

TO **FEZANA Executive**
FEZANA Member Associations

FROM FEZANA World Body Working Group
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SUBJECT FEZANA World Body Working Group: Interim Report 2 - Summary

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PREAMBLE

In the past the WG has circulated a Summary of its activities and a Report with the supporting documentation and WG commentary. The FEZANA World Body Working Group has been directed by the FEZANA Executive to circulate only the summary of its reports to the FEZANA Member Associations. The summary and the full report will be placed on the FEZANA web site in due course. In the interim, please contact Khorshed Jungalwala to obtain a copy of the full report.

The WG issued an Interim Report dated September 2, 2002 in which the WG summarized its activities from June to August 2002. The report has been circulated and is also available from <http://www.fezana.org/wbwg/>

In this WG Interim Report 2 we focus on four items, namely,

- The communication between the WZO and the FEZANA World Body Working Group.
- Communication between the FEZANA Executive and the FEZANA World Body Working Group.

In the next report the WG will report on its analysis of the WCZF2002 model and the meeting in Mumbai.

STATUS REPORT**WZO 2001 Ltd. Charter.**

Firdosh Mehta, contacted Rumi Sethna on August 14, 2002 requesting clarification of Clause 71 of the WZO 2001 Ltd. Charter. Rumi Sethna responded on August 27, 2002.

The WG has studied the WZO2001 Ltd. Charter. It has requested clarifications from the WZO leadership three times. For its third request the WG decided to drastically reduce the number of clarifications requested. It decided to focus those items that had been identified by various members of the North American Zarathushti community as being "Show Stoppers." After careful analysis the WG identified five show stoppers (all pertaining to the WZO2001 Ltd. Charter) and decided to request a response from the WZO on these. This request was sent to the WZO on October 19, 2002.

- Voting structure at the General Body meeting. WG Clarification I – Question 9.
- Membership Structure. WG Clarification I – Question 15.
- Membership of the Council of Federations. WG Clarification II – Question 25.
- Qualification of Individual Members. WG Clarification II – Question 28. Two deal breakers identified in letter of Rumi Sethna and Rustam Dubash dated May 23, 2001. WG Phase One Report. Pages 12 through 15.

Rumi Sethna responded on October 27, 2002 to this request.

The leadership of the WZO met in late September 2002 to discuss and ratify the WZO2001 Ltd. Charter. The WG has been informed verbally that the WZO intends to make slight modifications to the WZO2001 Ltd Charter and register it in 2003. In the interest of having only one World Body the WG has cautioned WZO against this course of action but to no avail.

WG - Comments

Regrettably, the response received from Rumi Sethna to the three requests from the WG and one from Firdosh Mehta were not encouraging.

The WG repeats its oft-stated position, namely,

- all models that it has analyzed to date are workable and none is perfect.
- the WG will not be recommending a particular model; it will offer for consideration all models that it deems to be workable with the final decision being made by elected officials.

With this as background it is the considered opinion of the WG that the WZO2001 Ltd. Charter has at least five limitations. The WG cautions that it is premature to rule out the WZO2001 Ltd. Charter until the strengths and weaknesses of the competing models are identified.

FEZANA Executive Related Activities.*Meeting in Mumbai on January 20, 2003*

The Indian Government has scheduled a meeting for all Non-Resident Indians in January 2003. The WG learned that a number of members of the Zarathushti community from overseas will be present at this meeting and that a meeting of the officers of various representative Zoroastrian organizations of the world is planned for January 21 and 22, 2003 in Mumbai. It occurred to us that January 20, 2003 would be an opportune time for people interested in furthering the World Body issue to meet for face to face discussions in Mumbai prior to the Meeting of Leaders on January 21 and 22. Accordingly, the WG drafted a memo to the World Community with the following objectives:

- Establish a comfortable working relationship between people who wish to be involved in bringing convergence to the World Body issue.
- Establish a workable schedule that results in convergence.
- Identify who does what by when.

