SUMMARY OF UIA ACTIVITIES
at 2 September 2002

Item 4 of the draft agenda of the Council of October 24-25 2002

I. Publications and information services

1. - Yearbook of International Organizations

Contracts with SAUR have now been renewed from 30th January 2002 for a three year period 2002-2004. They include some financial improvements for the UIA, notably with respect to the payments schedule as it affects the cash flow over the annual cycle of publication.

The new arrangement gives contractual form to the service by subscription enabling access to Yearbook data online (undertaken since November 2000 under a provisional agreement). This service has proven to be of significant appeal to the specialized agencies of the UN. Revisions continue to be made to this facility, notably following detailed consultation with SAUR, to augment and simplify the access possibilities as well as provide adequate security against abuse and virus attacks. It will now include online access to the UIA historical yearbooks (1905-1911) as indicated below. Material from the UIA World Guide to Logotypes, Emblems, and Trademarks of International Organizations (1996) will now be included in this subscription and integrated into online profiles.

Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4 have been completed and distributed on schedule since the last communication. A new proofing procedure to resolve formatting problems associated with equipment upgrades has been developed in addition to the facility enabling international organizations to examine their entry online, together with the entries of the bodies to which they are connected.

The new Volume 5 (Statistics, Visualizations and Patterns) appeared for the first time in December 2001. The statistical tables necessitated considerable scanning, reprocessing and verification of UIA statistical series over many past editions. The mapping facility available as part of the online service was adapted (using the new scalable vector graphics standard) to generate high quality maps of networks of organizations, problems and strategies – allowing maps to be generated up to poster size or more. The statistical work has been integrated with
the production of statistics under contract for the LSE Centre for Civil Society (see below) and with the annual production of meeting statistics for Associate Members.

The new edition of the CD-ROM version of the Yearbook is under production using new software compatible with the latest operating systems. This is requiring new development work.

2. - International Congress Calendar

Quarterly production continues for the 42nd year. Issues relating to the shift of larger quantities of volatile information sources to the web and their effects on editorial research capacity at current staff levels continue to be of concern, notably because of implications for the statistical series in the annual meeting statistics publication. A variety of techniques to deal with this are being envisaged.

The test version of the online version of this service, in operation since 2000, has not yet been transformed into a subscription due to uncertainty regarding possible abuse of the data and the nature of the business model. This proposed service would change the pattern of use of the hardcopy facility as well as the way in which information is collected. As with the Yearbook service, it also raises significant issues concerning access, notably by those providing the information. In contrast to the Yearbook arrangement with SAUR, this will be sold by UIA with SAUR as distributor.

3. - Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential

There is no current activity regarding hardcopy publication of the Encyclopedia (last published in 3 volumes 1995). SAUR’s expressed interest in a new version of this publication has been deprioritized because of the restrictions they must necessarily place on the free online access to these databases in exchange for relatively modest payments for the hardcopy version. SAUR is in process of reprinting a limited number of Volume 2 in order to meet recent orders.

Developments to the online version of the data were last undertaken systematically under the contract with the European Commission DG-XIII (1997-2000). Occasional revisions to entries are now made only as time permits. The free access to this facility, and its detailed integration with Yearbook online, has proven to be a major marketing advantage ensuring UIA visibility in many subject areas on the web.

4. - Who’s Who in International Organizations

Editorial work on the new hardcopy 4th edition commenced in December 2001 and is scheduled for completion (by Nancy Carfrae) in October – November 2002. Work is on schedule.
The contents of the 3rd edition (2000), with any revisions to that point, will again appear as part of the annual Yearbook CD (normally published in September 2002) where the two databases cross-reference each other.

The online version of this database continues to be made available as part of the subscription to Yearbook Online (above) with which it is integrated.

