



**Accountable
Now**

GLOBAL STANDARDS LOCAL TRUST

Accountable Now Membership Policy



Table of Contents

- I. About AN's Membership
- II. Categories of Membership
- III. Membership Criteria/Eligibility
- IV. Application Process
- V. Membership Rights and Responsibilities
- VI. Fees and Payment Process
- VII. Withdrawal
- VIII. Definitions

LAST UPDATED: February 2024, Approved 22 April 2024



I. About AN's Membership

Accountable Now offers a global membership platform aimed at supporting civil society organizations in enhancing their accountability, transparency, and impact. Membership provides access to resources, support services, and networking opportunities tailored to the needs of participating organizations.

II. Categories of Membership

Membership to Accountable Now is broken down into the following three tiers, with corresponding rights, responsibilities and fee scales:

- a. **Tier 1:** Full Member
- b. **Tier 2:** Associate Member
- c. **Tier 3:** Friends of Accountable Now

III. Membership Criteria/Eligibility

Membership to Accountable Now is available for all civil society organizations (CSOs), networks, coalitions, civil society movements, donors, and components of those bodies that:

- ▶ 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 activities and management practices which are consistent with and supportive of the vision, purpose and objectives of Accountable Now.
- ▶ To embrace, comply with and promote the Accountable Now Accountability Commitments (as amended from time to time) in its entirety.
- ▶ To prioritize the implementation of a mechanism for internal and external complaints (if one does not already exist) within the first year of Accountable Now membership.
- ▶ To fulfill any applicable Membership obligations (see below).



For organizations wishing to join as a Full Member (Tier 1) or Associate Member (Tier 2):

► Prospective members must have been in existence with due diligence (valid legal registration, published annual reports and annual externally audited account) for at least one year.

IV. Application Process

Prospective members wishing to join Accountable Now can get in touch with the team through the Contact Form or by emailing membership@accountablenow.org. Thereafter, prospective members will be asked to provide relevant information about their organization, as laid out in the Criteria/Eligibility section above, that will support the decision-making process for membership admission.

Membership decisions are made by the Accountable Now Secretariat; in cases where the Secretariat is unable to make a clear decision, decision-making power will be escalated to the Board. The turnaround time for membership decisions is between 4-6 weeks.

In case your application is accepted, your organization will become a member of Accountable, at the appropriate tier.

Incoming members are asked to sign the Statement of Adoption of the 12 Commitments and fill out any relevant intake forms (as appropriate to their joining tier).

V. Membership Rights and Responsibilities

All Members

- **Required to** adopt the [12 Accountability Commitments](#), or relevant accountability commitments, which can be amended from time to time by the Board;
- **Encouraged to** share and be open about accountability accomplishments, challenges, failures and lessons learned as they relate to and go beyond the 12 Commitments;
- **Entitled to** attend member-only events, workshops, trainings, webinars and peer sessions. All members have access to exclusive learning opportunities on dynamic accountability and related topics, access to learn and also share best practices, challenges, and solutions with other member organizations;



- ▶ **Entitled to** be listed on Accountable Now's website as a member, corresponding to the appropriate category;
- ▶ **Entitled to** use the Accountable Now's logo on their website to share membership information;
- ▶ **Required to** pay the appropriate membership fees for their membership category as set by the Board.

Full Members

- ▶ **Entitled to** have their Accountability Reports, Action Plan and Report, vetted by the Independent Review Panel and the feedback to be published on Accountable Now's website;
- ▶ **Entitled to** five annual hours of consultancy service from the Accountable Now team and unlimited access to Accountable Now's helpdesk service; beyond these, any additional consultancy hours will have a discount of 15%.
- ▶ **Compelled and entitled to** attend, lodge proposals, and vote at Annual General Meetings (AGMs);
- ▶ **Entitled to** nominate persons to stand for election to the Board as a member representative.

