

**WFM – Canada Annual Members Meeting
11 November, 2018
Kingston**

Programs update

General comments:

- 1) The demands of the UN2020 project have affected staff capacity to contribute to other programs. Inclusion of language in draft UN resolution is a positive development for UN2020 project.
- 2) Strong contributions by many WFMC Board and officers allow the organization to maintain a significant presence across a range of global governance areas.
- 3) UN2020 is (at this stage) the only program that is proceeding on basis of program funding received.
- 4) A national election in October 2019 will need to be considered at WFMC Board’s program planning discussions.

Program area	Background	Update as at Nov 2018	Next steps and/or Program possibilities
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Peacekeeping / UNEPS	WFMC supports (a) more active contributions by Canada to UN operations; and (b) development of a UNEPS (UN Emergency Peace Service)	<p>- As Canada’s announced commitment to re-engage in UN Peacekeeping continued to go unfulfilled, the 2017 decision to revive the “Canada and United Nations” series of publications, with a volume on Canada and UN Peacekeeping did seem to have a media and policy impact. Mali PK commitment followed; WFMC still questioning Canada’s commitment due to (a) uncertainty over duration of Cdn Mali deployment; (b) no announced program of PK training; (c) Mali operation may be dual purpose (UN PK and support to French-led, non-UN counter terrorism); (d) delays or no action on other Gov’t of Canada promises (airlift, rapid reaction capacity).</p> <p>- UNEPS has developed a very impressive list of international endorsers. Peter Langille’s new book on UNEPS is an important step forward. Alas, extensive fundraising efforts in 2017 have yielded very little.</p>	The issue will remain prominent in 2019 due to (a) Canada’s bid for election to UN Security Council; (b) questions over fulfillment of GoC promises.
Human rights commitments database	The project is developing a database of Canada’s international HR commitments (humanrightscommitments.ca).	Developing content for site is nearly complete. We now have first drafts of 51 treaty summaries. Monique, Romnick and Cameron Laing have made progress on remaining site content.	The site will be featured at a Webinar WFMC is hosting December 10.

<p>Women, Peace and Security Network – Canada</p>	<p>The network monitors Canadian compliance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions, with a primary focus on the Canadian National Action Plan (CNAP) on WPS. - Monique is an active member and maintains the network’s web site.</p>	<p>WFMC was fiscal agent and contributed to implementing a Spring 2017 GAC grant for a government - civil society consultation on a new Canadian Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan. The GoC CNAP included many civil society recommendations and has elevated the priority of this issue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFMC is part of a civil society advisory body for implementation of the CNAP. - Women, Peace and Security Network - Canada are also part of dialogues with DND on a range of gender issues. - Canada recently named an Ambassador for WPS.
<p>UN2020 Initiative</p>	<p>Project is generating support for using the UN 75th anniversary in 2020 as an opportunity for stocktaking, reform and addressing current crisis in multilateralism.</p>	<p>Project is progressing despite failure to secure UN GA decision to establish a multilateral preparatory process. Now seeking a stand-alone GA resolution. Several civil society meetings in 2018 have laid basis for wider outreach in 2019.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workable World Trust is providing financial support to the project, contingent on matching contributions by project partners.
<p>UN and Canada</p>	<p>WFMC has published a series -- 2013, 2014, 2015 (election issue) and 2017 and 2018 editions – of short books including expert essays.</p>	<p>The 2018 edition had a greater number and range of articles. Much credit to John Trent (editor). Media coverage for this year’s issue was not as great as in previous years.</p>	<p>Should there be a 2019 edition? Possible focus areas: (a) the Cdn candidacy for a 2-year term on UN Security Council; (b) upcoming election; (c) Canada’s contribution to 75th anniversary in 2020 (Doug Roche conference suggestion).</p>

<p>UN Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA)</p>	<p>WFMC is a member of the international campaign for the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN.</p>	<p>WFMC volunteers have helped lobby Cdn parliamentarians. Over 50 members of current parliament have endorsed. - A Toronto WFMC member has talked his MP (a Parliamentary Secretary) into arranging a meeting with FM Freeland's office.</p>	<p>"Canadian Parliamentary Friends of the United Nations" program languishes, although new active International Parliamentary Group provides an opportunity for engagement. Perhaps a forum in HoC on Canada and Security Council?</p>
<p>International Criminal Court</p>	<p>WFMC is a member of the NGO Coalition for the ICC. International HQ for ICC Coalition is at WFM offices in NY and The Hague. WFMC-organizes annually a meeting at GAC for civil society and Cdn officials ahead of annual Assembly of States Parties. ICC cases and related issues are updated in each Mondial.</p>	<p>- In December 2017 Canada joined with UK, France and some other western governments (U.S. lobbying behind the scenes) taking a retrograde position on activating ICC jurisdiction over crime of aggression. Nevertheless, the decision at the Assembly in December is a historic development. The illegality of aggressive war is now codified, customary law. Canadian ratification of the amendment is an advocacy priority for WFMC. - The ICC coalition held successful events in 2018 commemorating 20th anniversary of Rome Statute. WFMC hosted a June webinar.</p>	

<p>COPLA – Latin America and Caribbean Criminal Court Against Transnational Organized Crime</p>	<p>- The idea, developed by Democracia Global, the WFM affiliate in Argentina, is for a regional criminal court for transnational organized crime. Florencia Gor leads for WFMC on this file.</p>	<p>- Support for COPLA from governments in the region (Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, MERCOSUR) continues to grow. Argentina featured COPLA in 2017 and 2018 address to UN GA. - COPLA was discussed at a workshop at the Conference of International Society for Reform of Criminal Law, in Montreal this past July.</p>	<p>Flo and Fergus have joined/organized several conference calls among a network of interested academics. There is discussion among ICC Coalition, Cdn and other academic networks, and Democracia Global regarding a regional event (Peru?), or additional meetings at UN NY.</p>
<p>Responsibility to Protect</p>	<p>- WFMC monitors developments at UN and promotes implementation and understanding of R2P.</p>	<p>- Canada has joined UN Group of Friends of R2P and is demonstrating greater support for R2P. - In 2018 Bob Rae served as GoC Special Envoy on Myanmar. Rae report, as well as GoC response to Rae Report, both disappointing for failure to use R2P lens. - Bill Pearce (Victoria) and national office have maintained an active correspondence with GoC on behalf of WFMC.</p>	<p>WFMC have discussed with civil society colleagues (and the genocide prevention group in Parliament) a possible CS-GoC dialogue with Cdn government's R2P focal point.</p>

Sustainable Common Security	A number of Canadian civil society organizations have adopted this broad framework for their advocacy and campaigning.	A submission to the Cdn Defence Policy Review by Group of 78 and Rideau Institute was endorsed by WFMC and 10 other peace organizations. Robin Collins did much of the work/drafting, along with Peggy Mason from RI.	- This work could be further developed. Potential links to Cdn party election platforms(?).
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Networks:

In addition to these program areas, WFMC is active in a variety of NGO networks:

- Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
- Women, Peace and Security Network – Canada
- Canadian Council for International Cooperation
- Canadian International Human Rights Network
- Climate Action Network
- Peacebuild Canada (dormant in 2018)
- Coalition for the International Criminal Court
- International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect