

**MINUTES OF DECISIONS**  
**MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD**  
**20 MARCH 2006**

**(Geneva, Hotel Intercontinental, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)**

**Chaired by:**

Geneva	Mr. Guy-Olivier Segond, President of the Executive Committee
Senegal	Mr. Amadou Top, Adviser to the President of Senegal, Vice - President of the Executive Committee

**Participants Governments :**

Algeria	Mr. Boualem Sedki, Minister Plenipotentiary	<b>represented</b> H.E. Mr. Idriss Jazaïry Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Algeria
Burkina Faso	Ms Elise Balina, Minister Councillor	<b>represented</b> Mr. Moussa B. Nebié Minister Councillor, Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso
China	H.E. Mr. Sha Zukang Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China  <b>accompanied by</b> Mr. Yang Xiaokun, Minister Councillor	
France	Mr. Marc Giacomini, Minister Councillor Mr. Gilles Barrier, Minister Councillor	<b>represented</b> H.E. M. Jean-Maurice Ripert Ambassador, Permanent Mission of France
Ghana	H.E. Kwame Bawuah-Edusei Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Ghana	
Kenya	Mr. Philippe Owada, Minister Councillor	<b>represented</b> H.E. Mme Amina Mohamed Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Kenya
Morocco	Mr. Nour-Eddine Halhoul, Minister Councillor	<b>represented</b> H.E. M. Mohammed Loulichki Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Morocco
Nigeria	Mr. Ayuba Kadafa, Minister Councillor	<b>represented</b> H.E. M. Joseph U. Ayalogu Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Nigeria
Dominican Republic	Ms Elisabeth Ruiz, Minister Councillor	<b>represented</b> Ms Margarita Cedeño de Fernández First Lady of the Dominican Republic

**Participants International Organisations:**

OIF	H.E. Ambassador Libère Bararunereste Mr. Pietro Sicuro, Director INTIF Mr. Christophe Malone	<b>represented</b> H.E. M. Abdou Diouf Secretary General of the OIF
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**Participants Cities and Regions:**

Dakar	Mr. Pape Diop, Mayor of Dakar  <b>accompanied by</b> Mr. Sadio Diatta Chief of Protocol, City of Dakar	
Lyon	Mr. Pierre-Alain Muet, Deputy Mayor of Lyon Mr. Jean Pouly, Director of the International Digital Solidarity Mission, City of Lyon	<b>represented</b> Mr. Gérard Collomb, Senator – Mayor of Lyon
Basque Country	Mr. Ramon Peñagaricano, Director SPRI	<b>represented</b> Mr. Juan José Ibarretxe President of the Basque Country
Piemonte	Ms Julia Marcone, Director of International Relations, Piemonte Region Mr. Gian Paolo Morello, Director, Local Authorities Cooperation Agency Mr. Luca Giliberti, Executive Officer, Local Authorities Cooperation Agency	<b>represented</b> Ms Mercedes Bresso President of the Piemonte Region

**Participants Civil Society:**

African Civil Society	Ms Nnenna Nwakanma, Member of the DSF Foundation Board	
Latin-American Civil Society	M. Paolo Lima, President RITS	<b>represented</b> M. Daniel Pimienta Member of the DSF Foundation Board

**DSF Executive Secretariat:**

Mr. Alain Clerc, Executive Secretary, DSF
Ms Elena Ursache, Executive Officer, DSF
Ms Hélène Herdt, Assistant, DSF
Ms Tania Zinoviev, Assistant, DSF
Mr. Mehdy Davary, Systems Engineer, DSF
Mr. Denis Inkei, Communications Consultant, DSF

**Observers:**

Ms Louise Lassonde, Executive Secretary, International Digital Solidarity Agency (DSA)
Ms Viola Krebs, Director, ICVolunteers

**Excused:**

Mr. Christian Ferrazino, Member of the Geneva Council, Spokesperson of the DSF
Mr. Bertrand Delanoë, Mayor of Paris
M. Sisinio Eyebe, Officer-in-Charge, Permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea
M. Jean-Jack Queyranne, President of the Rhône Alpes Region
M. Roberto Salcedo, Mayor of Santo Domingo

## 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

After a brief introduction by the President welcoming the members, the agenda was adopted.

