INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
SUMMARY
Paris, November 21st-23rd, 2003

These are not official minutes

i. An information point was made on shared operationality progresses in the different sections.

I. IC Presidency
Questions were asked in relation to Morten’s activity report.
A decision was made to put Cost-Recovery on the agenda for the next IC.

Rowan briefly outlined the issues that he will aim to work on in the following years – an action plan will be drawn up by him & Marine for the next 2-3 years.

II. Executive Report
Questions were asked in relation to the international update sent prior to the meeting.

Other:
- Briefing on the situation in Iraq – this was followed by a debate on the dilemmas we’re facing in both Iraq and Afghanistan
- Briefing on Arjan
- IO Budget:

The IC provisionally approves the 2004 IO budget. The responsibility of the final approval of the 2004 IO budget is given to the International Council Board.

- New Secretary General:

The IC officially supported the nomination of Marine Buissonière as the new Secretary General of Médecins Sans Frontières.

III. Sexual Violence
A presentation was made by Françoise Duroch of MSF-Belgium on sexual violence. This was followed by a discussion on the programs we presently have, on our objective that sexual violence be addressed in all our projects, on the training component required as part of any project dealing with sexual violence, and on the need to develop a position on abortion.

IV. Medical / TB
Mary Moran made a presentation on TB & DOTS and Francis Varenne made a presentation on TB and MSF. The issue of how to go forwards and better tackle TB within MSF was discussed – the IC drew up a resolution based on the debate held:

TB Resolution
The IC continues to recognise that TB is an increasing problem in areas in which we work, particularly as a co-morbidity with HIV/AIDS. It recognises that MSF’s response to TB is still inadequate. Whilst TB remains a disease in which even the best current standards of treatment are far from perfect, MSF could and should improve its response. The IC appreciates and welcomes the initiatives made by medical departments and the Access Campaign. As stated in the IC resolutions of June and November 2001, the IC urges all sections to increase their focus on TB, particularly in our patients who may not fit into or are excluded from standard treatment models. This concerns specifically but not only HIV positive patients.

The IC requests the executive to develop and implement an innovative and coherent strategy,
building on the report on MSF’s role in TB presented to the IC which takes into account the feedback of the field, best practice and advocacy and also the special needs of MDR TB. We request the executive to report on progress by the IC meeting of June 2004.

*Unanimously in favour*

**V. Human resources**

(1) **Remuneration Study**
A presentation was made by Karine Traonvouez, the Remuneration Study project coordinator. The point of the presentation was to both present the process that has been held and the decisions taken by the Executive, with the objective of obtaining an endorsement of this project by the International Council in order to safeguard the process and the dynamic put in place.

**Resolution on the Remuneration Study**
The International Council supports the proposal for the remuneration of its 1st year volunteers presented by the Executive. In particular, it recognizes the following principles underlying this proposal:
- harmonisation of remuneration across sections as a contributing factor for the retention of volunteers
- equity as a starting point for harmonization
- the concept of indemnity as opposed to salary
- MSF as a socially responsible employer
- decentralised management of the contracts of the volunteers in all sections

The IC encourages the executive to further develop this proposal in the light of recent discussions and decisions on the management of MSF growth.

*Unanimously approved*

(2) **National Staff**
The IC decided that it should look into the National Staff's participation in the decision-making processes, as well as their admission possibilities in the associations for the next International Council.

**VI. MiniAGs**
A proposal was made that this year's issue be "medical care for women in the field, excluding obstetrics or pregnancy-related issues".

**VII. Growth & Governance**
The debate was launched by Morten who made an introduction on the subject.

The following two resolutions were made as a result of the discussion:

(1) The IC re-affirms it commitment to the principles contained in the Resolutions passed during the Extended International Council meeting held in Brussels in 1997, and to the Articles of Association of the International Council.

*Unanimously approved*

(2) Further, the IC directs a working group to be formed to review and make recommendations for the internal rules for the IC. The working group will be composed of members of the IC, and could include one additional member from the board of MSF-Holland. The working group will report to the ICB. Recommendations will be presented at the June 2004 IC.

*16 in favour, 1 abstention, 1 against*

Part of the discussion on governance and growth also included a discussion on the GD18's vote to agree to the move of the International Office from Brussels to Geneva – this decision meant the
need for an endorsement by the IC & the call for an extraordinary AG of the IC – the following resolution was taken:

On the International Office and the move from Brussels to Geneva
Due to the urgency of the matter, the IC at its meeting in November 2003, endorses the decision by the Executive to move the International Office from Brussels to Geneva, and calls for an extraordinary General Assembly, when appropriate next year.

15 in favour, 3 abstentions

VIII. The former MSF-Greece
In light of the feasibility report on the reintegration of the former MSF-Greece into the movement and MSF's Spain proposal to be working on the practical implementation of this re-integration, the IC took the following resolution:

The IC states a clear political will to reintegrate the former MSF-Greece section in the international MSF movement.

MSF Spain is assigned to work on the practical implementation.

The pending court trials will be stopped.

The final inclusion of the former MSF-Greece section is foreseen at the IC meeting in November 2004 dependent on the feasibility and former MSF-Greece’s fulfilling the conditions stated by the IC in its November 2002 resolution.

In the mean time former MSF-Greece is assigned an observer status in the movement.

The IC Board has a special responsibility to monitor the integration process and all IC members express their commitment to support the process in various ways.

Unanimously approved

IX. Typology Study
Was presented to the IC by Rafa Vila SanJuan.