

Global Board Meeting Minutes – Digital meeting

23 June 2022

Board Participants: Claire Tiffen (Vice Chair of Trustees), Dr Emad Adly, Emmanuel Seck, Ewout van den Blink (Acting Treasurer), Graciela Salaberri (Chair of the Global Board), Lewis Makurumure, Loreine Dela Cruz, Lorenzo Mota King, Mario Flores, Peter Curran (Chair of trustees), Prime Nkezumukama, Sophie Rigg, Tania Triminio, Usha Menon (Trustee), Zenaida Willison (Vice Chair)

Apologies: Farah Kabir, Heleen van der Beek (Stichting observer), Ian Farrer (Treasurer), Oenone Chadburn (Stichting observer), Rod Snider (Vice Chair), Rudi van den Hurk (Stichting observer), Ruiti Aretaake, Thea Hilhorst (Stichting observer), Tolekan Ismailova

In attendance from the Secretariat: Adessou Kossivi (Africa RL), Bijay Kumar (ED), Domitille Francois (BLO), Florencia Pasquale (TPA), Liza Hernandez (Americas and Caribbean RL), Naomi Paul (FM), Nick Roberts (HO), Rebecca Murphy (PL)

External Support: Brenda Bibiloni Kreisher (Interpreter)

Key:

Resolutions in blue text

Actions in purple text

Links to documents are highlighted

1. Welcome from the Chair

The Chair Graciela welcomed the Board members to the digital Global Board meeting of June 2022.

Graciela announced that the Executive Director Bijay Kumar would be leaving GNDR on 30 June and asked Board members to join her in thanking him for his remarkable work for the

organisation. She highlighted that leaving a position does not mean abandoning his commitment to the most vulnerable communities.

ED shared that after spending almost four years as the Executive Director of the GNDR Secretariat, he decided to move on. He advised that it has been a privilege to be part of this journey and he is grateful for the opportunity to lead the Secretariat in supporting, connecting and representing members. He noted that GNDR has strengthened the resilience of communities most at risk by championing risk-informed development with a localisation approach, and collaboratively influencing policies and practices at the national, regional and global levels. ED concluded that he would continue to use these learnings to pursue justice, shift power and transform the lives of the communities most at risk.

The Chair of Trustees Peter advised that a Transition Manager would be in place as soon as possible to ensure that the network continues its important work on behalf of its members, and that there is continuity for its Secretariat staff. It was noted that the process of advertising for, recruiting and selecting the next Executive Director would commence forthwith. Peter added that the Trustees want to reassure the members, donors and external partners that GNDR remains strong, in good health and would continue to pursue its strategy.

Comments:

Lorenzo - 'I want to thank Bijay for his time and contribution to the executive structure and to the Global Board. It was a privilege to work with him.'

Sophie - 'It was a real pleasure to work with you. Thank you for your support to me personally and to GNDR. I hope you are proud of the organisation you are leaving.'

As it is a very quick transition time, Sophie wondered whether the Trustees have thought of an internal plan B to smooth the transition and how the Global Board can help.

Peter advised that Trustees are currently following leads for a Transition Manager and in the meantime, if there is a gap, senior members of the Senior Leadership Team are willing to step in until July/August. He insisted that the Secretariat has a strong SLT in place, which can be relied on. Peter also asked Board members to let the Trustees know if they know people who could fit the role of Executive Director for GNDR.

Zenaida expressed her surprise at the news of Bijay leaving his position and recorded her appreciation and gratitude for his work.

Emmanuel echoed Zenaida's sentiment and advised he would like to say more at the end of the meeting.

2. Recording Apologies

Apologies were received from Farah, Ian, Rod and Tolekan. It was also noted that observers from Stichting GNDR Heleen, Oenone and Rudi and Thea would not be joining the meeting.

3. Agenda

The Chair presented the agenda and it was approved by the Global Board members.

It was noted that 'Special thanks to the ED' would be added at the end of the meeting, as suggested by Emmanuel.

Resolution: [The agenda was approved](#) - proposed by Lorenzo and seconded by Prime.

