

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION



RESOLUTIONS

**ADOPTED BY THE
28TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
31 AUGUST- 4 SEPTEMBER 2015
SOPOT (POLAND)**

**World Veterans Federation, 6 Rue Docteur Finlay, 75015, France
Tel.: (+33)1.40.72.61.00 - Fax: (+33)1.40.72.80.58
Email : wvf@wvf-fmac.org - Site : <http://www.wvf-fmac.org>**

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I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL RULES

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 13 AND RULE 7 OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RULES

The 28th General Assembly

Decides to modify Article 13 of the Constitution and Rule 7 of the Constitutional Rules as follows:

CHAPTER 5

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 13 Authority and functions

Current Text

- 2) It shall elect the President, the Deputy President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer General and the members and alternate members of the Financial Committee, who shall remain in office until the end of the next meeting of the General Assembly.

Proposed Text

Crossed out text to be deleted
New text underlined

- 2) It shall elect the President, the Deputy President, ~~the Secretary General~~, the Treasurer General and the members and alternate members of the Financial Committee, who shall remain in office until the end of the next meeting of the General Assembly.

Rule 7

Refers to Article 13 of the Constitution

Current Text

- 2) At a General Assembly in ordinary session delegations may submit nominations for the posts of President, Deputy President, Secretary General, Treasurer General and members of the Financial Committee.

(...)

- 3) The elections and ratifications shall be conducted as follows and in the given sequence:

- a) Executive Board: by secret ballot:
- President;
 - Deputy President;
 - Secretary General;

Proposed Text

Crossed out text to be deleted
New text underlined

- 2) At a General Assembly in ordinary session delegations may submit nominations for the posts of President, Deputy President, ~~Secretary General~~, Treasurer General and members of the Financial Committee.

(...)

- 3) The elections and ratifications shall be conducted as follows and in the given sequence:

- a) Executive Board: by secret ballot:
- President;
 - Deputy President;
 - ~~Secretary General~~;

- Treasurer General.

- Treasurer General.

Argument:

The Secretary General oversees the Secretariat which handles WVF operations, including day to day administrative, legal, governance, mediation, translation, personnel, budgetary and media relations functions.

As a Member of the Executive Board the Secretary General is responsible for the probity of the Federation, ensuring that the WVF embraces a clear vision, mission and strategic direction, which are understood by the Member Organisations and the public at large.

Without doubt the post of Secretary General of the WVF is pivotal for the wellbeing of the organisation as a whole

It is critical that the identification and evaluation of potential candidates is vested in the Executive Board and that recommendations are based on character, integrity, judgement, skills and competencies, experience, record of achievement and any other attributes that would enhance the Executive Board and overall management and affairs of the WVF.

It is important that the WVF is strongly led by the best and most competent team possible; it makes no sense in this day and age for the organisation to deny itself the services of any individual with a proven track record on account of this Article and supporting Rules.

Effect if Ratified by General Assembly:

An explicit statement that the General Assembly is confident to entrust the Executive Board in its ability to appoint the most experienced and capable person in the post of Secretary General.

RESOLUTIONS

II. INTERNAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION 1

REGULAR UPDATING OF WVF WEBSITES AND WEBSITES OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Given** the necessity and the importance of the use of new information and communication technology by institutions and bodies that are social or humane in character for the rapid and efficient distribution and publication of new information and new technologies concerning their activities and achievements for the benefit of the populations targeted by their missions and their actions;
2. **Welcoming** the interesting initiatives and impressive efforts made by the WVF and member institutions and organizations to create and develop their own sites on the internet in order to make known to the public, particularly veterans, former resistants, ex-servicemen and victims of war, their missions, actions; achievements and programmes as well as their future policies for improving the material, medical, socio-economic and moral situation of the social fringe;
3. **Noting** that several member organizations, particularly those in developing countries, do not yet have the financial means to equip themselves with the necessary tools to benefit from the services advantages that the use of new information and communication technology has to offer, therefore depriving them of better communication, both internally (circulation of information via intranet, video-conferencing, etc.) and externally by distributing information to the public through new means of communication, and also of the possibility to adapt to change and follow the innovations that management of veterans affairs in other countries is experiencing;
4. **Recommends** that the Secretariat General and the Standing Committees of the WVF proceed with the identification of the needs of member organizations and institutions in terms of access to new information and communication technologies in order to study the possibility of satisfying those needs within the framework of North-South cooperation, to improve and perfect means of communication and information and promote links for exchange of information among themselves in areas of common interest;
5. **Emphasizes** the necessity to update the data and information on the WVF website and the websites of member organizations and institutions, particularly with regard to:
 - Activities, decisions, resolutions, recommendations and the publications of the statutory bodies of the WVF
 - Achievements, programmes of action and newsletters of WVF member institutions and organizations

- Legislative texts and rules concerning former resistants, veterans and victims of war
- Aspects of cooperation and partnership among WVF member organizations and institutions in area of common interest.