5. Re-publication of historical documents

This project of scanning the earliest UIA major publications, especially the *Annuaire de la Vie Internationale* (1905-1911; 5,000 pages), for publication on CD or online, was considered by SAUR in 2000. A new method has been discovered that radically modifies the economics of the project and scanning is now underway with a view to publication of CD or online versions by UIA (outside the SAUR contract) for sale later in 2002. It can be extended to include 50 years of back copies of Transnational Associations.

SAUR has agreed to market an online version of this publication that will be distributed by UIA. The publication will be a free additional facility to online subscribers to the Yearbook. An access subscription will otherwise be sold at 500 euros.

6. La Revue de l'UAI *Associations transnationales*


La revue est désormais ouverte aux textes de langue espagnole, afin d'assurer une plus grande diversité culturelle des contributions et d'accroître l'internationalisation de son lectorat. Les pages de présentation présentes sur la Toile sont rédigées en trois langues : anglais, français et espagnol.

Une amélioration de la promotion et de la distribution de la Revue est programmée afin de lui assurer un financement viable. Un "Comité scientifique", dont la création a été décidée par le Conseil en octobre 2001, est en voie de constitution. Une vingtaine de personnalités ont été sollicitées, dont sept ont déjà répondu positivement, soit :

*Steve Charnovitz*
Legal consultant with Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, Washington
7. Multimedia products

Following the production for demonstration purposes of poster-size maps (of networks of organizations, problems, strategies, etc) generated from the online facility, further work on these products is now envisaged in relation to a new marketing approach. The main focus of such work over the past year has been with respect to Volume 5.

8. ICANN bid process for operation of the .org web domain

As indicated in separate communications to UIA Members, this bid was prepared and submitted during the period May-June 2002 and presented to ICANN at a meeting in Bucharest at the end of June. As explained in a subsequent communication to Members, the UIA bid is indicated as having been ranked fourth amongst 11 bidders in a preliminary report. But the UIA was the highest-ranked non-American, non-profit bidder. A final decision by ICANN is expected early October following detailed reactions from bidders concerning the evaluation process. Since 29 August the evaluation process has been strongly criticized by bidders (including UIA) and others so the UIA ranking may change. The probability that the UIA might then win remains low however. The process, as expected, has generated comment about the bidders, including the UIA, in the web community as well as in newsmedia (Le Monde, Washington Post, etc). Considerable information relating to the UIA bid has been placed on its special Diversitas website (www.diversitas.org) -- including access to the video of the UIA presentation in Bucharest.

II. Equipment modernisation

Various steps to update the UIA in-house network (now over 5-years out of date for maintenance purposes) are being actively explored (by Joel Fischer), notably to further enable external editing (by telework).

This is proving to be an important strategic development to facilitate use of
experienced editors away from the Secretariat offices.

III. **Prizes**

1. **UIA Thesis prize**
   As agreed at the Council meeting in October 201, a new thesis prize has been announced in a recent issue of «Transnational Associations ». A search is being undertaken for external financing of this prize by the Secretariat.

2. The UIA has applied for the Grawemeyer Prize (2002, Louisville University) for its contributions to international order.

IV. **UIA partnerships and cooperation**

1. **United Nations**: No current developments relating to the UIA's consultative relationship or CONGO. The specialized agencies and units of the UN which had subscribed to the UIA online service in 2001 (as a result of the initiative of SAUR) have renewed their subscription for 2002 resulting in a total of 26 such agency users.

2. **UNESCO**: Discussions with the Secretariat, in association with the 6-year review of the UIA's consultative relationships, have opened the possibility of a more fruitful interaction.

3. **European Commission**: As reported to the Council, in the period after completion of the EU 5th Framework project on thre Information context of Biodiversity (1997-2000), and prior to the 6th Framework (released in October 2001), a visit to a EU authority was arranged by Marc Luyckx to identify strategic opportunities for the UIA. This produced the strong recommendation, for any hope of project acceptance, that UIA should partner with a “major company” and should only focus on large budget proposals (from 5-10 million euro) -- a major feat for any nonprofit organization. Several initiatives were undertaken in conformity with this recommendation without result. The most probable, and natural, partner has in fact proven to be SAUR. However SAUR’s initial response has been negative because of the widely recognized administrative load associated with any such projects in dealing with the EU. Discussions continue. In the light of the UIA Secretariat’s past experience with such projects, and the UIA’s current strategic uncertainties, there is also reluctance on the part of staff to engage irresponsibly in multi-year projects under conditions that remain to be clarified.

