

MINUTES OF THE 17th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

September 25, 2019 – Abu Dhabi, UAE

1.0 WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President, Roberto Hidalgo welcomes all the members and declares opened the 17th MILSET General Assembly. The General Assembly will be hosted by Roberto Hidalgo and Reni Barlow.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE QUORUM

The quorum is confirmed by Jeppe Willads Petersen, the chief scrutineer.

3.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda is unanimously approved as presented

4.0 APPROVAL OF THE MILSET GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017 MINUTES

The minutes of the MILSET General Assembly, held on August 8, 2019 in Fortaleza, Brazil, are unanimously approved.

5.0 MILSET ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES – 2017-2018

The President, Mr. Roberto Hidalgo and the Vice-President, Mr. Reni Barlow, present an overview of the MILSET Annual Report of Activities for 2017-2018. The report has been distributed to all participants and will be posted on the website.

A section of the report is targeted to the MILSET programs – Expo-sciences, Leaders Congress, Young Citizens Conferences, Science Photo Contest. In matters of governance, it is noted that the Branding Policy has been modified. A Website Ownership and Administration Policy was approved; in addition, in 2019, an Electronic Signature Policy and a Data Protection Policy were put in place.

A Governance Risk Assessment process was implemented and an Action Plan is now in place to address some identified weaknesses.

Special thanks to Maria Angélica Riquelme and Club de Ciencias Chile who have agreed that MILSET can use their expo-sciences registration system as a basis upon which to build the new MILSET registration system.



Taking into consideration the experience of registration for ESI 2019, updates will be completed in the next few weeks and the system will be ready for the 2020 Regional Expo-sciences. Use of the registration system will not be mandatory for 2020, but will be, starting in 2022.

Liz Vela takes the opportunity of the members being present to ask for support from the European members to finalize the registration system processes related to the GDPR.

6.0 STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2017-2018 FINANCIAL RESULTS 2017-2018

The Treasurer, Carole Charlebois, presents the 2017 & 2018 Statements of Financial Position, approved by the Executive Committee, together with the 2017-2018 Financial Results.

The Unrestricted Assets as per December 31, 2018 shows a total of 45 089 €. The surplus (deficit) of Revenues on Expenses, as per December 31, 2017 is (42 523 €) and as per December 31, 2018, is (4 774 €).

It is noted that during the financial year 2019, the loan to the 2017 ESI Host Organisation has been completely repaid.

Thanks to our financial supporters: Universidad Popular Autonoma des Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) for hosting our office and to MILSET Asia for their important support for the new website and to have made possible meetings of the Executive Committee.

7.0 MEMBERSHIP FEE – 2020-2021

It is proposed by the Treasurer and unanimously approved to keep the MILSET membership fee at 100€ per year for 2020-2021.

The next phase of the ESI registration system should include the implementation of an online system to collect membership fees.

8.0 STATUTES – MODIFICATIONS

The MILSET Executive Committee gave a mandate to the General Secretary, Carole Charlebois, to review completely the Statutes and Internal Rules. She is asked to present a report on the process. All the members received in advance the proposals for modifications.



The main objectives were:

- Modernise our governance process;
- Comply with the Governance Risks Assessment conducted by the Executive Committee;
- Prepare the future of MILSET governance;
- Insure continuity and recruitment of new Executive Committee members;
- Better address differences in management and governance in the regions.

The consultation and approval process included the MILSET Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and the Regional Executive Committees.

It is noted that article 9.0 of the Statutes will be implemented over a 2-year transition period. The existing EC members will continue their mandate during that period and the next election will be held during the 2021 General Assembly.

It is proposed and unanimously approved to ratify the revised Statutes as presented.

The Statutes and the revised Internal Rules will be posted on the website.

9.0 STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019 - REPORT

Reni Barlow – Chairman of the MILSET Strategic Planning Committee – presents an updated report on the Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

Over the past two years, work has continued on new quality standards for programs and events, the statement of benefits to member organizations and on the three priorities adopted by the Board of Directors at ESI 2017 for completion by September 2019:

He is pleased to report that the quality standards for ESI events have been completed and that for the first time they were included as part of the Agreement between MILSET and ACTVET for ESI 2019. The ESI standards will also serve as the basis for Regional Expo-Sciences standards.

The Statement of Member Benefits has helped to clarify the definition of MILSET membership in the Statutes and Internal Rules and to identify opportunities for improving MILSET global programs.

