

## **DPI World Council Meeting 2015**

### **Dhaka Statement**

**Date:** June 28 – 30, 2015

**Place:** Dhaka

Being fully aware of spirit of DPI as a grass root cross disability organization democratically representing persons with disability worldwide, and based on DPI constitution and bylaws and in particular:

Article 1 of the constitution that states that the principal seat of DPI is in Canada and can only be changed by a decision of the World Council

Article 3 of the constitution that states that membership shall be decided by the World Council after relevant study by the regional council and assembly

Article 6 of the constitution concerning the termination of membership that states that a decision for expulsion by the World Council requires an opinion of the relevant regional council and need to be passed by a two-third majority of those present and voting to become valid and that offending member shall be given due notice and an opportunity to respond and be granted an opportunity to appeal the decision to the World Council

Article 11 of the constitution that states that the World Council is composed of five members from every region, elected by the regions and that in no case shall the World Council have more than one representative per nation among the councilors elected for the region and that the World Council should decide on the number and boundaries of the regions, deal with membership questions, decide on rules of procedure for the World council, appoint an executive director and decide the location of the DPI secretariat

Article 12 of the constitution that states that affairs of DPI in between meetings of World Council are dealt with by the executive officers and that it is the responsibility of the executive officers to bring matters to the World Council for decision and to carry out the tasks set by the World Council

In addition to DPI bylaws concerning membership and disciplinary procedures and responsibilities of the executive officers that state that it is the secretary that assist in planning meetings and developing agenda items and that regional representatives need to be included in the executive

**The DPI World Council extraordinary meeting in Bangladesh between the 28 and 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 2015 expresses its deep concerns to the unity, status and image of DPI as a constitutional, transparent and democratic organization and strongly believe that this image has been damaged as a result of the autocratic leadership style of DPI chair Javed Abidi. This is why it has decided to withdraw confidence in the present chair Javed Abidi based on the following:**

1. Most decisions in the name of DPI have been taken unilaterally by the chair without any approval by the World Council and consultation with the executive officers. Among others, this includes:
  - A-**The closing of the official seat of DPI in Canada and running the organization by a non DPI staff in Delhi and without an executive director
  - B-**The dismissal of DPI executive director without the consent of the world council as stated in the constitution that has caused damaging effects on DPI work and prestige and relationship with major funders
  - C-**The unilateral announcement of controversial DPI political decisions in the United Nations and other platforms that undermined the unity of the disability movement without any approval from the executive officers
  - D-**The unilateral declaration of the formation of new regions in Russia and Arab world
  - E-** His unconstitutional intervention in countries where DPI is established by revoking elected leadership and replacing it by a new one as it has happened in the case of Mauritius, and replacing actual member organizations with new ones as was the case in Bangladesh, Tunis, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, and Lebanon
  - F-** Adopting new members in DPI without the approval of their regions and the World Council such as countries like Armenia, Moldavia and Ukraine
  - G-** The creation of a new region within Europe without recourse to the European region and without asking for the approval of the World Council
  - H-** His creation of major frictions with the international disability movement by creating open conflict with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) without any support by the executive officers or the World Council.
2. Opposite to the terms of the constitution and bylaws as stated above, the chair has publicized a World Council member list different from the legitimate one that is nominated by the regions as the Constitution and bylaws stipulate. Two names from the Asia Pacific region are included in the list and not legitimate (including the chair himself) because they are not nominated by their region. The chair has also unilaterally deleted the membership of Lebanon from DPI and denied as a result the membership in the World Council of the representative of Lebanon and the Arab region based on Seoul and Durban World Council decisions
3. The chair has totally ignored World Council decisions in Seoul and Durban to form an Arab region and accept six Arab countries members in this new region. Instead he unilaterally declared the formation of a new Arab region with membership different from the ones accepted in Durban and with most of them do not match DPI conditions for membership

4. The chair has convened a meeting of the World Council in New Delhi where some legal members of the Council were not invited and others nonmembers were invited to attend with full voting power
5. The chair has initiated an electronic vote that is not agreed upon by the World Council and imposed the vote as legal and binding
6. The chair has not properly answered some executive officers and world council members on issues they raised questions about and instead he, many times replied by vulgar personal attacks
7. The chair is not transparent in terms of the finance of DPI and how the money is raised and spent. No report were sent to executive officers for approval and to World Council

**Accordingly, The World Council of DPI has taken the following decisions:**

1. **To withdraw confidence in the present chair Javed Abidi**
2. **To elect DPI vice chair Rachel Kachaje as a DPI acting chair for an interim period until the coming world assembly where the election of a new chair will take place**
3. **According to Article 11 of the constitution, to form a committee chaired by the new chair and composed of the following World Council members:**
  - **Shoji Nakanishi**
  - **Kalle Konkola**
  - **Jean- Luc Simon**
  - **Nawaf Kabbara**
  - **Ondoua Abah Gabriel**

**In addition to all legal regional chairs with the task of steering DPI to a world assembly in 2016.**

**The World Council preserves its constitutional rights to take all necessary legal actions against any person or entity as may be found necessary.**

Jean-Luc Simon  
Member of the Ad hoc Committee  
Chair of DPI Europe



Rachel Kachaje  
Interim Chair of DPI

