



# MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



## XXXII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS REPORT

TAIPEI, TAIWAN  
24-26 June, 2022

Number 44

Co-authored by Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, Dr. Mariam Jashi and Dr. Chyong-Huey Lai

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## Message from MWIA President



Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi  
MWIA Substitute President (2019-2022)  
MWIA President 2022-2025

As President of the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA), it was my great pleasure to announce that the 32nd International Congress of MWIA would be held in Taipei, Taiwan from June 24 to 26, 2022. For the first time in the history of MWIA we held a hybrid Congress on account of the COVID -19 pandemic.

MWIA welcomed doctors, researchers, residents, medical students, and guests from all over the world in an exciting meeting of hearts and minds.

For over a hundred years, MWIA has directed its efforts towards empowering women in medicine and improving the health and well-being of women and girls and their communities worldwide and we have kept faith with the vision of our founders. We are now poised to launch into our next 100 years of prioritizing women's health needs in an equitable manner informed by research and data and driven by innovation.

I wish to appreciate MWIA Executive Committee, Taiwan LOC led by Dr. Sherry Lai, our esteemed members around the world as well as colleagues and staff who contributed to making the 32nd International Congress and the 2022 General Assembly of MWIA a success. My special thanks also to the Editorial Team for their hard work in putting this Congress report together.

I now invite you to read the 32nd Congress report, which is simply a snap shot of a very eventful time.

### MWIA History

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) is the oldest international organization working for the health, well-being and the rights of women and girls, and female medical professionals.

**MWIA was established in 1919 in New York City, New York, United States by 140 women physicians representing 15 countries**, including Argentina, Canada, China, England, France, Holland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Serbia, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay and United States. **Dr. Esther Lovejoy from the United States was elected as the First President of MWIA.**

**The 103 years of MWIA's history is well documented in the book of Dr. Dorothy Wards** "History of the Medical Women's International Association", that portrays the first visionaries and founders of the Association, as well as the continuous growth and institutional development of the organization over the decades.

**Today MWIA represents more than 12,000 Female Physicians from 70 countries across 8 geographic regions of the World.** Regional Vice Presidents coordinate the work of 40 Affiliated National Associations and Individual Members of MWIA across Northern, Central and Southern Europe, Near East and Africa, Central Asia, North America (Canada and the U.S.), Latin America and Western Pacific.

**MWIA was granted the consultative status of the World Health Organization (WHO) as early as 1954 and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1987.** For almost 70 years, the Association has contributed to elaboration of historic international treaties and resolutions for protecting and promoting the health, well-being and the rights of women and girls. As an NGO with consultative status, **MWIA regularly contributes to the work of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, including the most recent Written Statement for the upcoming 2023 CSW Session on the **Empowerment of Women and Girls in the Digital Era**. Currently MWIA is also participating in the WHO-led consultation process for negotiation and elaboration of a new **Global Treaty on the Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response**.

In addition to UN affiliations, MWIA will appoint and maintain permanent representatives at the **African Union (AU), European Women's Lobby (EWL), World Trade Organization (WTO), Council of International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) and Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)**. Through these platforms, MWIA regularly contributes to global and regional dialogue on the health and rights of women and girls, as well as female medical workers. Most recently, in 2022, MWIA Representatives contributed to the **EWL Directive on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence**.

## MWIA Mission Statement

### Mission of the Medical Women's International Association

*As enriched in MWIA Statutes and By-laws*

1. To promote the cooperation and general interests of Medical Women worldwide and to develop friendship and understanding among all Medical Women without regard to race, religion or political views.
2. To offer Medical Women the opportunity to meet so as to confer upon questions concerning the health and well-being of humanity.
3. To work actively towards equity and equality between female and male doctors in all aspects of their medical career.
4. To encourage worldwide a gender awareness of differences in health, health care and health research between women and men, and
5. To promote the empowerment of Medical Women and patients to work towards gender equity and equality.

## MWIA International Congresses

Since its 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress in London in 1924, MWIA has organized 32 Congresses with advocacy and scientific content echoing contemporary problems of women and female medical professionals. As an example, in 1947, after the World War II, MWIA delegates gathered in Amsterdam discussed responsibilities of Medical Women in the Reconstruction of the World as Physicians, Social Workers and Internationalists. The 1978 Congress in Berlin deliberated on Mass Media and Medicine, while the 2010 MWIA Congress focused on the Challenges and Opportunities of Globalization in Medicine. *For more details 32 International Congresses of MWIA, please see Table 1.*

**MWIA Congresses contributed substantially to networking among female physicians and establishment of national professional associations led by female doctors.** As an example, a Nigerian doctor attending the 1974 Congress in Brazil was inspired and empowered to establish the 1<sup>st</sup> medical women's association from black Africa in **Nigeria** in 1976. Even today, MWIA continues to grow and leaders of MWIA Associations in **Brazil, Georgia, Thailand and South Korea** are supporting their colleagues in different countries

of **Latin America, Europe, Asia and Western Pacific** to establish national associations of female medical professionals.

**MWIA's General Assemblies adopted Resolutions that constituted coherent advocacy platforms for its members at national, regional and global levels.** MWIA from its inception has had an important voice and influence on issues such as the work-life balance, maternity leave, career progression, fighting discrimination, mentoring of young medical doctors and students.

As early as in **1921 the MWIA Congress adopted a resolution on the “White slave traffic and cocaine and other drug trafficking”** requesting the League of Nations to insist on stronger government control of illegal drugs sales. After a series of MWIA Resolutions on equal pay for female physicians, in **1969 MWIA celebrated when the Australian medical women doctors won equal pay with their male colleagues.** National Associations in Africa and the Western Pacific based their advocacy work with Governments and non-state partners on the **Gender Mainstreaming and Gender-Based Violence Resolutions adopted by MWIA General Assemblies in Seoul (1989) and Sydney (2001).**

**Table 1. 32 MWIA International Congresses and Thematic Focus Areas**

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>1924</b>	<b>London, UK</b>	<b>Maternal Morbidity</b>
<b>2<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1929</b>	<b>Paris, France</b>	<b>Sex Instruction for Children and Adolescents. Analgesia in Midwifery.</b>
<b>3<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1934</b>	<b>Stockholm, Sweden</b>	<b>Physical Education - Birth Control</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>Edinburgh, Scotland</b>	<b>Cancer in Women and its Prevention. Maternal Mortality and Abortion</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1947</b>	<b>Amsterdam, Netherlands</b>	<b>Responsibilities of Medical Women in the Reconstruction of the World</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>Philadelphia, U.S.</b>	<b>Anemia in Women - Pathology and Hygiene of Housework</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1954</b>	<b>Gardone, Italy</b>	<b>The Menopause</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1958</b>	<b>London, UK</b>	<b>The Adolescent</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1963</b>	<b>Manila, Philippines</b>	<b>Parent Education and the Medical Practitioner</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1966</b>	<b>Rochester, USA</b>	<b>Optimal Utilization of Medical Women Power</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>Vienna, Austria</b>	<b>The Hungry Millions</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>Melbourne, Australia</b>	<b>The Health of Women in Industry</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>Paris, France</b>	<b>Toxoplasmosis</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1974</b>	<b>San Paolo, Brazil</b>	<b>Genetic and Environmental Factors affecting Human Health</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>Tokyo, Japan</b>	<b>Viral Infections and their Sequelae</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>Berlin, Germany</b>	<b>Mass Media and Medicine</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>Birmingham, UK</b>	<b>Medical Priorities in Developing, Progressive and Established Countries.</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>Manila, Philippine</b>	<b>Humane Management in Medicine.</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>Vancouver, Canada</b>	<b>Men and Women - Biological and Behavioural Differences</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>Sorrento, Italy</b>	<b>Problems of Adolescence - Medical and Psychosocial</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>Seoul, Korea</b>	<b>Incidence of Cancer in Women in Different Countries</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>Guatemala City, Guatemala</b>	<b>Health for All Children"</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>Hague, Netherlands</b>	<b>Women's Health in a Changing World.</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>San Paolo, Brazil</b>	<b>The Health of Women in the XXI Century</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>Sydney, Australia</b>	<b>Women's Health in a Multicultural World</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>Tokyo, Japan</b>	<b>Medicine in a New Life Style</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Accra, Ghana</b>	<b>Women in the World of Medicine</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Munster, Germany</b>	<b>Globalization in Medicine - Challenges and Opportunities</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Seoul, Korea</b>	<b>Medical Women Advance Global Health</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Vienna, Austria</b>	<b>Generation Y: Challenges of the Future for Female Medical Doctors</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>New York, US</b>	<b>Medical Women: Ambassadors of Change in a Challenging Global World</b>
<b>32<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Taipei, Taiwan</b>	<b>Young Women, Young Doctors – Your Inspiration, Our Future</b>



## Governance and Organizational Structure

**MWIA General Assembly (GA)** is the highest authority of the Association that meets every 3 years at the time of the **MWIA International Congresses** and elects a **new Executive Committee**, that becomes the governing body of the Association for a period of 3 years.

Members of MWIA Executive Committee include the **President, President Elect, Secretary General and Treasurer** of the Association. The leadership also includes **8 Regional Vice Presidents** that coordinate the work of 41 National Associations and Individual Members across **Northern, Central and Southern Europe, Near East and Africa, Central Asia, North America, Latin America and Western Pacific**. *Please see Table 3 on page 13 for the current list of MWIA National Associations and Individual Members per geographic regions.*

### MWIA Executive Committee for 2019-2022

Position of ExCo Member	Name of ExCo Member	Country Represented
President	Dr. Clarissa Fabre	UK/Australia
Substitute President	Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi (Nov 2019-Jun 2022)	Nigeria/UK
Past President	Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pflaiderer	Germany
President-elect	Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi	Nigeria/UK
Secretary General	Dr. Padmini Murthy	USA
VP Northern Europe	Dr. Elizabeth Lichtenstein	Sweden
VP Central Europe	Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei	Austria
VP Southern Europe	Dr. Antonella Vezzani	Italy
VP Near East and Africa	Dr. Christine Sadia	Kenya
VP North America	Dr. Vivien Brown	Canada
VP Latin America	Dra. Magda Carneiro-Sampaio	Brazil
VP Central Asia	Dr. Madakini Megh	India
VP Western Pacific	Dr. Desiree Yap	Australia

## MWIA Past Presidents 1919-2022

MWIA Past Presidents	Years
Esther POHL LOVEJOY*, U.S.A.	1919-1924
Lady Florence BARRETT*, U.K.	1924-1929
L. TUILLIER-LANDRY*, France	1929-1934
Alma SUNDQUIST*, Sweden	1934-1937
Louisa MARTINDALE*, U.K.	1937-1947
A. Charlotte RUYS*, Netherlands	1947-1950
Ada CHREE-REID*, U.S.A.	1950-1954
Jolanda TOSONI-DALAI*, Italy	1954-1958
Janet AITKEN*, U.K.	1958-1962
Fe del MUNDO, Philippines	1962-1966
Lore ANTOINE*, Austria	1966-1968
Lorna LLOYD-GREEN*, Australia	1968-1970
Leone McGREGOR HELLSTEDT*, Sweden	1970-1972
Alma Dea MORANI*, U.S.A.	1972-1974
Harumi ONO*, Japan	1974-1976
Helga THIEME*, Germany	1976-1978
Beryl D. CORNER*, UK	1978-1980
Joan M. REDSHAW*, Australia	1980-1982
Trinidad A. GOMEZ*, Philippines	1982-1984
Beverley TAMBOLINE, Canada	1984-1987
Fernanda DE BENEDETTI-VENTURINI*, Italy	1987-1989

MWIA Past Presidents	Years
Il Ok CHOO, Korea	1989-1992
Dorothy WARD, UK	1992-1995
Florence MANGUYU, Kenya	1995-1998
Lila STEIN KROSER,* USA	1998-2001
Shelley ROSS, Canada	2001-2004
Gabrielle Casper, Australia	2004-2007
Atsuko HESHIKI*, Japan	2007-2010
Afua AJ HESSE, Ghana	2010-2013
Kyung Ah PARK, Korea	2013-2016
Bettina Pfeleiderer, Germany	2016-2019
Clarissa Fabre, UK	2019-2020

\* *deceased*

## MWIA Committees and Special Interest Groups for 2019-2022 Triennium

Committees and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are the backbone of operationalizing MWIA policies and programmes in line with the Triennial Theme. For 2019-2022 Triennium MWIA had established **6 Committees, 3 Special Interest Groups/Working Groups and 10 Project Groups to work on governance aspects and different priority thematic areas of MWIA.** Please see Table 2 below for more details.