4. **London School of Economics**: The contract to produce a selection of statistical tables with the LSE Centre for Civil Society (as last year) for their Civil Society Yearbook was successfully completed in March 2002. The process will be repeated in 2003.

5. **Council of Europe**: Frits Hondius represented the UIA, as an observer, at
a meeting of the Contracting parties to Convention No. 124 that the Council of Europe organized in Strasbourg (20-22 March 2002) on the theme “NGO charter”. André de Schutter replaced him at a subsequent meeting.

V. **Conférences internationales**

1. - Montecatini

   A l’initiative du Professeur Gianni Tibaldi, un colloque sur les villes de congrès, a été organisé à Montecatini les 11 et 12 avril 2002, conjointement à la réunion interfédérations annuelle (FAIB, UOIF, FIIG).

   L’UAI y a été représentée par le Secrétaire général et Mme de Coninck qui a fait un exposé intitulé «Méthodes, Données, Problèmes des Congrès Internationaux ».

2. Réunion annuelle des membres associés

   La réunion annuelle des Membres Associés aura lieu à Bruxelles les 7 et 8 octobre 2002.

   Le thème de la réunion sera consacré aux « Conséquences du 11 Septembre 2001 sur l’industrie des Congrès » (Consequences of 11th September for the International Meetings Industry »).

   A l’ordre du jour de la réunion figure également une série de présentations par différents membres du staff de l’UAI sur les derniers développements intervenus et projets en cours de réalisation au niveau des activités, publications, études, congrès et services.

3. Enquête


   C’est la première fois qu’une telle étude a été réalisée via le Web ; environ un millier d’associations ont répondu au questionnaire qui a été établi de telle sorte que les résultats soient connus au fur et à mesure des réponses (évitant ainsi un encodage séparé long et fastidieux).

4. Statistiques annuelles des réunions internationales

   La production annuelle des statistiques de congrès relatives à l’année 2001 (août 2002) a été réalisée dans le format introduit avec de nombreux tableaux et graphiques.

5. Autres réunions
EIBTM - European Incentive & Business Travel Market - Genève Mai 2002
La participation à cette exposition permet de nombreux contacts avec les membres associés. Cette année l'UAI a été représentée par G. de Coninck qui amenait également un groupe de membre de la FAIB.

EFCT Summer School – Fédération Européenne des Villes de Congrès
Pour la 5e année consécutive, l’UAI a été représentée par Joel Fischer .
Deux séances de travail ont été consacrées aux sujets qu’il a présentés, à savoir : «Working with UIA Data » et «Using the Internet as a Promotional and Research Tool ». Etant donné l'intérêt suscité par ces exposés, Joel Fischer sera à, nouveau invité à prendre la parole au Forum de 2003.
Cette présence active est une excellente occasion de présenter les travaux et publications de l'UAI à un public de clients potentiels.

A l’invitation d’Eurostat (Bureau des Statistiques de l’Union Européenne), Nadia McLaren a répondu à l’appel aux orateurs et soumis un résumé de contribution . Celle-ci a été retenue et figurera au programme de la séance de travail « Economic Role and Importance of Tourism in National Economies ».

Outre les personnes mentionnées dans ce chapitre, différents membres du staff de l’UAI ont participés aux activités décrites: Cécile Denet, Tomas Fülöpp, Sylvie Hosselet, Martine Jacquemyns, Nicole Maes, Régine Toussaint.

