

Accountable Now

Board of Trustees Virtual

Meeting

9 October 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)*

Belén González, TECHO *(Member)*

Megan Colnar, Independent *(Incoming Trustee)*

Dumiso Gatsha, Independent *(Incoming Trustee)*

Oscar Mushivochi, CBM *(Member, Incoming Trustee)*

In attendance from the Secretariat

Rocío Moreno, Executive Director

Irina Neshikj, Incoming Interim Executive Director

Mary Sprague, Administrative Assistant (Minute taker)

Hector Payo, Membership and Reporting Manager

Bethany Spendlove Keeley, Communications Coordinator



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

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

Apologies

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

Alex Sardar, Independent (*Non-member*)

Welcome and agree on agenda (ACC 20/17)

- 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, in particular in regards to the coronavirus situation and its impact on the CSO sector.

Executive Director's Report (ACC 20/18)

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

- Due to the uncertainty brought on by the Coronavirus situation, the Secretariat has continued to carry out activities virtually.
- The **Global Standard for CSO Accountability**, has begun compiling documents to formalize the partnership and to create a **strategic roadmap** defining activities for the next 5 years.
- The Secretariat, members, the IRP, and the Board have been welcoming Iliina Neshikj, Accountable Now's Interim Executive Director. Iliina's induction process has kicked off and the handover begins October 12, as Rocio Moreno Lopez begins



parental leave.

Membership and Reporting (ACC 20/19)

Hector Payo, Accountable Now's Membership and Reporting Manager, gave an update on membership and reporting.

- One of the recent tasks has been connecting with members and monitoring the [ability of members to complete the reporting process and to pay annual membership fees](#), due to potential reduced organisational capacity related to reduced funding and/or reduced staff during the pandemic.
- The Secretariat is working with several members to provide [personalized training and support](#) in order to help the members get back on track in submitting their reports.
- The Board acknowledged that CARE International had decided to withdraw their membership in 2021.
- The Board moved to [approve the appointment](#) of one candidate for the open position on the IRP. The Board will [explore the possibility of expanding the IRP](#) with additional members. To do so, the Articles of Association will need to be reviewed. The Secretariat will [review the process](#) of appointing IRP members to make sure it is [fair](#). Any changes to the IRP composition or appointment process will need to be approved by members in the 2021 AGM, if pursued.

Finances (ACC 20/20 & ACC 20/21)

The Treasurer gave a [financial update](#) for January to September 2020 and expected [2020 year end projections](#). Some of the takeaways include:

- **2020 Finances:** Accountable Now is expected to end the year 2020 with a [surplus](#). This surplus is due to reduced spending, especially travel and meetings, due to the coronavirus.



- **2021 Budget and Work Plans:** The Treasurer and Executive Director gave an overview of the **2021 budget and work plans**. Following a discussion around the need to check in with member organisations and determine if and when they are able to pay membership fees, the Trustees approved these items. The Secretariat will **monitor this situation in 2021** and will **develop a plan with members** on a case by case basis if needed.
 - The **Work plan will be reviewed by the incoming Executive Director** so that it is more comprehensive and that it reflects the suggestions provided by DIG.

Accountable Now's value added vis a vis CHS (ACC 20/23)

- The ED presented a report compiled by a consultant looking at Accountable Now's value added.
 - A major finding of the report was that Accountable Now's reporting process is less of a compliance exercise, but more of an educational tool.
- The Trustees held a discussion on moving forward. The Board agrees that Accountable Now's value needs to be better articulated. The emphasis of communications is on other services that Accountable Now offers (workshops, webinars, etc.), rather than the reporting framework or process.
 - The Board asked the Executive Director to produce a management response to the report where next steps are included.

Board Related Matters (ACC 20/24)

- Elie Gagara has stepped down from the Board and the Finance and Risk Committee. To fill the open Board position, a subcommittee was selected to lead the search.
- The Board appointed three new Trustees. Two independent Trustees joining the Board are Megan Colnar and Dumiso Gatsha. One member representative, Oscar Mushivochi from CBM, has also been appointed. Oscar's appointment will need to



be formally approved by members during the 2021 AGM.

Introducing Interim Executive Director (ACC 20/25)

- The Trustees welcomed Accountable Now's Interim Executive Director, Iliana Neshikj. Iliana will be ED until November 2021 while Rocio Moreno Lopez is on parental leave.

Any Other Business (ACC 20/26)

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

The next meeting will take place virtually in February 2021.

END