

## Global Board Meeting Minutes – digital meeting 9th September 2021

### Board Participants:

Claire Tiffen, Dr Emad Adly, Emmanuel Seck, Ewout van den Blink, Farah Kabir (Chair), Graciela Salaberri, Ian Farrer (Treasurer), Lewis Makurumure, Loreine Dela Cruz, Lorenzo Mota King, Peter Curran (Vice-chair of Trustees), Prime Nkezumukama (Vice-chair), Rebecca Murphy, Rod Snider (Vice-chair), Rumana Kabir (Chair of Trustees), Tania Triminio, Tolekan Ismailova

### Stichting GNDR Board participants (Observers):

Nicole Stolz and Oenone Chadburn

### Apologies:

Heleen van der Beek (observer from Stichting GNDR), Ruud van den Hurk (observer from Stichting GNDR), Ruiti Aretaake, Sarah Henly-Shepard, Thea Hilhorst (observer from Stichting GNDR), Zenaida Willison

### In attendance from the Secretariat:

Bijay Kumar (ED), Domitille Francois (BLO), Florencia Pasquale (TPA), Liza Hernandez (RL Americas and Caribbean), Marilyn Mbugua (RL Africa), Nick Roberts (HO), Shivangi Chavda (SRL Asia/Pacific/Europe), Valeria Drigo (PL)

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 September 2021. She thanked Valeria for agreeing to facilitate this Board meeting and thanked Board members for taking some time in their busy schedule to discuss GNDR's cause.

### 2. Recording Apologies

It was noted that apologies were received from Sarah. It was also noted that observers Heleen, Thea and Rudi from Stichting GNDR would not be attending this meeting. Finally, Ruiti and Zen shared that they were facing issues with internet connectivity.

### 3. Agenda

The agenda was presented and was approved by the Board by poll in consensus - proposed by Claire and seconded by Peter.

#### 2021.09.09 Agenda 3 Draft Agenda of Global Board meeting 9th September 2021

### 4. 24th June 2021 Global Board meeting minutes

The meeting minutes were reviewed page by page and approved by the Board by poll with a consensus - proposed by Farah and seconded by Graciela.

#### Comments

*It was noted that Dr Emad advised that he did not receive the list of Climate experts and the criteria of selection, as requested.*

**Action: ED advised that BLO would send the list of experts straight after the meeting.**

#### 2021.09.09 Agenda 4 Global Board meeting 24th June 2021 - minutes

### 5. Summary actions from 24th June 2021 digital Global Board meeting

ED took the Board members through the summary of action points from the last Board meeting.

#### Comments

*Loreine asked ED what was the general feedback he received from members following his one to one meetings.*

*ED advised that members were concerned about the new way of communication via digital means, and funding challenge was also being shared as a recurrent issue by members. As a consequence, ED told the Board that the Secretariat is researching on how we can increase efficiency through digital means and how we can help members to come together and raise funds.*

#### 2021.09.09 Agenda 5 Summary actions from 24th June 2021 Global Board meeting

### 6. Updates from Secretariat

ED highlighted a few points raised in the Secretariat update:

- ED asked the Board members to share any donor connections they have with him, if possible, as GNDR is heading towards a difficult time (like many other charities in the world.)
- Applications are opened for our Local Leadership Academy.



- GNDR remains active on global platforms and conversations (2021 HLPF, COP26, ECOSOC, UNDRR Regional Platforms, 2022 Global Platform).

PL gave an update regarding the preparations on the policy and advocacy events that GNDR is involved in:

- GPDRR preparations are under way and we are involved in the planning of 4 main sessions. We are also working with the UNDRR SEM to prepare the second Stakeholder Forum at the Global Platform. (It is still uncertain if it will be happening online or in hybrid format; we are awaiting a final decision from UNDRR and the host government.)
- We are preparing for the Regional Platforms on DRR. We have a good presence in the main sessions and side events of the Americas RP and the Africa RP, and Board members from NAWA are coordinating CSO engagement for the Arab States RP. At the Europe RP we will have a small presence with a side event on disaster displacement.
- COP26 planning is also underway. We are preparing our position paper, after a process of consultation with members and our climate experts group. We also have a template letter that members can use to advocate nationally with their respective national governments.

