and those interested could contact Valérie.

As the meeting was coming to an end, Philippe warmly thanked all the participants for their presence and their active participation in the discussions.

Philippe declared the 17th General Assembly of the International NoNoma Federation closed.

For the Chair :

Winds of Hope



Lausanne, December 12th, 2022