**Table 2.  
MWIA Committees, SIGs, Working Groups and Project Groups  
2019-2022 Triennium**

MWIA Committees	MWIA Project Groups
Finance Committee	Women's health and prevention of teenage pregnancy
Ethics and Resolutions	HPV vaccination and the elimination of cervical cancer
Scientific and Research	The prevention and treatment of postpartum haemorrhage
Communication and Social Media	Violence against women and girls / sexual harassment / cyber violence
Strategy and Advocacy	Facilitating career progression / work life balance
Awards Committee	Encouraging mentoring worldwide
MWIA Special Interest Groups/ Working Groups	Gender medicine
Young MWIA	Mental Health
WHO Special Interest Group	Menopause
Governance Working Group	Child health

Table 3

MWIA Organizational Chart and Geographic Representation

2019-2022 Triennium

President	Past President	President Elect	Secretary General	Treasurer
Dr. Clarissa Fabre (2019-2020)	Dr. Betina Pfleiderer	Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi	Dr. Padmini Murthy	Dr. Helen Goodyear
Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi (2020-2022)				

Northern Europe
Regional Vice President Dr. Elizabeth Lichtenstein
MWIA Associations
Denmark
Finland
Ireland
Netherlands

Central Europe
Regional Vice President Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei
MWIA Associations
Austria
Germany
Georgia
Switzerland
Russian Federation
Individual Members
Montenegro
Turkey

Southern Europe
Regional Vice President Dr. Antonella Vezzani
MWIA Associations
Belgium
France
Italy
Individual Members
Portugal

Near East and Africa
Regional Vice President Dr. Christine Sadia
MWIA Associations
Cameroon
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Kenya
Mali
Nigeria
Sierra Leone
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe
Individual Member
Qatar

Central Asia
Regional Vice President Dr. Mandakini Megh
MWIA Associations
India
Thailand
Individual Members
Pakistan
Malaysia

Latin America
Regional Vice President Dra. Magda Carneiro-Sampaio
MWIA Associations
Brazil
Ecuador
Peru
Individual Members
Argentina
Mexico
Nicaragua

North America
Regional Vice President Dr. Vivien Brown
MWIA Associations
Canada
United States

Western Pacific
Regional Vice President Dr. Desiree Yap
MWIA Associations
Australia
China
Hong Kong
Japan
South Korea
Philippines
Taiwan
Individual Members
New Zealand
Vietnam

# MWIA Membership for 2019-2022 Triennium

## National Associations

In 2019-2022 Triennium, MWIA was represented by its affiliated National Associations in the following 40 countries:

### NORTHERN EUROPE

#### **Denmark**

206 Members

##### Leadership

Dr. Margit Niebuhr

Dr. Mona Savran

#### **Finland**

Finnish Medical Women's Association Finland

204 Members

##### Leadership

Dr. Paula Pihlaja - President

Dr. Johanna Ajanki – National Coordinator (NC)

Dr. Tuula Saarela

#### **Ireland**

Women in Medicine in Ireland Network (WIMIN)

241 Members

##### Leadership

Dr. Sarah Fitzgibbon - Chairperson

Dr. Monica Mcweeney - President

#### **Netherlands**

Dutch Association of Medical Women (VNVA)

214 Members

##### Leadership

Dr. Lydia Ketting-Stroet - President

Dr. Geneviève Koolhaas - NC

#### **Sweden**

Swedish Medical Women's Association

700 Members

##### Leadership

Dr. Sofia Kühner - Chairperson

Dr. Agnes Andreasson – Vice Chair  
Hanna Klara Ninge - NC

### **United Kingdom**

Medical Women's Federation, UK  
546 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Prof Chloe Orkin - President

## **CENTRAL EUROPE**

### **Austria**

Organisation der Ärztinnen Österreichs  
105 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei – President and VP for Central Europe  
Dr. Edith Raffer – NC

### **Germany**

Deutscher Ärztinnenbund e.V. (Medical Women's Association Germany)  
1723 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Christiane Gross – President  
Dr. Jana Aulenkamp - NC Elect  
Dr. Eva K. Hennel - National Coordinator

### **Georgia**

Georgian Medical Women's Association (GMWA)  
17 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Nino Zhvania - President  
Marina Tsertsvadze - NC

### **Switzerland**

Medical Women Switzerland  
649 Members

#### Leadership

Dr Adelheid Schneider- Gilg - President  
Dr. Kadri Hunt

### **Russia**

#### Leadership

Dr. Olga Goncharova - President  
Dr. Larisa Skuratkovskaya

## SOUTHERN EUROPE

### **Belgium**

22 Members

#### Leadership

Prof. Dr Lieve Dams - President

Dr. Agnes Vermeulen - NC

Dr. Christine Pouliart - NC

### **Italy**

Associazione Italiana Donne Medico (AIDM)

390 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Antonella Vezanni - President

Dr. Silvana Capasso - NC

### **France**

l'**Association** Française des Femmes Médecins

French Association of Medical Women

#### Leadership

Dr Isabelle Gautier - President

Dr Brigitte Lecot - Secretary General

## NORTH AMERICA

### **Canada**

Federation of Medical Women of Canada

131 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Gigi Osler - President

Dr. Debra Boyce - Honorary Secretary

Dr. Anna Niec - NC

### **United States**

American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)

922 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber - President

Dr. Karen Poirer - NC

Dr. Eliza Chin - Executive Director

## LATIN AMERICA

### **Brazil**

ABMM - Associação Brasileira das Mulheres Médicas (Brazilian Medical Women's Association)

59 Members

#### Leadership



Elizabeth Giunco Alexandre – President/NC  
Magda Carneiro-Sampaio

### **Ecuador**

11 Members  
Gina Del Rosario - President/NC

### **Peru**

Asociación de Médicas del Perú  
Dra. Marlene Leon – President

## **NEAR EAST AND AFRICA**

### **Cameroon**

Cameroon Medical Women's Association (CMWA)  
10 Members  
Leadership  
Dr. Anne Esther Njom - President  
Dr Florence Tumasang - NC

### **Egypt**

41 Members  
Leadership  
Dr. Amany Asfour

### **Ethiopia**

Ethiopian Medical Women's Association (EMeWA)  
10 Members  
Leadership  
Dr. Ruth Demeke (NC)

### **Ghana**

Medical Women Association of Ghana (MWAG)  
67 Members  
Leadership  
Dr. Mary Amoakoh- Coleman – President  
Dr Richardar N A Taylor Dawson - NC  
Dr. Marion Okoh-Owusu – MWIA Lead

### **Kenya**

Kenya Medical Women's Association  
68 Members  
Leadership  
Dr. Christine Sadia – President

## **Mali**

### **Réseau Femmes Médecin (RFM) Women Medical Association of Mali**

30 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Fatoumata Nafo - Honorary President

Dr. Tenin Sanogo - NC

## **Nigeria**

Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN)

700 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Adekemi Otolorin – President

Dr. Daramola Gbemisola - NC

## **Sierra Leone**

SIERRA LEONE MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SLWMA)

#### Leadership

Dr Olabisi Claudius – Cole (President)

Dr. Melvina Thompson - Secretary General

## **Tanzania**

49 Members

#### Leadership

Dr Stella Rwezaura (NC)

## **Uganda**

10 Members

Association of Uganda Women Medical Doctors (AUWMD)

#### Leadership

Dr. Sarah Kiguli - President

Dr Brenda Allen Kawala (Vice President)

Dr Patience Amutuhaire Karugaba - General Secretary

Dr Donna Kabatesi - Treasurer

## **Zambia**

Medical Women's Association of Zambia

44 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Cheswa Vwalika - President

Dr. Joyce Sakala - Secretary General

## **Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe Women Doctors' Association

59 Members

#### Leadership

Dr Mwatsveruka Munhutu - President

## CENTRAL ASIA

### India

Association of Medical Women In India

100 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Yamini Alsi - President

Dr. Nalini Kurvey - NC

Dr Suvarna Khadilkar - NC

Dr Laxmi Srikhande - NC

### Thailand

The Thai Medical Women's Association Under The Royal Patronage of  
Her Majesty The Queen

125 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Mayura Kusum (President)

Dr. Darunee Buddhari - Foreign Affair

## WESTERN PACIFIC

### Australia

Australian Federation of Medical Women

265 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Magdalena Simonis - President and NC

### China

China Medical Women's Association CMWA

536 Members

#### Leadership

Prof. Jie Qiao – President

Wei Shuming (vice SG CMWA)

### Hong Kong (SAR of China)

Hong Kong Women Doctors Association (HKWDA)

265 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Cissy Yu - President

Dr. Josephine Ip - NC/Director

Dr. Amy Keung – NC

### Japan

Japan Medical Women's Association

1878 Members

#### Leadership

Dr. Yoshiko Meada - President and NC

## **Korea, Republic of**

Korean Medical Women's Association (KMWA)

1510 Members

### Leadership

Dr. Hyun-Wook Baik – President

SoonWon Hong – NC

## **Philippines**

Philippine Medical Women's Association (PMWA)

10 Members

### Leadership

Carmencita C. Lo - President

Dr. Vivina Chiu - NC, Vice president

## **Taiwan**

Taiwan Medical Women's Association

99 Members

### Leadership

Dr. Chyong-Huey Lai – President

Dr. Jung-Ju Huang – Secretary General/NC

## Individual Members

In the 2019-2022 Triennium, MWIA was represented by its Individual Members in the following 21 countries and territories of the world:

## **Algeria**

Focal Point(s):

Dr. Yamina Ouldhocine

## **Argentina**

Focal Point(s):

Dr. Kumiko Eiguchi

## **Cape Verde**

Focal Point(s):

Dr Antoneita Soares Martins

## **Guatemala**

Focal Point(s):

Dra. Elsa Martinez

## **Haiti**

Focal Point(s):

Dr. Marie Ginette Riviere Lubin

**Iran**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Zary Pouransary

**Kosovo**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Krenare Shabani

**Lithuania**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Jone Jackevicuite

**Malaysia**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Yew Fong Lee

**Mauritania**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Binta BA

**Mexico**

Focal Point(s):  
Dra. Verónica Rodríguez Torres

**Morocco**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Ilham Maaroufi

**Montenegro**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Gordana Rajovic  
Dr. Krenare Shabani

**New Zealand**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Margaret Maxwell  
Dr. Denise Watt

**Nicaragua**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Cecilia de Trinidad Barboza

**Pakistan**

Focal Point(s):  
Dr. Lubna Kamani

**Portugal**

Focal Point(s):

Dr Maria Moitinho de Almeida

Dr Ana Lousinha

**Turkey**

Focal Point(s):

Prof. Akdal-Halmagyi

**Qatar**

Focal Point(s):

Prof. Thurayya Arayssi

**Vietnam**

Focal Point(s):

Dr Zarin Siddiqu

**MEMBERS OF HONOUR OF MWIA**

<b>MWIA Honorary Members</b>	<b>Since</b>
Hertha M. DAX*; Austria	1982
Ruth BONNER*, Switzerland	1989
Rita LEVI-MONTALCINI, Italy	1989
Dr. Wariara MBUGU, USA	2007
The DAK Foundation (Australia)	2019

\* *deceased*

## HONORARY MEMBERS OF MWIA

MWIA Honorary Members	Since
Madame Marie CURIE*, France	1929
Berta VAN HOOSEN*, U.S.A	1947
Edna GUEST*, Canada	1950
Martha M. ELIOT*, U.S.A	1950
Catharina MAC FARLANE*, U.S.A	1950
Esther POHL LOVEJOY*, U.S.A	1950
Louisa MARTINDALE*, U.K.	1950
Honorina ACOSTA-SISON*, Philippines	1954
M.Pas MENDOZA GUAZON*, Philippines	1954
Ethlyn TRAPP*, Canada	1954
Paulette GAUTHIER-VILLAR*, France	1956
Luisa GIANFERRARI*, Italy	1956
A. Charlotte RUYS*, Netherlands	1958
Leone BAUMGARTNER, U.S.A	1962
Fe del MUNDO, Philippines	1968
Ada CHREE REID*, U.S.A	1970
Jolanda TOSONI DALAI*, Italy	1970
Janet AITKEN*, U.K.	1970
Lore ANTOINE*, Austria	1970
Lorna LLOYD-GREEN*, Australia	1972

MWIA Honorary Members	Since
Cicely D. WILLIAMS*, U.K.	1972
Lena OHNESORGE*, F.R.Germany	1972
Mother Anna DENGEL*, Austria/Italy	1972
Mary ESSLEMONT*, U.K.	1974
Leone McGREGOR HELLSTEDT*, Sweden	1974
Lola VILAR, Spain	1974
Alma Dea MORANI*, U.S.A.	1976
Rosa Lee NEMIR*, U.S.A.	1976
Hildegard STOLTZ*, Brazil	1976
Minerva S. BUERK, USA	1978
Gabrielle HENRY*, France	1978
Isobel ROBERTSON, South Africa	1978
Harumi ONO*, Japan	1980
Helga THIEME*, Germany	1980
Katharine W. WRIGHT*, U.S.A.	1980
Beryl D. CORNER*, U.K.	1982
Märtha HOLMSTRÖM*, Sweden	1982
Martha KYRLE*, Austria	1982
Joan REDSHAW*, Australia	1984
Frances A. SANO*, Hawaii	1984
Trinidad A. GOMEZ*, Philippines	1987
Barbara McCLINTOCK, USA	1987



MWIA Honorary Members	Since
Beverley TAMBOLINE, Canada	1989
Fernanda DE BENEDETTI-VENTURINI, Italy	1992
Il Ok CHOO, Korea	1995
Vibeke JÖRGENSEN, Denmark	1995
Catrin WILLIAMS*, U.K.	1995
Rinko YAMAZAKI, Japan	1995
Carolyn MOTZEL, Germany	1998
Dorothy WARD, UK	1998
Florence W. Manguyu	2001
May Cohen, Canada	2007
Shelley Ross, Canada	2007
Waltraud Diekhaus*, Germany	2007
Joan Ford, Canada	2010
Gabrielle Casper, Australia	2010
Margaret Maxwell, New Zealand	2013
Susanne Close, Australia	2013
Deborah Colville, Australia	2013
Kyung Ah Park, Korea	2016
Afua A J Hesse, Ghana	2016
Ameyor Adadevor, Nigeria posthumously)*	2016
Cisca Griffioen, The Netherlands	2019
Bettina Pfleiderer, Germany	2019

MWIA Honorary Members	Since
Christiane Pouliart, Belgium	2019
Satty Gill Keswani, USA	2019
Rebeca Kuniyoshi, Peru	2019
Usha Saraiya, India	2019
Shafika Nasser, Egypt	2019
Bong Ok Kim, Korea	2019
Robyn Hewland*, New Zealand	2019

\* *deceased*

# MWIA 32<sup>nd</sup> International Congress Report

Submitted by Chyong-Huey Lai, MD  
Chair, Local Organizing Committee of MWIA 2022  
President, Taiwan Medical Women's Association

Congress Website: <https://www.mwia2022.net/>



Program Book: [https://www.mwia2022.net/downloads/MWIA2022\\_Program\\_Book.pdf](https://www.mwia2022.net/downloads/MWIA2022_Program_Book.pdf)

## **Introduction**

The Taiwan Medical Women's Association (TMWA) was honored to host the 32nd International Congress of MWIA and the 2022 General Assembly from June 24-26, 2022, in Taipei, Taiwan.

As of June 2022, the world was fighting against Covid-19 and in view of the constraints posed the pandemic, the Congress was held as a hybrid event.

The Taiwan Medical Women Association was delighted to welcome over 700 doctors, researchers, residents, students and guests from 37 countries in person in Taiwan as well as on-line.