#### Comments on consent from members

*The Chair Farah drew attention to the 70% of members that have given their consent for GNDR to use their information. She asked ED to take time to explain data protection to members as the UK is different from other countries and we should make sure that members are aware of what is being asked from the Secretariat and what are the implications.*

*ED advised that the Secretariat will summarise the data protection policy and share it with members.*

**Action: Secretariat to summarise the data protection policy and share it on the Community Platform.**

#### Comments on the GNDR's involvement in the COP26

*The Chair Farah advised that GNDR should encourage the COP26 to be inclusive. She insisted that due to required Covid vaccinations, many CSOs are facing difficulties and cannot attend the event in Glasgow, which means that governments will meet without hearing the voices of the most vulnerable communities. She asked for GNDR (under CAN's guidance) to take a position and make a statement requesting for the COP to be inclusive of all people or asking for the event to be postponed.*

*Several Board members agreed that if the event is not postponed, GNDR should still attend the COP26 to represent our members. However, they insisted that GNDR consider releasing a statement that we are supporting fair access to global processes and decision making platforms.*



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**Action: GNDR to stand in solidarity with the CAN position asking for postponement. However, if the postponement doesn't happen GNDR must consider attending the COP26 to represent members.**

*Comments on the financial deficit*

*Lorenzo - As we are speaking about a financial deficit for the next financial year, I was wondering if there was any possibility to use those resources that were not used in activities last year due to the pandemic to fill in the budget of next year?*

*HO - Some activities have been delayed (like VFL). But we actually need additional funding for core funding and office costs for the entire of next year.*

**2021.09.09 Agenda 6 Updates from Secretariat**

**2021.09.09 Agenda 6.1 Funding Pipeline**

**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 Tania, Dr Emad and Loreine.

A summary of key points/activities can be found below:

**New Ways of Working digitally**

- NFPs promoting communication and collaboration via social media, virtual meetings and whatsapp group messaging (LAC)

**Membership engagement and advocacy**

- Joint advocacy related to COVID-19 through webinars and other exchanges (Asia)
- Participation in the discussion and preparation towards COP26 (Sri Lanka and LAC)
- Monitoring VFL 2019 action implementation for advocacy plans (Indonesia) and localisation (W&CA)
- Engagement at the national level with DRM units on SFDRR (Eastern Africa)
- Advocacy on conflict resolutions via webinars - part of HLPF (Eastern Africa)
- Prioritising participation on the regional platform for DRR in Jamaica and the Arab Regional Forum to bring the voices of members.

**Capacity strengthening**

- Capacity assessment of members to tailor future initiatives (Bangladesh); webinars on disaster response (Turkmenistan), disaster preparedness (Afghanistan) and psychosocial support for DRR volunteers (Afghanistan)



- Upcoming plans for waste management workshops (New Zealand). Urban DRR workshop and Earthquake Risk Mitigation (Nepal)

### **Challenges**

- The hurricane season in Central America represents a challenge in communication and joint activities with members.
- NFPs in LAC requested support to reach members in-country outside the community platform.

### Comments

*Graciela - Board members from Latin Americas/Caribbean are requesting to be part of a working group.*

*ED advised that Board members have been told to give their expression of interest to join a working group during their induction. However, he apologised for not following up with the members.*

**Action: ED to send an email to Board members from Latin Americas/Caribbean asking them to express their interest in joining one of the working groups.**

*Graciela - We were expecting ED to be present in the RAG meetings for the Americas Region. Unfortunately, as he did not attend, it lowered the attendance level of the event.*

*ED offered his sincere apologies and advised that he could not attend one meeting (out 12 RAGs) due to competing priorities.*

*Lorenzo - In the next Board meeting, it should be communicated in advance to the RAG representatives, that the agreed time for presentation has been changed to avoid such abrupt cuts, as happened with LAC.*

*Tania - The work in this region has been very good and interesting, I believe that the value and respect should be given, I do not agree with the fact that a report is cut abruptly from any region. Personally, I listen and learn from other regions and it is enriching, that's what networking is all about.*

**2021.09.09 Agenda 7.1 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Americas and Caribbean**

**2021.09.09 Agenda 7.2 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Africa**

**2021.09.09 Agenda 7.3 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting – Asia/Pacific and Europe**

## **8. Recommendations from Governance Working Group**

Prime as the Chair of the GWG presented the recommendations of the GWG.

1. Board resolved and asked the secretariat to proceed with designing and editing the governance manual. The changes are primarily to (a) adapt the governance manual to the



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new strategy; “Local Leadership for Global Impact 2020-25”; (b) include a ToR for the chair of the Trustees; (c) include the provision of acting arrangement while the RAG Chair proceeds on paternity and maternity leave; (d) including the mention that Board meetings and Trustees meetings can be hold online if/when required.

2. The Board resolved to continue with the elected Board representative qualifications in line with the decisions taken by the Global Board in October 2020: 'The Board resolved to add the following elements/aspects to the qualification for the Regional Board Representative election.
  - a. The aspiring regional representative to the Board should be a resident in the region,
  - b. The regional representative must be conversant with one of the languages spoken in the region,
  - c. The women Affiliate members are encouraged to apply,
  - d. The Affiliate members who are 'Person with Disability' are encouraged to apply.
  
3. The Board resolved to renew the membership of Zenaida as Independent Board member and complete her second and final tenure of 3 years.

