

Minutes of the SID annual general meeting held on 16 December 2014 at 5.00 p.m. at the Teaching Centre, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Present: Baerbel Chambalu, Amalia Dahl, Teresa de Buckle, Günter Hager-Madun (guest), Pincus Jawetz, Walther Lichem, Peter Lillie, Thomas Nowotny, Alice Schmidt, Uwe Schubert and Hermi Trupke

Thomas Nowotny welcomed the participants and declared the meeting open at 5.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted as submitted

Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted, with two amendments relating to the date of the meeting (26 November) and the number of members (33).

Information on current membership of the Chapter

The Treasurer reported that the current strength of the Chapter stood at 35 members: an increase of two in the number of individual members. The number of institutional and student members had remained constant. A list of the current members with their coordinates was distributed.

Financial report for the year 2013.

(a) Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer circulated a copy of the accounts for 2013 which had closed with a negative balance of €376.69 for the year. The additional outlay was due to: (i) the slightly larger amount transferred to SID Rome on account of the increase in membership; and (ii) the greater than anticipated expenses related to the project on the development of human settlements that had incurred costs associated with the provision of facilities in the Vienna International Centre. The overall balance as at 31 December 2013 was €1,250.38 that had been carried over to the following year. The meeting took note of the report and thanked the Treasurer for maintaining the accounts in such a dutiful manner.

(b) Report of the auditors

The auditors had confirmed in writing the veracity of the accounts for 2013 and the faithfulness of the records kept by the Treasurer. The meeting thanked the auditors in absentia for their conscientious examination of the accounts.

Status of finances

The summary statement of finances as at 12 December 2014 showed that actual income had slightly exceeded the income projected in the budget for 2014 adopted at the previous annual general meeting. Actual expenditures, however, were far lower than budgeted owing to the fact that all events organised in the course of the year had not necessitated drawing down funds from the chapter's budget. Cash holdings at 12 December 2014 were EUR 1,344.28

Draft budget for 2015

The Chapter considered the budget. The income projected stood at EUR 2,550. The following expenditures were anticipated:

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| Payment to Rome | EUR 400 |
| Membership: <i>Globale Verantwortung</i> and NGO Committee on Sustainable Development | EUR 250 |
| Organisation of events | EUR 1,550 |
| Chapter website | EUR 250 |
| Sundries | <u>EUR 100</u> |
| | EUR 2,550 |

The budget for 2014 was unanimously adopted.

President's report on past and future activities

(a) Past activities

In his summary of the events of the past year, Thomas Nowotny spoke of a number of achievements, primarily in the form of talks given and courses held.

The first event had been the presentation by Mr. Li Yong, Director-General of UNIDO of the *UNIDO Industrial Development Report* at the Austrian National Bank. Organised in collaboration with the Austrian Society for Foreign Policy, the event had been jointly organised with, and hosted, by the National Bank. Attendance had been massive and presentation well received. Subsequent thereto, arrangements were made for the publication of the Director-General's statement in a special issue of the SID journal *Development*.

Secondly, the President of the Vienna chapter had participated in the meeting of the SID chapters that had been held in The Hague, Netherlands, 10-12 April. Whereas overall the number of chapters had declined, the roles played by certain key chapters were apparent. The chapter in The Hague was highly academic and attached great importance to the publication of papers. The chapter in Washington was highly political and focused on lobbying activities and the assumption of a think-tank role. The chapter in Frankfurt was very business-orientated. Contacts had been established with other chapters, which, it was hoped, would lead to joint activities.

Thirdly, on 6 May the chapter had convened a meeting of members and friends for an internal discussion on the economics and politics of global energy demand and supply. PowerPoint presentations given by Shonali Pachuri (IIASA), Uwe Schubert and Thomas Nowotny provided the basis for discussion.

Fourthly, on September 18, an event had been organised in collaboration with the Austrian Society for Foreign Policy, comprising a talk by Dr. Margit Schratzenstaller-Altzinger on a European Commission project on welfare, wealth and work in Europe. Involving no fewer than 33 research institutes and coordinated by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), the project was currently at its mid-point. A plea had been entered for a differentiated approach to determining future progress. It should not simply be gauged in terms of per capita GDP, but it should take account of other gauges such as 'resource productivity' or 'poverty risk'.

Fifthly, members and friends of the chapter had met to discuss the recommendations that had emerged from the United Nations intergovernmental open working group of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Details pertaining to all of the above events were to be found on the chapter's website (<http://sidvienna.org>).