RESOLUTION 2

NEW WVF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES AND POST-TRAUMATIC DISORDERS CAUSED BY WAR

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1.** **Recalling** the relevant conclusions from the 1st WVF International Conference on psycho-social consequences, organised in Dubrovnik (Croatia) from 26 to 30 April 1998;
- 2.** **Also recalling** resolution n° 16 “Combat post-traumatic stress disorder”, adopted by the 25th General Assembly of the WVF held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) from 2 to 7 December 2006;
- 3.** **Additionally recalling** resolution n° 1 “Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)”, adopted by the General Assembly of the WVF held in Jordan from 18 to 22 November 2012;
- 4.** **Reaffirming** the existence of a core of post-traumatic stress disorder which is common to veterans, former resistance fighters, former military, and victims of all armed conflict and similar situations, whatever their nature, wherever they take place;
- 5.** **Noting** that despite established knowledge and from the result of research carried out on this illness, a lot of those who suffer from PTSD still do not benefit from the treatment that this knowledge allows, nor from financial reparations which they should have a right to;
- 6.** **Given** the disastrous consequences of the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from wars and armed conflicts on the social life of veterans and victims of war, which hinder their return to a normal life and to their former way of life;
- 7.** **Considering** that even if combatants return from wars physically unharmed, these psychological problems can remain in a dormant state even unnoticed and can appear many years after the end of conflict, which can cause social tragedies as much for the victim as for the family;
- 8.** **Underlining** that the atrocities of conflict, combined with the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction leads to psychological consequences affecting not only combatants but also civilians, notably women, children and the elderly;
- 9.** **Recommends** to the governments of member countries of the WVF to pursue research and to deepen the study of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the psycho-social

consequences of war, as part of a multidisciplinary approach, in order to improve the treatment;

10. Demands the Executive Board and Secretary General of the WVF to examine the possibility of organising, in collaboration and coordination with the World Health Organisation another International Conference on the psycho-social consequences and Post-Traumatic Disorders resulting from war in order to put into place a global strategy, to fight against this illness.

RESOLUTION 3

EXCHANGING SERVICE PROVIDED TO VETERANS AMONG MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF THE WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

The 28th General Assembly,

1. Considering Resolution n° 14/19 of 1989, Resolution n° 3/22 of 1997, and Resolution n° 6/27 of 2012 of the General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation on exchanging services provided to veterans such as transportation, accommodation and medical treatment;

2. Considering the possibility of exchanging these services among member associations, and activating the role of the veterans' ID card among these associations, according to the applied conditions in each country;

3. Concluding a Memorandum of Understanding to exchange services provided to get discounted prices for accommodation in the hotels of the armed forces;

4. Requests that the World Veterans Federation gather information on those services from member states who agree to extend the advantages granted to veterans in their countries to cover veterans all over the world. The World Veterans Federation will inform the states who have signed the Memorandum of Understanding on exchanging services, of the services granted to veterans among member associations in the World Veterans Federation.

RESOLUTION 4

EXCHANGING INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE AMONG VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS

The 28th General Assembly,

1. Considers that regardless of the various reasons for the world's conflicts, the common result is veterans with various problems and civilian victims;

2. Taking into account that some governments lack information on veterans and war victims' problems, by consequence some governments are unable to provide comprehensive welfare, and the veterans, because of this lack of information, continue to suffer until solving their problems;

3. **Considers** that it is very important that member associations report to the World Veterans Federation regarding developments in legislation, economic and social situation of veterans in their countries to help them in getting the appreciation of their governments and to increase awareness of the importance of preventing conflicts;

4. **Proposes** an exchange of information among different associations at an international level on the provision of social welfare in various forms to veterans to facilitate their engagement with their own communities, which is very important;

5. **Considers** that exchanging information on sports' activities is very important and should be coordinated with member associations in meetings.