2022.06.23 Agenda 3 Draft Agenda Global Board meeting 23 June 2022

4. Global Board 17 March 2022 meeting minutes

The meeting minutes were reviewed page by page and were approved by the members of the Board.

Resolution: [The minutes of the last Global Board meeting were approved](#) - proposed by Emmanuel and seconded by Prime.

2022.06.23 Agenda 4 Global Board 17 March 2022 meeting minutes

5. Summary actions from 17 March 2022 Global Board meeting

ED went through the summary action points and resolutions recorded during the March Board meeting. These were noted without further comments from the Board.

It was noted that Sophie was thankful to have been considered as a potential new member of Stichting GNDR. However, she advised that she would concentrate her effort and join the Governance Working Group as it is where she could bring more value to GNDR.

2022.06.23 Agenda 5 Summary action from 17 March 2022 Global Board meeting

6. Updates from Secretariat

ED invited the Policy Lead Becky to take the floor and give an update about the work GNDR and its members have achieved at the GPDRR in Bali.

The Policy Lead provided a few statistics:

- 41 members attended the GPDRR in person
- There was an equal representation of women and men
- 128 individuals attended the MDS roundtable event
- 220 visits to the GNDR Innovation Booth

PL highlighted the 8 key messages that will also be used for the HLPF and the COP27:

- Listen to communities
- Invest at the local level
- Improve coordination and coherence. Enable civil society to lead the coordination and coherence required for risk-informed development
- Empower women leaders. Recognise and tackle gender inequality as a driver of risk.
- Strengthen DRR governance in conflict affected states
- Involve children and youth in disaster risk reduction
- Learn from COVID-19
- Integrate inclusion across all levels. Transition from seeing inclusion as a standalone topic

PL summarised the policy impact as follows:

1. Feedback from the UNDRR was incredibly positive and confirmed the important role GNDR had in co-chairing the SEM.
2. The co-chair summary is the policy document that provides insight into how policy efforts will be shared for the next three years.
3. Our key messages on collaboration, conflict, gender, listening to local knowledge and voices, investing at the local level, the importance of young people, inclusion and learning from COVID 19 have all been included in this co-chair summary document.

4. It was noted that GNDR would have liked to have seen a stronger commitment on local leadership, listening to local voices and a stronger statement on making sure that decision making around how risk reduction finance should be spent is guided by local leaders.

5. It was also emphasised that more women should lead organisations and be at the forefront of decision making and leadership.

PL encouraged Board members to attend the GNDR Policy Briefing session on 27 June 2022 at 1 pm GMT.

Action: Powerpoint to be sent over to Board members after the meeting.

ED congratulated PL for coordinating such a successful event in Bali and he also thanked SLT members Adessou, Liza and Shivangi for participating and representing GNDR.

Comments:

Sophie insisted that the position of co-chair of the SEM cannot be understated in terms of the impact it can have for GNDR and the communities most at risk. She also appreciated the way GNDR had offered space for NGO constituencies that are not members of the network; it allowed for other voices to come in and created a balance between GNDR members and other CSOs. Finally, she advised that the success of the donors' roundtable organised in Bali during the GPDRR highlighted the interest the donors have in GNDR and it is important to keep thinking of how we frame our message so that it attracts more potential donors.

HO presented the financial scorecard, which was revised by the finance and audit working group, and highlighted a few points:

- Total expenditure: we spent less money on activities than we had planned - £2,098,406 instead of £2,842,374, due slower spend on projects (VFL).
- Funding secured is about £30,000 shorter than planned but we managed to make it even thanks to some cost savings.
- Future funding and sustainability: total budget is £1,843,759 against total confirmed income to date is £1,717,686. We received 93% of our funding so far. HO added that the BHA grant, which we are most likely to receive, would close the funding gap.

HO also advised that the risk matrix was reviewed and approved by the Trustees during their meeting on 15 June, and is shared with the Board for their information.