**32nd International Congress of MWIA  
Program at a Glance**

<b>Day 1 ( Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 )</b>								
Central European Summer Time (UTC+2)	Eastern Daylight Time (UTC-4)	Taiwan Time (UTC+8)	201BCDE	101AB	101C	101D		
02:00-03:00	Jun. 23 20:00-21:00	08:00-09:00	Registration					
03:00-03:45	21:00-21:45	09:00-09:45	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> Room: 201BCDE					
03:45-04:30	21:45-22:30	09:45-10:30	<b>Plenary Session 1</b> Topic: My 'Sweet' Journey to Cancer Immunotherapy Moderator: Dr. Eleanor Ann Nwadinobi Speaker: Dr. Alice L. Yu Room: 201BCDE					
04:30-06:00	22:30-00:00 (Jun. 24)	10:30-12:00	<b>Lunch Symposium - MSD</b> Topic: Prevention of HPV-Related Cancer in Taiwan Moderators: Prof. Tsai Eing-Mei, Prof. Angel Chao Speakers: Prof. Pei-Jen Lou, Prof. Chyong-Huey Lai, Prof. Julia Brotherton Room: 201BCDE					
06:00-06:10	00:00-00:10	12:00-12:10	Break					
06:10-06:50	00:10-00:50	12:10-12:50	<b>Oral Poster 1</b>	<b>Oral Poster 2</b>				
06:50-07:00	00:50-01:00	12:50-13:00	Break					
07:00-08:30	01:00-02:30	13:00-14:30	<b>Scientific Session 01</b> Work-Life Balance of Women Doctors	<b>Oral 01</b> Child Health/ Protection/ Empowerment of Girls	<b>Oral 02</b> Environmental and Occupational Medicine/ Family and Workplace Violence	<b>Oral 03</b> Medical Education/ Training	Poster/ Exhibition	
08:30-08:45	02:30-02:45	14:30-14:45	Break					
08:45-10:15	02:45-04:15	14:45-16:15	<b>Scientific Session 02</b> Mandating Sex and Gender Health Education in Medical Schools: What Can We Learn From Global Efforts	<b>Scientific Session 03</b> Prenatal and Newborn Screening & Genetic Disorders	<b>Oral 04</b> Surgery & Urology	<b>Oral 05</b> Internal Medicine: Gastroenterology/ Hepatology/ Nephrology/ Neurology/ Emergency Medicine		
10:15-12:15	04:15-06:15	16:15-18:15	<b>General Assembly 1</b> Room: 201BCDE					

## Day 1 ( Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 )

Central European Summer Time (UTC+2)	Eastern Daylight Time (UTC-4)	Taiwan Time (UTC+8)	201BCDE	101AB	101C	101D
12:15-13:45	06:15-07:45	18:15-19:45	<b>Scientific Session 04</b> Women Doctors Endangered at the Workplace, Training on Violence at the Workplace	<b>Scientific Session 05</b> Precision Medicine in Women's Cancer: Leave No Actionable Mutation Behind	<b>Oral 06</b> Gender Medicine, Work-Life Balance, Leadership and Mentoring	<b>yMWIA</b>
13:45-15:15	07:45-09:15	19:45-21:15	<b>Scientific Session 06</b> Women Physicians and Social Media: Advocacy and Education	<b>Oral 07</b> Epidemiology and Public Health	<b>Oral 08</b> Internal Medicine: General Medicine/ Metabolism/ Endocrinology/ Nuclear Medicine	<b>Oral Poster 3</b>
15:15-15:30	09:15-09:30	21:15-21:30	Break			
15:30-16:15	09:30-10:15	21:30-22:15	<b>Keynote Speech 1</b> Topic: Build Back Fairer Moderator: Prof. Chyong-Huey Lai Speaker: Prof. Sir Michael Marmot Room: 201BCDE			

Day 2 ( Saturday, June 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 )								
CEST (UTC+2)	EDT (UTC-4)	Taiwan Time (UTC+8)	201BCDE	101AB	101C	101D		
01:30-02:00	Jun. 24 19:30-20:00	07:30-08:00	Registration					
02:00-03:30	20:00-21:30	08:00-09:30	<b>Scientific Session 07</b> Medical Women in Policy Making and Public Affairs	<b>Scientific Session 08</b> Women's Roles in Medical Education - Challenges and Opportunities	<b>Scientific Session 09</b> Infectious Disease- Emerging Infection Diseases COVID-19 and Enteroviruses	<b>Scientific Session 13</b> Women Doctors as Positive Strengths in Oncology		
03:30-04:00	21:30-22:00	09:30-10:00	Break					
04:00-05:30	22:00-23:30	10:00-11:30	<b>Plenary Session 2</b> Topic: A World with COVID-19 Resilience Moderators: Prof. Dr. Padmini Murthy, Dr. Chien-Jen Chen Speakers: Dr. Chien-Jen Chen, Prof. Chang-Chun Chan, Prof. Dale Fisher Room: 201BCDE					
05:30-07:00	23:30-01:00 (Jun. 25)	11:30-13:00	<b>Lunch Symposium - Gilead</b> Serving the Patients - Our Commitment in HBV, HCV, and HIV Moderators: Prof. Huey-Ling Chen, Prof. Ming-Ling Chang Speakers: Prof. Grace LH Wong, Prof. Ayano Inui, Dr. Kuan-Yeh Lee	<b>Lunch Symposium - Viatris</b> Fibromyalgia: Past, Present, and Future Moderator: Prof. Yih-Ru Wu Speaker: Dr. Hsiu-Chuan Wu	<b>Lunch Symposium - Amgen</b> A Key to Healthy Aging - Prevention and Treatment of Osteoporosis in Women Moderator: Dr. Jawl-Shan Hwang Speaker: Dr. Hai-Hua Chuang		Poster/ Exhibition	
07:00-08:30	01:00-02:30	13:00-14:30	<b>Scientific Session 10</b> Unplanned Teenage Pregnancy and Contraception	<b>Scientific Session 11</b> How Women Experience Neurologic Diseases Differently Than Men?	<b>Scientific Session 12</b> Infectious Disease- Viral Hepatitis	<b>Oral 09</b> Obstetrics and Gynecology		
08:30-09:00	02:30-03:00	14:30-15:00	Break					
09:00-09:45	03:00-03:45	15:00-15:45	<b>Plenary Session 3</b> Topic: Women, Science and Leadership Moderator: Dr. Helen Goodyear Speaker: Prof. Silvia Sara Canetto Room: 201BCDE					
09:45-10:00	03:45-04:00	15:45-16:00	Break					
10:00-11:30	04:00-05:30	16:00-17:30	<b>General Assembly 2</b> Room: 201BCDE					
11:30-12:00	05:30-06:00	17:30-18:00	Break					
12:00-14:30	06:00-08:30	18:00-20:30	Gala Dinner (Grand Hyatt Taipei)					

Day 3 (Sunday, June 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2022)								
CEST (UTC+2)	EDT (UTC-4)	Taiwan Time (UTC+8)	201BCDE	101AB	101C	101D		
01:30-02:00	Jun. 25 19:30-20:00	07:30-08:00	Registration					
02:00-02:45	20:00-20:45	08:00-08:45	<b>Keynote Speech 2</b> Topic: The Economic Development in Taiwan & Women's Economic Empowerment Moderator: Prof. Susan Shur-Fen Gau Speaker: Minister Mei-Hua Wang Room: 201BCDE					Poster/ Exhibition
02:45-03:30	20:45-21:30	08:45-09:30	<b>Keynote Speech 3</b> Topic: Time to See the World Through a Gender/ Sex Lens Moderator: Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfeleiderer Speaker: Dr. Saralyn Mark Room: 201BCDE					
03:30-04:00	21:30-22:00	09:30-10:00	Break					
04:00-05:30	22:00-23:30	10:00-11:30	<b>Scientific Session 14</b> Returning the Healthy Breasts to Young Breast Cancer Women	<b>Scientific Session 15</b> Education Innovation and Frontiers of Research in Dentistry	<b>Scientific Session 16</b> Women in Palliative Care	<b>Oral Poster 4</b>		
05:30-07:00	23:30-01:00 (Jun. 26)	11:30-13:00	<b>Lunch Symposium - AstraZeneca</b> Precision Medicine in Gynecologic Cancers Moderators: Prof. Chyong-Huey Lai, Prof. Peng-Hui Wang Speakers: Prof. John K. Chan, Prof. Ruby Yun-Ju Huang	<b>Lunch Symposium - Allergan</b> Craft Patient Extraordinary! Applied JUVÉDERM Collections for Optimized Patient Outcome and Highlight Their Individuality Moderator: Dr. Sindy Hu Speakers: Dr. Wei Ting Chang, Dr. Hsiao En Yu				
07:00-08:30	01:00-02:30	13:00-14:30	<b>Scientific Session 17</b> Eye and New Vision in Ophthalmology	<b>Scientific Session 18</b> Applying 'Gender Lens' on Mental Health Research and Practice: Cross-cultural Analysis	<b>Scientific Session 19</b> Update in Dermatology	<b>Oral 10</b> Psychiatry		
08:30-10:00	02:30-04:00	14:30-16:00	<b>General Assembly 3</b> Room: 201BCDE					
10:00-10:45	04:00-04:45	16:00-16:45	<b>Plenary Session 4</b> Topic: Empowerment and the Narrative of Women in Health Care Moderator: Dr. Desiree Yap Speaker: Dr. Heidi Stensmyren Room: 201BCDE					
10:45-11:00	04:45-05:00	16:45-17:00	Break					
11:00-12:00	05:00-06:00	17:00-18:00	<b>Awards &amp; Closing Ceremony</b> Room: 201BCDE					
13:00-15:30	07:00-09:30	19:00-21:30	MWIA Executive Committee Meeting (Grand Hyatt Taipei)					

## Congress Highlights

### Pre-Congress Hospital Tour

On June 23, 2022, the pre-congress tour was arranged for congress delegates to visit Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Linkou Branch. Founded in 1978, Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (CGMH) is a JCI accredited, multi-specialty, tertiary referral medical center situated in Taiwan. CGMH has been listed among one of the largest, most prestigious, medical and educational centers in Asia, containing nearly 4,000 beds and a total of 29 specialty centers. Not only trained local doctors and medical professionals, the hospital has trained more than 1,700 practicing physicians from 75 different countries in the last decade up to now.



**Visit Chang Gung Memorial Hospital**





**Hospital Introduction to guests in a meeting room well prepared with adequate spacing to fit COVID regulations**



**Welcome and hospital introduction by the congress chair Prof Chyong-Huey Lai**



**Introduction of Proton Therapy and Other Radiotherapy  
at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital**

## Welcome Reception

The welcome reception was hosted by the TMWA in “Taipei Guest House”, in honor of the beautiful 100-year history of MWIA and its international nature of the MWIA 2022. “Taipei Guest House” has a history of more than 100 years since after its renovation to its current form. The elegant “Taipei Guest House” is a western style mansion with a Japanese bungalow. The Baroque Revival architecture with the mixture of England, Franc and Japanese inner decoration has been there, helping all the former leaders and presidents of Taiwan to host distinguished guests and finish historical tasks of Taiwan. The mixture of Western and Eastern beauty is just like medical women, who are with an elegant, soft yet firm mind, full of tolerance, appreciation, and acceptance.

The local committee invited Taipei First Girls’ High School Alumnae Wind Ensemble (TFGAWE) which comprises outstanding female players to give a wonderful performance, underscores the excellence of the outstanding women.



**International congress delegates from all over the world**



**International congress delegates from all over the world**



**Prof. Chyong-Huey Lai gave welcome remarks on behalf of the organizing committee of MWIA 2022**

**Welcome remarks from Mr. Tien, Chung-kwang,  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Chancellor**



**Welcome remarks from Dr. Eleanor Ann Nwadinobi  
President of MWIA**





**Welcome remarks from Prof. Dr. Padmini Murthy  
Secretary-General of MWIA**



**A soprano solo by a medical Woman, a pediatrician.**

### Opening Ceremony, Keynote and Plenary Speeches

The scientific program of MWIA 2022 kicked off with international flag displayed by women medical students, following with the opening remark by the local congress Chair, Prof. Chyong-Huey Lai, Dr. Eleanor Ann Nwadinobi - President of MWIA, President of Taiwan Medical Association Dr. Tai-Yuan Chiu, legislator Dr. Lin Ching-Yi, and President of Taiwan, Dr. Tsai Ing-Wen.

Dr. Heidi Stensmyren who is the president of World Medical Association send her opening remark virtually.

Taiwan as one of the most advanced countries with women’s right, our female president, Dr Tsai Ing-Wen specifically mentioned the policy of enhancing women and children’s health and how much the whole country contributed.





**Group Photo during the opening ceremony**



**Opening remarks from Prof. Chyong-Huey Lai**





**Opening remarks from Dr. Eleanor Ann Nwadinobi**



**Opening remarks from President of Taiwan Medical Association Dr. Tai-Yuan Chiu and Legislator Dr. Lin Ching-Yi**



**Opening remarks from Dr. Heidi Stensmyren, President of World Medical Association**



**Opening remarks from the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Dr. Tsai Ing-Wen**



**Plenary speech entitled “My ‘Sweet’ Journey to Cancer Immunotherapy”  
given by Dr. Alice Yu**



**Keynote Speech “Build Back Fairer” given by Prof. Sir Michael Marmot**



**Plenary speech “A World with COVID-19 Resilience” delivered by Dr. Chien-Jen Chen, Prof. Chang-Chun Chan and Prof. Dale Fisher**



**Plenary Speech “Science and Leadership” delivered by Prof. Silvia Sara Canetto**



**The Minister of Ministry of Economic Affairs Ms. Mei-Hua Wang gave a talk on “The Economic Development in Taiwan & Women's Economic Empowerment”**



### **Keynote speech from Dr. Saralyn Mark**

#### **“Time to See the World Through a Gender/ Sex Lens”**



### **Dr. Heidi Stensmyren’s speech on**

#### **“Empowerment and the Narrative of Women in Health Care”**

#### **Concurrent Sessions**

Four concurrent tracks with 19 scientific sessions focused on work-life balance of women doctors, medical education, teenage pregnancy and contraception, medical women in policy making and public affairs, women’s health, cutting-edge health issues and practices, leadership and professional development, etc.

