

Accountable Now

Board of Trustees Meeting

28 November 2019

Minutes

Present

Olivier Guth, Adra (Treasurer) (Chair of the meeting) *(Member)*

Colm O'Cuanachain, Independent (Chair of the Board) *(Non-member)*

Jo Thompson, Independent *(Non-member)*

Belen Gonzalez, TECHO *(Member)*

Jose Faura, Educo *(Member)*

Amy Taylor, CIVICUS *(Member)*

Alex Sardar, Independent *(Non-Member)*

Elie Gasagara, World Vision International *(Member)*

Brendan Gormley (outgoing Chair) *(Non-Member)*

In attendance from the Secretariat

Rocío Moreno, Executive Director

Ezgi Akarsu, Programme Manager (Minute taker)

Apologies

Betty Ho, Taiwan Fund for Children and Families *(Member)*

Rosa Inés Ospina, Rendir Cuentas *(Non-Member)*



Welcome and agree on agenda (ACC 19/28)

- Most action points from the last Board meeting have either been completed or are currently being processed.
- The [last meeting minutes](#) were approved.
- Trustees gave feedback on current issues in relevant sectors.

Executive Director's Report (ACC 19/29 & ACC 19/30)

The Executive Director provided an update on developments since the last Board meeting in May.

- The [Dynamic Accountability Community of Practice](#) will be launching in December, followed by the new Accountable Now website.
- A report was given on the [Annual Workshop](#), held in London on 20-21 November. This workshop was centered on shifting the power towards the people and communities we work with and for and exploring new ways of working in the donor-grantee relationship. The workshop contained great discussions and lots of engagement from participants. Donors presented their regulatory requirements which may seem strict to some and explained why those requirements were necessary. Going forward, Accountable Now will continue to work with organisations to identify solutions for enabling the power shift.
- Trustees held a discussion on [reporting](#) and how the new reporting framework can be a strategic tool for helping members overcome challenges within their organisations. Also discussed was how to better provide capacity support to assist organisations that lack sufficient internal capacity to file the reports. Ways to simplify/streamline the reporting process and make it more flexible **will be explored**.
- Ongoing talks with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) were discussed including ways to collaborate but also provide different services to members to avoid duplication of services/fees.
- [Accountability Lab](#) was confirmed as a **new member**.

Board Issues (ACC19/31)

- [The Board acknowledged](#) Pia's resignation as the Board Chair.



- The Board voted to **appoint Colm as the new Chair**, as of 15 December.
- The new Vice Chair will be appointed after Colm (the new Chair) has had the opportunity to work with the other trustees for a few months.
- Accountable Now should **publicize the new Chair and communicate** the appointment to its members.

Finances (ACC 19/32 & 19/33)

The Board approved the 2020 budget presented by the Treasurer and Executive Director. Some of the key points discussed were:

- The ratio of **restricted vs. unrestricted funding** must be observed. Accountable Now should possibly develop guidelines on this. Also Accountable Now will work to get more restricted funding in order to “free up” unrestricted funding to add to our reserves.
- **The Trustees reviewed the 2020 work plan.** One recommendation was that the Board should be more involved in providing vision/long-term perspectives to help steer the Secretariat moving forward in the planned work. **The Board decided** to have a strategic meeting during the next face to face Board meeting (to be held in Berlin in May 2020) to discuss this in more detail.
- **Membership fees** may need to be increased in order to reflect inflation. This topic will be discussed in future.

Legal Issues (ACC 19/34)

- **The Board approved** UK Trustees joining the German association.
- **The Board approved** to begin the process of dissolving the UK Charity.
- This process must begin as soon as possible due to the length of time required to complete the process. Accountable Now will need to **review** the definition of German charities- if similar to the UK definition it will be easier to transfer funds from the UK to Germany.
- The change in registration from UK to Germany needs to be clearly communicated to members. Also, the new bank account details must be clearly



highlighted when issuing membership fee invoices next year.

- The **Board approved** the revised **Code of Conduct** and **Environmental Policies**.

Any Other Business (ACC 19/35)

The Trustees finished the meeting with a closed session without the Secretariat.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 5 March (virtually via GoToMeeting).

END