

## Minutes of the WISTA International President Round Table Discussion (RTD)

Date/Time: Wednesday, 24 October 2018, 09.00 – 11.45 (CET)

Location: Conference Room, Level 1, Skandik Ishavhotel, Tromsø, Norway.

### Present:

#### ExCo

<b>Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou, WISTA Cyprus</b>	President	DT
<b>Diane Edwards, WISTA New Zealand</b>	Secretary	DE
<b>Rachel Lawton, WISTA UK</b>	Treasurer	RL
<b>Jeanne Grasso, WISTA USA</b>	Member	JG
<b>Sanjam Gupta, WISTA India</b>	Member	SG
<b>Naa Densua Aryeetey, WISTA Ghana</b>	Member	NA
<b>Katerina Stathopoulou (by video link), WISTA Hellas</b>	Member	KS

#### NWA Presidents/Representatives

NWA	President/ Representative	Position
Argentina	María Belén Espiñeira	President
Belgium	Catrien Scheers	Member
Bermuda	Angelique Burgess	President/Director
Brazil	Fabiana Simões Martins	President
Canada	Vanessa Rochester	President
Cayman Islands	Sherice Arman	President
Cyprus	Anna Vourgos	Acting President
Dominican Republic	Lludelis Espinal	President
France	Marie-Noëlle Tiné	President
Germany	Claudia Ohlmeier	President
Ghana	Jemilat Jawulaa Mahamah	President
Greece	Angie Hartmann	President
India	Sumi Sahi	General Secretary & Contact person
Italy	Daniela Aresu	President
Netherlands	Ms. Sylvia Boer	President
Nigeria	Mary Madu Hamman	President
Norway	Bjørge Eknorud	President / Liaison with WISTA INT'L
Perú	Miriam Sara Repetto	President

NWA	President/ Representative	Position
Poland	Wanda Dobrowolska-Parfienczyk	President
Russia	Aleksandra Aleksenko	Member
Singapore	Magdalene Chew	President
Spain	Laura Ferrario	Member
Sweden	Karolina Kjellgren	President
Switzerland	Yasmina Rauber	President
Turkey	Nazlı Atakişi Selek	President
United Kingdom	Sue Terpilowski	President
USA	Parker Harrison	President
Venezuela	Débora Valera	President

#### WISTA Officers and Committees

Lena Göthberg, WISTA Sweden	Communications and Support Officer
Jillian Tobias, WISTA USA	Press Officer
Astrid Drent, WISTA The Netherlands	HR Committee
Helen Joannou, WISTA Cyprus	HR Committee
Dorothea Ioannou, WISTA Hellas	Nominations Committee

#### IMO

Helen Buni  
Natalia Laguna  
Karine Langlois

#### **Welcome**

DT welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all the NWA Presidents, Officers and Committees for their contributions during the year. Everyone introduced themselves and indicated the NWA, Committee or Organisation they were representing.

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## IMO Discussion

Natalia Laguna congratulated WISTA on achieving NGO consultative status, pointing out that this is highly relevant given IMO's theme for 2019 will be Empowering Women in the Maritime Community. The proposal had high importance because gender equality is one of the United Nation's sustainability goals. She stressed support from the IMO for goals of WISTA and believed there are many opportunities for both IMO and WISTA to work with range of organisations to achieve these goals.

Helen Buni presented an overview of the WIMA (Women in Maritime Associations) programme, explaining that there are 7 Associations covering 70 countries across Oceania, West and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, Asia, Caribbean, the Arab Nations and Latin America. There are currently approximately 380 participants.

National Chapters host events on variety of issues, not just on gender but also technical areas. She re-iterated that there are synergies for WIMA cooperating with WISTA on this.

Ms Buni then presented an overview of how IMO is progressing the UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) through its programmes and the reasons why the goals all have a gender dimension. She also talked about the various educational programmes.