Associate Members

- ▶ **Entitled to** have their Accountability Action Plan and Report vetted by the Independent Review Panel and the feedback to be published on Accountable Now's website;
- ▶ **Entitled to** two annual hours of consultancy service from the Accountable Now team and have limited access to Accountable Now's helpdesk service (3x per year); beyond these, any additional consultancy hours will have a discount of 15%.
- ▶ **Compelled and entitled to** attend, lodge proposals, and vote at Annual General Meetings (AGMs);
- ▶ **Entitled to** nominate persons to stand for election to the Board as a member representative.

Friends of Accountable Now

- ▶ **Entitled to** attend the Annual General Meeting, but may not lodge proposals or vote;



- ▶ **Entitled to** limited access to Accountable Now’s helpdesk service (1x per year);
- ▶ **Entitled to** applicable discounts on Accountable Now’s services, including
 - 20% discount on any Reporting and Action Planning related services for your organization;
 - 10% discount on consulting and training services for your organization;

VI. Fees and Payment Process

The Membership fee has to be paid in full for the entire Membership year which runs from January to December. If Members do not pay their fees, their Membership will be terminated.

Members are invoiced at the beginning of the year, and they are asked to cover any potential international transfer fees.

Any new Member joining Accountable Now before June 30 of each year will pay the full annual Membership fee; organizations becoming Members after July 1 will only be charged half of their annual Membership fee for the first year.

Fee Categories

Membership fees are based on the annual income of the Member Organisation. Please find the fee categories, corresponding to the appropriate membership tier, below. Please note all currencies are in euros (EUR).

FEE CATEGORY	ORGANIZATION'S ANNUAL INCOME	TIER 1: FULL MEMBER	TIER 2: ASSOCIATE MEMBER	TIER 3: FRIEND OF AN
A	< 1M	1,000	500	in kind contribution
B	1 - 5 million	2,500	1,750	500
C	5 - 20 million	5,000	3,500	1,000
D	20 - 100 million	8,500	5,950	1,700
E	100 - 500 million	18,500	12,950	3,700
F	500 million - 1 billion	25,000	17,500	5,000
G	1B+	30,000	21,000	6,000

To enable participation and access for resource-constrained organizations, Accountable Now accepts non-monetary, in-kind contributions such as knowledge or participation, in place of membership fees for organizations with budgets under 1 million euros per year.



To calculate the Membership fee, the latest available annual income of the Member Organisation is used; this is either the income of the entire organization or of the entity which joined Accountable Now. Donations in kind are not included when calculating annual income.

Accountable Now members who are registered prior to 2024 are grandfathered in at a previous rate, applicable up until 2026.

VII. Withdrawal

Members wishing to withdraw from Accountable Now have to give written notice of resignation to the Secretariat by August 31 for resignation to be effective as of January 1 of the following year. Members will then be asked to fill in a form explaining the reasons why they wish to withdraw as part of their formal sign-off process, providing as much frank and honest feedback as possible about their decision.

If a Member withdraws after August 31, they will still need to pay the Membership fee for the following year.

VIII. Definitions

► **12 Accountability Commitments:** Corresponds to the 12 Commitments of the Global Standard for CSO Accountability, and can be found [here](#).

► **Annual General Meetings (AGMs):** Annual General Meetings are where our members lodge proposals, discuss strategic questions, hold the Secretariat to account and vote on matters. While all Accountable Now members are invited to the AGM, only Tier 1 and Tier 2 members can lodge proposals and have a vote. Each member is entitled to one vote. There is no limit on how many staff members from one organization can participate.

► **Consultancy Service:** Dedicated and direct support from the Accountable Now Secretariat on topics and issues presented by members. Depending on the tier, members are entitled to five hours, two hours, and/or discounts on this service.

► **Helpdesk Support:** Helpdesk support is light touch support from the Accountable Now Secretariat that falls under the scope of resource search and compilation. Depending on the tier, members are entitled to unlimited, three times per year or once per year access to this service.