For more information on scientific program, please click here:

<https://www.mwia2022.net/programDaily.asp>

**MINUTES OF 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MWIA)**

June 24-26, 2022  
Venue: Taipei, Taiwan  
Format: Hybrid

Note on GA Format: on account of the COVID-19 pandemic a hybrid Congress and General Assembly were held. MWIA GA delegates were attending in person in Taipei, Taiwan or through virtual meeting links that were shared in advance with all registered delegates.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION 1 (GA1)**

June 24, 2022

Time: 16:30-18:00 (GMT+8)/10:30-12:00 (UTC+2)/ 04:30-06:00 (UTC-4)

**1. Call to Order and Welcome Message**

- The General Assembly was called to order by the Substitute President Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, who welcomed the 2022 MWIA International Congress and General Assembly and expressed hope that after the pandemic MWIA members could again have the possibility of meeting in person.
- Dr. Nwadinobi Presiding the General Assembly based on the By-Laws Article 6, stressed the importance of the Supremacy of the Statutes and By-Laws. She requested all GA delegates to have the 2019 GA-endorsed Statutes and By-Laws before them for ease of reference and to substantiate any submission during the GA with relevant sections from the document.
- The Substitute President noted that there would be no voting on matters that are in controversy to the Statutes and By-Laws. She requested delegates to declare if any of the delegates were not willing to undertake to abide by MWIA Statutes or By-Laws and no declarations were made.
- Finally, she expressed special gratitude to MWIA ExCo members, Taiwan Medical Women's Association and the Local Organizing Committee who have made sure that the GA proceedings would be seamless. The colleagues mentioned above have arranged everything possible for fair, free and credible process for the voting. Furthermore, Dr. Nwadinobi noted that independent scrutineers/observers were appointed in case any conflict of interest would be declared by independent observers.

**2. The Roll Call**

- The Roll Call for the General Assembly session was taken by the Secretary General Dr. Padmini Murthy. She confirmed attendance of the following ExCo Members and GA delegates in person and on-line:

- **10 ExCo members:** Dr. Nwadinobi - Substitute President; Dr. Pfleiderer – Past-President; Dr. Goodyear- Treasurer; Dr. Murthy – Secretary General (SG); Dr. Vezzani - Vice-President (VP) Southern Europe; Dr. Yap – VP Western Pacific; Dr. Sadia - VP Near East and Africa; Dr. Lichtenstein - VP Northern Europe; Dr. Megh - VP Central Asia; Dr. Brown – VP North America. (Absent with apology: Dr. Vescei – VP Central Europe and Dr. Sales Carneiro - VP Latin America).
- **GA delegates from 17 countries across 7 geographic regions** (in the order of the Roll Call): Australia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Nigeria, Germany, UK, India, USA, Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, Sweden, Hong Kong, Canada, Georgia.

### 3. In Memorial

- The Secretary General Dr. Padmini Murthy and Dr. Desiree Yap – VP Western Pacific honoured the memory of Dr. Robyn Hewland, the esteemed colleague from New Zealand, who for many years has actively served as an Individual Member and contributor to the MWIA's work. The General Assembly delegates honored Dr. Robyn Hewland with a moment of silence.

### 4. Report of the President

- The Substitute President summarized her Account of the 2019-2022 Triennium with the Theme of Young Women and Young Doctors. She thanked MWIA's members for their dedication in every country and that despite the COVID-19 Pandemic and the floods that affected Belgium, Germany, India, Netherlands and UK, Article 25 of the Statutes which allows the Association to suspend its activities during the disasters, was never invoked and MWIA did not interrupted its activities.
- As the 1<sup>st</sup> Nigerian to be made a President of MWIA, Dr. Nwadinobi has received number of high-level recognitions in her home country as well as international awards. She further summarized the high-level advocacy events and meetings that she attended to increase the Association's visibility during the triennium as the Substitute President, including the meetings with the UN Secretary General, President of Ghana, UN Deputy-Secretary General, and Director General of World Trade Organisation. Dr. Nwadinobi briefed the GA delegates on the high-level international meetings where she participated as the Guest Speaker and on her media engagements in China, Panama, Korea and other countries. Complete Account of the Stewardship from the Substitute President had been shared with GA delegates.
- Dr. Nwadinobi stressed the importance of the MWIA's registration as an NGO. She emphasized that the 2022 GA was the opportunity to approve the relevant Statutes alterations to enable MWIA to meet the requirements and to conclude the Swiss registration in a legally compliant manner. The Substitute President also noted that in the future, MWIA would need to seek the services of Constitutional Lawyers for modernizing the Statutes and By-Laws.
- Finally, she pledged her commitment, building on her 40 years of experience as a MWIA



member, to take MWIA to a greater height in line with the Association's motto – healing with the spirit of a mother. Please see pages 53-57 for the complete Account of Stewardship by MWIA President.

## **5. Report of the Secretary General**

- The Secretary General noted that her work was recognized by the US President Joe Biden, and emphasized that the achievements of MWIA activities were the result of the team collaboration. She reported that she had the privilege to participate as AMWA representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women, as due to registration issues, she could not represent MWIA. She thanked Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer and Dr. Marissa Daniels, Dr. Khatuna Kaladze and Dr. Bev Johnson for their leadership in renewal of the MWIA web-site. She also thanked Dr. Desiree Yap and Dr. Antonella, and other Vice Presidents for their contributions.
- The Secretary General summarized the major achievements over the last triennium, including: (a) Re-incorporation of MWIA in 2020 after losing its incorporation status in Switzerland; (b) new feature of the Newsletter, which is published on a monthly basis and sent out to members on a mail chimp; (c) organization of webinars on COVID-19 on behalf of AMWA with participation of several national association meetings.
- She reminded GA delegates that Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy established MWIA in the spirit of sisterhood and she thanked the Taiwan Medical Women's Association for the exceptional organization of the Congress. She commended the work of Taiwan colleagues who ensured that the President of the country addressed the delegates of MWIA International Congress at the Opening Ceremony.
- Dr. Padmini Murthy noted that in spite of efforts of Past President, Secretary General, Treasurer and requests from 14 national associations, Extraordinary General Assembly could not happen to address the registration issues of MWIA. She emphasized that MWIA is not registered in Switzerland or any other country and that the latter had affected MWIA's affiliation with UN agencies and participation in UN meetings.
- She noted lack of collegiality, unprofessional behavior and criticism. Unfortunately, MWIA had a lot of issues and informed the delegates that the Swiss bank account was frozen. She thanked Dr. Goodyear and Dr. Pfleiderer, without whom MWIA would have been facing even bigger challenges.
- Her recommendations for the future included the following: (a) ExCo needs to work as soon as possible for getting MWIA registered as an NGO according to the Swiss Law; (b) MWIA should promote respectful, professional and equitable environment for women; (c) MWIA is a democratic institution and the will of the majority of ExCo should prevail, and (d) modernizing MWIA by using technologies for voting and convening of the meetings.
- Finally, SG noted that over the last few weeks members of MWIA ExCo and LOC had gone through sleepless nights to organize every detail for the meeting and electronic voting. She concluded that the work has been the testimony of the exceptional dedication of colleagues to the work of MWIA.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

- Dr. Helen Goodyear - MWIA Treasurer for 2019-2022 shared her presentation on the financial reports of MWIA, including the review of independent examiners (Dains LLP, UK) for the fiscal year ending in June 2021. She noted that the examiners raised no concerns with regards to the MWIA financial reports.
- Dr. Goodyear presented income vs. expenditures and balances for 2020 and 2021 fiscal years and her recommendations for 2022-2023.
- In 2020 MWIA's income was 102,959 CHF, including 84,645 CHF through subscriptions and 18,134 CHF from the donation of the Vivienne Brown's book sales. In 2020 MWIA's expenditures amounted to 53,899 CHF and the balance carried over was 1,313,672 CHF. In 2021, MWIA had an income of 84,610 CHF, mostly through subscriptions and expenditure record of 48,248 CHF. The balance at the end of the fiscal year was 1,433,960 CHF, including 1,313,672 CHF carry over from 2021 and a surplus of 120,288. Dr. Goodyear noted that despite the stock markets going down, MWIA still had a healthy financial situation.
- The treasurer noted that 2019-2022 ExCo has re-activated MWIA's Funds that were dormant for a number of years and during the 2022 GA Awards from the special MWIA funds would be granted to colleagues. She presented the financial balance for each fund – General Funds, Lovejoy/Jubilee Fellowships, Morani Fund, Dr. Leone McGregor Hellstedt, Dr. *Märtha Holmstöm*'s Fund. The Horani and Harumi Ono Fund, Bellagio meeting and the training manuals Fund, the Waltraud Diekhaus Fund, and the Scholarship Fund. The treasurer noted that there is a good guidance is available on the web-site re: MWIA Funds.
- She shared recommendations for modernizing the banking system for MWIA management (including payment of dues through web-site), electronic banking with 365-day access to financial statements, need for strict financial controls not to be exposed to corruption and potential embezzlement, and for keeping the current annual membership fees unchanged.
- In response to Ghana delegate questions, the Treasurer confirmed that in Schroder's account MWIA had 319,375 CHF frozen with no access to funds. The rest of the MWIA accounts are in TD banks in the US, limited funds in Canada and Europe. She expressed gratitude to Secretary General and Past President for their support in operating the American and Euro accounts. She also noted that MWIA had substantial cash in its accounts, which has not been invested at a time when the stock market was good.
- Her answer to Nigerian delegate, clarified that extra legal fees were paid for Swiss registration related services and re-incorporation of MWIA.
- Finally, Dr. Goodyear while responding to other questions, re-confirmed that the 2021 financial examinations were not official audits, as in order to call it an Audit report, ExCo had to pay double amount of fees. But she reassured GA delegates that the practice and formats used by different Treasurers was followed for this purpose.

## **7. Voting Procedures<sup>1</sup>**

- Following a debate on unintentional mis-communication on the voting procedures between the Treasurer and delegates from UK and Canada, President Nwadinobi noted that time has come for MWIA to have a clearly written and endorsed Code of Conduct. In this respect, she thanked Dr. Christine Sadia and Dr. Desiree Yap for their work on the Governance Committee and for development of a beautiful document on Governance that the incoming ExCo would look at.
- The President brought to the attention of GA, that ballots for electronic voting were sent before she has officially opened the General Assembly on June 24 at 16:30 Taiwan Time. She noted that according to the Statutes Articles 8 and 10 and the By-Laws Articles 8 and 17, voting cannot commence until after the GA is called to order and the quorum is confirmed with at least 100 delegates.
- Also, she noted that based on earlier agreement only the test run of the ballots should have been shared before the GA, while the actual voting could only happen after the official commencement of the General Assembly.
- ExCo and LOC members explained their decision to send out the ballots before the GA due to the first electronic arrangements of the voting and the significant time differences for country delegates. Dr. Sherry Lai further confirmed that out of 239 votes sent, 114 had already voted, indicating that members had participated in the pre-GA voting process (> 100 votes).
- After a considerable deliberation, GA delegates reaffirmed that even if 100% of ExCo has taken the decision, their decision must conform to the Statutes and By-Laws of the organization. Furthermore, based on the GA recommendations, ExCo and LOC voided the previous votes, agreed that fresh ballots would be sent out for President-Elect candidates and the electronic voting system would be open from 8 PM of June 24 through 8 AM of June 25.

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### **<sup>1</sup> The Voting Procedure shared with Delegates before the General Assembly**

Procedure for voting for officers for the 2022- 2025 triennium and the resolutions will be sent to the National Association leadership and a trial run of the electronic voting system will be sent out as well in advance and each national organization in good standing will receive the number of votes they can cast, and this depends on the number of members in each association as indicated below.

10-20 members equals 1 vote  
21-40 members equals 2 votes  
41-60 members equals 3 votes  
61-80 members equals 4 votes  
81-100 members equals 5 votes  
101-500 members equals 7 votes  
501-1000 members equals 10 votes  
1001-1500 members equals 15 votes  
1501-2000 members equals 20 votes which is the maximum number per association.

A 2/3 majority is required on the first round of voting for the candidate to be elected. If this majority is not obtained after the first ballot a second ballot is taken and the candidate obtaining the highest number of votes is elected.

## **8. Presentation of Candidates for President-Elect in Alphabetical Order**

- Dr. Amany Asfour (Egypt) and Dr. Neena Modi (UK), the two candidates for the President-Elect were given time to present their pre-recorded video speeches. Both candidates presented their vision on further development and strengthening of the organization in line with its legacy and the potential for expanded network, partnerships and focus on priority programmes.
- GA delegates were reminded that the ballots for voting for the candidates of the President-Elect would be sent out later that day and the voting system would be open from 8 PM of June 24 through 8 AM of June 25.

## **9. GA1 Adjournment**

- President Nwadinobi called for adjournment of the meeting. Dr. Coleman supported the motion and Dr. Ogu seconded.

## ACCOUNT OF STEWARDSHIP BY DR ELEANOR NWADINOBÌ - PRESIDENT MWIA

### **1.0 ASSUMPTION OF PRESIDENCY 24/11/2019**

**1.1** My ascendancy to the position of MWIA President came early on account of the unexpected resignation of my predecessor Dr Clarissa Fabre November 24th 2019

**1.2** I understood my mandate to be derived from General Assembly, answerable to members. Not ceremonial, but policy and strategy lead, defend our time-time-honored constitution and live up to my responsibilities as substitute President

**1.3** It was heartwarming to be celebrated by my national Association, the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN); the wife of the governor of my home state, Abia state, Her Excellency Mrs. Nkechi Ikpeazu. Saint Matthews Anglican Church, Professor Lovett Lawson, Chairman, Zankli Medical Centre, Abuja and his wife, an active MWAN member, Dr Olufunke Lawson, Vice- Chair and Consultant Paediatrician, Zankli Medical Centre, Abuja. I was also presented to His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, by Dame Pauline Tallen, the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs.

### **2.0 ACTIVITIES**

#### **2.1.0 Maintaining our activities**

In the period under review MWIA maintained activities despite the height of the COVID - 19 pandemic. MWIA has a Statute Article 25 that allows the Association to suspend her activities during a disaster, however, we ensured that our activities were maintained

#### **2.2.0 Chairing 10 Executive Committee meetings**

#### **2.3.0 Participation on MWIA Regional events**

The Korean Medical Women's Association (KMWA), the Western Pacific Scientific, Near East and Africa Regional (NEAR)

#### **2.4.0 Participation in MWIA Committee and Special Interest Group events**

MWIA Scientific and Research Subcommittee, Communications and Social Media, Strategy and Advocacy Violence Against women and girls, work life balance, Mentoring and Leadership Special Interest Groups

#### **2.5.0 High level Panels**

In May 2020 I led the MWIA delegation of 35 to the virtual World Health Assembly (WHA) and presented a statement to WHO, a tradition which started as early as 1963. <https://extranet.who.int/nonstateactorsstatements/content/medical-womens-international-association-0> Accessed online 16/8/2020

My virtual speaking engagements at CSW included and to a well organised AMWA CSW event, moderated by the MWIA SG and being a panelist on Virtual IHAN UN CSW 2020 parallel event, Co-sponsored by School of Medicine, Sydney and Fordham Institute for Women and Girls, New York. I was also a panelist on the Rotary Peace Fellows Global Cyber Peace Conference with the theme

“Envisioning the world after the Great Pause” <https://rpfaa.org/global-cyber-peace-conference-agenda/>

On July 7th 2020 I was Lead Panelist at UN WOMEN WEBINAR on Sexual Harassment <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/events/2020/07/event-sexual-harassment-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

The 2021 Commission on the Status of Women took place virtually from March 16-24th 2021 and I spoke on several parallel sessions including MWIA, WiDO, International Health Awareness Network, Global Fund for Widows, Widows Rights International to ensure the visibility of MWIA.

