

International Fellowship of Reconciliation

Internationaler Versonnungsbund Mouvement International de la Réconciliation Movimiento Internacional de la Reconciliación

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April 10, 2014

Dear Branches, Groups and Affiliates,

In this year where we celebrate one hundred years of work for a more peaceful and just world, it brings me great honor give you greetings from the IFOR Secretariat.

The Secretariat Staff and IFOR's volunteer leadership have been hard at work preparing for the 2014 Council to be held in Konstanz, Germany, August 3-8th. The Council Preparatory Committee consists of Jean Pierre Massamba of MIR Congo, Denis Beaumont of FOR England, and Zoughbi Zoughbi of Wi'am in Palestine.

By now, you hopefully will have all received the letter from IFOR President Hans Ulrich Gerber inviting you to the Centennial Celebration immediately preceding the council.

Registration for both the Centennial Celebration and the Council can be completed online by accessing the IFOR website or going directly to www.centennial.ifor.org. A printable registration form is also attached to this email and can be emailed to centennial@ifor.org. However, we strongly encourage those who are able to register online.

Representation at Council:

So that we can verify our records, we are including forms to be completed by each branch verifying the size of your membership. The number of members determines the number of votes assigned to each branch. If your branch has less than 1000 members, you may send one voting delegate. If your branch has 1001 to 5000 members, you may send 2 voting delegates, if your branch has more than 5000 members, you may send 3 voting delegates. Each branch is entitled to send up to 3 representatives to council. However, the number of **voting** delegates is determined by the size of the branch.

Groups and Affiliates are only entitled to 1 Representative.

Gender Balance: Please remember the Gender Balance Policy adopted by the IFOR Council in 2006 in Tokyo. Branches, Groups and Affiliates are encouraged to be mindful of assuring gender balance at council. If your branch is sending two representatives, please aim for gender balance.

Participation of Youth: As we did for the 2010 IFOR Council in Baarlo, we encourage BGAs to have young people amount their representatives.

Financial Assistance:

If your branch anticipates a need for financial support to come to Konstanz, contact IFOR Treasurer Robert Reischer: reischer.robert@a1.net, and the International Coordinator, Lucas Johnson ljohnson@ifor.org

Please remember that there are two separate IFOR events taking place. Because of our limited capacity we will need to evaluate financial assistance to the Centennial differently than financial assistance to the council.

In order to evaluate assistance we will need:

- Listed details of your travel costs to Konstanz
- Amount of your own contribution (or from your organization etc.)
- Date of arrival and departure

Priority will be given to supporting branch voting representatives and branches that have fulfilled their requirements under the IFOR constitution. More selection details can be found at: ifor.org/council

Nominations & Nominations Committee:

As at all councils, we will decide who will have the opportunity to serve on the International Committee and the Representative Consultative Committee. In the coming weeks, you will receive a letter from the Nomination Committee about this process but we encourage members to begin discerning their candidacy for service.

Nominations shall be made before the council. Only in exceptional cases will new nominations be accepted during council itself. Member's branches can only make nominations. **Nominations are sent to the Convener of the Nominations Committee No later than two months before Council (3 June 2014).**

Nominations can be emailed to the Convener of the Committee: Kyoko litaka, General Secretary of FOR Japan, and member of the International Committee: litakakyoko@gmail.com. So that I can best support the committee, please also copy the international coordinator on nomination correspondence: liphnson@ifor.org

Items from the Agenda & Proposals:

The International Secretariat must receive items for the Council Agenda no later than May 30, 2014.

More detailed information is to come. Attached to this letter are additional documents to help you prepare for the council.

We look forward to seeing you in Konstanz!

Lucas L. Johnson

Sincerely

International Coordinator