



**Accountable
Now**
GLOBAL STANDARDS LOCAL TRUST

Accountable Now Membership Policy



A) Membership criteria

Membership is available for civil society organisations (CSOs) which:

- ▶ Undertake operational and/or advocacy activities in the public interest on issues that benefit the environment, society as a whole or a group in particular, as well as foundations contributing to the funding of such activities.
- ▶ Have a mission and mandate that requires the organisation to work predominantly internationally, or to work on international issues. Organisations with a national work focus are only eligible for Membership if they work in countries where no equivalent national accountability framework is available.
- ▶ Have activities and management practices which are consistent with and supportive of the vision, purpose and objectives of Accountable Now;
- ▶ Will embrace, comply with and promote the Accountable Now Accountability Commitments (as amended from time to time) in its entirety; ▶ Have been in existence with due diligence (valid legal registration, published annual reports and annual externally audited account) for at least three years;
- ▶ Have a complaints handling mechanism for internal and external complaints in place or give written consent that it will be fully implemented by the time the first Accountability Report is submitted;
- ▶ Apply for Accountable Now Membership in the form required by the Board of Trustees;
- ▶ Are approved by a majority of 75% of the Board of Trustees;
- ▶ Fulfil all Membership obligations (see below).



B) Full Members and Affiliate Members

Organisations that are approved by the Accountable Now Board have the status of “Affiliate Members” until their first Accountability Report has been vetted and approved by the Independent Review Panel. Full Members that withdraw from Accountable Now Membership and wish to return within one year’s time can under exceptional circumstances become “Full Members” again without first going through the phase as “Affiliate Member”.

C) Membership rights and obligations

Full Members and Affiliate Members are:

- ▶ Entitled to attend Annual General Meetings;
- ▶ Entitled to attend workshops, trainings, webinars and peer-review sessions organised by Accountable Now;
- ▶ Entitled to participate in expert networks as organised by Accountable Now;
- ▶ Entitled to be listed on Accountable Now’s website as Full Members or Affiliate Members;
- ▶ Required to pay Membership fees as set by the Board;
- ▶ Required to report annually against the Accountable Now Accountability Commitments in line with the Reporting Requirements set by the Board at the same level of quality for the entire organisation/s they subscribed for;
- ▶ Entitled and required to have their Accountability Reports vetted by the Independent Review Panel and the feedback to be published on Accountable Now’s website.
- ▶ Entitled to use the Accountable Now logo for the organisation or part of organisation (e.g. only headquarter) which has become a Member.



Only Full Members are:

- ▶ Entitled to lodge proposals and have a vote at Annual General Meetings. The voting right of national entities shall be exercised through the international secretariat/ headquarter unless the latter is itself not a Member. The voting right is limited to one vote for one international organisation;
- ▶ Entitled to nominate persons to stand for election to the Board.

Last update: October 2016