### **2.6.0 New and reactivated members**

New Individual members - Lithuania, Portugal, Reactivated members - Armenia, Sierra Leone and Vietnam

**2.7.0 Achievements** In the period under review MWIA launched a new Website led by Web facilitators Prof Pfleiderer and Dr Daniels and supported by the Social media special interest group. In response to crisis in MWIA the Past President’s Council has been reactivated

### **2.8.0 Innovations**

I embarked on a series of monthly “Informal Coffee chats with the President”. In June, I started with the leadership of the yMWIA which was most rewarding. To increase visibility MWIA is tracking releases and statements as well as social media presence and impact. The tracker is aimed to track how visible, audible and impactful MWIA is in the women’s global health space. This is being done by the MWIA Communications and Social Media Committee and be reported Quarterly. We have instituted a historical photographic diary which show cases the Medal, which is beautifully crafted in metal and a red neck ribbon both having sentimental value. As part of the PBHP diary, we will also be archiving photographs of Past Presidents wearing the badge.

### **2.9.0 Media engagements**

I have had several media engagements through television, radio interviews, podcasts and print media interviews including an interview by WHO. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/eleanor-nwadinobi-fighting-for-nigerian-women-s-rights-to-health-and-protection>  
In his twitter handle President Buhari said the following: <https://twitter.com/MBuhari/status/1237494305188712449>

“It was my pleasure to receive Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi at the State House today. She is the first Nigerian elected President of the Medical Women’s International Association, in its 100 years of existence. Her great achievements should make all of us proud as Nigerians”.

I was interviewed for a feature story by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as part of International Women's Day commemoration. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/eleanor-nwadinobi-fighting-for-nigerian-women-s-rights-to-health-and-protection>

As part of the drive to increase the visibility of MWIA, I have granted press interviews to media organisations such as Arise news, Love FM and several newspapers. I was also one of the featured

personalities of African international documentary festival foundation in a documentary called the “Voice of women, inspiring stories from leading women” in celebration of international women’s day.<https://spark.adobe.com/video/6NBA2KoWGx2CY>

On I was interviewed by The Lily – a publication of the Washington Post focused on women’s issues in the run up to the Generation Equality Forum in France: <https://www.thelily.com/>

**2.10.0** I participated in the Medical Women’s Association of Ghana, maiden celebration of the National Women Physicians Day, 8th December and celebration of Dr Susan Ofori-Attah as Ghana’s first female physician.

### **3.0 Face to Face Meetings with High level Personalities**

#### **3.1 Meeting with His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, the President of Nigeria**



#### **3.2. With UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed**



**3.3** On the 17th of March 2021 Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala the new Director General of the World Trade Organisation and first female to be in this position visited Nigeria. Above is a picture with the DG, Minister for women Affairs and heads of UN agencies.



**3.4** Meeting with the President of Ghana His Excellency Nana Akufo Addo





### 3.5 Meeting with António Guterres, Abuja, Nigeria 4th May 2022,



#### 4.0 Support and solidarity with members

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, we responded compassionately to our colleagues in Italy, who sent us an SOS. Additionally, I put out a President's rallying call as well as a short video clip on behalf of the Exco titled, "To our heroic healthcare personnel". The link appears below <https://spark.adobe.com/video/SbGfueJhQvStj>

In June 2020 on a sad note, MWIA lost one of our honorary individual members from New Zealand, Dr Robyn Hewland. A condolence letter written on behalf of MWIA and signed by myself and the Secretary General was read at her funeral which some of us attended virtually. MWIA members stood by India at the peak of the of COVID-19 crisis compounded by Black fungus. Letters of solidarity from the President went to Belgium, Germany, India, Netherlands and UK on account of devastating floods in the respective countries.

#### 5.0 GOVERNANCE AND ADHERENCE TO STATUTES

I took the bold step as soon as I stepped into office to set up a task team to get MWIA registered with Swiss Authorities having recognised that the incorporation status of 1956 was no longer fit for purpose. In an attempt to comply with the Swiss tax authority recommendation to amend the dissolution clause in our Statues and to bring a Swiss National on our Executive, a process was embarked upon that would have breached the fidelity and integrity of our Statutes and Bylaws which are the supreme law of MWIA.

Article 6 enjoins every member to uphold our Statutes and bylaws. The first step was to set up a Governance Working group (GWG). We also procured Directors Insurance for Exco members and that has been achieved with the help of the treasurer, Dr Helen Goodyear. We are currently taking the right steps and we are on a trajectory towards a better future.

## **6.0 WAY FORWARD**

- Registration must be prioritised
- There must be a safeguarding policy with zero tolerance for bullying
- There has to be a confidential reporting mechanism for safeguarding breaches
- There is a need to institute a formal body of Past Presidents, and
- Electronic archiving of records should be instituted.”

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION 2 (GA2)

June 25, 2022

Time: 16:00-17:30 (GMT+8)/10:00-11:30 (UTC+2)/ 04:00-05:30 (UTC-4)

### 1. Call to Order

- The General Assembly was called to order by the Substitute President Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi. She started with the expression of profound gratitude to Dr. Sherry Lai and Taiwan LOC for their prompt action on General Assembly (GA1) decision to proceed with a new vote during GA.
- She also thanked Dr. Goodyear for her kind assistance in drafting the text for the new ballot that went out to the delegates. Dr. Nwadinobi noted that the dedication of the colleagues to MWIA was highly appreciated.
- The Substitute President reminded the delegates that the current GA was run in accordance with the MWIA Statutes and By-Laws and emphasized the importance of Article 6 of the Statutes that “The members of the Association must undertake to abide by the Statutes and By-Laws”. She requested all GA delegates to substantiate any submission during the GA with relevant sections from the Statutes and By-Laws.
- Dr. Nwadinobi apologized to MWIA delegates who had raised their hands during GA1 and who were not recognized. For this reason, special monitors were appointed. Dr. Bong Ok Kim from Korea and Dr. Yoshiko Maeda from Japan volunteered to monitor the virtual meeting and ensure that the raised hands from all colleagues are recognized in relevant sequence.

### 2. The Roll Call

- The Roll Call for the General Assembly session was taken by the Secretary General Dr. Padmini Murthy. She confirmed attendance of the following ExCo members and GA delegates in person or on-line:
- **10 ExCo members:** Dr. Nwadinobi - Substitute President; Dr. Pfleiderer – Past-President; Dr. Goodyear- Treasurer; Dr. Murthy – Secretary General (SG); Dr. Yap – Vice-President (VP) Western Pacific; Dr. Megh - VP Central Asia; Dr. Vezzani - VP Southern Europe; Dr. Lichtenstein - VP Northern Europe; Dr. Brown – VP North America; Dr. Sadia - VP Near East and Africa. (Absent with apology Dr. Vescei – VP Central Europe and Dr. Sales Carneirio - VP Latin America).
- **GA delegates from 21 countries across 6 geographic regions** (in the order of the Roll Call): Ireland, Finland, Netherlands, UK, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Canada, USA, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Australia, Hong Kong, South Korea, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Sweden. However, the SG noted that the Russian association was not in good standing, as the dues have not been paid, and the Russian delegate was kindly requested to excuse herself from the GA.

### **3. Establishment of the Quorum**

- Dr. Eliza Chin requested to confirm whether the GA had a quorum. Substitute President quoted Article 10 of the MWIA Statutes stating that “General Assembly shall only be able to deliberate validly if at least one hundred delegates are present representing at least 10 National Associations from 2 Regions”. The Secretary General confirmed that GA2 was attended by more than 10 national associations and 79 delegates (Secretary General in consultation with the technical team confirmed that 28 members were present in person in Taiwan and 51 delegates on line (excluding the admin and the technician).
- Substitute President Dr. Nwadinobi stated that this GA has not formed the quorum and the GA would stand closed until the next General Assembly session on June 26, 2022. The General Assembly members drew the President’s attention to the fact that the GA could be adjourned until a quorum had been established in the course of the 2022 Congress.
- GA delegates proposed to continue informal discussions until the quorum was established for GA2. Dr. Nwadinobi called for motions for informal consultations. Dr. Shelley Rose (Canada) moved the motion and Dr. Clarissa Fabre (UK), Dr. Sofia Kühner (Sweden) and Dr. Claribel Abam (Nigeria) seconded the motion. Dr. Nwadinobi established, that informal conversations could commence and if during the time of the 90 minutes originally allocated for GA2, other members join and a quorum is reached, GA 2 could be officially commenced.
- Extensive deliberation followed, whether the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly had established the quorum on June 24. The Substitute President stated that Dr. Sherry Lai confirmed the quorum, when she noted that over 100 delegates participated. The Secretary General and the Treasurer clarified that Dr. Sherry Lai confirmed the quorum for the electronic voting for the ballots sent out on June 24 (before the GA) and not for the GA1 itself.
- Dr. Vivina Chiu from Philippines, who also attended GA1, stated that the quorum should have been confirmed by the Secretary General, that the GA cannot proceed without establishing the quorum and stressed the importance of professional approach to the proper organization of the meetings.
- Dr. Shelley Ross requested to proceed with informal consultations, and if the quorum was officially established in GA2, the delegates could ratify what was discussed at the GA 1 on 24th July 2022. Otherwise, time would be spent and critically important discussions left out.
- Dr. Oseji asked how many delegates were registered for the hybrid meeting, and if the number of registered participants could be included in the total number of delegates for the quorum. Dr. Clarissa Fabre based on the suggestion in the on-line meeting chat, proposed to convene an Extraordinary GA if the quorum is not high. Dr. Nwadinobi, while acknowledging the two proposals, responded that both suggestions would be against the Statutes and By-Laws.

- Dr. Antonella Vezzani and Dr. Renate Bohm noted that delegates from Italy and Germany were experiencing problems in accessing the virtual meeting and the Substitute President requested the technical team to immediately attend to the issue.
- At 5:01 PM Taiwan time the quorum for the General Assembly 2 (GA2) was established with 105 members in attendance, including 21 delegates in-person in Taiwan and 84 delegates on-line. Accordingly, the GA 2 was officially commenced.

#### **4. Ratification of Reports and Decision from GA 1 convened on June 24**

- In order to avoid any uncertainties, whether or not General Assembly 1 on June 24 had officially established the quorum, Dr. Mary Amoakoh-Coleman from Ghana proposed a motion that the current General Assembly 2 with already established quorum ratifies the decisions taken yesterday.
- Upon the request from the Dr. Nwadinobi, Dr. Coleman moved the motion, that the current GA ratifies three Reports of the President, Secretary General and the Treasurer presented on June 24 and all decisions made during the General Assembly on June 24, including the decision to send out new set of ballots for electronic voting. The motion was Seconded by Dr. Fatoumata Nafo from Mali and Dr. Mariam Jashi from Georgia. Dr. Jashi also thanked the President for ensuring the supremacy of the Statutes and By-Laws as the foundation for the good governance of the Association.
- The Substitute President requested GA delegates to support the motion. All delegates, except 3 abstainers, endorsed the motion to ratify the Reports presented by the President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer, and all the decisions made by the General Assembly on June 24, 2022.

#### **5. Acclamation of the Candidates for Secretary General and Treasurer**

- Dr. Nwadinobi noted that a letter was received from Prof. Padmini Murthy, on the withdrawal of her candidacy for the position of Secretary General, therefore there would be no vote for the SG position. She thereafter asked Dr. Mariam Jashi, as the single candidate for the position of the Secretary General for her acclamation – whether she was accepting to be the Secretary General of MWIA.
- Dr. Mariam Jashi replied that she was honored to accept the position of the Secretary General and that she would look forward to working with the leadership and esteemed colleagues for stronger positioning of MWIA in the global health agenda.
- Dr. Nwadinobi noted the next letter from Dr. Goodyear on withdrawal of her candidacy for the position of the Treasurer and asked Dr. Eliza Chin, as the single candidate for the position for her acclamation – whether she was accepting to be the Treasurer of MWIA.
- Dr. Chin accepted the position. But she noted that there was no mention of acclamations in the Statutes and By-Laws. Dr. Chin referred to Article 17 stating that “Members of the Executive must receive 2/3 (two thirds) of the votes of those voting in order to be elected.

If this majority is not obtained after the first ballot a second ballot is taken and the candidate obtaining the highest number of votes is elected". She further noted that in the US, even if there is only 1 candidate, still voting should take place.

- Dr. Shelley Ross confirmed that this was not a case for MWIA, when there is only 1 candidate, approval for the position it is by acclamation without voting.
- President reaffirmed the importance of following the Statutes and By-Laws and suggested that the GA 2 would take Yes or No vote for the 2 candidates (SG and Treasurer).
- Dr. Sadia, however noted that the Voting for Officers is by delegates and not just individual votes and suggested that the voting for the SG and Treasurer was included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of Ballots that would be distributed to National Associations and individual members on June 25.
- The decision was made to include the candidates for the positions of Secretary General and the Treasurer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of ballots, that would be sent out for voting.
- Dr. Jashi requested MWIA 2022 Secretariat to ensure that the 3-minute pre-recorded video of the candidate was shared with the delegates together with the ballots to vote, so as the Candidate for Secretary General would have the opportunity to present the experience and vision that she would be able to bring to the organization.
- The President requested LOC to present the videos of the candidates even though they stand un-opposed.
- Dr. Desiree Yap after checking with the technical team asked, in the interest of time, to share the videos of the candidates for SG and Treasurer with delegates present at the meeting through their emails. The President agreed and thanked Dr. Yap for the suggestion.