## 2. STATUTORY BODIES AND MEMBERS

### 2.1. Constitution of statutory bodies

#### a) Foundation Board

Following a discussion, it was decided, on the basis of written explanations from the notary dated 17 March 2006 (see annex 1), that for this first session, the members of the Foundation Board were the members present. With the development of the membership and designations, the Foundation Board would be completed in conformity with the article 8 of the statutes.

#### b) Executive Committee

The Executive Committee at present consisted of:

- the President of the Foundation Board, Mr. Guy-Olivier Segond;
- the Vice-President of the Foundation Board, Mr. Amadou Top;

#### c) Scientific Committee

The Executive Secretary mentioned that he had asked the Regional Commissions of the United Nations to propose two experts per region, i.e. one man and one woman. Without necessarily belonging to member States of the Fund, these experts should be acknowledged specialists in their field of activity.

The Executive Secretary would communicate to the members of the Board the list of experts proposed by the Regional Commissions.

#### d) Executive Secretariat

The Executive Secretariat is currently comprised of :

- the Executive Secretary, Mr. Alain Clerc ;
- one Executive Officer, Ms Elena Ursache ;
- one Systems Engineer, Mr. Mehdy Davary ;
- one Assistant, Ms H  l  ne Herdt.

### 2.2. Members

#### a) Founding members

The list of Founding members, as of 17 March 2006, was adopted by the Board.

#### b) Definition of the capacity of Founding member

Following a discussion of the Executive Committee's proposal of 20 February 2006, the Foundation Board decided:

- i) to establish the maximum number of Founding members at 12 States per world region;
- ii) to extend the date limit for becoming a Founding member of the DSF to 31 December 2007, provided that each of the five world regions was represented by 12 States. This matter would be re-examined at the next Foundation Board.

Following a number of interventions, the Board decided to take up consideration of the capacity of Founding member during the next Board meeting. It charged the Executive Committee and Executive Secretariat with preparing proposals in this respect.

c) Status of contributions

The Executive Secretary presented the list of contributions of the Founding members, dated 17 March 2006. He appealed to those founding members who had not yet paid their contributions to do so.

Replying to various questions, the Executive Secretary explained that in certain specific cases it was possible make the contribution as Founding member in kind rather than in cash. Such was the case, for example, for the Dominican Republic and of the City of Saint Domingo, which chose to organize a Ministerial Conference of the American States devoted to information technologies and the Digital Solidarity Fund (4-6 June 2006).

The Executive Secretary will inform the Board at each session of such services in kind performed by members.

On the light of these explanations, the Board adopted the list of contributions of founding members as of 17 March 2006.

### **3. GENERAL POLICY REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The President presented his general policy report, dated 16 March 2006, bearing on sixteen months of activity, from 6 September 2004 to 31 December 2005. He commented on the setting up of the Fund, the principle of contributing to the Fund, the Fund's principle of intervention, the construction of political support, cooperation agreements and pilot projects. In conclusion, he sketched out some prospects for passing from political support to a legal obligation and for broadening the activity of the Fund from public authorities to private enterprises, all the while, on the internal front, establishing simple, effective and stable procedures for the examination, selection and monitoring of projects.

The members of the Board stressed the broad range and the quality of the work accomplished by the Executive Committee, the Executive Secretary and the administrative, technical and financial team.

The Board adopted the President's general policy report. It further decided to further develop the role played by international organizations, some of which, for example the OIF, were founding members of the Fund.

### **4. ACTIVITY REPORT 2005**

The Executive Secretary presented the activity report for 2005, dated 17 March 2006, covering the period from 6 September 2004 to 31 December 2005. He reviewed the internal strategy (establishment, inauguration, constitution of statutory bodies, administrative and financial matters, pilot projects) and the external strategy (visual identity, political support, cooperation agreements, application of the digital solidarity contribution, etc.).

Replying to questions in respect of utilization of the 126,000 euros intended for the financing of a project in the Dominican Republic, the Executive Secretary stated that this project had been proposed by AIDSETI, and that the necessary equipment had been purchased. Implementation of the project having had to be suspended, the equipment remained in stock as property of the Fund.