RESOLUTION 5

IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL AND SANITARY SERVICES FOR VETERANS, FORMER RESISTANCE FIGHTERS AND VICTIMS OF WAR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Recalling** the aims and objectives of the World Veterans Federation, to defend moral and material interests of veterans and victims of war, and their families, by all means permitted by law;

2. **Recalling** the stipulations of the resolutions adopted by different General Assemblies and conferences on legislation of the WVF with a view to ensure and improve the health of veterans, former resistance fighters, and victims of war;

3. **Considering** that the nations have a sacred duty of recognition with regard to their veterans, former resistance fighters and victims of war, and that they are, consequently, obliged to guarantee them a dignified existence, a decent quality of life and better health conditions;

4. **Given** that the economic constraints and crises felt in different regions of the world have pushed the limited resources of sensitive sectors such as health care and medical assistance into the background, which has had negative repercussions on the health of veterans, former resistance fighters, and victims of war, as well as their families;

5. **Taking into consideration** the increasingly elevated cost of medical care and hospital services on the one hand, and on the other, the incapacity of the vast majority of former resistance fighters and veterans to cope with the medical bills to provide for their health needs, especially in developing countries;

6. **Urges** member institutions and organisations:

- To intervene with governments and the concerned authorities in their countries in order to assert the need for the correct measures to be taken;
- To improve the quality of life and health by undertaking an improvement of sanitary services provided as part of medical cover for veterans, former

resistance fighters, and victims of war to enable them to access the treatments they need for physical and mental illnesses;

- To build up the links of cooperation and partnership between them in the domain of handling the medical cover of veterans', former resistance fighters', and victims of war's medical cover;
- To consider the possibility of allowing hospital treatment for sick foreign veterans, former resistance fighters, and victims of war from member countries, who need specific treatment which is unavailable in their own countries and grant them the necessary facilities in this field, in accordance with the objectives of the WVF which calls for cooperation and partnership between member Institutions and organisations in fields of common interest.

RESOLUTION 6

HELP ELDERLY VETERANS, VICTIMS OF WAR, AND THOSE INJURED OR DISABLED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1.** **Calls** for the application of decision n° 14 of the Fifth International Conference on legislation in 1994;
- 2.** **Considers** that all casualties, and especially those which cause severe disability, worsen with age and cause a lot of health and social problems, meaning that these people are in need of greater care and appreciation for the sacrifices they have offered;
- 3.** **Urges** member countries to act on the following:
 - Make a plan for providing social help to the families of casualties of military operations and martyrs.
 - Be proactive in the principle of exchanging visits among member countries to installations that provide healthcare to the disabled and military operation casualties, for example, Al-Wafaa and Al-Amal Branch is an installation that exists in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

RESOLUTION 7

DESIGNATE A WORLD VETERANS COMMEMORATION DAY

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1.** **Highlighting** the importance of expanding the participation in veterans' commemorations worldwide;
- 2.** **Honouring** the sacrifices of those veterans in general in the name of world peace and stability;

3. **Calling** on veterans associations to honour the veterans and different war victims during the celebration of World Veterans Day;
4. **Requests** the designation of a day for the celebration of veterans every year in member countries;

RESOLUTION 8

RELATIONS BETWEEN VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS AND THE YOUNGER GENERATION

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1 **Reaffirming** Resolution 5 adopted by WVF Member Organisations at the 27th General Assembly held in Jordan in 2012;
- 2 **Acknowledging** the interest and participation of the younger generation worldwide in events commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War;
- 3 **Calls** upon WVF Member Organisations to encourage their respective Governments to take effective measures to address the need for peace education in local schools so that the younger generation remain aware of the futility, cruelty and consequential hardships of international wars and conflicts.

RESOLUTION 9

SECURING THE FUTURE OF VETERANS' ASSOCIATIONS

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Considering** that most of the members of Veterans' Associations founded after the Second World War are now very old, and many have health problems;
2. **Believes** that it is necessary to attract new younger members so that Veterans' Associations, and their aims and ethos, do not fade into obscurity.
3. **Calls** upon WVF Member Organisations to encourage their respective Governments to take effective measures to address the need for peace education in local schools so that the younger generation remain aware of the futility, cruelty and consequential hardships of international wars and conflicts.

RESOLUTION 10

DOCUMENTATION OF POST CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Aiming to demonstrate** that peace is the ultimate solution to all problems;

2. **Proposes** the documentation of post conflict management through the collection of articles, photograph, video clips and interviews with different personalities concerning the management of post-conflict conditions.

