

Trustees Virtual Meeting

25 May 2022

Minutes

Present

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

Rachel Smith, (Incoming Chair of the Board) *(Non-Member)*

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

Amy Taylor, CIVICUS *(Member)*

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

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

Sekoetlane Phamodi, Accountability Lab *(Member, Incoming Trustee)*

Jo Thompson, Independent *(Non-Member)*

Alex Sardar, Independent *(Non-Member)*

Dumiso Gatsha, Success Capital *(Non-Member)*

In attendance from the Secretariat

Rocio Moreno, Executive Director

Welcome and agree on agenda (ACC 22/01)

- The [last meeting minutes](#) were approved.
- Most action points from the last Board meeting have either been completed or are currently being processed.

Board Matters (ACC 22/08)

The Board thanked Colm O’Cuanachain for his support and contributions to the Accountable Now board and voted **Rachel Smith as new incoming Chair of the Board**. In addition, the Trustees also welcomed Kenneth White, CFO of Techo, and Veronica Zambrano, Director of the Subregion of South America for Plan International, who after being voted by the Members will join the Board of Directors.

Executive Director’s Report (ACC 22/09)

The Executive Director provided an overview of the activities that the Secretariat had been carrying out during these past two months. She mentioned that her main priority at this time was fundraising and focusing on positioning the Accountable Now brand. To do so, the team was focused on organising a four-day event around Dynamic Accountability which is open and that can be accessed by different types of CSOs. Over 150 people have signed up so far to join the conversations!

Communications Strategy (ACC 22/10)

The Communications Associate shared with the Board the areas that we would prioritise in advancing when it comes to communication and positioning Accountable Now. The Board was pleased to see that the Secretariat was focusing on working with members on showcasing the work that they were doing with Accountable Now but also on unpacking accountability and how to make it more accessible for the wider public. The Board also mentioned that you could see significant more activity on social media and that we should continue to focus on this.

Finances and Legal (ACC 22/11)

- The Treasurer reported that **up to 30 April, Accountable Now had collected 221,709 euros** in Membership fees and resources to carry out the Global Standard Project. We are still waiting for 6 members to pay their fees.
- In regards to SIDA funding, it was shared with the Board that In response to a government request for resource reallocation for refugee reception, Sida announced that it will be cutting back its budget for this year. And for this reason, Sida asked that their partners prepare to return up to 39% of their grant amount. Decision is still not final but the Secretariat has reviewed its budget and prepared to scale back the work of the GS Secretariat.
- In terms of expenditures, the Treasurer mentioned that the Secretariat had spent 39% of the approved budget. It also mentioned that there were no major differences to report just to

highlight that staff salaries had increased by 4% to compensate for the increase in cost of living from March this year.

- The Treasurer also shared that Accountable Now began the process of registering Accountable Now as a trademark in the USA.
- The Trustees acknowledge receipt of the Annual Audit Report and the fact that there were no major issues highlighted coming for the auditors.
- Lastly, the Trustees acknowledged that Megan will join the Finance and Risk Committee.

Fundraising (ACC 22/12)

- The Secretariat presented an overview of the efforts that were being carried out to mobilise resources for the organisation. Accountable Now is not only looking at receiving grants but we are also partnering in consortia with new partner organisations.
- We are still waiting to hear back from several proposals that were submitted these past months.

Strategic Refresh (ACC 22/13)

- The Executive Director shared that the task force integrated by Rachel Smith, Amy Taylor and Megan Colnar had come to the decision to hire The Better Org as the consultant organisation to carry out the organisational strategic refresh.
- The consultancy would run from June to November and the consultants would be invited to join the July in-person Board meeting. This is a great opportunity for them to obtain key inputs for the scoping exercise they will be carrying out.

Any Other Business

The next meeting will take place virtually in October 2022.

END



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Now**
GLOBAL STANDARDS LOCAL TRUST