The Board decided that this item should be included in the activity report for 2005.

Replying to questions regarding relations between the Fund and the Digital Solidarity Agency set up by the City of Lyons, the President stated that these two bodies were legally distinct and independent of one another. Given that the Fund was an institution for the financing of projects, it needed to have

recourse to external collaborations for the examination, selection and monitoring of projects. The Digital Solidarity Agency was one such body to which the Fund could have recourse.

The Board adopted the activity report for 2005, complemented by a paragraph devoted to the Dominican Republic project.

## **5. ACCOUNTS 2005**

### **5.1 Profit and loss account 2005**

The President carried out a line-by-line review of the various sections and figures in the profit and loss accounts for 2005, which covered the period from 6 September 2004 to 31 December 2005. In the course of this detailed scrutiny, the treasurer provided the necessary explanations and details.

### **5.2 Balance sheet**

The President carried out a line-by-line review of the various sections and figures in the balance sheet dated 31 December 2005. In the course of this detailed scrutiny, the treasurer provided the necessary explanations and details.

### **5.3 Report of the auditor**

The representative of the inspecting body read the report of the auditor, dated 7 March 2006, which had been submitted, dated and signed, to all members of the Board. He recommended that the accounts be approved.

### **5.4 Discussion and adoption**

Replying to several questions on the application of the digital solidarity contribution, the President stated that the implementation of this new mechanism by the City of Geneva had demonstrated its feasibility, although the sums collected were still modest. Other institutions established in Geneva, such as the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the University Hospitals and the Geneva Civil Servants' Pension Fund had decided to introduce the digital solidarity contribution in 2006. The President proposed to take up the discussion again under item 8 of the agenda.

After requesting the auditing body to address both men and women in its future reports, the Board adopted the profit and loss account and balance sheet for 2005.

## **6. WORK PROGRAMME 2006**

The Executive Secretary presented the work programme for 2006, dated 20 March 2006, referring to matters related to the statutory bodies, external activities, international conferences, operational activities and internal affairs.

The discussion centred on two main points:

- the Board considered that the year 2006 needed be devoted on the one hand to consolidating the international stature of the Fund, promoting the digital solidarity financing mechanism and its effective implementation, and obtaining contributions from the private sector;
- furthermore, attention needed to be directed to setting up identification procedures and the selection and monitoring of project financing.

Answering to the questions posed, the Executive Secretary declared that shortly the Fund would have an updated version of the website up and running, permitting the downloading of project presentation forms and setting out the main aspects of the selection rules.

Summarizing the discussion, the President stated that activities in 2006 needed to centre on four priorities:

- a) the passage from political support to concrete commitment;
- b) extension of the purview from the public sector to the private sector, drawing support in particular from the World Economic Forum (WEF);
- c) preparation of an international treaty on the financing of digital solidarity whereby signatory national States would authorize those local authorities and public authorities that so desired to put the digital solidarity contribution into motion;
- d) establishment of simple, effective and stable examination, selection and monitoring procedures for projects;
- e) financing of selected projects respecting a certain regional balance.

After having resolved to submit the cooperation agreements to the members of the Board for approval before proceeding with their signature, the Board adopted the work programme for 2006.

## **7. BUDGET 2006**

The President carried out a line-by-line review of the various sections and figures in the draft budget for 2006. In the course of this detailed scrutiny, the treasurer provided the necessary explanations and details.

Replying to questions regarding the anticipated receipts accruing from application of the digital solidarity contribution, the President pointed out that it was difficult to make hard and fast predictions, given the differences in political and legal statutes of local authorities. He stressed that the 2006 budget had been drawn up with prudence in respect of both receipts and expenses.

At the end of the discussion, the Board adopted the budget for 2006.

## **8. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FINANCING OF DIGITAL SOLIDARITY**

The Executive Secretary commented on the note of 20 March 2006 concerning the projected International Conference on the Financing of Digital Solidarity: in some States, application of the 1% digital solidarity contribution could give rise to legal difficulties on account of the statutes of local authorities and the need to adapt the national legislation. To overcome these difficulties, an International Conference should be envisaged with the aim of adopting an international treaty through which the signatory States would authorize local authorities and public authorities wishing to do so to implement the digital solidarity contribution.