In the course of the year, closer ties had been established with SID Rome. As mentioned, the strengthening of ties had been reflected not only in the inclusion of the UNIDO Director-General's statement in a special issue of *Development*. Furthermore, the first issue of the journal in 2014 had contained an article written by Thomas Nowotny on *Policy Cleavages between Poor, Emerging and Wealthy Countries*. At the initiative of the Vienna chapter, arrangements had also been made to include in *Development* an article on the changing global role of the International Financial Institutions that had been co-authored by two former World Bank directors from Austria.

Close cooperation with *Globale Verantwortung*, the umbrella organisation for Austrian organisations and advocacy groups engaged in providing and/or promoting development assistance and technical cooperation had been maintained throughout the year. The effectiveness of the organisation's lobbying

endeavours had culminated in securing the decision by the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs **not** to cut the budget for official development assistance (despite original proposals to the contrary in the initial draft budget).

Cooperation with the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development chaired by Uwe Schubert continued apace and SID members had contributed to a position paper on human rights and sustainable development. In that connection, attention was drawn to the recent re-opening of the NGO lounge in the Vienna International Centre.

(b) Future activities

As for the activities currently projected for 2015, plans were being mooted for a lecture and discussion in conjunction with the Austrian Foundation for Development Research (ÖFSE). Tentatively envisioned for the latter half of February, the lecture would address the impact of tectonic changes in the world order upon the status and workings of the International Financial Institutions.

Possibly prior to that event, it was hoped that a *Kamingespräch* could be organised with staff members of UNIDO: possibly as a side-event at the ACUNS meeting, 15-16 January 2015 (see Other business below).

Before the onset of summer, members and friends of the chapter would meet for a debate. Once again, it would be devoted to the issue of the post-2015 SDGs. The United Nations General Assembly would be taking a final decision on those goals at its autumn session. As things stood, that decision would be based on the recommendations brought forward by the intergovernmental open working group. The latter group had proposed an agenda comprising seventeen goals and no less than 169 specific targets. The problems inherent in such an approach were obvious. The second segment of the pre-summer meeting might also take the form of a social gathering.

As in previous years, the chapter would continue its ambitious university project. The number of academic institutions joining the project would be larger than in previous years. In addition to the Vienna-based universities (the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, the University of Vienna (Political Science Department), the Modul University, the Technical University and [albeit still doubtful] the Vienna University of Economics and Business), the University of West Hungary in Sopron and the Economics University in Bratislava would participate. As in previous years, UNIDO would be prominently involved. The project would focus would be on the interplay between environmental policy and economic development. If things went according to plan, a half-day workshop, to which UNEP would also contribute, would be held at end-March. A two-day workshop would be held in late May. Assuming that a critical mass of participants could be secured, a third workshop might be held during the first week of the summer vacation.

The crucial factor was funding. The previous year, the chapter's budget had had to absorb the costs of the services provided on the United Nations premises in Vienna. Funds would thus have to be sought of such entities as the Austrian Development Bank, various foundations and local major banks. As an innovative move, a first-ever attempt could be made to secure funds via 'crowd funding'. The success of such endeavours hinged upon the contributions being tax-deductible. That, in turn, would call for a prior decision on the part of the Austrian inland revenue authorities. For its part, the Vienna chapter would have to submit its accounts and balance sheets as audited by a tax consultant or accountant registered in Austria.

It was suggested that SID should attempt to establish closer relations with the Sustainable Energy for All project based in the Andromeda Tower adjoining the Vienna International Centre. It was headed by the former Director-General of UNIDO, Kandeh Yumkella.

2015 would mark the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations. Commemorative events would be organised in September 2015. The chapter would keep its members informed..

Any other business

Attention was drawn to one event of interest: the meeting organised by ACUNS on the lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals and the perspectives for the post-2015 development agenda. It was to be held in the VIC 14-16 January. Details of the event had been distributed via e-mail to members.

Closure of the meeting

Prior to the closure of the meeting, tribute was paid to the unrelenting commitment of Baerbel Chambalu, May Dahl and Uwe Schubert. The President was commended on the lengths to which he had gone in maintaining the high profile of the chapter throughout the year

The meeting was declared closed at 6.10 p.m.

Following the closure of the meeting, Reinhard Mechler, Deputy Director, Risk, Policy and Vulnerability Programme, IIASA, and lecturer at the Vienna University of Economics and Business gave a talk on climate policy and development.