

**Minutes of the first General Assembly of the World Student
Environmental Network,
Taken at the WSEN Global Summit 2014
Wilcocks Building room 1012, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
3rd July 2014**

Agenda:

- 1 Introduction to the WSEN and the General Assembly**
- 2 Adoption of the agenda**
- 3 Presentation of the WSEN, the proposed new legal structure & questions**
- 4 First vote – topic: Adoption of the Legal Statutes of the WSEN**
- 5 Explanation and presentation of the proposed Executive Board members & questions**
- 6 Second vote – topic: Election of the Executive Board**
- 7 Presentation of the General Assembly representatives**
- 8 Announcement of the Future host of the 2015 Global Summit**
- 9 Mandate to the Executive board**
- 10 Announcement of the Results**
- 11 Closing remarks**

Recording clerk: Emily Van Der Merwe

Chair: Giorgina King

GA Speakers

Bohdi Davies (Murdoch University), Joseph Grainger Gasser (WSEN Transition Committee), Giorgina King (WSEN Transition Committee/ Stellenbosch Summit Organising Team), Leila Chakroun (WSEN Transition Committee), Rhys Gustafsson (Murdoch University)

Number of members in attendance:

1 Introduction to the WSEN and the General Assembly

Joseph: Welcomes the delegates and opens the first General Assembly

2 Adoption of the agenda

Leila: The agenda is presented and is unanimously adopted by the delegates

3 Presentation of the WSEN, the proposed new legal structure and questions

Leila: Makes the presentation of the WSEN, its past, present and future. She also presents past summits and the WSEN mission and vision.

- Agenda of future developments including: official not-for-profit organisation (NPO) status of the WSEN, development of the alumni network, monitoring of the impact of the Summits.
- Leila explains why the GA is important and what it will bring to the WSEN
- Calls for delegate's involvement in the development of the WSEN

Joseph: Gives explanations on the legal status and the new structure:

- Explains why the NPO HQ will be based in London in the UK
- Explains the role of the different bodies:
 - Executive Board
 - General Assembly (GA) Representatives
 - Alumni Network

WSEN representatives explain the voting system, combining the votes of the delegates at the General Assembly to the electronic votes of former delegates, helpers, summit organisers from the past 3 years. Members of the organisation are indeed all current and past student delegates, until graduation or up to 3 years after their last participation to a Summit (as delegate, organiser, helper/volunteer). The Executive Board plus the GA Representatives constitute the decision-making body of the WSEN, with each member holding one vote. The Executive Board members are elected for 1 year, with the possibility of presenting themselves for re-election for an additional term.

4 First vote – topic: Adoption of the Legal Statutes of the WSEN

Questions from the floor before the first vote:

- How does the WSEN ensure representativeness in both gender and in geographical terms? For example by including a representativeness clause.
Answer: The WSEN Executive Board aims to be as representative as possible but does not want to put restrictions at this stage to keep the structure and the election process as simple as possible. Recommendations were given to delegates to consider gender and geographical representations in their voting choices.
- Will the WSEN have corporate status with its own bank account?
Answer: The WSEN does not have a separate legal identity from that of its individual Executive Board members. EB members remain therefore fully responsible but the WSEN will be able to have a bank account in its own name.

- Why is the WSEN based in London?
Answer: Because the WSEN can have access to a mailbox there and the NUS is supporting us.
- Is it also possible to abstain when voting?
Answer: Yes, your vote can be 'Yes', 'No' or a blank ballot (abstention).

First vote on the proposed legal statutes

- Yes
- No
- Abstention

(Volunteers hand out ballots to delegates)

5 Explanation and presentation of the proposed Executive Board members & questions

Giorgina : Presentation of the current Executive Board members.

Candidates – former WSEN Transition Committee members and engaged volunteers with an experience in the WSEN.

6 Second vote – topic: Election of the Executive Board

Questions from the floor before the second vote:

- Why are there so many European members on the Executive Board?
Answer: The Transition Committee, of which some members have been put forward to become part of the Executive Board, was created after the 2013 Summit in Lüneburg. It has just happened to be that the members of the 2013 organizing committee and some other Europeans, but also some other delegates from various continents committed themselves. The WSEN strives to bring as much diversity into its functioning as possible.
- Who can apply for the Executive Board?
Answer: Any person previously involved in the WSEN.
- Can anyone work with the Executive Board?
Answer: Yes.

Second vote on the proposed Executive Board members:

- Yes

- No
- Abstention

(Volunteers hand out ballots)

7 Presentation of GA representatives

Announcement of the GA representatives by Giorgina and explanation of their role.

GA representatives have same voting rights (1 vote per person) as Executive Board members.

8 Announcement of Future Host

Announcement of Host of the WSEN Global Summit 2015: Murdoch University, Australia

Passing on of the WSEN Host Glass trophy.

Speech by Bohdi and Rhys representing Murdoch University. They express their enthusiasm for hosting the 2015 WSEN Global Summit.

9 Mandate to the Executive Board

Mandate to the Executive Board:

- Development and operations of WSEN
- Support to Summit organisations
- Selection of future hosts
- Mandate is given by the delegates by show of hands, clear majority

Mandate is given to the Executive Board unanimously by raising hands, “until the next Global Summit to drive further the institutionalisation of the WSEN and develop the legal status of the WSEN into an incorporated organisation with own legal existence.”

10 Announcement of the results

Results of the votes are announced to the GA

- Vote 1 Legal Status: 48, 1, 2 (yes, no, abstention)
- Vote 2 Executive Board election: 50, 0, 1 (yes, no, abstention)

Online Voting:

- Q1 Do you approve the adoption of the official legal status of the World Student Environmental Network as presented to you in the document attached to the voting invitation e-mail?
 - yes: 81
 - abstention: 1

- no: 0
- Q2 Do you approve the election as a whole of the official Executive Board of the World Student Environmental Network as presented to you in the document attached to the voting invitation e-mail?
 - yes: 78
 - abstention:4
 - no: 0
- Q3 Do you approve the election as a whole of the official Executive Board of the World Student Environmental Network as presented to you in the document attached to the voting invitation e-mail?
 - yes: 79
 - abstention: 3
 - no: 0

Announcement that the legal statutes and Executive Board have been passed. Non-profit organisation is officially created.

General questions and remarks from the floor:

A delegate makes a proposal that candidates for GA representatives positions make presentations in the beginning of the week for voting, or make videos beforehand so that you can see them before voting.

Final questions from the floor:

- Regional meetings/summits: are there plans to organise such events?
Answer: Yes, and the WSEN team is counting on the delegates to participate in organising them.
- Connecting past delegates, what will the alumni look like?
Answer: The WSEN team is still working on it and would like delegates' input and help.

11 Closing remarks

Giorgina: Thanks the delegates for their participation and congratulates all the GA representatives.

Minutes approved

Clerk

Chair

Stellenbosch, 15th July 2014