

**Task Force for International Cooperation on
Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research
Washington, D.C.**

**Protocol of the ITF Plenary Session
Wednesday, May 14, 2003**

I - Application for ITF Membership: Luxembourg

Luxembourg was unanimously accepted as **full member** of the Task Force. It will pay its first contribution to the ITF Fund in 2004.

The first project in which Luxembourg will be involved will be managed in partnership with Latvia and France (CDJC) and soon will be proposed to the Chair. The project concerns a training seminar for Latvian teachers.

II - Special Working Group on the Future of the Task Force

Upon recommendation of the special Working Group on the Future of the Task Force, the plenary agreed to the following:

1) Strategic and Implementation Working Group

- A Strategic and Implementation Working Group (SIWG) will be created to exercise oversight of project implementation, assess ITF achievements, and advise the Chair and plenary on ITF general policies and priorities.
- The SIWG will be co-chaired by the ITF Chair and the ITF Academic Advisor, and will be comprised of past ITF Chairs and the Chairs of the five Working Groups (Academic, Education, Information, Memorials, and Task Force Fund).
- The SIWG may meet prior to the next Task Force Plenary session in November, venue to be determined.

2) ITF Fellowship

- The ITF should extend the Fellowship established under the 2003 U.S. chairmanship to two years, inclusive.
- The Fellow shall reside in the country of the Chair.

- The \$50,000 allocated from the Task Force Fund to the Chair each year (for the purposes of augmenting project management by providing support to the Working Groups in the project evaluation process and enhancing administration of the Chair) will be used to finance the Fellowship.
- The ITF will review the Fellowship mechanism at the end of two years (e.g., at the end of 2004).

3) Public Relations

- A new **logo** will be created for the Task Force. It will emphasize the substantive elements of Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research.
- The Task Force will pass **special motions and statements** about topics related to the Holocaust in order to improve its efficiency in raising the public awareness on contemporary issues directly connected with the event of the Holocaust. In the same respect, the Task Force will assume the right to conduct **hearings** in certain circumstances, in the view of facilitating the information of ITF members.

4) Meetings

- **Special sessions** of Task Force's permanent or temporary working groups will be held whenever necessary.
- The **Education Working Group** will hold its next meeting in Budapest at the invitation of the Hungarian delegation. The meeting dates are October 27-28, 2003.

III - Special Working Group on the Nature of Projects

The special working group on projects based its discussions on the recommendations of the Education, Academic, and Memorials Working Groups. The ITF has received numerous project proposal applications (PPAs) that are outside the scope of what was envisioned when the current guidelines on funding were developed. In this regard, three issues were considered:

- whether the ITF should consider supporting projects in Western countries and Israel

- whether all projects submitted should be approved by either a lead liaison country or a member country's delegation, and
- what the priorities are for expending the ITF's limited funds.

The objectives of the special working group were as follows:

- to determine what kinds of projects are eligible for ITF funding support and endorsement,
- to develop clear and appropriate guidelines that can be posted on the ITF Web site, and
- to facilitate the evaluation of PPAs by establishing procedures for the review of each type of project by the relevant Working Group(s).

Within these parameters, each Working Group proposed guidelines to the Plenary on the types of projects eligible for Task Force funding.

With regard to **geographic priorities**,

- Each Working Group agreed that the primary beneficiaries of ITF funds should be citizens of countries facing severe resources constraints in the field of Holocaust studies.
- Member countries will be systematically informed by the Chair of the submission of a project proposal by a national NGO [nongovernmental organization] or individual, in order to facilitate the creation of connections within the country itself. However, as has already been the practice, the concerned Member State will not have the right to select the applicants and to participate in the proposal's evaluation.

Regarding the nature of projects, a summary of the discussion can be presented as follows:

- The **Education Working Group** evaluates teacher training seminars, student teachers seminars, student educational competitions, publication and translation of educational guidebooks, creation and development of educational Web sites, student artistic projects in a school context, and historical exhibits with teaching purposes.
- The **Academic Working Group** evaluates development of university courses and programs, translation and publication

of scholarly books, documentary films, as well as archival organization and access.

- The **Memorials Working Group** evaluates catalogues and databases, documentary reference sources, Web sites, and emergency funding for preservation or restoration of memorial sites (in case of crisis).

IV - Contacts of the Chair and New Candidates

1) Candidacies

- **Estonia** presented an official candidacy to the French Chair in June 2002. A project proposed by the Jan Tonisson Institute is about to be submitted to the Task Force. Thus, a liaison project relationship with a Member Country could be established quickly.
- **Belgium** is preparing its entry in the Task Force. Several projects already have been submitted to the Task Force by Belgian NGOs. However, because of internal negotiations within the Belgian federal government and the linguistic communities, no real discussions have resulted on the governmental level since the visit of the French Chair to Brussels in 2002.

2) Contacts

- The Chair has been informally approached by **Norway**. Further contacts must be developed in the near future to identify and ascertain the Norwegian intentions.
- A project from Greece has been submitted to the Chair. The Chair is already working on a possible cooperation. There are no contacts on the official level.
- According to the French delegation, which has traveled to **Romania** for a seminar in Bucharest financed by the Task Force, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is eager to begin discussions on joining the Task Force.

3) Other Countries

- The Task Force has financed projects in countries with which it still has no official contacts. This is the case with **Ukraine** (two projects), **Romania** (three projects), **Latvia** (one project), and **Belarus** (one project).

- The U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen could make contacts with the government of **Denmark**. The same situation could occur with **Bulgaria**, whose ambassador in Washington has already expressed interest in the Task Force.
- The Chair also has had informal discussions with representatives of **Spain, Portugal, and South Africa**.

Additional efforts will be made by the Chair to establish and develop relationships with the ITF.

V - Project to Compile Information about Ongoing Doctoral/Postdoctoral Research on the Holocaust

The project has started at the Uppsala University, where a researcher is currently gathering information about Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States to create the database.

- An application will be submitted to the Academic Working Group to study the possibility of funding the project.
- Each national delegation should appoint someone to be a contact person with the Uppsala University and help gather the information in her/his own country.

VI - Future Chairs

Italy presented its candidacy in Paris (June 2002) to become Chair of the Task Force for the year 2004-2005. With regard to the arguments brought by the Italian delegates and the warranties offered by the Italian government, the proposal has won unanimous support.

No other delegation presented a proposal for chairmanship in the subsequent years.

VII - Next Plenary Session

The date for the next plenary session has yet to be finalized; however, depending on delegates' schedules, the next Plenary Session could take place **in Washington, November 9-10, 2003**, the 65th Anniversary of *Kristallnacht*. The Chair will confirm the dates via the general listserv.

VIII - ITF Declaration on OSCE Specialized Meeting

The ITF issued a declaration in support of the June 19-20 specialized meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on combating antisemitism, the text of which reads as follows:

The Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research endorses the decision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to hold a specialized meeting in Vienna on combating antisemitism on June 19 and 20, 2003, and urges all Task Force member states which are also OSCE member states to attend the meeting.