

INPUD Board Teleconference - 5th September 2008

Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Name	Country	Status	Present	Apologies
Anan Pun	Nepal	Chair	√ ¹	
Becki Brooks	USA	Board Member		√ ²
Brent Taylor	Canada	Board Member	√	
Eric Schneider	France	Board Member	√	
Fredy Edi	Indonesia	Board Member	³	
Jude Byrne	Australia	Board Member	√	
Luiz Guanabara	Brazil	Board Member	√	
Vito Georgievski	Macedonia	Board Member	√ ⁴	
Jørgen Kjær	Denmark	General Meeting Chair	√	
Mat Southwell	UK	General Meeting Chair / INPUD Negotiator with IHRA	√	

Meeting Notes:

1. It was agreed to clarify that while the membership are rightly the ultimate authority within INPUD, it is also the expectation that the membership through the General Meetings will empower the Board to make decisions and act to deliver on the broad strategy agreed by the membership. The Board needs to be an effective executive body if INPUD is to be successful.
2. It was agreed that the Consensus Position should make explicit that the Board that will be confirmed in Copenhagen will be serving an 18 month term to ensure continuity between Copenhagen and Liverpool. This is particularly important given the uncertainties surrounding the IHRA Conference in Bangkok.
3. The IHRA Conference in Liverpool will see the first round of elections for Board members. The document should clarify that while half the Board will come up for election, the other half of the Board will serve through to the next IHRA Conference where they will face re-election.
4. There should be an opportunity for members to discuss the make up of the Board in Copenhagen including the opportunity to strengthen the Board further by voting on additional members.
5. Throughout the document there is a need to revise the verb tenses in areas where proposed steps have been actioned.
6. The Consensus Position proposes a model in which Board members will serve a two year term with 50% of the Board coming up for re-election every year. However, IHRA operate to a three year cycle with a third of their Board members coming up for election every year. The Board discussed the merits of

¹ Anan joined the Board teleconference but then due to local technical problems dropped out of the virtual meeting

² Becki was admitted to hospital with pneumonia and was therefore unable to take part in the teleconference

³ Frey had been unwell and although now in good health he has been working through a backlog of emails

⁴ Vito joined the meeting but then dropped out of the teleconference due to local technical problems. He was able to hear the teleconference by linking with Joergen over Skype

the two models and decided to recommend the two year model. It was felt that this provided the best balance between accountability and organisational stability. In addition, drug users lives are subject to changes that may make committing to a three term prohibitive.

7. The Board should have the power to co-opt new Board members on to replace Board members who drop out or resign. However, the Board should be expected to co-opt new Board members from the same region as the departing Board member after consultation with members in that region. Replacements should also be selected with attention to the wider make up and equity of the Board.
8. Resignations from the Board should be formally made to the Board and properly publicised by the Board to respect the rights of individual Board members and to ensure accountability to funders and INPUD members.
9. The Board should maintain and publish a list of active Board members
10. The different options for registering INPUD were discussed. It was agreed that London provided the best option as it supported transparency with IHRA (INPUD's only funder at this point) and ensured that INPUD would not be dependent on any one activist or group to manage its registration. It would also allow INPUD to seek logistical help from IHRA.
11. The Board agreed that it was important for out drug users to be seen to be leading the organisation as a demonstration of self-determination and the competence of our community.
12. It was agreed to include the original Vancouver Declaration as an appendix to the Consensus Position.
13. Luiz has been working on the Vancouver Declaration. His work has been on strengthening the presentation of the document without changing its fundamental sense. This revised declaration will be circulated for comments and discussed at the Copenhagen meeting. This update version could be used as the active expression of drug users expectations and aspirations of their international network.
14. It was agreed that INPUD should work over the next 18 months to develop an organisational model and register the organisation. However, it was agreed that building the network and a securing functional Board and General Meeting structure where the organisations primary agendas. As such, the General Meeting in Copenhagen will include a series of workshops to discuss key organisational issues (see later point). This will provide a mandate to the Board. The Board will bring back a model constitution by the IHRA Conference in Bangkok⁵. This will allow the members to review and agree the draft constitution. The Board would then formally register the organisation between Bangkok and Liverpool.
15. The Board will commission an Option Appraisal review of potential organisations who might 'shelter' INPUD during this period. The Board agreed that INPUD should not shelter with one of its member organisations. Instead a short list of other suitable organisations would be developed and then these options would be assessed against a set of fixed assessment criteria.
16. The Board would retain the option of asking the AGM to extend the period of 'sheltering' INPUD under another organisation if the registration of the organisation extended beyond Liverpool.