RESOLUTION 11

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Recalls**, in this year of the 70th Anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, the beginning of its preamble : *“We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind...”*;

2. **Considers** that this affirmation, followed by the outlining of the principles and provisions to apply to attain this objective, marked the will, which was innovative in many regards, to install in international relations a culture and policy of peace founded on respect for human dignity, the prominence of law over force and the recourse to international solidarity and cooperation to facilitate the resolution of problems of society. Adopted on 26 June 1945 at the San Francisco Conference by the 50 participating states, the Charter came into force on 24 October of that year, thus creating the United Nations Organization responsible for the application of the provisions of the Charter;

3. **Recalls** that, upon its creation in France in November 1950, the WVF was deeply attached to the United Nations, which represented the principles for which many of its members had fought. It was also among the first 11 international non-governmental organizations to be granted the highest consultative status;

4. **Also recalls** that it therefore actively supported the actions undertaken by the United Nations within the framework of the Charter, notably through proposals that were taken into account. This action which was initially situated in the context of the geopolitical upheaval that resulted from the accession to independence of colonized States and the Cold War, and helped mitigate certain negative effects of this upheaval and facilitate the first years of existence of these newly independent states;

5. **Emphasizes** the considerable progress made in practically all aspects of society: education, culture, science, health, agriculture, child protection, etc., by the negotiations within specialized institutions and other bodies created to this effect under the aegis of the United Nations. This has resulted in treaties on problems such as genocide, torture, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and an advance, albeit largely insufficient, in the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

6. **Also emphasizes** that the WVF has expressed its concern at the growing skepticism in public opinion towards the role and efficiency of the United Nations, particularly in the domain of international security. Skepticism which is due to a certain failure of the culture of Peace, marked by the number of conflicts these last seven decades. When the responsibility of the United Nations is cited in this regard, it is important to recall a fact that is often ignored. The Charter did not create a government but a conglomerate of

sovereign member States – currently 193 of them – which have their own powers of decision and will to respect the commitments made;

7. **Considers that**, in any case, whilst it has not been possible for the United Nations to avoid conflicts in the way that the charter intended in its chapters VI and VII, notably due to a lack of decision by member states on the Security Council, in many cases it has been able to limit the consequences, thanks in particular to Blue Berets peacekeeping force;

8. **Convinced** that solidarity and coordinated action on a global scale is made indispensable by the current international situation, international terrorism, the conflagration of the middle east – due largely to the failure of the Security Council at the beginning of the demonstrations in Syria - the millions of refugees, who are the primary victims of conflict and who make up the 50 million or so displaced persons, victims of ethnic, religious, and political persecutions, or driven out by economic or natural disasters. The United Nations and its various bodies can make an essential contribution in this regard, but only if member states are politically willing;

9. **Therefore launches an urgent call** for this 70th Anniversary of the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations to be a renewal of its implementation for the safety of our planet in peace and solidarity and for the member states of the United Nations to respect the commitments that they made, often several times over.

RESOLUTION 12

MAGNA CARTA OF RIGHTS FOR DISABLED EX-SERVICEMEN AND VICTIMS OF WAR

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Taking into account** the myriad of legislation adopted all over the world defining and defending the legal rights and benefits extended to disabled ex-Servicemen/Women and Victims of War;

2. **Conscious** of the difficulty of harmonising the above mentioned legislation on a global scale due to the diversity and complexity of national realities,

3. **Considers**, despite the global financial and economic crisis, that it would be beneficial to adopt a universal and coherent Charter articulating the basic rights of disabled ex-Servicemen/Women, and Victims of War, as it is imperative to set up the necessary mechanisms to defend these vulnerable groups;

4. **Urges** WVF Member Associations to lobby their respective Governments to work towards adopting a universal “Magna Carta of Rights of Disabled Ex-Servicemen/Women and Victims of War.

RESOLUTION 13

PROTECTING BENEFITS PROVIDED TO VETERANS DURING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1. Acknowledging** that the consequences of the economic crisis affecting the whole world (Europe in particular), but especially the countries with the weakest economies, who have been subject to severe programmes of austerity, which have had a negative impact on the quality of life of veterans in these countries, seriously affecting their pensions, and medical and social support;
- 2. Noting** that the reduction of public budgets in these countries mostly impacts on pensions and pensioners, which is the situation in which the majority of veterans find themselves;
- 3. Considering** that the provision of health care for veterans has suffered cuts and reductions in state support;
- 4. Requests** that the WVF take action with the governments of its member countries to ensure that the annual budget considerations have no impact on the provisions for veterans, especially on their pensions and on other support programmes;
- 5. Recommends** that all prescription medicines, medical services, prosthetics, wheelchairs, etc. be provided in priority and without cost to veterans who need them.
- 6. Also recommends** that protection in terms of medical, social and psychological support should even be delegated by governments to veterans' associations and institutions according to the specific programmes offered by those associations, taking into account the unequivocal demonstration of an infrastructure capable of ensuring such support and outcomes.