## **6. Presentation by the Ethics and Resolutions Committee on recommended amendments and resolutions for the General Assembly**

- Dr. Nwadinobi asked Prof. Deb Colville, the Chair of the Ethics and Resolutions Committee to present recommendations to the General Assembly.
- Dr. Goodyear noted that as the Chair of the of the Ethics and Resolutions Committee for 2013-2019, the committee never made recommendations, there was nothing on the Ethics and Resolutions in the Statutes and By-Laws and making recommendations in not keeping in line with previous governance of the organization.
- The President requested Dr. Goodyear to state clearly what is included in the Statutes and Resolutions and to revert to the General Assembly. Before the report back from the Dr. Goodyear Dr. Nwadinobi asked Prof. Deb Colville to proceed with resolutions as they are, without recommendations.

- Dr. Goodyear reconfirmed that there was nothing on presenting of recommendations by the Ethics and Resolution Committee in the Statutes and By-Laws. The President thanked Dr. Goodyear and requested Prof. Deb Colville to proceed with the presentation that we have been waiting for 18 months.
- Dr. Colville shared the screen and presented the 2 suggested amendments to the Statutes and By-Laws that the GA delegates will be receiving for voting in order to meet the requirements of Swiss registration of MWIA.
- She presented the exact wording for 2 new clauses that should be added to the Statutes and By-Laws to satisfy the Swiss registration requirements.
- The exact wording for the first amendment that would be put for electronic voting (3A ballot): "In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the available assets will be attributed in their entirety to another institution which pursues a goal of public interest similar to that of the Association, and which has been granted tax exemption. On no account may the property revert to the physical founders or the members. Nor may it be used in any way, either wholly or partly, for their benefit".
- The exact wording for the second amendment that would be put for electronic voting (3B ballot): "An additional slot be created on the ExCo for a permanent position of a Swiss National on ExCo strictly for the purpose of the Tax-exempt status. The Swiss National will be the President of the MWIA Swiss Association. The President of the MWIA Swiss Association will enjoy the privileges of MWIA ExCo members and be bound by MWIA Statutes and By-Laws".
- Other Resolutions for Statutes and By-Laws amendments included: (a) Voting rights for individual MWIA members to be introduced, with 20 Individual Members to equal 1 vote and > 20 Individual Members 2 votes. (b) Opportunity for a Treasurer to be elected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term after the initial 3-years. (c) The existing Near East and African region to be recognized as 3 distinct regions of MWIA with well-defined cultural, geographic and economic boundaries, namely North Africa and Near East, West and Central Africa, and Southern Africa. The latter should become effective from 2025 to allow for the new regions to be established and leaderships to put in place.
- Internal Resolutions without changing the Statutes and By-laws included: (a) Past President's Advisory Council to provide support and advice for the MWIA Executive either collectively or individually when requested by MWIA Executive members. (b) Against advertising of FGM "**Whereas** the female genital mutilation contravenes with WHO and UN resolutions on child abuses, **MWIA recommends** that advertising of this procedure by any social media be outlawed". (c) On Climate Change – "**Whereas** climate change is an urgent women's health challenge, **MWIA resolves** to join other international medical associations, including WHO and United Nations, in urging the call for national and international leaders to take action to mitigate further climate destabilization". (d) On Parental Leave – "**Whereas** breastfeeding during infancy enhances the health of the child and the mother, and **whereas** maternity and parental leave policies influence breastfeeding, including by

women doctors in the medical workforce, and **whereas** unpaid maternity and paternal leave exaggerate gender pay gaps, **MWIA Resolves** that paid maternity and maternal parental leave be encouraged for at least 6 months after birth and **MWIA resolved** that parental leave be encouraged, promoted and incentivized. (e) Replacement on resignation of the ExCO member (By-Laws 8). "If for any reason the removal from office is irreversible or if President resigns, another ExCo member as decided by MWIA Executive will assume the role of the Substitute President; The President-elect is not eligible for to sever as Substitute President to not violate the term limit of three years; When the President has resigned, the immediate Past President will be asked to stay on the ExCo to provide support; A president who has resigned is not eligible to be elected as Immediate Past President in the next triennium, as it is not an elected position, and one needs to complete a full term of three years to serve in that role." (f) Dr. Shelley Rose further presented the "refer" motion wording, seconded by Dr. Nnesochi Offor – "**Whereas** the resolutions pertaining to MWIA By-Law Article 8 and 9 give the MWIA executive and nor the membership the authority to determine who will be the acting President, should the President not be able to fulfill her term, and **Whereas** the suggested By-Law changes cannot stand alone but would require alterations to other Statutes and By-Laws that have not be prepared for this General Assembly, and **Whereas** the resolutions pertaining to By-Law Article 8 and 9 require more deliberation and wider consultation, **MWIA resolves** that we refer/commit the resolutions pertaining to MWIA By-Law Article 8 and 9 to the 2022-2025 MWIA executive for a review of the statutes and By-Laws, with recommendations to be brought to the 2025 General Assembly."

- Dr. Goodyear referred to the comment in the chat that resolutions are presented, but then they are debated at the GA and decisions are taken there, not by the Ethics and Resolutions Committee. She also clarified that the original clause in the Statutes and By-Laws already includes the provision on re-election of the treasurer: "Her term of office is for 3 years and can be renewed for a second term". And in order to bring this in line with the provision on SG position, "renewed" should be changed to "re-elected".
- Dr. Afua Hesse noted that the Ethics and Resolutions Committee has clarified/modified the existing language to explain it better. Dr. Nwadinobi thanked the Chairs and Members of the Ethics and Resolutions Committee for their hard work and asked to clarify what is the motion of the Committee regarding the presentation as they go into the Ballots. Dr. Colville expressed thanks to all members of her committee and confirmed that all the motions were conveyed to the General Assembly and would look forward to the results of the voting.

## **7. Voting Procedures**

- Because of the time constrains, the President noted that if the ballots go out on that day, 25th June – the results should be known tomorrow, 26th June for GA3. Therefore, a shorter voting period would be required to accommodate the results of the new ballots before the General Assembly 3.
- Dr. Yap reiterated that it was essential to debate on the Resolutions. Many of the recommendations had governance and financial implications and needed to be discussed



in detail. She suggested for delegates to work on the document and discuss tomorrow, June 26.

- Dr. Amany Asfour seconded the suggestion that GA needed discussions of the Resolutions before going for voting as it affected the whole constitution.
- Dr. Goodyear noted that any additional ballot paper would imply extra expenses, so all the ballots should be sent out in a single paper.
- After considerable deliberation, the President based on Dr. Coleman's intervention, noted that the same questions were already sent out to delegates in the set of ballots that went out before the GAs. Delegates from Kenya and South Korea confirmed that the resolutions were received and they had voted in the set that were voided by GA1 on June 24.
- Dr. Nwadinobi stated that if Resolutions went out in a ballot previously, those ballots should be sent out again, and the regions and National Associations should discuss them and vote. Otherwise, because of only 45 minutes given for GA3 discussions tomorrow, if GA does not have the results tomorrow (26<sup>th</sup> June), especially for the 2 clauses for Swiss registration, the decision would be put on hold till 2025. As the same Resolutions went out on a ballot and people have voted, delegates could discuss within their countries, and the Substitute President asked the GA delegates to mobilize their members who have been registered.
- Dr. Sherry Lai confirmed that the ballots for elections of the President-Elect were sent out at 10 PM on June 24 and will be open till 10 PM of June 25. She also informed that the second ballot, including the Resolutions would be sent out after the current GA2.
- Dr. Amany Asfour requested that if the ballots were sent today, GA should have discussions tomorrow on the exact wording in the suggested Resolutions. For example, inclusion of the President of the Swiss National Association in the ExCO is fine, but the Swiss President cannot enjoy all privileges of the ExCo as she will not be an elected member. Also, if the President delegates a colleague, then ExCo will be changing the constitution.
- Dr. Nwadinobi thanked Dr. Asfour for drawing GA's attention to these comments and summarized that the ballots will be going out for voting today, June 25 with an option that the exact wording for the amendment is not acceptable.

## **8. Adjournment**

- President Nwadinobi called for adjournment of the meeting. Dr. Mininim Oseji moved for adjournment and Dr. Vivina Chiu seconded the motion.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION 3 (GA3)

June 26, 2022

Time: 14:30-16:00 (GMT+8)/08:30-10:00 (UTC+2)/ 02:30-04:00 (UTC-4)

### 1. Call to Order

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final session of the General Assembly was called to order by the Substitute President Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi. She noted that during the last few days, we have become good students of MWIA Statutes.
- She expressed special gratitude to members of the Italian National Association, as 30 colleagues from Italy joined the GA2 meeting yesterday and their attendance ensured that the General Assembly established the quorum based on the Statutes and By-Laws.

### 2. The Roll Call and establishment of the Quorum

- The Roll Call for the General Assembly session was taken by the Secretary General Dr. Padmini Murthy. She confirmed attendance of the following ExCo member and GA delegates in person or on-line.
- **11 ExCo members:** Dr. Nwadinobi - Substitute President; Dr. Pfleiderer – Past-President; Dr. Goodyear- Treasurer; Dr. Murthy – Secretary General (SG); Dr. Lichtenstein - VP Northern Europe; Dr. Vezzani - VP Southern Europe; Dr. Brown – VP North America; Dr. Sales Carneirio - VP Latin America, Dr. Sadia - VP Near East and Africa, Dr. Yap – Vice-President (VP) Western Pacific; Dr. Megh - VP Central Asia. (Absent with apology Dr. Vescei – VP Central Europe).
- **GA delegates from 21 countries across 8 geographic regions** (in the order of the Roll Call and according to MWIA regions): Finland, Ireland, Sweden, UK, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Canada, Brazil, USA, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, India, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam.
- The quorum for the General Assembly 3 (GA3) was established with 175 members in attendance, including 35 delegates in the GA room in-person in Taiwan and 140 delegates on-line. Accordingly, the GA3 was officially commenced.

### 3. Decision on the Immediate Past President

- Dr. Jashi requested, on behalf of the Georgian association, interpretation of Article 13 of the By-Law that speaks about the Immediate Past President. She noted that there is no provision in the Statutes on the voting procedure for the Immediate Past President and requested to reaffirm whether the voting process would be compliant with the Statutes.

- Prof. Afua Hesse reconfirmed that Article 13 speaks about the Immediate Past President and there is no reason to elect for the position. She also quoted Article 8 of the Statutes that “The General Assembly is the highest authority of the Association”.
- Dr. Shelley Ross raised 3 points: (1) According to the Statutes and By-Laws Immediate Past President is not an elected position; on the ballot they received yesterday on the President-Elect position, it was clearly stating that there would be no vote for the Immediate Past President, yet today, the ballot was there; (2) she wanted to know with no mention of the Swiss national on the ballot, how this will be addressed when MWIA had to provide a copy of the GA minutes for registration; (3) Ballot also asked to confirm the President which was also against the Statutes and By-Laws. Dr. Ross noted that she, the President, is elected as the President-Elect and moves into the role of the President. In the case of Dr. Nwadinobi, she has been filling-in the role of the President (who resigned) as a Substitute and she will be starting her Presidency now. Dr. Shelley Ross stressed that Statutes and By-laws should be followed.
- Dr. Sadia concluded that to void the conflict and illegalities, if the position of the Immediate Past President remains vacant for this triennium, there will be no harm, rather than going into violating MWIA’s Statutes and By-Laws. She reconfirmed that the position was the recommendation from the Governance working group and the decision should be made by GA.
- Dr. Vivien Brown moved the motion to leave the position of the Immediate Past President vacant. Dr. Claribel Abam and Dr. Mandakini Megh seconded the motion.

#### **4. Approving Resolutions for NGO registration**

- Dr. Lichtenstein proposed to concentrate during the remaining GA3 on the NGO status registration and to leave the rest of the Ethics and Resolutions presentation for an EGA. The motion was seconded by Shelley Ross and Tuula Saarela.
- Dr. Nwadinobi moved to the next point of the agenda – to approve, as voted, the resolutions on the NGO Status registration.
- Dr. Afua Hesse noted that putting the Resolutions to the ballot was in order. But the resolutions were not submitted in the way it was supposed. The motion was proposed that this can be submitted to the next Executive for them to Take Action on this.
- Dr. Shelley Ross asked for a point of order, whether GA could add the Resolution text on the Swiss member to the minutes. Changing of the Dissolution clause was fine, but the ballots did not mention the Swiss member, so the question on the Swiss member should be included in the GA minutes to proceed with the registration.
- Dr. Yap asked for the Governance Chair to clarify the coopting option for the Swiss national. Dr. Sadia called this Assembly to do core action on two main points – one, to have a professional and functional ExCo team, and second, to complete the registration contingent that the above governance been set. This could be done through several ways.

- Dr. Sadia further elaborated what Dr. Shelley Ross said, that GA needs to agree, that administratively, without the changes in Statutes and By-Laws - MWIA can co-opt a Swiss member and the decision should be reflected in the minutes of the GA that General Assembly consented coopting a Swiss Member to ExCo for the registration process.
- Dr. Sadia concluded that if the current GA decides this, in the meantime, while other issues of Statutes and By-Laws are sorted out, MWIA will be in good standing with the Statutes.
- The President thanked Dr. Sadia and in the remaining 1 minute for GA3, announced that GA3 had a recommendation put forward, that MWIA can still approach inclusion of the Swiss member into the Executive as an administrative issue and not as a Statutes amendment for the purpose of obtaining the registration status.

### **5. Next MWIA Congress Venue**

- The President announced that MWIA had only one candidate for the next Congress venue – Egypt. Due to time limitations, presentation of Egypt, along with presentations of the SG and the Treasurer would be sent out to members.

### **6. Adjournment**

- The President adjourned the meeting and invited the delegates to reconvene in 1 hour for the Closing Ceremony, where the new Theme for the Triennium will be unveiled. The GA3 was announced as closed.

### **7. Electronic Voting Results completed in parallel to General Assembly sessions**

- Ballots for electronic voting were sent out to MWIA GA delegates from June 24 to June 26 based on the decision of MWIA General Assembly Sessions. Ballots were sent out through an electronic system that was verified and approved by the MWIA Executive Committee. The received ballots were tabulated and checked by an independent entity scrutineer.
- The ballots went out in accordance with Statutes Article 12 to elect members of the Executive Committee. The voting process for confirming the MWIA 2022-2025 Officers and Regional Vice-President included 13 ballots (No.1, 2A, 2B, 3C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 2I, 2J, 2K and 2L).
- Through ballot No. 1 on the candidates of the President-elect, 79.3% of 169 voters elected Dr. Amany Asfour (Egypt). Dr. Neena Modi (UK) received 20.7% of the votes.
- For record purposes only, the 2A ballot requesting confirmation of Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi (Nigeria) as the President received overwhelming majority of 111 votes (70.3% Yes, 29.3% No). However, as discussed during GA3 the ballot was not in-line with the Statutes and By-Laws as the President from her previous elections in 2019 as President-Elect required no additional confirmation.
- 10 ballots for confirming the MWIA 2022-2025 Officers and Regional Vice-President (2B, 3C, 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 2I, 2J, 2K) received 100% approval from 111 voters. Below is the listing

of all ballots, corresponding ExCo positions for voting, names of the candidates and their countries as well as the number and % of approving (Yes) and disapproving (No) votes.