The specific requests to the world leadership were as follows:

- 1 Can we count on your organization being represented at this meeting?
- 2 Who are the members of your World Body Working Group? ... names and e-mail addresses please.
- 3 What modifications / additions would you like to the agenda? [Aside a draft agenda was included.]

Since the meeting on January 20, 2003 would have been a formal event, with the FEZANA World Body Working Group providing leadership the WG thought it prudent to request the FEZANA Executive to review the letter and give its OK for transmittal. This request was sent on November 9, 2002.

The FEZANA Executive decided against the meeting proposed for January 20, 2003 and Firdosh Mehta informed the WG formally of this decision on December 9, 2002.

FEZANA Executive Directives to the WG

On November 22, 2002, the WG received a list of Directives from Firdosh Mehta on behalf of the FEZANA Executive. As per the mandate given to the WG in May 2002 the FEZANA Executive is empowered to issue directives to the Working Group. The Working Group responded to these Directives in full on December 5, 2002. The WG has agreed to those directives that were in keeping with its May 2001 mandate, sought clarification wrt others, and modifications wrt those that were not in harmony with the mandate. The WG looks forward to working with the FEZANA President and his colleagues on the FEZANA Executive.

WG - Comments

On December 14, 2002 the WG sent an email to Firdosh. Key points raised in the email are as follows:

WRT the request to host the meeting on January 20, 2003:

The request for endorsement by the WG to host the January 20, 2003 meeting has been turned down by the FEZANA Executive. Firdosh in his email dated December 9, 2002 has indicated that despite of the negative response from the FEZANA Executive the WG may proceed under its own May 2002 mandate received from the FEZANA Associations (if it so chose) to call the meeting on January 20, 2003 in Mumbai.

Hence, it is the considered opinion of the WG that, since questions were raised vis a vis the interpretation of the mandate, it is politically unwise for the WG to proceed with the January 20, 2003 meeting in Mumbai without a formal endorsement of such action by the FEZANA Executive.

WRT to the Meeting of Leaders on January 21 and 22, 2003

The WG is mindful of the potential benefits of hosting the meeting on January 20, 2003, particularly when entities outside FEZANA showed interest in forming similar Working Groups and participating in discourses. As indicated above, it has reluctantly decided to forego the benefits of arranging it under its own May 2002 mandate. The WG made clear that those who did attend did so in their own capacity and were not authorized to speak on behalf of the WG wrt World Body affairs.

Meeting in Mumbai on January 21, 2003

On January 6, 2003 the WG received an invitation from Minoos Shroff, Chair of the Meeting of Leaders in Mumbai, inviting the WG to do a presentation and participate in discussions on the World Body on January 21, 2003. Many leaders attending the meeting also requested the WG's participation.

After careful deliberation, the WG has accepted this invitation with encouragement from Firdosh Mehta.

Preliminary Analysis of the Proposed WCZF 2002 Model

Over the past 18 months the WG has gained experience in how various constituencies of the World Zoroastrian Community think. The principle underlying the WG's response has been to bring to bear this experience and help the sponsors of all models to strengthen their proposals. It is with this principle in mind that the WG has sought clarification from the sponsors of both WZO 2001 Ltd. and WCZF 2002.

In September 2002, Purvez Rustomji and Yasmin Pavri of the ZAH submitted the WCZF 2002 model for consideration. The WG has completed its preliminary analysis of the submission and communicated with Purvez and Yasmin.

CLOSING

The WG has completed its analysis and has offered its considered opinion with respect to the WZO 2001 Ltd. and the WCZF 2002 models.

The WG is currently working on two items:

- preparing for its presentation on January 21, 2003 in Mumbai;
- developing options for consideration that might mitigate the impact of the show stoppers in the WZO 2001 Ltd Charter.

The WG plans to report on these two issues by the end of March 2003.

Firdosh Mehta (as President of FEZANA) has been copied on all the communications listed above. We intend to keep you the membership posted on our activities by providing you a synopsis of our activities periodically.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to direct your comments to both Khorshed Jungalwala and Firdosh Mehta.