Work on the **first priority** has focused on improving the experience at Expo-Sciences through program activities to help youth meet each other, visit and learn about their projects, and improve their skills in science communication. Some of the activities tested at the first MILSET Vostok Regional Expo-Sciences in Moscow in November 2016 were included in the ESI 2017 program in Fortaleza.



A total of 96% of ESI 2017 participants agreed or strongly agreed that the activities made it enjoyable for them to share their project – about the same as for ESI 2015 – while 93% agreed or strongly agreed that the activities helped them meet or interact with youth from other countries – an increase of almost 10 percentage points over 2015. The activity of marking projects with stickers was rated as quite or extremely enjoyable by 81% of ESI 2017 participants. There was also strong support (70%) for changing the format of the cultural evening from watching performances by each country on a stage to more interactive activities.

The **second priority** continues to be challenging to measure, as ESI is one of the *only* non-competitive international youth science events. In the ESI 2017 participant survey, we asked youth and adults who had participated in other international youth STEAM events (including competitive events) to rate how MILSET ESI 2017 compared in experience and prestige to the best event they had attended:

- The experience was about the same (33%) or better (58%) for 91% of participants
- The level of prestige was about the same (28%) or more prestigious (57%) for 85% of participants

The **third priority** has been the focus of considerable effort over the past two years, particularly by Liz Vela in the MILSET office. The Executive Committee began by hiring a company in January 2017 to conduct a strategic analysis of MILSET’s digital and online presence. Their report highlighted numerous issues and made significant recommendations for changes in structure, format and appearance. Over the next six months, MILSET explored various options for developing a new web site, eventually signing a contract with 2dCollective in Portugal in October 2017.

Building on the success of the online registration system developed for MILSET Expo-Sciences AMLAT 2018, MILSET signed an agreement with Fundación Club Ciencias Chile in 2018 to use and further develop the system for MILSET ESI and Regional Expo-Sciences events, starting with ESI 2019.

Over the next five years, MILSET will continue to refine its programs, enhance its online presence and streamline its governance with a focus on long-term sustainability and membership growth.

10.0 ESI 2019 – PRELIMINARY REPORT

M. Ali Al Marzouki, representing ACTVET, presents a PowerPoint presentation as an interim report on ESI 2019, highlighting the following:

- 1875 participants
 - 1257 young participants
 - 442 supervisors
 - 69 visitors
 - 72 heads of delegations
 - 13 - MILSET



- 86 delegations
- 57 countries
- 589 volunteers
- 2 international volunteers
- 87 country friends
- 11 hotels
- 43 buses
- 114 trips
- 27,000 meals
- 132 buffet menus
- 16,922 school visits

11.0 ESI 2021 – PRESENTATION

Mr. Roberto Hidalgo, representing RED and UPAEP, the host institution who will organize MILSET ESI 2021 presents a video on Mérida. He gives a brief description of their plans to ensure that ESI 2021 will be a great success.

Dates

ESI 2021 will be held on October 3-9, 2021.

Location

The event will be held at the Yucatan Convention Centre where will be located all the facilities for meals and meetings rooms. All hotels are located at a walking distance of the Exhibition Centre.

12.0 MILSET VOLUNTEER AWARD

Following a nomination process open to all regional offices, the President is pleased to announce that the MILSET Volunteer Award is given to Denisa van Ruymbeke from Belgium. Denisa is showing everyday her will to contribute to STEAM education in line with MILSET values by involving herself with passion and enthusiasm as a volunteer providing youth and people working with youth with great opportunities and, through this, has influenced the positive evolution of our movement.

A special Volunteer Award is given to Mr. Bruno Götzens de José Maria, a young volunteer with MAGMA in Spain, who passed away in his late 20's. Always positive and careful, he was a daily inspiration and will always be remembered as a MILSET family member.



13.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS – RECOGNITION

On behalf of all MILSET members, Roberto Hidalgo officially recognizes the major inputs of the Board of Directors members, whose mandates are ending today with the approval of the Statutes:

- Dawood Alhamad - 1993
- Antoine van Ruymbeke - 2005
- Helio Luis Brochier - 2007
- Eugenio Urrutia Albisua - 2013
- Alexander Leontovitch - 2013
- Salomé Matos - 2017

15.0 CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The President thanks everybody for their contribution and officially closes the meeting.



Carole Charlebois
General Secretary