VI. Budget et administration
Une situation comptable provisoire a été établie au 31 août 2002.


L'incertitude de la situation avec ICANN complique l'établissement de prévisions budgétaires, même à court terme. Les dépenses engagées par l'UAI pour ce contrat sont et seront remboursées, suivant un rythme établi et respecté par Verisign.

Le "creux" de l'été, certains retards de paiement, la démission de quelques membres associés importants pèsent actuellement sur la trésorerie.

Les charges de personnel représentent 58% des dépenses. Une personne a été engagée à l'essai le 15 mai 2002 pour l'équipe rédactionnelle du Yearbook.
Après le départ du rédacteur en chef et la diminution d'activité considérable de la rédactrice principale actuelle, se pose la question de l'engagement d'un rédacteur de haut niveau, ou de la formation d'une personne douée et motivée pouvant devenir ce rédacteur de haut niveau. Les membres actuels de l'équipe font face à un accroissement de leur responsabilité pour laquelle une augmentation d'appointements est justifiée. Cette augmentation cependant s'insère dans une politique salariale qui n'a pas encore été résolue.

Les abonnements à la Revue marquent un certain redressement.

Un dépliant sur l'édition 2002/2003 du Yearbook (39e) est en préparation par l'éditeur Saur. L'UAI en recevra un certain nombre d'exemplaires. Si vous voyez la possibilité d'intéresser des sociétés ou organismes avec lesquels vous êtes en rapport, c'est très volontiers que le Secrétariat vous fera parvenir le nombre d'exemplaires désiré. Le document existe uniquement en langue anglaise.

Les travaux de rénovation et désamiantage de la MAI ont commencé fin juillet 2002. Il a fallu déménager les archives de l'UAI qui occupent un espace important dans les caves.

VII. Visit to Brussels of Members

1. Full Members
   Since the last General Assembly, the following Full Members have visited the UIA Secretariat: Anne-Marie Boutin, Turkia Ould Daddah, Christian de Laet, Frits Hondius, Jacques de Mevius. Working meetings were held on each occasion. Jacques de Mevius was able to propose the technical innovation mentioned above (chap. I.5, § 2) concerning the reproduction of UIA historical publications.

2. Associate Members
   UIA continues its cooperative efforts with FAIB, facilitated in part by GdC's role in both organizations. This has included recent review / education (etc) on proposed changes to the Belgian law governing AISBL and national nonprofit registration - a concern of long standing for the UIA. Secretariat regularly hosts visits from UIA AM's to brief them on services and discuss issues

VIII. Strategy

1. - Commercial promotion - Press and information
   A marketing consultancy was commissioned for January-March. The possibility of advertising revenue online is now being actively investigated by Thomas Fulopp, notably in association with his work on improvement of the website design.

2. - African Colloquium
   This possibly is currently been explored. Informal contacts have been made with Mrs Ould Daddah and the Belgian authorities.
3. - Web initiative

Access to the UIA static website is now averaging some 45,000 hits per day. The dynamic website now has some 43,000 registered users worldwide, of which only a small fraction are paying subscribers under the contract with SAUR. As illustrated by the recent detailed consultations with SAUR regarding access to the Yearbook online services, considerable attention is being given to the elaboration of a web strategy, and its operational implications (software, hardware, etc), in order to reconcile the somewhat incommensurable objectives of:

- Access and participation
- Diversification
- Image and marketing
- Design, continuity and integration
- Comprehension and empowerment

A major exercise in restructuring the UIA website has been undertaken by Tomás Fülöpp since June 2002. The purpose is to harmonize the overall design, eliminate unnecessary or obsolete pages, improve user navigation and integration with the dynamic web site, facilitate maintenance, take advantage of new software facilities, and enable paid access to Transnational Associations online. Much of this will be completed by the time of the UIA Council meeting. Issues of translation into languages other than English remain a concern, especially in terms of maintenance of such material. This is the first time a dedicated investment in the UIA website has been made since its creation in 1996.

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Ref: NLWork/2ème version Summary of UIA activities.rtf