

Global Board Meeting Minutes – digital meeting 24th June 2021

Board Participants:

Dr Emad Adly, Ewout van den Blink, Farah Kabir (Chair), Graciela Salaberri, Lewis Makurumure, Loreine Dela Cruz, Lorenzo Mora King, Peter Curran (Vice-chair of Trustees), Prime Nkezumukama (Vice-chair), Rebecca Murphy, Rod Snider (Vice-chair), Sarah Henly-Shepard, Tania Triminio, Tolekan Ismailova, Zenaida Willison

Stichting GNDR Board participants (Observers):

Heleen van der Beek, Nicole Stolz and Oenone Chadburn

Apologies:

Claire Tiffen, Emmanuel Seck, Ian Farrer (Treasurer), Ruud van den Hurk (observer from Stichting GNDR), Ruiti Aretaake, Rumana Kabir (Chair of Trustees), Thea Hilhorst (observer from Stichting GNDR),

In attendance from the Secretariat:

Andy Morgan (HRBP), Bijay Kumar (ED), Domitille Francois (BLO), Florencia Pasquale (Interpreter), Liza Hernandez (RL Americas and Caribbean), Lucy Pearson (HSD), Marilyn Mbugua (RL Africa), Nick Roberts (HO), Shivangi Chavda (SRL Asia/Europe), Valeria Drigo (PL)

Support:

Andrew Bidnell (External Facilitator)

Key:

Resolutions in blue text

Actions in purple bold text

Links to documents are highlighted

1. Welcome from the Chair

Chair Farah welcomed the Board members to the Global Board meeting of June 2021. She reminded the Board that the world is still facing the challenges of the pandemic and encouraged GNDR Board members to advocate for the vaccine for everyone.



2. Recording Apologies

It was noted that apologies were received from Claire, Emmanuel and Rumana. It was also noted that Thea and Rudi from Stichting GNDR would not be present for the whole meeting due to prior commitments but they would try their best to attend during agenda 10 'Stichting GNDR Recommendations to the Board'. Finally, Ian advised that he would be late and would join the meeting as soon as he could.

3. Agenda

The agenda was presented and was approved by the Board by poll with a majority vote.

2021.06.24 Agenda 3 Draft Agenda of Global Board meeting June 24th 2021

4. March 18th 2021 Global Board meeting minutes

The meeting minutes were reviewed page by page and approved by the Board by poll with a majority vote.

2021.06.24 Agenda 5 March 18th 2021 Global Board meeting - minutes

5. Summary actions from 18th March 2021 digital Global Board meeting

ED took the Board members through the summary of action points from the last Board meeting. It was noted that Farah requested the Secretariat to use another colour to record 'actions' in the future.

2021.06.24 Agenda 6 Summary actions from 18th March 2021 Global Board meeting

6. Update from Secretariat

ED asked members if they had any questions about the Secretariat Update after reading it through.

Comments

Becky - Following the staff survey, how are the staff being supported as there is a mention of staff wellbeing and burnout?

HRBP - GNDR has put in place a flexible working policy to allow people to work around their situation (ie. return to work after covid). In terms of workload, there has been a rebalance/redistribution of tasks between staff members. SLT members are also encouraged to have one to one catch ups with their staff and let HR know if there is any wellbeing issue. ED added that staff involved in fundraising have been especially busy. Therefore, we are asking Trustees to approve a new position for fundraising.



Loreine - It would be good to have some guidelines and measures for the staff on how to continuously manage with the situation we are in on the work from home modality — the dividing line of the work and the home demands.

For the network, a similar guidance note may probably be shared to the membership. For this third wave of the crisis, the impact now is on the mental health of the people.

Action: Guidance note to be prepared for staff and members on how to manage the situation we are in - the new normal and the dividing line between work and home balance (especially focusing on mental health)

PL talked about two main events in which GNDR will be involved this year.

- High Level Policy Platform (HLPF) - 6th to 15th July 2021. The webinar details will be shared. She encouraged Board members to advertise the events and attend the webinar

PL encouraged the Board to share any activities they are organising around the HLPF so that the Secretariat can support them and involve members.

Action: Board members to let the Secretariat know if they are attending/organising events.

Action: Board members to advertise the events run by the Secretariat and members during the HLPF and attend the webinars.

