

Accountable Now

Board of Trustees Virtual Meeting

12 and 13 May 2020

Minutes

Present

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

Olivier Guth, Adra (Treasurer) *(Member)*

Jo Thompson, Independent *(Non-member)*

Amy Taylor, CIVICUS *(Member)*

Alex Sardar, Independent *(Non-Member)*

Elie Gasagara, World Vision International *(Member)*

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

In attendance from the Secretariat

Rocío Moreno, Executive Director

Mary Sprague, Administrative Assistant (Minute taker)

Hector Payo, Membership and Reporting Manager

Bao Han Tran Le, Programme Officer for the Global Standard for CSO Accountability

Eliza Lopez, Programme Manager for the Global Standard for CSO Accountability

Apologies



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

Belen Gonzalez, TECHO (*Member*)

Day One: 12 May 2020

Welcome and agree on agenda (ACC 20/08)

- The [last meeting minutes](#) were approved.
- Most action points from the last Board meeting have either been completed or are currently being processed.
- Trustees gave feedback on current issues in relevant sectors. The [discussion centered on how the sector and how governments are responding to the coronavirus situation](#) in different contexts.

Executive Director's Report (ACC 20/09)

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

- Due to the Coronavirus situation, the Secretariat has been exploring ways to move to virtual ie. [Virtual Peer Advice Groups](#) and [Virtual Workshops](#)
- The Secretariat, along with the Board and IRP have talked with members with [overdue reports](#) to make plans to get members back in [compliance with the reporting schedule](#). The Secretariat will continue to provide support.
- The Trustees have advised the Secretariat to [reach out to members](#) regarding ability to [comply with reporting](#) and to [offer some support and flexibility](#).
- Trustees provided good feedback on the [Accountability in Focus reports](#). They encouraged the Secretariat to [evaluate how to market these reports effectively](#).
- There was a discussion on expanding membership to [include regional and national CSOs and other type of organisations](#).

Membership and IRP Update (ACC 20/10)

This session was an opportunity for the current and outgoing Chair of the IRP to



provide an update on the panel's work and also for the Trustees to meet the incoming Chair. The IRP Chair will continue to be the point person for communication with the Board.

- One of the panel members offered to develop a survey to be conducted, to assess Members different **whistleblower mechanisms**.
- The IRP is still **exploring ways to streamline the reporting process**. They will continue to work with the Secretariat on this matter. Accountable Now should reach out to members to understand parts of the reporting process that are challenging and work on addressing these particular issues.
- The IRP is in a strong position now. Recruitment of **a new member will be conducted in October**.

Strategic discussion: Accountable Now unpacked - Value Proposition (ACC 20/11)

- The Secretariat is exploring ways to communicate Accountable Now's added value to current and potential members.
- The Trustees discussed the **importance of highlighting organisations' legitimacy**. If Accountable Now is trusted, our members are trusted. **Must work to build legitimacy with all stakeholders**.
- Must continue to build relationships with donors and organizations in the **Global South**. Can explore potential of working with **National NGOs**

Any Other Business (ACC 20/12)

The Board Chair wrapped up Day One's meeting with a summary of the day and a quick overview of the agenda for Day Two.

Day Two: 13 May 2020

Welcome Back (ACC 20/08)

The Board Chair gave a review of yesterday's meeting.



Finance and Legal Update (ACC 20/13)

The Treasurer and Executive Director gave an update on financial and legal issues.

- The Treasurer presented a summary of the [audited 2019 Financial Report](#) and an update from the [Finance and Risk Committee meeting](#) held virtually 23 April 2020.
- A discussion was held around presenting quarterly financial updates for the trustees, rather than just annually. The Secretariat is in a transition phase and just began working with a new bookkeeper, but will explore the feasibility of quarterly reports.
- [Accountable Now's German registration](#) has been completed. Accountable Now is working with a law firm who is providing legal advice in [dissolution of the UK Charity](#).

Board and Trustees (ACC 20/14)

- The Board agreed to create a subcommittee who will look for **two persons to fill the vacant positions on the Board**. They will be seeking [one member representative](#) and [one independent](#).
- In line with Accountable Now's core values and policies, the subcommittee will try to [maintain gender balance](#) on the Board. Furthermore, they will make sure we bring in the perspectives from the [Global South](#).
- As well, [HR experience](#) and [legal knowledge](#) are competencies that the Board will be looking for.

Strategic discussion: Revising our communication's strategy (ACC 20/15)

Accountable Now's Secretariat gave an update on the new communications strategy.

- The Trustees advised that [the Secretariat needs to clearly identify our niche](#), in order to communicate effectively.
- Accountability is a complex concept. Accountable Now is working on ways to [simplify our communications on defining accountability](#). Also must find a better way



to communicate the link between [Accountable Now and the Global Standard](#).

AGM Agenda - Review (ACC 20/16)

The 2020 Accountable Now AGM will be held virtually [May 14th](#). The Executive Director gave an overview of the upcoming meeting.

- Accountable Now will **announce the vacancies** on the IRP and the Board during the meeting.

Any Other Business (ACC 20/17)

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

The next meeting will take place on October 5th and 6th in Berlin (if possible to hold a face to face meeting due to covid travel restrictions. If not, the meeting will be held virtually).

END