



Accountable Now

Board of Trustees Virtual Meeting

11 and 12 March 2021 12:00 to 14:30 CET Held via Zoom

Minutes

Present

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

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

Jo Thompson, Independent *(Non-member)*

Alex Sardar, Independent *(Non-member)*

Amy Taylor, CIVICUS *(Member)*

Megan Colnar, Independent *(Non-member)*

Dumiso Gatsha, Independent *(Non-member)*

Oscar Mushivochi, CBM *(Member)*

In attendance from the Secretariat

Irina Neshikj, 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)

DAY ONE:

Welcome and agree on agenda (ACC 21/01)

- 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 after more than one year of the crisis.

Executive Director's Report (ACC 21/02 & ACC 21/03)

The Interim Executive Director provided an update on developments since the last Board meeting in October 2020, including the draft 2020 Accountable Now Annual Report.

- Due to the coronavirus pandemic, [meetings and events were held virtually](#). The remote accessibility to these meetings [resulted in record participation](#), therefore it was recommended to consider virtual events moving forward to allow for [more participation](#). The Trustees recommended that the Secretariat produce a [case-study report](#) on the experience of hosting a virtual AGM. It was also recommended that the Secretariat include a section on organisational and staff development and well-being in the Annual Report.
- The Trustees discussed the [Impact Measurement PAG](#). They recommended that PAG could [focus on accountability impact measurement](#) rather than impact measurement more broadly.
- The Interim Executive Director presented the ED Report. This report included



updates on the 2021 workplan and the status of the on-going Development Alternative and Global Standard for CSO Accountability projects.

Membership and Reporting (ACC 21/04)

The Membership and Reporting Manager presented an update on members, reporting progress, and the IRP.

- Due to the pandemic, **members have had less resources and staff cuts, leading to delays in reporting**. The Secretariat will continue to support members, and to allow extensions on a case by case basis.
- **Updates from the IRP meetings** February 16 and 17 were shared. Much of the IRP session was discussion on **Accountable Now's added value**, and whether reporting is the primary value for members. The IRP has expressed strong interest in continuing these conversations. Additionally, the **feedback process** was discussed. Recently there have been difficulties in having senior management participate in the feedback calls. **The IRP suggested convening an event with senior management to convey the importance of these calls**.

Finances (ACC 21/05)

The Board Treasurer and the Interim Executive Director presented an **overview of the final finances for 2020**.

- Accountable Now closed 2020 with **a surplus of EUR 36,492**. This surplus largely comes from savings due to no staff traveling due to the pandemic and all meetings held virtually.
- The Interim Executive Director shared the **projected figures for 2021**.
- The Treasurer expressed concern that it is not yet possible to share financial statements directly from the external bookkeeping firm. The **Secretariat is continuing to work closely with Schlarmann von Geyso to ensure that financial statements that are in line with international formats are able to be shared during the next Board meeting**.



- The Treasurer gave an update on the tender process for the [2020 audit of the German entity](#). The Finance and Risk Committee **approved the proposal from Braus Beratung + Revision** for this work.

Legal Updates (ACC 21/06)

The Board Treasurer and the Interim Executive Director shared a progress report on the [UK charity dissolution process](#). With the [closing of the 3-month waiting period on March 10, 2021](#), the lawyers will submit the strike-off application. The [strike-off period](#) is expected to take approximately 8 weeks maximum, however delays in processing could occur due to the pandemic. Once the strike-off application has been approved, the UK charity will be closed.

- The [Interim Executive Director](#) proposed that the next Board meeting and **AGM** be held in June to ensure that the dissolution period has been completed beforehand. The Trustees **approved** this suggestion. The **Secretariat will propose potential dates**.

Board Member Updates

Currently, Accountable Now is seeking two member representatives to fill the open Board positions. The [Interim Executive Director](#) informed the Trustees on the **recruitment process**. Current Trustees would like to **schedule a call with the candidates to discuss the position prior to these meetings** and the selection of the successful candidates.

Any Other Business

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:

Accountable Now's value added workshop (ACC 21/07 & ACC 21/08)

Participants from the Board, IRP, and Secretariat participated in a strategic workshop to discuss the management response to the added value report and to outline next steps. Participants worked in two groups to define the **internal value** and communication of **Accountable Now's value for members** and the **external communications** of **Accountable Now's work and engagement with potential members**.

Following these breakout groups, a plenary session outlined next steps. **Before the AGM and the next Board meeting, the Secretariat has agreed to work on mapping members (size/type/regions of work etc.), and to develop the Added Value Management Response and the Communications Strategy.**