FM presented the funding pipeline to the Board. She advised that we have been successful for a consortium with EU Horizon (162,500 euros - beginning of next year). It was also noted that we submitted a concept note to the Open Society Foundation Africa (\$205,000) and to IDRC/FCDO (£774,000). FM highlighted that we received the first letter from BHA requesting

for a change in the project proposal, which is usually a very good sign that the grant will be awarded.

2022.06.23 Agenda 6.1 Message from ED

2022.06.23 Agenda 6.2 Risk Matrix

2022.06.23 Agenda 6.3 I Financial Scorecard

2022.06.23 Agenda 6.3 II Financial Scorecard

2022.06.23 Agenda 6.4 Funding Pipeline

7. Recommendations from Finance and Audit Working Group

Acting Treasurer Ewout presented the following recommendations to the Board for noting:

- The Secretariat has submitted a detailed response to the findings of Ernst and Young, following its audit of the DEVCO VFL project, and is now awaiting feedback on the next steps from the EU.
- The cash flow statement has increased from £1.8 million (approved budget) to £2.2 million, due to slower than anticipated speed of spend on the DEVCO VFL project during 2021-22.
- The FAWG reviewed the new version of the financial scorecard that will be presented to the Board. It was noted that the next version of the scorecard will include projections of funding for the next four years, since we would know by then whether key proposals submitted to donors (notably BHA) have been approved.
- The FAWG reviewed the financial section of the risk register and the audit action plan.
- The FAWG reviewed the policy tracker, and noted that a number of policies were due to be updated. It was agreed these would be submitted to the Trustees for approval in due course.

2022.06.23 Agenda 7 Recommendations from FAWG

8. Recommendations from Governance Working Group

The Chair of the GWG Zenaida presented the GWG recommendations to the Board. The following were submitted to the Board for noting:

- The Secretariat has put in place an elaborate induction process for new Board members including one to one introduction with the office bearers of the Board, Trustees, ED and

members of SLT. The Secretariat agreed to pull together a document based on the Governance Manual with bullet points summarising what should be communicated to new Board members during their one to one induction meetings.

- The GWG advised to use the following criteria, while inviting the sitting Board members to the various working groups: gender balance, subject matter specialisation/interests and geographic representation.

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

- To increase the time of the quarterly digital Global Board meetings by 30 minutes to listen to the voices of members.

Resolution: The Board approved to increase the quarterly Board meeting by 30 mins to listen to the voices of members - it was proposed by Sophie and seconded by Usha.

2022.06.23 Agenda 8 Recommendations from GWG

9. Recommendations from Membership Working Group

The Chair of the MWG Peter presented the MWG recommendations to the Board.

The MWG recommended the following to the Board for noting:

- The revamping of Community Platform will take place with the support of a consultant that will help to address the immediate priorities related to the process of converting new leads, review of the database and use of GNDR branding. The functionality and the design of the Community Platform will be looked into during the next stage.
- To capture the progress against the goals of the membership strategy, the Regional Leads are deploying various activities to engage with the members. Through various project interventions, the local CSOs are involved in strengthening the capacities of the local communities most at risk in all 3 regions.
- The Annual Membership Survey results are being finalised and will be shared with the Board shortly, along with management response.

The MWG recommended the following to the Board for approval:

- The mid term review must capture progress against 3 goals under the strategy.

Comments:

ED confirmed that the mid term review of the strategy would be scheduled by the end of this year and that the Board would receive more information in due course.

Resolution: The Board agreed that the mid term review must capture progress against 3 goals under the strategy - it was proposed by Ewout and seconded by Sophie.

2022.06.23 Agenda 9 Recommendations from MWG

10. Recommendations from Resources Working Group

In the absence of the Chair of the RWG, Ewout presented the following recommendations for noting:

- GNDR held a successful engagement event for donors at the Global Platform for DRR in Bali. The donor roundtable was attended by 22 donor representatives including current donors (USA/USAID BHA, SDC/Switzerland, EU/DEVCO), prospective donors (DFAT/Australia, U/FCDO), other interested governments (The Gambia, Guyana and the Czech Republic) and representatives from DRR networks e.g. IFRC, REAP, RAED.

