

Accountable Now

Board of Trustees Meeting

17 November 2021

Minutes

Present

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

Amy Taylor, CIVICUS (*Vice-Chair, Member*)

Mary Brezovich, SOS Children's Villages International (*Member*)

Sekoetlane Phamodi, Accountability Lab (*Member*)

Dumiso Gatsha (Independent, *Non-Member*)

Oscar Mushivochi, CBM (*Member*)

In attendance from the Secretariat

Ilina Neshikj, Interim Executive Director

Rocio Moreno Lopez, Executive Director (maternity leave)

Apologies

Olivier Guth, Adra (*Treasurer, Member*)

Jo Thompson, (Independent, *Non-Member*)

Megan Colnar, (Independent, *Non-Member*)

Alex Sardar, (Independent, *Non-Member*)



Welcome and agree on agenda (ACC 21/01 - ACC 21/03)

- The [last meeting minutes](#) were approved.
- Most action points from the last Board meeting have been completed or are currently being implemented (the action points deriving from the last Board minutes were addressed when presenting the activities taken in 2021).
- The Chair of the Board informed the Board that the term of the Interim Executive Director is ending in January 2022 and that we are already working on the handover and the transition.
- The Board was informed that there were no decisions made regarding the Articles of Association on the last AGM.

Report 2021 (Information) (ACC 21/02 - ACC 21/03)

The Executive Director and the Chair of the Board provided an overview of the [2021 ED Report](#) and the [Accounts for 2021](#).

- All actions have been implemented as planned. The communication strategy implementation has been postponed to start in 2022 with the employment of a new communication officer.
- The Board recommended [that AN document and facilitate more cooperation between members](#) to solve concrete problems.
- The Board also requested that staff wellbeing and report on the Secretariat development should be included in the ED report towards the Board.
- The Executive Director presented conclusions from the Finances and Risk Committee, presenting the actual expenditures for 2021 till 30 September.
- The ED informed the Board about the cooperation with the new accounting company BakerTilly and presented the report prepared by the new company. The Board was informed that the quality of the services is satisfactory.
- The ED also announced that all recommendations deriving from the Audit report had been implemented.
- The ED and the Finance and Risk Committee expect to finish the year with a significant surplus. For 2021, most of the income will be received as expected. One member has not paid the membership fee yet, but there is no information regarding any difficulties from their side. Expected income for 2022 will be lower, but the budget allows the staff to maintain certain flexibility so that the ED can



adapt according to the needs in 2022.

- Some of the [fundraising efforts](#) taking place at the moment were also presented.
- The ED informed the Board that [the UK Charity has finally been fully closed in 2021](#).
- The [Risk Register updates](#) were presented. Updates related to CHS, the added value, and the next steps associated with the strategic planning were announced. Specific focus was given to the communication-related Transparency International former CEO and his book that refers to AN and our accountability mechanism.

Membership Rethinking – Next Steps (ACC 21/04 - ACC 21/06)

The Executive Director presented the current membership developments, including report status and new IRP composition.

- The Board discussed that [two members are leaving AN in 2022](#); Worldvision and Greenpeace International. The documents submitted to the Board contained a detailed presentation on the reasons for leaving Accountable Now.
- The [membership application from the World Scout Movement](#) presented with the additional information requested. The Board discussed this specific case and discussed our membership approach more generally. Recommendations were made for the future, and a decision has been taken to accept the organization as a member from January 2022.
- The Trustees also discussed the proposed Learning program model. Some suggestions were made:
 - Not to present this proposal as a membership alternative but as a pilot programme.
 - Not to limit the approach with the fee attached to it, including the organization we want as allies should be a priority rather than the costs.
 - Use a more member-to-member approach.

Election of New Board Chair (ACC 21/07)

Colm Ó Cuanacháin joined Accountable Now as a Trustee in 2018 and has been the Board's current Chair since December 2019. Accountable Now will start a process of looking for a new Chair. The Board approved the following process:

- Recruitment will be led internally, with more extensive involvement of



the Executive Director.

- ED will be supported in conducting interviews by a Committee assembled from a minimum of two members of the Board.
- A [public call will be published in December 2021](#); the Trustees will be invited to propose candidates to be considered and approached by the ED.

Any Other Business

The next meeting will take place virtually in March 2022.

END