II. ORIENTATION AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION 14

HELP AND SUPPORT AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE TERRORIST GROUP BOKO HARAM

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1. Recalling** the WVF Credo, which states that “None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in wars...”;
- 2. Referring to** UN Security Council resolutions 2195 of 19 December 2014 and 2199 of 12 February 2015; concerning respectively terrorism and trans-border organized crime and the condemnation of all forms of financing terrorism;

3. **Taking into account** the declaration of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Permanent Consultative Committee of the United Nations on matters of security in central Africa on the occasion of their 39th session on 5 December 2014 in Bujumbura in support of Cameroon and Chad against the terrorist group Boko Haram ;
4. **Concerned by** the dangers facing vulnerable populations in Africa, especially children, women and elderly people, who are targeted by Boko Haram in their violation of human rights;
5. **Affirms** the urgency for the WVF to support African countries as they suffer the attacks of the terrorist group Boko Haram, paying the high price of various negative security, economic, social and humanitarian consequences;
6. **Therefore encourages** the cooperation of African countries in the process of eradication of the terrorist group Boko Haram;
7. **Also welcomes** the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), held on 14 February 2015 in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon, on the occasion of the Extraordinary Session of the Conference of heads of COPAX States dedicated to the struggle against the terrorist group Boko Haram;
8. **Draws** the Attention of the International Community to the international threats to the world in general and in Africa in particular posed by the expansion of this devastating phenomenon that is terrorism;
9. **Recommends** therefore that the United Nations take lasting security measures which will allow for the definitive eradication of this scourge, which is represented by Boko Haram in all African countries.

RESOLUTION 15

FIGHT TERRORISM IN ALL FORMS AND MANIFESTATIONS

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Recalling** the measures of resolution 31 entitled “Measures to combat international terrorism”, adopted by the 26th General Assembly of the WVF in Copenhagen (Denmark) in October 2009;
2. **Conscious that** terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security;
3. **Deeply concerned** by the persistence and propagation of odious acts of terrorism all around the world causing enormous loss of human life and much injury, damage and destruction;
4. **Considering** that terrorist groups exploit religion to achieve political purposes and attempt to destabilize countries where they act and threaten economic interests;

5. **Noting** that terrorism has become an international phenomenon and is not associated with a certain place, becoming a threat to many countries all over the world;
6. **Asserting** that humanity has gained nothing from violence and counter violence but more rancor, hatred and racism between religions and races which may lead to a demolition destruction of the values and civilized gains achieved by humanity after tremendous sacrifices;
7. **Stressing** the impact of the intensification of international efforts in the fight against extremist thinking and terrorism wherever it is found and whatever its motivation and form, through a global approach integrating security, religion and development factors;
8. **Also considering** that it is important to reinforce international and regional cooperation aiming to improve State capacity to effectively prevent and suppress international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
9. **Emphasising** that tolerance and dialogue between civilizations, and the strengthening of understanding between religions and cultures are amongst the most effective means to promote cooperation and ensure success in the fight against terrorism;
10. **Emphasising** equally the necessity to stop the sources of terrorism;
11. **Underlining** the central role of the United Nations in the coordination of international efforts in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, notably, through the implementation of the United Nations' worldwide antiterrorist strategy;
12. **Urges** States, governments and international organisations and institutions as well as the United Nations to fulfill their roles and responsibilities to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and expressions until it is eradicated, wherever might be the place or the acts of terrorism committed and whomever may be the perpetrators, in the respect of the principles established by the Charter of international rights and international conventions;
13. **Urgently calls** for veterans associations and war victims from all over the world to organise educational seminars to be addressed in the presence of a number of veterans to increase awareness among citizens, helping citizens see the real face of terrorism and its destruction of their societies by those who have no value of loyalty and belonging.

RESOLUTION 16

THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, A NECESSITY TO PRESERVE HUMAN DIGNITY, TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND FAVOUR PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY IN THE WORLD

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Recalling** the stipulations of Article 2 of Chapter 1 of the constitution of the World Veterans Federation, calling "to promote international peace and security by the application to the letter and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and by respecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the International Bill of Human Rights and other international instruments";