Outside of the roundtable event, GNDR representatives had separate meetings with JICA, GIZ and BMZ. Follow-up discussions will be undertaken with all those who met or expressed an interest in GNDR during the GPDRR week.

- The pipeline and the fundraising monitor were shared with the Board for their information.

2022.06.23 Agenda 10.1 Key points to note from RWG

2022.06.23 Agenda 10.2 Fundraising monitor

11. Trustees Update and Recommendations

Chair of Trustees Peter presented the following points to the Board for noting:

- Trustees reviewed and approved the risk matrix, which is shared with the Board for noting.
- The funding pipeline was presented to Trustees and is also shared with the Board for noting.
- SLT is working on an action plan to be taken forward regarding staff wellbeing. It is currently a draft that needs to be further discussed; the final version will be submitted to the Trustees as soon as possible.

Peter added that he was invited to the staff wellbeing session during the digital Team Meeting held over 3 days in May. He insisted that although there are more face to face connections

between staff as they are coming back to the office, which helps and eases tension, Trustees are keeping a close eye on the matter.

2022.06.23 Agenda 11 Trustees Update and Recommendations

12. Stichting GNDR Update

In the absence of the Chair of the Stichting GNDR Supervisory Board, ED took the floor and advised that there was no Stichting update for this quarter as the meeting had to be postponed due to the quorum of members attending not being met.

13. RAGs feeding into the Board meeting

Africa RL Adessou explained the methodology used to gather National Focal Points' (NFPs) feedback. He advised that all NFPs were sent a short survey asking about their contributions over the last 2 years and the actions taken in the last quarter since the previous Global Board meeting. It was noted that around 30% of NFPs from Asia/Pacific and Europe participated, 67% in Africa and 62% in the Americas and Caribbean.

Tania and Emmanuel presented the RAG reports for their respective region. The Asia/Pacific and Europe report was displayed for Board members to read through it.

Key points were highlighted and summarised as follows:

Contributions made by NFPs in the last 2 years

1. The majority of the NFPs have strengthened the membership engagement through conducting regular National Coordination Meetings (NCMs), developing priority action plans and conducting recruitments. For instance, DKKV in Germany promotes GNDR on their website, social media and newsletters and invites more members to join GNDR.
2. NFPs have also mobilised resources by strengthening the partnerships and collaborations at the national level. Members in Africa have formed consortiums to seek funding on the issues of Climate Change and DRR.
3. NFPs have also conducted research and awareness through webinars as well as writing position papers. In Asia and Africa, NFP members promoted loss & damage papers towards the COP26. The NFPs also organised webinars on strengthening emergency response, preventive measures to natural disasters, displacement, nature-based solutions and CBDM.

4. Specific training to strengthen the capacities of the members has been carried out at the national level, in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Challenges faced by the NFPs and the members in the last quarter

1. Social and political instability as well as manifestations of COVID-19 have resulted in complex financial challenges for the low income and middle income countries in many regions. The funding resources are shrinking. In small island nations such as Fiji, the country is going through an economic crisis, food insecurity due to conflict in Ukraine and lack of capacity to cope up with COVID-19.
2. The lack of communication is one of the biggest challenges reported by the members. This has become a hurdle in the sharing and learning process at the membership level.
3. There has been a challenge in appointing women members as NFPs as very few women are leading member organisations.
4. The lack of contact information with country members greatly limits the ability to act jointly at the national level as NFPs do not have access to the list of country members due to data protection.

Priorities

1. The participation of the women membership should be activated and promoted.
2. Gender approach and inclusion of vulnerable populations should continue to be applied in DRR projects in member organisations at the national level.
3. The mobilisation of the funds to accelerate the implementation of the joint-action plans that lead to building resilience should be prioritised.
4. Members should be encouraged to participate more actively in the advocacy initiatives in global events and opportunities to increase members' visibility should be prioritised.

Actions taken to communicate about GPDRR and Call to Action

1. WhatsApp groups were created to disseminate information in all the regions.
2. Different mechanisms were used to feed into the Call to Action by members, which included consultation at the national level (members in Indonesia) and developing a position paper towards GPDRR (members in Nepal)
3. Participation in GNDR briefings and at the regional level and communicating it to country members.

