



Minutes of the UMG General Assembly

Friday 17 April 2015, Atlas Médina Hotel - Marrakesh (Morocco)

Represented countries : Algeria, Egypt, France, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia.

Represented organizations : UAG and FGF.

Apologized: Italia.

Agenda :

- 1/ Presentation and adoption of the activity report;
- 2/ Presentation and adoption of the financial report;
- 3/ Presentation and adoption of the plan of action 2015-2019;
- 4/ Election of the new executive board for the mandate 2015-2019;
- 5/ Holding of the 2016 general assembly;
- 6/ Other items.

Introduction

President Hilali thanks all the UMG member countries for their presence and presents Italy's excuses as it could not take part in the general assembly and in the 1st congress due to agenda constraints; but Italy has expressed its unconditional support to the UMG actions.

President Hilali then presents the agenda of the general assembly namely :

- *Presentation and adoption of the activity report*
- *Presentation and adoption of the financial report*
- *Presentation and adoption of the action plan 2015-2019*
- *Election of the new Board*
- *Holding of the 2016 general assembly (date and venue)*
- *Other items*

1. Presentation of the activity report

President Hilali reminds the members of the 1st UMG general assembly which took place in Marrakesh 18 May 2011 in parallel to the FIG working week and which ended up with the election of the 1st executive board and with the adoption of the UMG plan of action for the mandate 2011-2015.

This plan insisted on the importance to hold regularly the executive board meetings as well as general assemblies and underlined the creation of three networks : the 1st one gathering schools and training universities for engineers surveyors, the 2nd one gathering private surveying companies and the last one dedicated to surveying students. It was also decided the drafting of a UMG website to enlarge the communication at different levels.

The president rapidly evaluates the actions undertaken during the mandate 2011-2015 :

a) At the organizational level

Two general assemblies were organised after the founding assembly of Marseille in 2010. These general assemblies led to the adoption of the statutes, the approval of the action plan and the creation of permanent commissions.

The executive board gathered six times and acted for:

- The opening of the UMG bank account ;
- The membership of other countries from the Mediterranean basin ;
- The reinforcement of the cooperation links with other regional and international bodies ;
- The implementation of the UMG website ;
- The drafting of the official UMG leaflet ;
- The holding of the 1st UMG international congress.

b) At the communication level

Two major elements can be underlined : the drafting of the UMG official leaflet of presentation in English and in French, and the implementation of the UMG website.

c) Membership of new countries

The executive board decided to contact other countries to join the UMG. Contacts were made as follows:

- France contacted Spain, Malta, Cyprus and Croatia ;
- Italy contacted Greece ;
- Lebanon took contact with Turkey ;
- And Morocco took contact with Palestine.

d) Support to the continuous training of young surveyors

UMG morally supported continuous training sessions organized by the Italian order of surveyors in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

e) Cooperation and professional partnership

Numerous professional cooperation and partnership actions can be underlined whether it be at the international level with the participation to the FIG works, the signature of the 2st partnership cooperation with UAG in 2011, the participation to the FGF meetings, or at the national level with the ONIGT support.

Besides, as foreseen by the action plan, the UMG supports the basic training of engineers surveyors and therefore has been taking part in the topographers students forum of the agronomical and veterinary institute of Hassan II In Rabat since 2013.

f) International relationships

UMG has developed cooperation links with the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM), The Moroccan government and the Parliamentary assembly for the Mediterranean (APM).

g) UMG 1st international congress

In conformity with the UMG statutes and following the meeting of 10 September 2014 in Montpellier, the UMG executive board decided to organize its 1st international congress in Morocco on the theme « **Mediterranean coastline : vector of dialogue and sustainable development** ». This congress was put under the High patronage of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI. A dedicated website was developed for the congress. 400 participants are expected coming from 22 countries (Africa, Europe and United States).

h) Prospects

Even if the UMG could not achieve all the actions foreseen by the plan of action, many achievements were fulfilled. President Hilali invited all the members to continue their efforts to :

- Extend the membership to other Mediterranean countries ;
- Further reinforce the actions of communication ;
- Create a network of experts (surveyors and geomaticians) as well as all the networks foreseen by the action plan ;
- Create a land observatory which will produce studies on land and spatial data infrastructure at the level of the Mediterranean countries ;
- Materialize the partnership between UPM and APM, as well as with other bodies ;
- Take part in the events organized by the UMG members and by the regional and international bodies, more specifically FIG;
- Call for funds necessary to develop the UMG actions.

i) Resolutions on new memberships

Jack Saade (Lebanon) informed the present members that Lebanon contacted Greece and Malta. These countries have expressed their wish that the UMG works more on the practical and strategic objectives and have underlined the fact that they don't have any financial means.