2. **Recalling** the content of Resolution 3 entitled: “Respect for Human Dignity” adopted by the 25th General Assembly of the WVF in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in December 2006;
3. **Acknowledging** the profound changes that the international order of human rights has seen following the increasingly active participation of a number of countries, actors in civil society and national human rights institutions in the process of elaborating and improving the international and regional instruments aiming to protect and promote these rights;
4. **Considering** the massive mutations undertaken in the international agenda of human rights, manifested by the emergence of new themes on the subject of human rights, such as the protection of the rights of the elderly and of human rights in the digital age, business and human rights, legal capacitation of the poor and the litigation of economic and social rights;
5. **Noting with concern** that in various regions of the world, withdrawal into oneself, rejection of the other and intolerance based on ethnic considerations or on a perverted reading of noble religious messages, result in flagrant violations of the Basic Human Rights and particularly of the sacred principle of the right to life;
6. **Condemns** the shameless instrumentalisation, to political aims, of the noble cause of human rights, and calls on the international community to work together to consolidate the culture of human rights, through dialogue and tolerance, as part of the respect for laws and the national institutions in charge of human rights in the member states of the United Nations;
7. **Strongly supports** the processes and efforts deployed and the aim to establish respect for human rights at the heart of their preoccupations and priorities to ensure durable human development in order to guarantee a decent life based on respect for the rights of all classes of their citizens in liberty, justice, dignity and security;
8. **Stresses** the importance and necessity to realise and to develop governmental programs for the protection and promotion of human rights in order to make them compatible with the new needs of humanity in the matter of human rights which continue to change from one generation to the next;
9. **Invites** the governments of all countries who are members of the WVF to co-operate, co-ordinate and intensify their efforts to realise their common ambition to respond favourably to the aspirations and expectations of their people in the field of human rights, and to reinforce the rule and pre-eminence of law, and to guarantee security, stability, progress, and development.

RESOLUTION 17

TO PUT AN END TO THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Recalling** the stipulations of Resolution 21 concerning: “The violation

of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”, and Resolution 22 entitled: “The Near and Middle East”, adopted by the 26th General Assembly of the WVF in Copenhagen (Denmark) in October 2009;

2. **Also recalling** the solemn address to the leaders of Israel and to the Palestinian Authority, by the WVF at the 27th General Assembly in Amman (Jordan) in November 2012, to put an end to the violence and resolve the conflict through dialogue and negotiation, in the respect of the principals of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the International Human Rights;

3. **Deeply concerned** by the catastrophic humanitarian situation which prevails in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, notably in the Gaza Strip following the embargo imposed on it, blocking all land passages and the circulation of goods and people, in flagrant violation of the stipulations of International Human Rights and the relevant Resolutions of the United Nations (UN);

4. **Noting with regret** that the persistence of the Israeli Government to pursue policies of colonisation, and occupation of Palestinian land and goods, undermines all engaged approaches and international efforts deployed to come to a definitive settling of conflict, and obstructs the success of negotiations held between Palestinian and Israeli parties under the auspices of the American administration;

5. **Calls** on the international community to act urgently and effectively to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people by bringing them constant humanitarian assistance and by mobilising to let the whole world know about this tragedy, which calls for effective engagement and a firmness in the application of international law;

6. **Expresses its support** for the just and legitimate request of the Palestinian Authority for complete membership of Palestine to the United Nations, hoping all the while that the UN will move forward on the same path as UNESCO;

7. **Expresses its support** for the Palestinian people and their lawful and inalienable rights, especially the right to establish an independent state on its liberated territory, with East Jerusalem as its capital, a state living side by side, in peace and security with Israel, within the boundaries of International Law and conforming with the Arab Peace Initiative and the framework set down by the Quartet;

8. **Launches an urgent call** to the international community and to all parties concerned by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the Quartet and the large influential powers, to take responsibility and to work endlessly towards the creation of suitable conditions for the start of a new series of negotiations on a clear and reasonable basis so as to relaunch the peace process, to result in a global and just solution to this conflict, permitting the co-existence of two independent and sovereign states, Palestinian and Israeli, living side by side, in peace, security and stability.

RESOLUTION 18

CORRUPTION IS A THREAT TO THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1. Recalling** the provisions of the Convention of the United Nations against corruption;
- 2. Taking into account** the severity of the problems and threats that corruption poses to the stability and security of societies, undermining institutions and democratic values as well as moral values and justice, compromising sustainable development and the rule of law;
- 3. Concerned** by the interaction between corruption and other forms of criminality, in particular organised crime and economic crime, including money laundering;
- 4. Further concerned** by the affairs of corruption concerning considerable quantities of assets, which represent a substantial part of the state's resources, and which threaten political stability and durable development of these states.
- 5. Convinced** that corruption is no longer an internal affair for certain countries or certain regions, but a cross-border phenomenon, the types and forms of which have become more complex under the effects of globalisation and technological progress, effecting every society and every economy, rendering international cooperation essential and indispensable to avert and halt corruption;
- 6. Recommends** to counter the damaging effects of corruption, which often leads to armed conflict, and which constitutes the most dangerous obstacle to progress, notably in developing countries, to pursue and combine efforts at an international level in order to overcome the challenges that the scourge of corruption poses in its inhuman manifestations, particularly in hindering the achievement of balanced and sustainable human progress, since the illicit and unwarranted acquisition of personal riches can be particularly detrimental to democratic institutions, national economies and the rule of law;
- 7. Urgently invites** each nation who hasn't yet done so, to ratify and apply the United Nations Convention Against Corruption which supplies an appropriate framework for fruitful dialogue between States on effective means to establish international cooperation between all countries, so that they can strengthen their commitments on the prevention of corruption and corrupt practices, the anchorage of values of transparency and of integrity, the reinforcement of the measures concerning the surrendering of accounts and the strengthening of the foundation of the State of Law, of democratic institutions and of good governance.