- COP26 - 1st to 12th November 2021

PL reminded the Board that climate is a big risk driver for GNDR members and it is part of GNDR strategy. As the Secretariat's Risk Driver Lead for Climate change and also CAN Board member, Adessou will prepare a policy paper ahead of COP to outline the network's main positions.

Action: Board members who are planning activities and advocacy for COP to reach out to PL for better coordination between members, Secretariat and Board.

Comments

Emad Adly - Please share with us the list of the climate experts you mentioned coming from the different regions.

Action: PL/RDL to share the list of Climate experts with Board members

Loreine - How about developing a project similar to the breadth and depth of VFL but this time focusing on climate change as one of our risk drivers.

PL - That sounds like a great idea - using VFL methodology but with a particular focus on climate.

Action: Secretariat to think of a project similar to VFL focusing on climate change



Loreine - Since one of our agenda and strategy is localization, it would be good to put some attention on the Grand Bargain Talks this period as well in order to be part of our localization agenda. One of the project proposals we submitted is to engage more with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee which oversees UN work in emergencies, and also connects to the Grand Bargain.

Tolekan - With radical climate change and new risks and challenges in the world, it is important to localise GNDR mission and strategy. Are there any new innovative ideas on the issue?

My question is specific to countries - how can we introduce new tools to involve members in decision-making in times of crisis in countries or regions? For example, during a military aggression or a crisis now in Afghanistan?

How can we unite members from different countries of the world when military aggressions occur in the regions or like the situation in Afghanistan. We are expecting many asylum seekers, including women human rights defenders from Afghanistan. How can we prevent such disasters and calamities?

HSD - we are just working on a concept note with CAFOD on when conflicts and disasters collide. It is a regional project for West Africa but we hope it would lead to further global work later. It would be useful to have a global discussion irregardless, in the form of a roundtable on the challenges that local CSOs face in trying to combat both together.

Action: roundtable discussion to be organised on the challenges that local CSOs face in trying to combat conflicts and disasters together.

2021.06.24 Agenda 6 Updates from Secretariat

2021.06.24 Agenda 6.1 Financial Scorecard March 2021

2021.06.24 Agenda 6.2 Financial Scorecard process

7. RAGs feeding into the Board meeting

1. Americas and Caribbean
2. Africa
3. Asia/Pacific and Europe

The RAG reports were presented individually by Board members Graciela, Prime and Becky.

SRL for Asia/Europe then summarised the finding as follows:

Some of the key challenges:

- Lack of knowledge of the NFP role and expectations
- No RAG workplan to make the GNDR strategy operational in some regions.

- Challenges to use and engage members in the Community Platform.
- COVID-19 restrictions
- Lack of funding
- Communication challenges - digital constraints in some areas.

Some of the key recommendations:

Ways of working and support for NFPs/RAGs

- Develop effective mechanisms to collaborate and mobilise members (hybrid method of physical and virtual meetings)
- Improve communication among RAG members to seek synergies.
- Provide training to NFPs on Zoom, google meet, doodle etc so that RAGs can organise their own virtual meetings.
- Train and support NFPs to manage membership and NCMs

Membership communication and engagement

- Use advocacy and communication as an asset to promote a larger membership.
- Promote impactful national activities
- Develop capacity strengthening opportunities and online resources.

Funding

- GNDR members and Secretariat should raise funds regionally to execute regional and national action plans.

As a whole, RL Americas and Caribbean advised that RAG members were very happy to be represented at the Global Board and they felt heard by the GNDR Board and Secretariat.

It was noted by the Chair Farah that the process of including RAG feedback into the Board meeting was inclusive and democratic.

Resolution: It was agreed to have the RAGs feeding into the Board meetings every time - the digital Board meeting to allocate 30 minutes (of the two and half hour meeting) for the RAG inputs.

2021.06.24 Agenda 7.1 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Americas and Caribbean

2021.06.24 Agenda 7.1 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Africa

2021.06.24 Agenda 7.1 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting – Asia/Pacific and Europe

8. Recommendations from Governance Working Group

The GWG proposed the following recommendations to the Board for approval:

1. GWG recommends that Sarah be allowed to file her nomination for Board representative's election earlier than December 2021 due to her departure on maternity leave.