Ballot No.	ExCo position	Name of the Candidate and Country	No. (%) of approving votes (Yes)	No. (%) of disapproving votes (No)
2B	Secretary General	Mariam Jashi (Georgia)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)
2C	Treasurer	Eliza Lo Chin (USA)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)
2D	VP Northern Europe	Elizabeth Lichtenstein (Sweden)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)
2E	VP Central Europe	Edith Schratzberger (Austria)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)
2F	VP Southern Europe	Concetta Laurentaci (Italy)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)
2G	VP North America	Connie Newman (USA)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)
2H	VP Latin America	Nelci Zanon Collage (Brazil)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)
2I	VP Near East and Africa	Claribel Abam (Nigeria)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)
2J	VP Central Asia	Darunee Buddhari (Thailand)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)
2K	VP Western Pacific	Bong Ok Kim (South Korea)	111 (100%)	0 (0%)

- As agreed by GA3, putting out the ballot (2L) for voting for the Position of the Past President was also not in line with the Statutes and By-Laws. *(For record purposes only, the 2L ballot results were the following: 55.9% out of 111 voters supported to leave the position vacant, 30.6% voted for Dr. Bettina Pfeleiderer and 13.5% for Dr. Clarissa Fabre.*
- The set of ballots to satisfy the preconditions for Registration under Swiss Civil Code 61 were sent in accordance with Article 18 for alteration of MWIA Statutes and By-Laws.
- On the ballot for the decision of General Assembly ceding powers to the Executive Committee for the sole purpose of registration, the text was as follows for the Dissolution clause. **Ballot 3A - Minimum alteration to Statutes and By-laws to achieve Registration under Swiss Code Article 61.** The exact wording for the ballot presented at GA2 and subsequently sent with a minor alteration in a preamble message from ExCo to GA delegates for voting on June 25, 2022, was the following **amendment to Article 19:** "In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the available assets will be attributed in their entirety to another institution which pursues a goal of public interest similar to that of the Association, and which has been granted tax exemption. On no account may the assets revert to the physical founders or the members, nor may it be used in any way, either wholly or partly, for their benefit". Voting results: Yes 104 (96.3%), No 4 (3.7%); Total Voters: 111; Abstain 3: (2.7%).
- Ballot 3B - Minimum alteration to Statutes and By-laws to achieve Registration under Swiss Code Article 61.** The following amendment was proposed to the second session of the General Assembly (GA2): "An additional slot be created on the ExCo for a permanent position of a Swiss National on ExCo strictly for the purpose of the Tax-exempt status. The Swiss National will be the President of the MWIA Swiss Association. The President of the MWIA Swiss Association will enjoy the privileges of MWIA ExCo members and be bound by MWIA Statutes and By-Laws". The actual wording on the ballot was, however, changed in the final preamble sent by ExCo to GA delegates for voting on June 25. The new wording of the 3B ballot was requesting the decision of the General Assembly to cede powers to the Executive Committee for the sole purpose of registration through the minimum alterations

of the Statutes and By-Laws. Specifically, the 3B ballot in its final formulation was asking for adding to already existing 9 paragraphs of the MWIA By-Laws Article 7 on the Executive Committee, one additional paragraph, that “The signature powers, whether single or joint, of the members of the Executive shall be determined from time to time and duly registered in the commercial register of the locality of its Head Office”. Voting results: Yes 88 (89.8%), No 10 (10.2%); Total Voters: 111; Abstain: 13 (11.7%). However, as noted by different delegates at GA3, the 3B ballot did not mention the question on the Swiss national/resident in the final formulation of the ballot or its accompanied preamble message from ExCo sent to GA delegates for voting on June 25, 2022. Therefore, at GA3 as announced by the President, based on the recommendation of the Chair of the Governance Committee, MWIA in order to obtain the registration status, would approach inclusion of the Swiss member into the governing body as an administrative issue and not through the amendments of the Statutes and By-Laws.

# MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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# MWIA

## STATUTES AND BY- LAWS



Revised June  
2022

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**STATUTES**  
**For**  
**THE MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE 1**  
**NAME**

Under the name of "Medical Women's International Association", is founded an Association according to the present regulations and to Section 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code.

The emblem of the Association is the figure of Hygeia with the motto "Matris Animo Curant" (They heal with the spirit of a mother).

**ARTICLE 2**  
**HEAD OFFICE**

The legal Head Office of the Association is in Geneva, Switzerland where the Association was first incorporated. The General Assembly will be at all times be able to change the locality of its Head Office and likewise for the Secretariat of the Association.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**OBJECTS**

The objects are:

- a) To promote the cooperation and general interests of Medical Women worldwide and to develop friendship and understanding among all Medical Women without regard to race, religion or political views.
- b) To offer Medical Women the opportunity to meet so as to confer upon questions concerning the health and well-being of humanity.
- c) To work actively towards equity and equality between female and male doctors in all aspects of their medical career.
- d) To encourage worldwide a gender awareness of differences in health, health care and health research between women and men.
- e) To promote the empowerment of medical women and patients to work towards gender equity and equality

**ARTICLE 4**  
**NATURE**

The activity of the Association is only engaged in the interest of medicine. The Association is politically neutral and non-sectarian. It has no profit-seeking aims. It is a NonGovernmental Organization (N.G.O.).



## **ARTICLE 5 MEMBERS**

The following are eligible to be members of the Association:

### **a) The affiliated National Associations**

There can be only one affiliated National Association for each country unless there are exceptional circumstances considered by the Executive Committee and admission recommended to the General Assembly. In that case, each Association would be allowed their own voting rights.

The Executive Committee will approve a new membership application after the National Association has passed two stages:

1. Its constitution is accepted by the Executive Committee,
2. It receives no opposition from any existing member,

The membership status will be activated after the Association has paid the dues. Approved Associations will be introduced to the membership at the next General Assembly

### **b) Individual Members**

Any Medical Woman belonging to a country which does not have an affiliated National Association and who has filed an application directly with the Association, whose application has been approved by the MWIA Executive Committee as an Individual Member and has paid her dues after approval.

### **c) Honorary Members**

Any member of a National Association or Individual Member who has rendered to the Association or the medical profession any outstanding services deserving acknowledgement, can be awarded the title of Honorary Member of the Association on proposal of the Executive Committee and approval by the General Assembly.

### **d) Members of Honour**

Any person not being a member of the Association, who has rendered to the Association or the medical profession any outstanding services deserving acknowledgement, can be awarded the title of Member of Honour on proposal of the Executive Committee and approval by the General Assembly. The Members of Honour do not have any voting rights. They may attend the General Assembly as observers.

## **ARTICLE 6**

The members of the Association must undertake to abide by the Statutes and By-Laws.

**ARTICLE 7**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The General Assembly is the highest authority of the Association.

**ARTICLE 8**

The General Assembly elects the Executive Committee and settles all business which is not within the mandate of the other Statutory Bodies.

The General Assembly is made up of the delegates of the National Associations, the delegates of the Individual Members and members of the Executive Committee. Only these three categories hold voting rights.

Members of Honour, other members of National Associations and other Individual Members who are not delegates can be present at the General Assembly as observers.

National associations\* will have the following voting rights:

10-20	members equals 1 votes
21-40	members equals 2 votes
41-60	members equals 3 votes
61-80	members equals 4 votes
81-100	members equals 5 votes
101-500	members equals 7 votes
501-1000	members equals 10 votes
1001-1500	members equals 15 votes
1501-2000	members equals 20 votes which is the maximum number per association

\* A National Association needs to pay for a minimum of 10 members as this is considered the lowest number of members to form an Association

\*\* The maximum number of members an association has to pay for is 2000. The maximum number of voting rights is 20.

**ARTICLE 9**

The General Assembly is held at least once in three years, upon summons by the Executive Committee.

The General Assembly chooses the country in which its meeting shall be held and approves the dates.

In default the Executive shall make these decisions.

At the request of ten National Associations from at least two Regions the Executive must summon an Extraordinary General Assembly as soon as possible.

## **ARTICLE 10 QUORUM**

Any ordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall only be able to deliberate validly if at least one hundred delegates are present representing at least 10 National Associations from 2 Regions. An Extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall only be able to deliberate validly if at least 50 delegates are present representing 10 National Associations from at least 2 Regions. The Executive Committee shall only be able to deliberate validly if a majority of its members is present.

## **ARTICLE 11 VOTING**

Decisions are taken by the majority vote of the members present except in cases where the By-Laws provide for a qualified majority.

## **ARTICLE 12 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The General Assembly elects the members of the Executive Committee which is usually known as THE EXECUTIVE. The By-Laws set their number. As such, this Committee shall comprise:

- a) The President
- b) The President-Elect
- c) The Secretary-General
- d) The Treasurer
- e) The Vice-Presidents
- f) The Immediate Past President

The conditions of their eligibility, of their re-eligibility, those concerning the presentation of their candidature at the General Assembly, the general obligation of the members of the Executive and the duration of their office are set in the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE 13**

In case of resignation, or incapacity to fill her office, or death of one of the Executive members, the Executive shall nominate a substitute for the remaining current period, should this felt to be necessary for the functioning of the Executive. In the case of the President this substitute shall be the President-Elect.

#### **ARTICLE 14**

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year.

#### **ARTICLE 15 EXTERNAL AUDIT**

The General Assembly shall employ an external auditing firm of international standing to control the presentation of the accounts. The duties are stated in the By-Laws.

#### **ARTICLE 16 ASSETS**

The General Assembly sets the annual subscription of the affiliated National Associations and of the Individual Members.

Non-payment of the annual subscription within 12 months of the due date will result in suspension of membership unless a justifiable delay had been agreed on by the Executive Committee. Only members in good standing are eligible to hold executive positions, run for office or serve on committees

Non-payment of the subscription for 3 years, except in the case of a justified delay, entails loss of statutory rights.

Membership shall be reinstated on payment of subscriptions owed or such amount as agreed by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is entitled to accept gifts or legacies and manage them on behalf of MWIA.

#### **ARTICLE 17 COMMITTEES**

The General Assembly and the Executive shall be able to create standing and ad hoc committees according to need.

The Executive Committee shall be assisted by a Standing Finance Committee.

The Chair and members of the Standing Finance Committee and all other Committees are appointed by the Executive.

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#### **ARTICLE 18 ALTERATION OF STATUTES**

The General Assembly only has the authority to alter the Statutes.

Motions involving alteration of the Statutes must be sent to the Secretary-General at least one year before the date set for the next General Assembly. These motions are then sent by the Secretary-General not later than 6 months before the next General Assembly to the National Associations and to the Individual Members.

Decisions related to an alteration of the Statutes require a majority of two thirds of the members voting.

**ARTICLE 19**  
**DISSOLUTION**

The decision to dissolve the Association requires two thirds of the votes of the members at the General Assembly specially summoned for this purpose. If two thirds of the members are not represented at this General Assembly the decision shall be submitted to all National Associations and Individual Members by referendum.

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the available assets will be attributed in their entirety to another institution which pursues a goal of public interest similar to that of the Association, and which has been granted tax exemption. On no account may the assets revert to the physical founders or the members, nor may it be used in any way, either wholly or partly, for their benefit.

**BY-LAWS**  
**For**  
**THE MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

**HEAD OFFICE**  
**ARTICLE 1**

The Association maintains a virtual office for its Secretariat.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**(ARTICLE 2-6)**  
**ARTICLE 2**

Each National Association and the Individual Members shall inform the Executive Secretary in writing of the names of their delegates and substitutes in good time before the meeting of the General Assembly.

**ARTICLE 3**

In the absence of a delegate, her voting right is exercised by her official substitute. As far as possible, the MWIA National Coordinator of each National Association shall be a delegate.

**ARTICLE 4**

Meetings of a scientific and professional nature must not be in contradiction to the stance of MWIA.

**ARTICLE 5**

The official language of the Association is English but the country in which the meeting is held may use its own language provided that simultaneous translation is available and the expenses due to this are borne by the National Association concerned.

**ARTICLE 6**

The Minutes of the meeting of the General Assembly are published by MWIA and distributed to the National Associations and Individual Members within 12 months of the last meeting.

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**(ARTICLE 7-18)**  
**ARTICLE 7**

The Executive Committee (known as The Executive) is the decision-making body of the association between the General Assemblies. It

1. Reviews and evaluates the activities of the Association and recommends to the General Assembly practices and projects suitable to further the activities of the Association.
2. Assures the management functions for which it is responsible.
3. Appoints the Chairs and Members of Committees.
4. Receives and evaluates the reports of all the Committees.
5. Appoints representatives to other international organizations to whom MWIA is affiliated.
6. Adopts the budget on the basis of the budget proposed by the Treasurer and the finance Committee.
7. Reports to the General Assembly on the financial aspects and other activities of the Association.
8. Undertakes all other obligations provided for by the Statutes and By-Laws.
9. In an emergency situation the Executive will assure the arrangements of the Congress. The Executive recommends to the General Assembly the appropriate venue after investigation considering economic and geographic factors.

The signature powers, whether single or joint, of the members of the Executive shall be determined from time to time and duly registered in the commercial register of the locality of its Head Office.

**THE PRESIDENT**  
**ARTICLE 8**

The **MWIA President** is a member of the MWIA executive, the decision-making body of the association. Her role is

1. To be the strategic and policy lead. In this role the President is supported by the Secretary General and the Executive with whom she keeps in close communication.
2. The President is an ex officio member without voting rights of all Committees except if there is a tie, the President can cast the last vote.
3. The term of her presidency is three years; the President is not eligible for re-election for a second term.
4. In consultation with the Secretary General, she directs the administration of the Association and is responsible for carrying out the policy of the Association.
5. Along with the Secretary General she signs all legal documents authorized by the Executive and within the limits of the Association's concerns.