RESOLUTION 19

FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE AGAINST NEW DANGERS OF DESTRUCTION

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1.** **Recalling** the principles of the Convention for the protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the 17th meeting of the General Conference of the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO), in Paris from 17 October to 21 November 1972;
- 2.** **Noting** that world cultural and natural heritage is becoming more and more threatened by destruction not only by natural causes of degradation, but also by the evolution of social and economic life and by even more formidable acts of deterioration or destruction;
- 3.** **Deeply worried** by shameful acts of pillaging and voluntary destruction of historic monuments and the smuggling of museum artefacts of great value, during times of armed conflict, most often perpetrated in the logic of revenge or psychological war;
- 4.** **Given** the inestimable value of these historic monuments and places of memory as national and universal cultural and natural heritage sites protected by international laws and conventions;
- 5.** **Considering** that the protection of this heritage on the national level, notably in developing countries, is still insufficient because of limited means put in place and the lack of economic, scientific, and technical resources of these countries;
- 6.** **Invites** the governments of member countries to pursue and combine their efforts and actions regarding the protection of their cultural and natural historic heritage sites; in accordance with the recommendations and stipulations of the universal Convention of UNESCO for the protection of their historic heritage sites, especially in order to:
 - Ensure the identification, protection, conservation, development and transmission of cultural and national heritage to future generations;
 - Adopt a general policy aiming to assign a function to natural and cultural heritage in collective life, and to integrate the protection of this heritage into programs of general planning;
 - Launch a national and international awareness campaign to make the public understand the gravity of the destruction of cultural and natural heritage, of pillaging and the illicit trading of cultural goods illegally acquired during wars or armed conflicts;
 - Reinforce sanctions against the perpetrators of destruction, theft and smuggling of cultural goods, by assimilating their acts with war crimes and crimes against humanity.

RESOLUTION 20

FOR A GLOBAL AWARENESS OF THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN THE WORLD

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1. Recalling** resolution 16 “Women in Armed Conflict” adopted by the 23rd General Assembly of the World Veterans Federation held in Paris on 4-8 December 2000;
- 2. Deeply concerned** by the increasing number of women and girls that are victims of exploitation, violence, murder, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy and prostitution during armed conflicts;
- 3. Referring to** the programme for action adopted by the conference of the United Nations in Beijing in 1995 which highlighted the consequences of armed conflicts on women;
- 4. Notes** with concern that women who manage to escape violence become, in the best cases, refugees and displaced persons, resulting in a total degradation of the structure of the family and of society as a whole;
- 5. Strongly condemns** the violence still perpetrated against women in situations of armed conflict, particularly women living in precarious situations in refugee camps with a status of weakness, inferiority and slavery;
- 6. Recalling** with pride the huge sacrifices agreed to throughout history by women, in times of war and in times of peace, when during the painful periods of history they took on the tasks traditionally reserved for men;
- 7. Profoundly shocked and moved** by the psychological effects of sexual violence and by the fact that women who are victims of rape are sometimes unable to make their voices heard for fear of stigma or simply due to trauma;
- 8. Recommends** that the Standing Committee on Women instigate global awareness to make the international community aware of this scourge, which goes against treaties and international conventions, the Universal Charter of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions, which guarantee protection to civilians in times of war and armed conflict;
- 9. Considers** that violence, especially sexual violence, with regard to women and girls can exacerbate and compromise peace keeping, return to peace and consolidation of peace after the end of conflicts;
- 10. Calls upon** all countries to reestablish the rights of women to protection during situations of armed conflict as guaranteed to them by the international conventions and treaties and:
 - a) **Ensure an end** to impunity for the sexual exploitation of women during armed conflicts;

- b) **Establish** rehabilitation programmes for women after armed conflict assuring them legal and psychological protection in order to facilitate their integration into society;
- c) **Promote** the status of women in society in general, particularly through education, equality, employment, integration into active life and inclusion in decision making circles;
- d) **Call** for cultural revolution to rehabilitate the status of women by making sure that all rights are recovered enabling them to benefit from their personal status and exercise full citizenship;
- e) **Introduce** Rights for Men and Women into culture, especially in all levels of schooling and in all military training institutions, in order to ensure an improvement in the status of women.