Actions that NFPs plan to undertake in the coming years

1. Members in Africa would like to understand more of Bali Resilience agenda and take priorities to align with the six risk drivers as stated in GNDR Global Strategy.
2. In the Americas and Caribbean region, the members would like to undertake more project implementation work to build resilience of the communities, especially indigenous communities, and prepare for the next Regional Platform for the Americas, which will take place in Uruguay in February 2023.
3. In Asia, the members would like to strengthen their capacities on risk-informed development, especially on women empowerment, urban management and food security.

The Chair Graciela concluded that it is important as Board members to take the time to listen to the members and reflect on their contributions during the Regional Advisory Groups and the Global Board meeting.

2022.06.23 Agenda 13.1 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Americas and Caribbean

2022.06.23 Agenda 13.2 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Africa

2022.06.23 Agenda 13.3 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Asia/Pacific and Europe

14. Conclusion and Special Thanks to ED

Chair of Trustees Peter invited Board members to take the floor and encourage them to share their comments/reflections on this meeting.

One by one, Board members all thanked the ED for his contributions to the betterment of GNDR and wished him good luck for his future endeavours.

Comments from Board members:

Sophie advised that she was glad to hear that Trustees were monitoring the issue of staff wellbeing.

Lorenzo advised that he was glad that ED was leaving the fruit of his work as the network has been strengthened. He also commented that he would like to see more participation from the members in the future, highlighting that there should be balance between the Secretariat and the members attending global events.

Emmanuel thanked ED for the huge work that he has undertaken and for developing the 5 year strategy. He reminded the important role that GNDR plays on promoting the loss and damage

issue, especially related to slow onset events, insisting that GNDR should facilitate synergies amongst different frameworks such as the Climate Change and the Sendai Framework

Mario thanked ED for his effort for GNDR, stating that he has advanced a number of topics related to DRR and has been very vocal in terms of advocacy issues. Mario also stated that he is looking forward to the revamping of the Community Platform, which has been underutilised and has a lot of potential.

Zenaida thanked ED for all his help and for reaching out to Board members and including them in things that matter to GNDR. She noted that all working groups are very active, which demonstrates a healthy organisation.

Usha highlighted that the fundraising efforts seem to be going in the right direction with some new donors and advised that the mid review of the strategy would be a good opportunity to show the work of GNDR and the progress against the strategy goals.

Loreine thanked ED for influencing at the global level and appreciated how ED reached out to individual Board members on how they can exercise their role as leaders of the network. She also advised that GNDR is continuously improving the way the Board meetings are run.

Ewout recorded his appreciation for the work ED has been doing over the years, which was challenging with the COVID-19 restrictions in place. He hoped we would have more events such as the GPDRR going forward as it is the best way GNDR can show what it does.

Claire stated that she felt encouraged by this meeting and by the diversification of the funding, which is the result of the hard work the Secretariat has been doing. She was glad that the Board voted unanimously to hear more about the members' voices. She also wanted to reiterate her desire to be trained on how to use the Community Platform once it has been revamped.

Sophie asked whether there is a plan in place for externally communicating Bijay's departure to members and external stakeholders. She noted that it would be important to make sure the messaging and tone is right.

ED advised that he would write to the members and also to individuals he has been involved with and knows personally by the end of the week.

Chair of the Board Graciela said that we are not saying 'goodbye' to Bijay but we are saying 'see you soon', and she wished him all the best. She advised the Board that the Board and Secretariat would continue working together to be a strong network that supports their membership.

She also thanked the members of the Secretariat, BLO, and the interpreters for enabling her to participate in her language, and she recorded her appreciation to Peter for his collaboration and for a great facilitation of the meeting.

ED encouraged Board members to stay in touch with him and advised that it has been a privilege to work with the Board. He thanked everyone from the Secretariat, the BLO and the TPA, who have been very helpful in putting the Global Board meetings in order.

Peter thanked all members for their participation and also thanked ED for his contributions over 4 years. He concluded that the Board and Secretariat should continue to work together for GNDR and the causes it represents.