François Mazuyer (FGF president) indicated that Cyprus and Croatia had also been contacted by France. Those countries also expressed their financial difficulties. .

François Mazuyer consequently suggested to the general assembly to modify the statutes to enable those countries to become associated members.

Abdelaziz Nbiba (Tunisia) supports an opening of the UMG to new countries although the UMG has very few financial means.

Antoine Mansour (Lebanon) thanks the UMG president and ONIGT for their work to prepare this general assembly and the UMG 1st congress. He observes that despite the board efforts, the UMG still has 7 member countries. The UMG ambition should be to open up more to new members.

Mrs Dalal Alnaggar (Egypt) presents her congratulations and thanks president Hilali and ONIGT for their work. She recalls that Malta and Greece are members of other organizations and pay their membership fees. Some UMG members have been very affected from an economic point of view by the Arab spring such as Tunisia and Egypt.

Mr. Baaziz (Algeria) suggests that rich countries sponsor the countries which do not have enough financial means.

Mrs Dalal Alnaggar (Egypt) does not want that the UMG copies FIG model in which rich countries pay more.

Antoine Mansour (Lebanon) does not want that within the UMG one can talk about small and big countries. The only objective is to find as many members as possible.

François Mazuyer (FGF president) recalls that if we respect the statutes *stricto sensu*, only France, Lebanon, Italy and Morocco could be able to vote as they are the only countries up to date with their membership fees. He explains that we should be more friendly and pragmatic. He expresses a favourable opinion regarding the grant of the associated member statute to those countries with a very small symbolic membership fee and wishes that the modification of the statutes enabling this change is voted today so as not to postpone the decision to later. He suggests to maintain article 5a of the statutes and to modify article 5b as follows : « **Any national organization representative of the surveyors exercising their profession in private and liberal practice, in a company, in a private firm, within the national administration or in any public entity, could be admitted as Associate members. The associated members belonging to the Mediterranean basin and having the vocation for becoming full members cannot remain associated members more than 4 years.** »

Jack Saade (Lebanon) reminds that the members shall be active within an organization to be influential as the FGF members were for the FIG elections in Kuala Lumpur.

Sarkis Fadous (UAG president) expresses again UAG support to all the UMG actions and expresses also his willingness to keep the contacts with the Arab countries which are in the Mediterranean area to become UMG members.

Abdelaziz Nbiba (Tunisia) thinks that UMG and FIG cannot be compared and that voting right should be granted to all members. A membership is symbolically more worth than the effective amount of a fee.

François Mazuyer (FGF president) wonders if the fact that on the one hand associated members pay **50 euros** of fees without any voting right, and that on the other hand some full members benefit from a voting right but are not up to date with their fees, will not be a problem.

Président Hilali suggests to the general assembly to adopt the following **resolution 1**:

- *The UMG members are all favourable towards the increase of the number of members.*
- *The UMG member countries give their agreement in principle so that the 5 Mediterranean countries which have expressed their desire to become a UMG member as well as their economic difficulties (**Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Croatia, Palestine**) get their associated member statute during the length of a mandate (4 years) subject to the fact that these 5 countries apply for a formal membership.*
- *The UMG member countries give the possibility afterwards to these 5 countries to be represented at the board and to become full members in conformity with the statutes.*

- *The membership of FGF and UAG to the UMG as associated members.*

President Hilali invites the general assembly members to vote on the resolution 1 and to adopt the activity report.