RESOLUTION 21

COMBATTING TRANSBORDER ORGANISED CRIME

The 28th General Assembly,

1. **Recalling** resolution 8 entitled “Computer networks and peace in the world”, adopted by the 22nd General Assembly of the WVF held in Seoul (South Korea) in November 1997;
2. **Considering** that criminal organizations have progressively extended their fields of action on an international scale, exploiting the new possibilities offered by globalization and new technologies and taking advantage of the global economic crisis to develop their illicit and illegal activities;
3. **Deeply concerned** by the negative consequences in areas of economics, social affairs and security of organized criminal activities such as cybercrime, computer sabotage, economic criminality, hacking of confidential sites, industrial espionage, environmental criminality, human trade, drug trafficking, pedophilic pornography, etc. ;
4. **Considering** that that cyber criminality, forgery or illegal online trafficking of creative content, pedophilic pornographic images, pharmaceuticals, psychotropic substances and precursors to drugs, spare parts and other day-to-day items threaten public health, security, employment and social stability and can cause considerable prejudice to businesses in the sectors concerned and even threaten their existence;
5. **Warns** against the growing phenomenon of cyber criminality and hacking and their fatal consequences on personal data, which has become more and more accessible to criminal networks specialized in theft of bank details, personal and private documents, data belonging to States, institutions and influential persons, which constitutes a serious threat to the private lives of individuals and to national and international security;
6. **Highlights** the pressing need for reinforcement of global cooperation to prevent and combat more efficiently, at national, regional and international levels, criminal

and uncivil acts committed via internet by authors of organized crime, and invites all countries that are members of the WVF to multiply their efforts to this effect, particularly by ensuring the application and activation of the stipulations of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the relevant protocols in order to actively contribute towards the eradication and the prevention of this global scourge and towards the securing of computer and electronic technologies.

RESOLUTION 22

VETERANS TO ASSIST WITH THE AFTERMATH OF NATIONAL DISASTERS

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1. Taking into account** the devastation and logistical challenges which invariably overwhelm communities worldwide following a natural disaster;
- 2. Conscious that** veterans have the resolve, training and skills to help coordinate with other agencies the rapid emergency response to such catastrophic disasters;
- 3. Affirms** that veterans would willingly and voluntarily come forward to help alleviate the suffering of those affected by natural disasters in spite of the risks and dangers involved.
- 4. Appeals** to all the WVF member organizations to utilize the skills and expertise of their veterans and take part and participate in aid and rescue operations in the aftermath of such disasters, and beyond the immediate crisis, in relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities;

RESOLUTION 23

TO PUT AN END TO THE INHUMANE SITUATION OF THE SAHARAN POPULATIONS

The 28th General Assembly,

- 1. Recalling** resolution n° 24 “Urgent appeal to put an end to the sufferings of the Saharan peoples in the camps of Tindouf” adopted by the 27th General Assembly in Jordan on 18-22 November 2012;
- 2. Underlining** the appeal launched by the United Nation’s Security Council in its resolutions 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014) and 2218 (2015) to the High Commission on Refugees to proceed, in accordance with his mandate and to his practices, with a census and the recording of the Tindouf camps’ populations, given that the census is a legal obligation, a political requirement, and a moral responsibility;
- 3. Referring** to the recently reiterated appeal from the Secretary General of the UN in his report S/2015/246 of 10 April 2015 on the question of the Sahara, relating to the importance of a census of the populations of the camps of Tindouf;

4. **Reiterates** the incessant appeals for the resolution of this humanitarian crisis;
5. **Supports** the appeal to the Security Council of the UN in its will to perform a transparent census of the populations concerned in order to determine their real needs;
6. **Expresses its respect** to the Secretary General of the UN and to the big international powers, notably to the United States of America, for their positive contribution, over a period of stages, to the search for a definitive and mutually acceptable political solution to the regional dispute in the Sahara, on the basis of realism and in the spirit of compromise;
7. **Salutes** every initiative and action in support of the negotiation process on the basis of the Autonomy Initiative, to result in a political, just, definitive and mutually acceptable solution to the regional dispute in the Saharan provinces and to safeguard stability and security in the region and to contribute to the building of the entire Maghreb region;
8. **Welcomes** the initiatives and the work undertaken by the Algerian National Organisation of Mujahedeen, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Former Resistants and Members of the Liberation Army, with a view to favouring the bilateral exchanges and the mutual cooperation on all questions of common interest in the nature of creating a suitable climate of rapprochement and of harmony between the two brother and cousin countries;
9. **Salutes** the will that has been firmly expressed by the two Heads of State to find a durable and definitive solution.