



20 / April / 2021

Dear Members of the Independent Review Panel,

Thank you for the constructive feedback on CIVICUS' Interim Accountability Report 2019-2020. We appreciate that you commend us for demonstrating strong commitment to accountability, specifically our approach to stakeholder engagement in these challenging times of a global pandemic.

We would like to provide clarification around the following specific points raised in your feedback letter:

- We are tracking **progress against the mentioned Mid-Term Strategy Review recommendations** and [action points](#) on a quarterly level in a joint spreadsheet. Examples of this include six outcomes and change stories collected by the Advocacy & Campaigns Cluster, indicating the effectiveness of our streamlined influencing approaches, improved data capabilities of alliance members through our digital security trainings, revised sub-granting management as well as change management guidelines, and the successful testing of the new member-to-member online platform.
- More information about our **Solidarity Fund** – including the eligible criteria for applications, the different funding types, or examples of previous grantee projects – can be found [online](#).
- CIVICUS has an **Operations Committee**, rather than a Board Finance Committee, whose mandate covers all aspects of financial governance. The Operations Committee doubles as the Audit Committee for external audit purposes and relevant report back to the Board. It performs an oversight role as part of a strategic (and not an executive) Board, whereas internal and operational decisions on e.g., the (re-)allocation of CIVICUS resources would be outlined in the Delegated and Financial Authorities Framework.

We note the suggested areas for improvement and will provide more information in the next full report for 2020-2021, for example on how CIVICUS ensures confidentiality when handling internal anonymous complaints and grievances. We also aim to further engage external stakeholders in the writing of the accountability report, with the intention of integrating trends and meaningful feedback loops. Moreover, we are prioritizing amendments to our Strategic Goals 2017-2022 in order to be responsive to dynamic developments of supporting protest movements and newest digital threats and opportunities. Please let us know if you require any additional information from our side.

Sincerely,

Lysa John Berna  
(Secretary General, CIVICUS)

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**Johannesburg Office**

25 Owl Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor  
Johannesburg, 2092  
Tel: +27 (0)11 833 5959

**SWITZERLAND**

**Geneva Office**

11 Avenue de la Paix  
CH-1202  
Geneva  
Tel: +41(0)22 733 3435

**UNITED STATES**

**Washington Office**

117 Eye Street NW Suite 1150  
Washington DC 20006, USA

**New York Office**

205 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, New York, 10017

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**London Office**

Unit 60 Eurolink Business Centre  
49 Effra Road  
SW 1BZ, London  
Tel: +44(0)20 7733 9696