⁵ If drug user groups do not attend Bangkok then an alternative means of circulating and consulting members on the draft constitution will be developed.

17. It was agreed the two delegates from Asia to the United National Task Force should be offered a bursary to attend the General Meeting in Copenhagen. This would be in addition to the two Board members from Asia. The Board agreed that this would secure communication between the meeting in Goa and Copenhagen.
18. It was agreed to take up IHRA's offer to help publicise the Consensus Position through the IHRA e-Newsletter. The newsletter would provide a link to the IHRA website where the Consensus Position would be lodged. However, the Board wanted the supporting information to be clear that the consultation process was targeted at the drug using community and drug user organisations.
19. The Board asked Mat to ask IHRA if INPUD could have access to the names and contact details of drug users activists who had registered at past IHRA Conferences. It was accepted that trawling through historic records could be time consuming but if IHRA were amenable, a volunteer from INPUD could be tasked with this job.
20. Board members agreed that it was their primary role to ensure the circulation of the Consensus Position to as many drug users as possible. Board members agreed to consider how they could support onward circulation of the document and the wider promotion of INPUD to potential members.
21. Stijn's willingness to support the Consensus Position was welcomed. It was recognised that it was important that the Consensus Position took INPUD forward in a positive manner. It was agreed that everyone needed to learn lessons about the past but most importantly we should now focus on how we should move forward.
22. The international advocacy and representation work on INPUD was recognised as an important function of INPUD. It was agreed that Stijn should be asked to produce a report that described the experience and lessons of taking part in international forums and meetings on behalf on INPUD.
23. Mat was asked to draw up a specification for this work and to enter into negotiations with Stijn about delivering this piece of work.
24. Brent agreed to review the current INPUD website and to bring recommendations to the INPUD Board Meeting in Copenhagen. The review needs to address the problems with hosting the website. Stijn's offer to hand over the inpud.org URL was welcomed.
25. The Board agreed with Brent's suggestion that an INPUD Web Management Group should be formed to oversee the development and maintenance of the website. This group would report to the Board.
26. Eric offered to ask ASUD's web expert to join this working group
27. It was formally agreed that 31st October should be the next General Meeting of INPUD and that this event would take place in Copenhagen alongside the IDUD event.
28. Mat and Joergen were asked to continue planning the General Meeting under the supervision of the Board. The Board thanked Mat and Joergen for their work to date.
29. It was agreed to ask IHRA to release funds to support Board Member, Mat Southwell (event chair) and the two Asian drug user representatives to the UN Task Force to attend the General Meeting and the linked Board meeting.
30. It was recognised that this would release monies within BF's sponsorship fund so that a wider range of drug user activists could be sponsored ensuring as widespread as possible engagement in the General Meeting.
31. Joergen agreed to produce a budget to support the engagement of Board Members, Mat and the Asia drug user representatives to the UNTF to attend Copenhagen. Mat to will turn this into a proposal to be taken to IHRA.

32. IHRA would be asked to release the required funds to BF who are managing travel arrangements and accommodation for the General Meeting and wider IDUD event.
33. BF would provide a budget report on travel and accommodation costs for consideration by the INPUD Board and IHRA.
34. The Board asked Mat, Joergen, Sam and Walter to produce a set of Rules of Order for the General Meeting.
35. The Board received feedback from Joergen on the progress towards engaging drug user groups from around the world. It was recognised that the events in Copenhagen could be one of the largest ever international meetings of drug users.
36. The Board formally thanked Joergen and colleagues at BF for their generosity and commitment to the international drug users movement for hosting the INPUD General Meeting and the wider IDUD event.
37. A meeting structure for the General Meeting is proposed in the Consensus Position and this was supported by the Board.
38. It was agreed that the four workshops at the General Meeting should consider the address the following topics respectively:
 - a. Membership
 - b. Regional structures
 - c. The relationship between national groups, INPUD regions and the INPUD international body
 - d. The Board role, terms and election models
39. It was agreed to discuss the issue of the Bangkok Conference at the Board Meeting in Copenhagen. This would allow feedback to be received from the consultation exercise being conducted by Karyn Kaplin. In addition, the views of the meeting in Cambodia could also be considered. The Board agreed on the general principle that any decision taken by INPUD should be strongly informed by the wishes of local drug users and members of the INPUD Asia Pacific region. The current processes being undertaken in Thailand and within the wider INPUD Asia Pacific Region were welcomed.
40. Mat was asked to express the Boards thanks to HRC for hosting the teleconference and meeting part of the cost of the call.