Danish United Nations Association (UNA DK)
Briefing note for European WFUNA-meeting, Vienna, April 8-9 2013

The bi-annual congress of UNA DK took place October 2012, tacking stock of the present situation, electing the leadership and planning for the future.

Stocktaking: During the last three years we have doubled the numbers of individual members, increased the proportion of project income from 4% to 21% of the annual budget, and have seen a three time increase in visits to our websites (visits to the globalis.dk-site reached 235.000 in 2012).

Elections: Some changes took place in the Board and the ‘Council of Representatives’, whereas the Executive Committee was re-elected (President: Jørgen Estrup, Vice President: Tine Marqvard Jensen, Treasurer: Flemming Thøgersen, Members: Lave Broch and Torben Jacobsen).


We have organised study trips to The International Court of Justice and the Tribunals in Haag, to the UN HQ in New York as well as visit to the occupied areas of Western Sahara. We have been engaged in the Rio+20-process, the Arms Trade Treaty and the UPR-process. Our school-service volunteers continue their work and the independent DanMUN-group are planning for the next simulation in October.

Public meetings during the next months includes meeting with representative of the Palestinian Authority, the follow up of WSIS, UNs work with post-conflict state building activities, as well as a conference on the use of drones.

We are continuing the youth training programme funded by EU-money. Presently we are hosting ‘Training of trainers in Human Rights Education’ (with young participants from Poland, Romania, Croatia, Turkey, France, Norway and Denmark) and in May we are the organisers of a partnership seminar I Moldova ‘Millennium Citizen’ on the post-MDGs (with participants from Armenia, Spain, Malta, Slovakia, Georgia, Poland, Croatia, Russia, Netherlands, Moldova and Denmark).

It is important for us to work in relation to the politicians, as it is the official Danish multilateral policy we ultimately are trying to influence. During the last year we have managed to participate as exhibitioners in connection to several of the political parties’ national congresses, we will again participate in the annual political ‘festival’ – this year together with DIPD and UNDP, we have reconvened our group of representatives of all parties in the Parliament and prior to the ‘UN Special Event on follow up on the MDGs’ September 25th during the UNGA we will co-host a conference on the post-MDG process at the Parliament, followed by a joint conference on UN Reform early 2014.

A recent survey conducted amongst both members as well as non-members shows a great interest in the themes covered by UNA DK but at the same time respondents comments on the lack of a ‘common thread’, priorities and a coherent long-term strategy. This idea has again been presented to the Board.

Torleif Jonasson, April 5th 2013