There was some discussion with the Presidents who are in the regions covered by WIMA about some of the challenges of attendance at meetings/events. These included funding, divisions between public and private sector and lack of clarity about the respective differences between WIMA and WISTA. It was agreed there is a need to strengthen cooperation and work jointly on solutions.

Ms Laguna then outlined some of the key resources and activities being prepared for Empowering Women in Maritime in 2019.

### Resources

- A logo will be available for use, provided it is used in support of the IMO theme
- A special message will be recorded for World Maritime Day
- Day of the Seafarer will have a female theme
- Circular letters will be available to explain how organisations can tie in with the theme for events, along with background information

## Events

- 7-8 March 2019 – International Women’ Day to launch new short film and panel discussion
- 4-5 April 2019 – 3<sup>rd</sup> conference in Malmo Sweden at World Maritime University
- 24 June 2019 – Meeting at IMO headquarters bringing together NGOS and decision makers
- 16-17 September 2019 – parallel event celebrating World Maritime Day in Cartagena, Columbia.
- 18-20 September 2019, Latin American Regional IMO event

Finally, it was noted that the IMO ambassadors programme is very short of women, with only 4 women out of more than 80. The Ambassadors program is not linked to the gender program, but changes are being considered as the Ambassador programme is undergoing an overall review.

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## New Website

Jillian Tobias demonstrated the new website and its key features. She asked Presidents to provide an email address of where to send membership enquiries received through the website. She also asked them to designate an NWA webmaster to maintain the local NWA pages.

She explained that maintenance of the website will be easier as now content is linked, which means that if the same document is in more than one place, a change to the master document will automatically update all the documents, removing the need to locate them all and update manually.

Jillian explained that a WISTA App is also being developed but although it is downloadable, information cannot be uploaded. This led to a discussion on the security features on the site.

There was also general discussion around the website and the links to social media.

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### **Nominations Committee Update**

Dorothea Ioannou explained the need to streamline the process for the Nominations Committee, which has led to the development of a form to be completed by Nominees. The form will collect the Nominee's details. The Nominee must sign that they can meet the time commitment and that they can be physically present at meetings. The nominating NWA must provide an express statement of support for the Nominee. A CV / Bio must be provided to show the skills and experience of the Nominee.

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### **ICS Scholarship Update**

Helen Joannou and Astrid Drent presented on the ICS scholarships programme and outlined the results. Last year, there were 27 applicants from 15 countries for 10 scholarships. They congratulated Rekia Gberbie from WISTA Ghana, who was the only scholar to pass the Foundation Diploma. Five others passed one of the two exams, and will need to re-sit the one not passed.

There was an appeal from the HR Committee for NWAs to be more involved. They should stress to applicants that students have to be in a position to make the time to undertake study, and confirm this before nominating them. They also need to follow up on those selected by ensuring they are keeping up with the reading programme and assignments. This was reinforced by Ghana who said that they had spent a great deal of time in supporting their candidate.

The Presidents offered three suggestions:

- that NWAs are sent the study plan before they nominate someone so they can discuss with the applicants.
- that when the HR Committee emails the students, they also copy in the NWA so they know what support is required.
- that scholarship recipients be told how much it costs so they understand the commitment they are taking on.

There was also general discussion on whether those who failed should pay all, or some of the cost. DT explained this had been discussed at ExCo and it had been decided to not take a punitive approach. However, she said it may be revisited by ExCo for next year depending on progress this year.

All agreed that that HR Committee has done a great job. The Presidents agreed to be more active in the process in supporting their students.

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**Other Business**

DT requested that the Presidents are coordinating the dates of their regional events to avoid conflicting dates.

DT also flagged that ExCo are proposing an increase of 10 euros to the annual membership fee. There has been no increase for many years, but during that time expenses have increased significantly. She said this would be discussed further at the next Presidents' meeting so that all had a chance to consider what it would mean for their NWA. Sponsorship was raised and this was discussed.

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**Close**

There being no other business raised, the meeting closed at 11.45 CET

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