

# MSF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

## **11 October 1986**

MSF sections' first meeting on:

- setting up new sections
- communication
- coordination of operations

## **December 1988**

All the presidents and directors of MSF met for the first time. MSF Holland proposed setting up an international Council.

## **February 1989**

MSF inter-sections meeting:

International meetings have a non-deciding role. They aim to guarantee the respect of the Code of Good Conduct, to take initiatives at international level, and to serve as a centre for sharing ideas on the MSF project.

## **9 January 1990**

MSF inter-sections meeting:

International structure to be set up as MSF European Council.

## **2 July 1990**

MSF European Council meeting:

- Endorsement of MSF Belgium's declaration of intent to set up MSF international.
- The structure will help to pool national resources, ease dissent between sections, and carry on developing and thinking about the issue of Europe.

## **11–12 October 1990**

MSF International Council meeting:

MSF international entity to be named MSF International rather than MSF Europe

## **15 November**

MSF International Council Working Subgroup Meeting:

Terms of reference of the International council:

- To be composed of two representatives per section
- To be tasked with defending common principles and organising MSF's development and distribution of resources.

## **18 April 1991**

MSF International Council meeting:

- Agreement on the MSF International Council decision-making procedures
- Setting up of veto right for 'large sections'.

## **January 1992**

MSF International Council meeting:

Melun Declaration to promote operational collaboration between sections.

## **April 1992**

MSF International Council meeting:

The International Council is the decision-maker when it comes to setting up new MSF entities.

## **26 June 1992**

MSF International Council meeting:

Decision to strengthen the role of the President of the International Council and of the International Secretary General regarding the enforcement of the decisions taken by the International Council in Melun.

## **1-3 December 1994**

International Council retreat in Royaumont

Decision to take an 18-month break regarding the setting up of international movements: an opportunity to review and discuss the MSF identity foundations.

## **3 February 1995**

MSF International Council meeting:

Decision to have a 'second Melun-type' meeting to reflect on MSF's identity and vision for the future.

## **5-7 October 1995**

Chantilly I meeting:

120 members from all MSF sections' associative and executive bodies met in Chantilly and adopted the 'Chantilly Principles'.

## **8-9 May 1996**

Chantilly II meeting

## **20-21 June 1996**

MSF International Council meeting:

The MSF International Council tasks the International Council President and the International Secretary General with organising working groups and making proposals on:

- MSF structure
- MSF movement rules
- International Council role

## **September 1996**

Letter from the International Council President and International Secretary General to the International Council proposing to strengthen international nature of MSF by reorganising the International Council structure.

## **31 January 1997**

MSF International Council meeting with representatives of the 19 MSF entities

- International Council enlarged to 19 entities with equal voting rights and
- Creation of a Restricted Committee composed of presidents of six to eight [operational] sections plus the International Council President
- International Council authority on
  - Safeguarding the identity of MSF
  - Giving its approval to the international blueprint for MSF
  - Taking decisions on shared long-term advocacy/witnessing themes
  - Taking decisions on MSF expansion policy
  - Giving advice on the annual plan of the sections

- International Council to elect the International Council President.

### **June 1998**

James Orbinski elected as International Council President.

### **November 1998**

MSF International Council meeting:

International Council to distance itself from executive and operational daily tasks.

### **June 1999**

MSF International Council meeting:

An ultimatum to MSF Greece forbidding it from carrying out any operation outside Greece.

### **September 1999**

International Council email vote for MSF Greece exclusion from the MSF movement as it refused to abide by the decision taken in June.

Exclusion challenged by MSF Greece

### **27 November 1999**

MSF International Council meeting:

- International dimension of the movement should be at the forefront in both form and content at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony.
- The prize money to be used to bolster the access campaign to essential medicines.
- Second vote in favour of MSF Greece expulsion from MSF movement challenged by MSF Greece.

### **26 January 2000**

MSF International Extraordinary General Assembly:

International Council votes in favour of MSF Greece expulsion from MSF Movement in presence of lawyers from both parties.

**TO BE CONTINUED ...**