The discussion bore on the strategy for promoting this international conference. If it was to achieve the desired success, the conference mustn't be related to the international technical meetings agenda, but needed to be an integral part of the Millennium Development Goals and the issue of new mechanisms for development financing.

A more limited discussion centred on the European directives in respect of public markets that could come into conflict with an international treaty.

While aware of the various difficulties, the President pointed out that the digital solidarity contribution was compatible with the international agreements on public markets in so far as they did not present a hindrance competition. It was a fact that the European Commissioner for Development was taking an active part in discussions on new mechanisms for development financing.

After having noted that discussions were in progress with a number of States interested in hosting this conference, the Board expressed its support of the project presented by the Executive Secretary.

## **9. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION, SELECTION AND MONITORING PROCEDURES**

The President presented the note of 15 March 2006 concerning the essential aspects of the procedure for dealing requests for financing, which fell into three main phases, viz:

- first, a general study and overtures;
- next, a detailed examination performed by an independent body, and the decision of the Executive Committee;
- lastly, the monitoring procedure in respect of the proper running of the project and final evaluation report.

Once the detailed draft procedure for dealing with requests for financing was available, it would be circulated to all members of the Board for their comments, corrections and amendments. It would then be adopted in its definitive version by a correspondence vote, by 30 June 2006.

The Board adopted the procedure proposed by the President and the essential aspects of the procedure, making the following requests for the present time:

- that the project evaluation reports be published on the Fund's website;
- that the procedure take account of promoting local acquisition local of equipment and recourse to local skills.

## **10. PROJECTS**

### **10.1. On-going pilot projects**

The Executive Secretary provided some brief information on the pilot projects being carried out by the Fund.

### **10.2. Requests for financing**

The Executive Secretary commented on the list of requests for financing that had come in by 17 March 2006. He declared that such requests for financing would in future be published on the Fund's website. In view of the great number of requests stemming from Africa, he stressed that the Fund needed to enhance its promotion in Asia and in Latin America, taking advantage particularly of the People's Republic of China joining the Fund as Founding Member, and the Saint Domingo Conference.

The Board took note of the list of requests as of 17 March 2006.

## **11. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **11.1. Amendment of the statutes**

The Fund had received requests for amendments of the statutes, calling for explicit mention of the representation of local authorities and international organizations on the Foundation Board. Given the complexity of the procedure for amending the statutes, the President proposed to leave this question in abeyance and to proceed to amendment of the statutes after the international conference on the financing of digital solidarity.

The Board approved this proposal.

### **11.2. Calendar of international events**

The Board took note of the calendar of international events, as of 17 March 2006.

### **11.3. Next meeting of the Foundation Board**

The date of the next meeting of the Board would be fixed according to the date of the international conference on the financing of digital solidarity: if it were to take place before 31 December 2006, the Board would convene in the first quarter of 2007; otherwise, the Board would meet by default before 31 December 2006.

#### **11.4. Verification of accounts**

Subject to agreement by their respective mandators, the Board appointed as verifiers of the accounts:

- a) Mr Boualem Sedki, Minister Plenipotentiary, permanent mission of Algeria, representative of the Republic of Algeria;
- b) Mr Jean Pouly, Head of the Digital Solidarity Mission, City of Lyons.

#### **11.5. Spanish Version**

The Board decided that all the documents placed at the disposal of this first session would be published on the website in their French, English and Spanish versions.

#### **11.6. International Organization of Francophonie**

The Board decided to replace the name "Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie" by "Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie" (International Organization of Francophonie) in all publications by the Fund.

#### **11.7. Messages**

The President reported the receipt of messages from:

- a) Madame M. Bresso, President of the Piemonte Region, of 20 March 2006 (see annex 2);
- b) the Delegation for Internet use of the French Republic, of 17 March 2006 (see annex 3). The Ethical Charter proposed by the French authorities would be translated into English and Spanish and placed on the agenda of the next Board for discussion and approval.

After having thanked the participants and the interpreters, the President closed the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

