

Reimagining Accountable Now Consultancy Opportunity to Review, Reimagine and Revise our Approach

Background

[Accountable Now](#) (formerly known as the INGO Accountability Charter) was founded 14 years ago by 10 of the leading International Civil Society Organisations (ICSOs) who were committed to setting a new standard for accountability in the sector by identifying 10 key focal areas. Recognizing the need to support these organisations in implementing and assessing their progress towards advancing this set of commitments, an accountability mechanism comprising annual reports and an independent review panel was established.

In addition to this, a business model was developed. It was very simple: committed organisations would pay membership fees—using an equity-based sliding scale to accommodate different organisational budgets and sizes—would be enough to maintain a lean and effective secretariat.

Fourteen years ago, the Accountable Now's accountability proposal was a bold new commitment, with few existing accountability standards in use in the field. The field looks different in 2022, where we have a proliferation of standards and of accountability platforms. Each standard has unique reporting formats, focal areas, and questions, and many require the production of lengthy reports requiring a heavy time and resource commitment internally.

Over the past 4 years, the Accountable Now Secretariat has gathered member feedback, ideas and insights. This has informed some programme and revenue model iterations. However, given the changing landscape for International CSOs, we are eager to take a bolder approach to reimagining our services and, ultimately, to promote systemic change in dynamic accountability practice.

For this reason, Accountable Now is looking to hire an external consultant to provide support on reviewing our current situation and to help us explore several different strategy and decision pathways to consider. Through this work we want to make sure that we:

- Are relevant for our current and future members;



- Provide sufficient value add; and,
- Can diversify our revenue to be able to offer long term support and strengthen foundations with our work.

During the past two years, particularly, we have gathered a significant amount of inputs and feedback from Members and former members that could be useful to kick off the conversation. However, we would welcome the expertise of an external consultant that could help us organise and translate this information into useful inputs and provide support in facilitating the conversations that we need to have.

Objectives

Accountable Now is looking to hire an external consultant to:

- Review and update our current understanding of our role in the sector, including what we offer, who we support and the impact we can have
- Develop a series of scenarios/options for core future strategies Accountable Now might adopt, building on areas of strengths identified, new opportunities or radical ideas
- Consider sustainability of scenarios developed including options to modify membership fees as well as otherwise funding options

Scope of Work and timeline

We expect the work of the selected consultant to assist the Secretariat and Board to make the following decisions:

- Update our understanding of our role in the sector and the type of organisations we seek to work with and for
- Decide which of our current focal areas and approaches are best serving the above and our understanding of dynamic accountability in the sector; and explore new approaches and ideas that may serve these better
- Determine extent of AN's ability to rely on membership fees as the primary revenue stream for the organisation, including via an assessment of fees/pricing and types of membership

The consultancy should be conducted between April 2022 and August 2022. A detailed timeline will be agreed at the beginning of the assignment.

Consultant Profile

The type of consultant that we would be looking for is one that has guided other organisations through major decision moments, knowledge on transformational approaches, brings creativity



to their work, and has knowledge and experience with membership-driven organisations and reporting standards and frameworks. This person should also have experience working in the international development or social change space. Knowledge on the accountability field is also an added advantage.

Costs and Remuneration

The total amount allocated to carry out this work is up to 10,000 euros +VAT. Travel costs and per diems to attend the in-person meeting with the Board will be covered by Accountable Now.

Apply

If you are interested in helping us out with this task please send us an email where you express your interest, a brief proposal and CV on how you would propose to take this task forward to mlopez@accountablenow.org by 30 April 2022. Consultants will be interviewed during the first week of May.