2. It is recommended by the GWG that a provision be made in the Governance manual allowing a fellow RAG member to be elected by the members to take up the role of the Board representative in the situation that the substantive Board representative proceeds on maternity/paternity leave.

3. GWG recommends the Secretariat be authorised to adapt the Governance manual to integrate the new strategy and add an annex for the Chair of Trustees, which currently is not in the document.

Resolution: the Board members unanimously approved the following by poll:

- Sarah can file her nomination for Board representative's election earlier
- Secretariat was asked to (a) adapt the Governance manual by integrating the new strategy (b) include the provision of a fellow RAG member to be elected by the members to take up the role of the Board representative in the situation that the substantive Board representative proceeds on maternity/paternity leave (c) add the role of the Chair of Trustees role

2021.06.24 Agenda 8 Recommendations from Governance Working Group

9. Recommendations from Membership Working Group

MWG recommendations were presented for approval:

Resolutions:

- Board to encourage GNDR members to provide and promote data review and consent to all members in the country.
- Board to encourage GNDR members to participate in the annual membership survey during meetings.
- Board to consider accepting GNDR Secretariat Position regarding CSO in Iran: "GNDR to recruit registered CSOs in Iran to become affiliate members by engaging with associate members to help identify legally registered CSOs to then together invite them to join GNDR as affiliate members."

Action: the Board to appoint one Board member to write a welcome message to GNDR's newsletter

Comments

ED advised Board members that the consent form is to be filled in by each member and it is non negotiable as we need to be compliant with data protection/GDPR.

Graciela - Board members do not have access to the membership and members so it is difficult to be in direct contact to encourage them.



HSD - There are indeed only two ways now how NFPs can contact members: posting on the Community Platform or emailing members via the CP. We recognised that there are issues with the CP in terms of notifications. However, regarding using direct emailing, the Secretariat is not allowed to share members' email addresses due to breach of data protection. So we are revising the CP and we are also bringing back mailing lists for each region. We are currently testing it in a few countries first as it requires a lot of admin work.

Farah - Can we have infographics of countries/regions where there are more or fewer members?

In terms of contacting members directly, Could the NFP be the initiator? Can there be a localised solution?

HSD - Some regions have Facebook and WhatsApp groups that they use locally. But as NFPs are volunteering their time for GNDR, we are responsible for them and they have to follow the data protection rules so unfortunately we are not allowed to give them a list of email addresses to deal with. Besides, that list will be out of date quickly, which is against data protection policy.

Actions: Numbers of members by countries/regions be provided to Board members.

Lorenzo and Tania both agreed that it is important to create an alternative mechanism to be able to get closer to the members as there are partners who have never joined the CP and will never do so.

2021.06.24 Agenda 9 Recommendations from Membership Working Group

10. Discussion on comments/observations on the FAWG, RWG and Trustees and Stichting GNDR Recommendations

There were no comments from the Board to be recorded regarding the recommendations for noting from FAWG, RWG, Trustees and Stichting GNDR.

2021.06.24 Agenda 10.1 FAWG Recommendations

2021.06.24 Agenda 10.2 RWG Recommendations

2021.06.24 Agenda 10.3.I Trustees Recommendations

2021.06.24 Agenda 10.3.II Risk Matrix

2021.06.24 Agenda 10.4 Stichting GNDR Update

11. AOB

The Chair Farah concluded the meeting by asking what can be done to support the membership's resilience as Covid is not over.

She suggested the Local Leadership Academy programme to think about how to cope with such risks/challenges.

Farah stated that so much has been achieved despite the challenges, but we do not know what more will be happening so we need to collectively demonstrate our leadership and knowledge; as a collective we can push for access to health care for instance.

Secondly, Farah highlighted that GNDR should make a statement about the realistic expectation of members. It should not be only determined by access to funds; GNDR is a network and there are many other reasons to join: advocacy , influencing , partnership, lobbying, capacity strengthening, risk-informed development, etc.

Action: expectation management of members to be considered and addressed by the Secretariat.

ED agreed with Farah and added that we are here for the members, not for funds but to collaborate, share and strengthen our capacity, share information and collectively influence.

ED then thanked all Board members, interpreters and the facilitator Andrew for the productive Board meeting.

ED recorded a special appreciation for the staff in the Secretariat for pursuing the mission of the organisation amidst the all pervasive adverse impact of the pandemic.