6. In consultation with the Executive, proceeds with nominations and appointments required by the activities of the Association which are not stated in the Statutes and By-Laws.
7. Is responsible for all the activities dependent on her office.
8. Presides over meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive
9. If for any reason the removal from office is irreversible, the President-elect will assume the presidency.

### **MWIA PRESIDENT- ELECT ARTICLE 9**

**The MWIA President-elect** is a member of the MWIA Executive, the decision-making body of the Association. In this role, she works closely with the President, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary General and the Executive with whom she keeps in close communication. Her role is essentially that of shadowing the President, and learning what will be required of her when she becomes President.

Every President-elect needs to choose a theme and plan activities around this theme to be presented to the membership during her presidential speech after her inauguration at the end of the triennial MWIA meeting at which she was elected.

#### **The President-Elect:**

1. Assumes the Presidency in case of death or inability of the President to carry out her duties during the President's term of office.
2. The President-elect is an ex officio member without voting rights of all Committees. Her term of office is three years. She assumes the office of President at the end of the last session of the next General Assembly
3. Should the President-elect not be able to carry out her duties due to death or inability, the position will not be replaced for the remainder of that term.

### **SECRETARY GENERAL ARTICLE 10**

**The Secretary General** is a member of the MWIA Executive, the decision-making body of the Association. She directs the administration of the Association in consultation with the President and Executive and in this role she ensures the smooth running of the virtual office. She may employ an Executive Secretary on the recommendation of the Executive. She keeps in close communication with the President who is the main spokesperson and leads the organization. She supports the President and the Executive in their decision-making roles. The Secretary General is an ex officio member without voting rights of all committees. **Her term of office is three years with the opportunity to be re-elected for a second term**



The Secretary General, together with the President, President-elect and Treasurer plays a key role in sustaining MWIA as a well-run and financially secure organization on the world stage.

She facilitates, monitors, collects data and prepares information for the Executive. Details of her roles can be found on the job description as posted on the MWIA website.

If for any reason the removal from office is irreversible, the Executive shall appoint a substitute for the remainder of that term.

## **MWIA TREASURER**

### **ARTICLE 11**

**The MWIA Treasurer** is a member of the MWIA Executive, the decision-making body of the association. The main duties of the Treasurer are to oversee the MWIA's financial administration, review procedures and financial reporting, advise the Executive on financial strategy and advise on fundraising. It is essential that she seeks financial advice as necessary. The Treasurer is an ex-officio member without voting rights of any Committee concerned with financial business.

**Her term of office is for 3 years and can be renewed for a second term.**

If for any reason the removal from office is irreversible, the Executive shall appoint a substitute for the remainder of that term.

#### **The Treasurer:**

1. Is responsible for precise keeping of accounts of all assets, funds, investments, bank accounts and other properties of the Association.
2. Prepares a timeline for annual payments such as dues to International Associations (e.g. WHO, European Women's Lobby)
3. Ensures that timely dues notices are sent to National Associations and Individual members and payment is acknowledged with receipts (by email)
4. Sends out reminders when dues have not been paid
5. Notifies the Executive when membership of Associations need to be suspended or statutory status is lost
6. Makes all payments that are requested and have been agreed by the Executive Committee.
7. Along with the President and Secretary General, is a signatory for payment with 2 of these 3 signatures being a requirement on all transactions
8. Presents the Executive with the annual budget in consultation with the Finance Committee and ensures the Executive Committee understands its financial obligations including compliance with tax regulations
9. Presents the audited accounts to the Executive annually. An external auditor appointed by the Executive needs to follow international accounting principles in the review of all financial records

**THE VICE-PRESIDENTS**  
**ARTICLE 12**

**The Vice-Presidents**

Each Vice President is a member of the Executive, the decision-making body of the organization. Each Vice-President represents a geographic region.

The term of office is three years. There is an option to be re-elected for a second term.

Some regions however, have a pre-determined rota of countries that will nominate the Vice President that precludes a second term. To be eligible for election, the candidate's National Association or the Individual Member must be current with their dues for the last triennium and be members in good standing. Individual Members are also eligible to represent the region to which they belong.

**Each Vice-President** within the limits of her region:

1. Shall encourage interest in the Association.
2. Studies and reports on professional problems and organizes exchanges for information on matters that concern medical women.
3. Organizes, as far as possible, regional meetings to discuss the business of the Association, scientific and professional matters which take into account the aims of the Association.
4. Includes the Individual Members of her region in her activities.
5. Encourages the establishment of new National Associations.
6. Works closely with the National Coordinators of their region.

**IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT**  
**ARTICLE 13**

The Immediate Past President is a member of the MWIA Executive, the decision-making body of the Association. In this role, she works closely with the President, the president-elect, the Secretary General and the Executive with whom she keeps in close communication. Her role is advising and supporting the President and the MWIA Executive in their decision making processes.

The Immediate Past President is an ex officio member without voting rights of all Committees. Her term of office is three years.

If for any reason the removal from office is irreversible, the position will not be replaced for the remainder of that term.

**ARTICLE 14**

A term of office for members of the Executive means the time interval between one General Assembly and that following.

## **ARTICLE 15**

The nomination of candidates for the Executive by the National Associations and Individual Members must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and personal statement and by their acceptance of the nomination in writing. Only candidates from Affiliated Associations in good standing who paid their dues can run for any executive position.

## **NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE**

### **ARTICLE 16**

The nomination of candidates to the Executive is made as follows:

Through the Secretariat, the Executive invites the National Associations and the Individual Members to submit the names of their candidates for the offices of President-Elect, SecretaryGeneral, Treasurer and Vice-Presidents, eighteen months before the next General Assembly.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is exactly 12 months before the General Assembly. The Vice-President for each region is nominated only by the members of that region, but nominations for the other positions can come from any region and the names proposed do not need to be limited to members from their own regions.

### **ARTICLE 17**

Members of the Executive must receive 2/3 (two thirds) of the votes of those voting in order to be elected. If this majority is not obtained after the first ballot a second ballot is taken and the candidate obtaining the highest number of votes is elected.

If there are two or more nominations for the same office in the Executive, the election is conducted by secret ballot.

For the position of Vice President for the region, it is advantageous to the region if it can decide itself at a regional business meeting who the candidate will be and put forth a single candidate on the nomination form. If there is more than one candidate, the election will take place at the General Assembly and all National Associations and Individual Members will be allowed to cast their votes, not just members of that region.

## **MWIA NATIONAL COORDINATOR**

### **ARTICLE 18**

Each National Association has an MWIA National Coordinator who is responsible for liaison with the Association.

She presents an annual report on the activities of the members of her National Association and provides the MWIA Secretariat with required information. She performs other duties as necessary.

## **ASSETS**

### **ARTICLE 19**

The annual subscription is due on the first of July each year. The amount of the dues will be determined at each General Assembly.

**COMMITTEES**  
**ARTICLE 20**

The Executive according to need, creates standing or ad hoc Committees. The General Assembly may also recommend committees.

The Executive sets the terms of reference for these Committees.

The Executive appoints the Chair and members of the Committees. Members can be suggested by the associated MWIA members in good standing or by invitation of the executive.

Only members from Associations in good standing can serve on Committees. Appointments shall be reviewed at the beginning of each term.

**EXTERNAL AUDITORS**  
**ARTICLE 21**

The External Auditors shall audit the accounts annually or more often as required by the Executive or at least 5 National Associations in two regions.

**LIABILITY OF THE OFFICERS**  
**ARTICLE 22**

No officer shall be personally liable for any action undertaken on behalf of the Association while executing her fiduciary duty and her duty of care.

**MEDICAL STUDENTS**  
**ARTICLE 23**

Affiliated National Associations may choose to have medical students as Associates according to the rules applicable to the medical profession in their countries

**REVISION OF THE BY-LAWS**  
**ARTICLE 24**

Revision of the By-Laws or any part of them shall be approved by the General Assembly.

**SUSPENSION OF MWIA**  
**ARTICLE 25**

In the event of war or other disaster MWIA may go into temporary suspension.

## AWARDS AND CLOSING CEREMONY

June 26th, 2022

Time: 17:00-18:00 (GMT+8)/11:00-12:00 (UTC+2)/ 05:00-06:00 (UTC-4)

### 1. Presentation of Awards

- **Lovejoy/ Jubilee Fellowship 2022** awarded to Dr. Yvonne Dabota Buowari (Nigeria) towards the early bird registration for the MWIA Congress in Taipei.
- **Jhirad Oration Award** presented to Dr. Satty Gill Keswani (USA) - former MWIA UN Representative in a ceremony performed virtually by Dr. Mandakini Megh
- **Waltraud-Diekhaus Essay competition Award 2022** presented to Dr. Fatima Damagum (Nigeria) and Dr. Yvonne Dabota Buowari (Nigeria)
- **TMWA Award** presented to Prof. Neena Modi (UK) and Dr. Pamini Murthy (USA)

### **MWIA Award - Jerusha Jirad Oration**

**Winner: Dr. Satty Gill Keswani (USA)**



**MWIA Lovejoy Award, and  
MWIA Waltraud Dekhaus Award Category - Gendered Violence  
Winner: Dr. Dabota Buowari (Nigeria)**



**TMWA Award Winner  
Prof. Dr. Padmini Murthy  
Professor and Global Health Director, New York Medical College, United States**



**TMWA Award Winner –  
Prof. Neena Modi  
Neonatal Medicine at Imperial College London, United Kingdom**



**2. Incoming President's Inaugural Address and unveiling of 2022-2025 Theme**

- In accordance to the MWIA by law article 9 the inaugural speech with the chosen theme and activities around this theme are presented to the membership during her presidential speech after her inauguration at the end of the triennial MWIA meeting at which she was elected. Please find attached the inaugural speech.
- Excerpts of the President's Inaugural Speech Address: "It is with utmost humility and gratitude to Almighty God that I stand before you as the one you elected to be the President for the 2022-2025 triennium. I am deeply honoured like other MWIA Presidents before me, who on assumption of office and in accordance with the constitution, unveils her theme for the triennium. As I introduce my theme, I enjoin everyone to once again, be selfless, be boldly responsive and as relevant female medical voices, to be daring, yet responsible. I hereby, invite you to join me and let's build this brand together.

In keeping with our tradition and by the authority conferred on me as the 34th President of MWIA, I unveil the theme for the 2022 / 2025 triennium as: **ONE HUMANITY: HEALTH SOLUTIONS THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIPS**. I welcome the brand-new executive. Our theme will be our brand for the next 3 years and will showcase the unique value we bring as medical women to global health. It is a brand-

new dawn. I welcome the new Executive of the Medical Women’s International Association.

The theme has been communicated in song. (Melody and voicing - Akunna Ehiemua. Instrumental accompaniment and engineering - Michael Ehiemua). The song which accompanies and promotes the theme deliberately says we will care for humanity. The reason MWIA is in existence is because of our pledge as medical women to care. We have always cared and now this is in recognition of committing to keep doing more especially towards neglected areas of need. We will rise through Partnerships. I invite us to sing the song in unison”.

### **3. Presentation of Incoming MWIA Executive 2022-2025 Triennium**

In her Inaugural Speech at the Awards and Closing Ceremony the Incoming President, as stated in the agenda of the 2022 General Assembly, announced the following composition of the new Executive Committee members for the 2022-2025 Triennium.

**MWIA Executive Committee for 2022-2025 Triennium**

 President <b>Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi</b> Nigeria	 President Elect <b>Dr. Amany Asfour</b> Egypt	 Secretary General <b>Dr. Mariam Jashi</b> Georgia	 Treasurer <b>Dr. Eliza Lo Chin</b> USA
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**Regional Vice Presidents**

 Northern Europe <b>Dr. Elizabeth Lorraine-Lichtenstein</b> Sweden	 Central Europe <b>Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei</b> Austria	 Southern Europe <b>Dr. Concetta Laurentaci</b> Italy	 North America <b>Dr. Connie Newman</b> USA
 Latin America <b>Dr. Nelci Zannon Collange</b> Brazil	 Near East and Africa <b>Dr. Claribel Abam</b> Nigeria	 Central Asia <b>Dr. Darunee Buddhari</b> Thailand	 Western Pacific <b>Dr. Bong Ok Kim</b> Republic of Korea



President: Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi (Nigeria)  
President - Elect: Dr. Amany Asfour (Egypt)  
Secretary General: Dr. Mariam Jashi (Georgia)  
Treasurer: Dr. Eliza Lo Chin (USA)

Regional Vice Presidents (VP)

VP Central Europe Region: Dr. Edith Schratzberger-Vécsei (Austria)  
VP Northern Europe Region: Dr. Elizabeth Lorraine-Lichtenstein (Sweden)  
VP Southern Europe Region: Dr. Concetta Laurentaci (Italy)  
VP North America Region: Dr. Connie Newman (USA)  
VP Latin America Region: Dr. Nelci Zanon Collange (Brazil)  
VP Near and East Africa Region: Dr. Claribel Abam (Nigeria)  
VP Central Asia Region: Dr. Darunee Buddhari (Thailand)  
VP Western Pacific Region: Dr. Bong Ok Kim (Korea, Republic of)

**4. Presentation of President Elect's brooch**

President Nwadinobi made a virtual Presentation of the badge for the President Elect for Dr. Amany Asfour.



*MWIA President Dr Eleanor Nwadinobi announcing the new Executive of MWIA for 2022-2025, with Regional Vice President Western Pacific Dr. Bong Ok Kim and virtually presenting the President- Elect's badge for Dr. Amany Asfour.*

## **5. Virtual Presentation of Past President's Sashes**

The President made a virtual Presentation of Sashes to all living the Presidents with inscriptions indicating the years when they served as President as follows:

Past President: (1984 - 1987)	Dr. Beverley Tamboline
Past President: (1995 - 1998)	Dr. Florence Manguyu
Past President: (2001- 2004)	Dr. Shelley Ross
Past President: (2004 - 2007)	Dr. Gaye Casper
Past President: (2010 - 2013)	Dr. Afua Hesse
Past President: (2013 - 2016)	Dr. Kyung Ah
Past President: (2016 - 2019)	Dr. Bettina Pfleiderer
Past President: (2019 -2019)	Dr. Clarissa Fabre

## **6. Congress Closure**

MWIA President Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi declared MWIA 32<sup>nd</sup> International Congress and the 2022 General Assembly closed until 2025. The next MWIA Congress will be held in Egypt in 2025.

MWIA 2022 provided a platform for medical women from all over the world to stimulate new inspirations and established new international collaborations and friendships that will be fruitful and memorable for the future.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2025!



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