The Board approved aforesaid resolutions by poll with a majority vote - proposed by Loreine and seconded by Rumana:

**2021.09.09 Agenda 8 GWG Recommendations**

**2021.09.09 Agenda 8.1 Changes made to GNDR Governance manual**

**2021.09.09 Agenda 8.2 GNDR Governance manual new version**

## 9. Recommendations from Finance and Audit Working Group

The Treasurer Ian advised that there is currently a lack of confirmed funding beyond the current financial year. To date GNDR has secured only 47% of its core funding for the next financial year, leaving a shortfall of £676k. With a grant from Sida approved by December'21, the funding secured would be 82% of the salary and overhead of FY 2022-23. This would still leave a gap of £242,000.

### Comments

*Ian highlighted that the deficit in the budget relates to fixed costs. He insisted that everyone needs to get involved in identifying extra funding. He also added that the risk register was reviewed and all sections related to cash flow and funding needed to be moved to red.*

*Farah advised that unfortunately it is currently a common scenario for most organisations around the world. The landscape is changing. She suggested organising a brainstorming session with the Board.*

*Peter agreed and gave his support for a brainstorming session organised by the RWG where all Board members would be invited to join.*

*ED advised that in the meantime SLT is trying to see how we manage the transition of losing 2 senior staff by reshuffling/realigning responsibilities within the Secretariat to create a fundraiser officer position.*

*Emmanuel - Do Regional Coordinators have enough prerogatives to fundraise? He advised that for regional-focused projects, people are often asking to have the organisation based in the region (ie. legal status of the organisation in the country to raise funds).*

*SRL - In the Regions we are trying to get funding through the host agency or member in the country.*

**Action: The Board noted that the Secretariat will submit the two year budget projection and the scenarios to mitigate the impact of the 2022-23 budget shortfall that the Trustees will review.**

**Action: ED and Chair of RWG Rod to facilitate a brainstorming session about fundraising with Board members.**

#### **2021.09.09 Agenda 9 FAWG Recommendations**

##### **10. Recommendations from Resources Working Group**

The Chair of the RWG Rod presented the recommendations of the RWG.

#### Comments

*Rod advised that it is not the first time that GNDR is facing financial difficulties as it often happens with project-based funding. He stated that we need to be more strategic and a brainstorming session would be a great opportunity to share ideas and draw a strategic fundraising business plan. As humanitarian actors, we all need to put on our 'fundraising hat' and get support from our contacts.*

*We should look at extra dedicated staff within GNDR staff as Board members are volunteers and are often busy with their day jobs, which makes it difficult to focus mainly on GNDR's fundraising issues.*

*Becky highlighted that Stichting GNDR also talked about supporting GNDR with funding.*

*ED reiterated that we do not have funding for additional resources and we agreed not to use the reserves. However, we are reorganising the Secretariat structure by reallocating responsibilities in order to create an extra fundraising position as well as prioritising fundraising in job descriptions.*

**Action: Board advised the Secretariat to act on additional personnel capacity to be provided to the Fundraising function in order to support the growth plans in line with the strategy.**

It was approved by poll with a majority vote - proposed by Graciela and seconded by Ewout:

#### **2021.09.09 Agenda 10.1 RWG Recommendations**

### **2021.09.09 Agenda 10.2 Fundraising monitor August 2021**

#### **11. Discussion on comments/observations on the MWG, Trustees and Stichting GNDR Recommendations/Update**

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

It was noted that the Chair of Trustees Rumana will be stepping down in December. The Chair of the Global Board Farah and ED thanked Rumana for her time on the Board and advised she will be greatly missed.

### **2021.09.09 Agenda 11.1 MWG Recommendations**

### **2021.09.09 Agenda 11.2 Trustees Recommendations**

### **2021.09.09 Agenda 11.3 Stichting GNDR Update**

#### **12. AOB**

Graciela advised that she was not able to intervene today during the meeting and is asking for a different type of interaction.

The Chair Farah advised that we are open to any suggestions, but unfortunately we cannot meet face to face yet. She added that the intention of this meeting is for everyone to participate and contribute.

Lorenzo agreed that we need to be able to discuss with each other. He suggested dividing the meeting in 2 parts: an informative session (with the documents shared by each working group) and another session for discussion (without the restriction of time and agenda points).

Farah concluded the Global Board meeting by thanking the Secretariat for their amazing work continuing and evolving in this new era. She advised that although we are facing a funding shortage, we should remain optimistic that we will come together and find a solution.

She insisted that GNDR should take a stance about inclusiveness in the influencing space leading up to the COP26.

She also encouraged all Board members to be active and participate in the international campaign '16 days activism against gender based violence', starting on 25th November.

ED advised the Board that he would take time to discuss with each of them individually as part of his usual half yearly catch up meetings. He insisted that he would talk to Rod about fundraising to put a process in place to bridge the gap. He will also focus on reorganising the Secretariat structure to create a fundraising position. Finally, he gave a special thanks to the Chair of Trustees Rumana.

**Action: BLO to organise one to one meetings between Board members and ED.**