The general assembly unanimously adopts:

- **The resolution 1**
- **The activity report**

2. Financial report

The financial report was presented by Mr. K. Yousfi, the UMG treasurer. The report is made of 7 main points :

- Introduction:** the treasurer recalls that the amount of the membership fee was set to 500 euros during the GA of Marrakesh in May 2011.
- Situation of the membership fees:** 4 member countries are up to their membership fees (France, Italy, Lebanon and Morocco).
- Other receipts:** the UMG did not benefit from any donation, or grant, or tax payment.
- Financial support to the 1st congress:** following the decision taken by the executive board in September 2014 and in January 2015, France, Lebanon and Italy have financed the congress up to 2500 euros per country. Morocco contributed up to 12000 euros.
- Budget of the congress :** the treasurer presented an up to date estimated table of the receipts and expenses. The balance sheet will be finalized after the congress and will be presented during the next general assembly for adoption.
- Analysis of the budget of the 1st congress :** the receipts come from the registrations, the location of the booths, the sponsors. No receipt is coming from international bodies and only half of the UMG member countries have financially contributed to the congress.
- Recommendations :** the treasurer recommends to the general assembly what follows :
 - Acting for the mobilization at the level of every country of financial means to achieve the UMG actions;
 - Building partnerships with international private firms to ensure a permanent financing of the UMG events;
 - Achieving common interest actions with international bodies.

After the debates, president Hilali suggested the following **resolution 2** :

- *The member countries which are not up to date with their membership fees, and in order to consider their participation in the regular GA, promise to remedy their membership fee for 2014 in a period not exceeding 6 months as from the date of the present general assembly. They also promise to remedy the rest of their membership fees within 3 years maximum.*

The President invites the members of the general assembly to decide on the resolution 2 and to adopt the financial report.

The general assembly unanimously adopts:

- **The resolution 2**
- **The financial report**

3. Presentation of the plan of action draft

The action plan for the mandate 2015-2019 was presented by the UMG general secretary Mr. Luc Lanoy (France). This project is made of 5 main actions:

- a) The membership of new members;
- b) The initial and continuous training;
- c) The portal for the coastline and the sea for the Mediterranean;
- d) The partnerships with international professional organizations;
- e) The UMG influence policy.

First of all, Antoine Mansour (Lebanon) asks to talk systematically about the 3 rivers of the Mediterranean and not only the northern and the southern rivers within the UMG.

Abdelaziz Nbiba (Tunisia) wishes that the action plan also refers to elements regarding the exercise of the profession, the size of companies, the quality of services...

President Hilali suggests to add a 6th point to the action plan on the exercise of the profession, the support to the private sector (to foresee collaborations between enterprises and to accompany the enterprises) and the organization of the profession in collaboration with FGF and UAG.

Antoine Mansour (Lebanon) reminds that there is a Montego Bay sea convention but this convention is not applicable to the Mediterranean. He invites the UMG to think about a new law for the Mediterranean and to promote its regional role.

The general assembly unanimously adopts the action plan for the mandate 2015-2019 which turns on the following actions:

- a) The membership of new members
- b) The initial and continuous training
- c) The portal of the coastline and the sea for the Mediterranean
- d) Partnerships with international professional bodies
- e) The UMG influence policy
- f) To incite the collaboration between private surveyors of the Mediterranean and to act for the organization of the profession in tandem with FGF and UAG.

4. Election of the UMG board

To enable a continuity in the actions led by the UMG, the executive board recommends to the general assembly to renew the current board in its integrity for a 2nd mandate for 4 years.

President Hilali reminds that the UMG shall be an independent entity attentive to its members which looks after the achievement of its actions by working in partnership with other regional and international bodies.

The general assembly unanimously approves the renewal of the current board for the mandate 2015-2019.

5. Date and venue of the UMG next general assembly

Antoine Mansour (Lebanon) suggests to organize the next UMG general assembly in parallel to the national congress of the Lebanese order of surveyors. The precise date and venue will be defined afterwards.

The general assembly unanimously adopts the organization of the UMG next general assembly in Lebanon in 2016, in parallel to the national congress of the Order of surveyors topographers in Lebanon.

6. Other issues

Mrs Dalal Alnaggar (Egypt) presents the regional conference of Charm **El Sheikh** which will take place 3-6 October 2015 on the theme « **Surveying and development** ».

Mrs Dalal Alnaggar requires the UMG moral support and asks the UMG members to massively take part in the **Charm El Sheikh** conference.

The general assembly unanimously adopts the moral support to the conference of Charm El Sheikh and the awareness of the member countries to massively take part in this conference.

President

Aziz Hilali

General Secretary

Luc Lanoy