



CONFERENCE FEE STRUCTURE

Summary

This paper asks the World Conference to approve the approach to setting registration fees for future World Conferences, based on the results of the 'pilot' fee structure used for this 35th World Conference.

The World Board's recommendation is that – subject to the pilot being shown to have met its objectives – the registration fees for the 36th world Conference should be based on the wealth bands used to determine Membership Organizations' Quota/Membership Fees.

However, Conference is being asked, under a separate Motion, to consider whether to adopt an alternative to the current method of calculating Quota, which incorporates a larger number of wealth bands. The outcome of that vote would therefore impact on any on-going use of wealth bands to determine World Conference registration fees.

In the body of the paper we have set out the discounts that would be applied to attendees depending on which set of wealth bands are approved under the Motion on Quota/Membership Fees.

Background

At the 34th World Conference, it was decided:

That a pilot fee structure should be used for the 35th World Conference as follows:

- 1. That quota bands be used to determine the level of Conference fee payable.*
- 2. That the level of discount to be applied to the full registration fee should be:*
 - a) Quota bands A–D, 25% discount.*
 - b) Quota bands E, 15% discount.*
- 3. That an additional discount of 33% should be applied to the fee payable by a Member Organization, for any delegates or observers aged under 30 as at the opening date of the Conference.*

A recommendation will be presented to the 2014 Conference for a longer term scheme, based on the learning from the triennium.

It was hoped that, by setting a sliding scale of fees for WAGGGS events there would be a wider opportunity for some of the less wealthy Member Organizations to take a fuller role. By offering additional discounts for attendees under 30 it was hoped that a larger number of young people would be able to attend future conferences, to take advantage of the opportunities for leadership and governance experience, and thus aid MOs' succession planning.

It was agreed that the method used had to be transparent and easy to understand to ensure that it was supported and did not cause a large amount of additional administration.

Implementation of the pilot

In order to implement the pilot the organising committee needed to calculate a standard registration fee, against which the discounts should be applied. In order to do so they had to calculate the likely total cost of the conference, decide how much

should be recovered through registration fees (as opposed to accommodation charges) and make an estimate of the numbers of delegates would attend from MOs in different quota bands, as well as other non-fee-paying attendees.

They also needed to motivate MOs and others to register early to enable effective event planning and manage costs and cash flow.

The result was a standard fee US\$1,200 for all bookings made up to 28th February (subsequently extended to 31st March), increasing by 15% thereafter. Applying the discounts agreed at the 34th World Conference gave the following prices:

| Quota Band | Discounts | | Fees (up to 28 th February 2014) | | Fees (1 st March 2014 onwards) | |
|------------|-----------|----------|---|----------|---|----------|
| | Full fee | Under 30 | Full fee | Under 30 | Full fee | Under 30 |
| A-D | 25% | 50% | US\$900 | US\$600 | US\$1,035 | US\$690 |
| E | 15% | 43% | US\$1,020 | US\$680 | US\$1,173 | US\$782 |
| F | 0% | 33% | US\$1,200 | US\$800 | US\$1,380 | US\$920 |

Impacts of the pilot

At the time of writing it is too early to make a meaningful assessment of the impacts of the pilot, in terms of participation; although we can report that of the 124 MO delegates that had registered by 26th February 2014, 40 (32%) were young people. This compares very well to the actual attendance at the 34th World Conference, where only 14% (83 out of 609) attendees were aged under 30.

By the time of the 35th World Conference we will have been able to carry out a full analysis of all the delegates who registered, by quota band and age group, compare the results with those for 34th World Conference and consider whether the pilot fee structure had the desired impact.

Going forward

On the assumption that the results of the pilot are positive, it is proposed that the principles of the approach be applied again to the 36th World Conference in 2017.

However, the discount bands will need to be amended in the event that World Conference agrees to adopt the proposed alternative method for calculating quotas. Under the proposed alternative method there would be a greater number of quota bands, with the current bands E and F becoming five bands (E to I), with an additional 'super band' J for MOs in very wealthy nations.

In the event that the alternative method for calculating quotas is approved, it is proposed that the standard discounts applied to World Conference should be:

- Bands A to D 25%
- Bands E and F 15% (new band F is equivalent to existing band E)
- Bands G & H 10%
- Bands I and J 0%

All MO delegates or observers who are under 30 years of age on the opening date of the conference would receive a further 33% discount, regardless of which quota band their MO is in.

PROPOSED MOTIONS

(Full Member vote, two-thirds majority required)

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| <p>1. That wealth bands be used to determine the registration fees payable at the 36th World Conference, as proposed in the body of this paper</p> |
| <p>2. That a further discount of 33% (of the already-discounted sum) should be applied to the fee payable by a Member Organization, for any delegate or observer who is aged under 30 on the opening date of the Conference.</p> |