



Veena BATHÉ

It is my pleasure to present the work done during my tenure as GWI Vice President Legal & Governance for the triennium 2019-22.

2019-22 triennium was the most challenging term for GWI. GWI faced challenges on several fronts caused by sharply falling membership numbers, inability, or unwillingness of members to pay their membership dues and the huge disruption caused by the Covid pandemic.

Building on the resilience that the world showed in overcoming the covid pandemic, GWI too embarked on its own renewal & revival with the Organisation Development initiative undertaken by the Board of 2019-22. It was good to see GWI and its membership rise to the occasion and focus on reinventing and rebuilding GWI and the National Federations and Associations (NFAs) for the future.

Special thanks to Geeta Desai (GWI Past President 2016-19) for her Organisational Development (OD) process proposal and tremendous effort in its implementation, which will form the backbone for the next triennium 2022-25.

The GWI Board 2019-22, was clear on its view, that for GWI to be financially sustainable, renewing and rebuilding with Organisational Development process is the only way forward. It would position GWI and NFAs for creating working relationships with UN agencies and to seek funding from external stakeholders and make sure that there are no structural and operational barriers to carry out the work that GWI intends to do in this next chapter of its organisational life.

This required higher level of focus and effort on two very crucial areas going ahead and led to my proposing, and acceptance by the Board of creating two new Vice President portfolios namely-

- 1. Vice President Education and**
- 2. Vice President Projects**

Having seen first-hand the heavy lifting that the Board & the VP Legal & Governance needs to do, and to support the Board in its work, I proposed the constitution of the **Governance Committee**, to provide structural support and guidance.

Necessary constitutional amendments were made in the GWI Constitution to address changing circumstances and provide better representation to NFA for voting.

Other tasks performed by me during the triennium

- The 34th being the first virtual General Assembly, worked on adapting rules of procedure for such meetings
- developed guidelines for GWI Board meetings and record keeping,
- developed the Terms of References (ToR) for the new Governance Committee.
- Created and Maintained the Motions Register of Board Meeting Motions
- As Board Advisor, gave support to the Nominations Committee during the nomination process.
- Worked with the Treasurer in preparing membership trends document and in framing the INTERNAL RESOLUTION 3 on proposed NFA Dues Structure 2023-25.
- Reviewed the ToR for NFA Re-affiliation, suggested re-affiliation fees in relation to the period of lapse of membership.
- Pursued donations from individual donors and was able to get a donor for creation of Sustainable Development Goals Seed Fund.

Special thanks to Dr. Vinaybala Mehta, Past President of IFUWA and Past Vice President and Trustee of UWA, Pune, for kickstarting the **Dr. Vinaybala Mehta Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund of GWI** by generously donating CHF 10,000- as 'seed money'. This fund will enable GWI to make a meaningful impact with well-chosen and executed SDG projects and training of women for such projects. GWI Headquarters will use all its internal and external platforms to promote this seed fund's SDG projects.

The seed fund will be used for–

- a. Implementing projects that help women and girls to access, receive and continue education.
- b. Creating awareness about SDGs and the importance of education for women and girls.
- c. Encouraging and engaging as many GWI NFA members in the development, implementation, and proliferation of funded projects.
- d. Building working relationships with UN agencies and other global entities that are working on the implementation of SDGs in our NFA countries.
- e. Multiplying these projects across the world.
- f. Gather additional funds from Foundations, Impact investors, and donors; thereby sustaining the benefits of this initial grant over a number of years

The criteria for the project excellence is that the project must –

- a. Be outcome based

- b. Be useful for research and innovation in number of fields.
- c. Make a measurable difference
- d. Be sustainable beyond the period of seed funding.
- e. Be reliable possible scalable
- f. Engage as many young members as possible.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the GWI Board 2019-22, Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, IFUWA, UWA, Pune and all the NFAs members for their active and positive participation in steering and taking GWI through its most challenging term. I am sure that the new GWI Board 2022-25 and all members of the NFAs will rebuild GWI for the future to make a meaningful impact on the world in our own way.

Veena BATHÉ

GWI Vice President, Legal and Governance 2019-22

Member of GWI Finance Committee 2013-16

Hon. Secretary, IFUWA 2011-14

President, UWA, Pune 2013-15

Vice President, UWA, Pune 2011-13

Hon. Treasurer UWA, Pune 2009-11

Association Representative 2007-09

Hon Secretary UWA, Pune 2001-03 & 2003-05