

GNDR Global Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday 2 Nov 2017 - 14:00 BST UK Time.

Board Participants

Marcus, Farah (Chair), Ali, José Ramón, Lorna, Graciela, Kheswar, Oenone, Peter, Nigel

Apologies/Absent

Rod, Emma.H, Nicole, Papiloa, Zenaida, Emad

Also attending

Jo Cartwright (Financial update), Esther Fletcher (Minutes), Jesus Cordero (Membership re-Categorisation update); Spanish interpreters. Marcus chaired the meeting due to the poor connection for Farah.

Previous Minutes

The last quarterly board meeting was held on the 3rd Aug 2017. The identified Actions have been completed during the quarter with the exception of the following outstanding action:

- Board members are still invited to join the advisory group for VFL.

Financial Update

- Joanna talked through the Finance Headline document sent with the Agenda.
- Nigel raised a question with regards to EU-Devco, he wanted to know if there was any concern or potential issues with the upcoming Brexit. Marcus assured the board that the funding is a multi-year bid, so he did not see any problems. The establishing of a legal identity in Europe (e.g. Belgium) for continuity for future funding was suggested.
- Farah raised a question with regards to Edinburgh University. Joanna explained there is a lengthy multi stage internal process. Currently GNDR are successfully through stages 1-3.
- Oenone asked that going forward if GNDR can add as a permanent Agenda item the monitoring and effectiveness of grants versus the strategy. Marcus commented that the new Network Development Manager can provide the project implementation and progress summary's.
- Farah asked if a social audit will also be included; Marcus is open to this, if needed.

ACTION: GNDR to add a permanent Agenda item to the Global Board meeting agenda to see status of current projects.

ACTION: Any board member wishing to join the finance committee to let the Secretariat know by email before the next finance committee meeting on November 23rd at 3pm.

GNDR Secretariat

- Marcus discussed the new organisational structure, pointing out it shows GNDR competence to fulfil our strategy. Over the next two months, the following will start: Emma as Network Development Manager, Valeria as Advocacy and Learning Coordinator and Nisma as Communications Officer. Lorna has started as VFL Coordinator and Rohit has started as Fundraising Coordinator. Roles still to fill are the Grants & Finance Officer and the HR Officer (part time).
- GNDR are still in discussion about relocating Adessou from Togo to Senegal. Decision for this will be based on report from Adessou.

- Marcus added that should more funding come in, then the structure will be reviewed again.
- Oenone asked about reporting; Marcus replied that different staff within the team will gather and produce reporting.
- Kheswar asked about Southern Africa. Marcus responded by saying that in the next calendar year, GNDR will look at this region as well as to Northern and East Africa. This will be the role of the Network Development Manager.
- José Ramón raised his concern over the financial load of hiring so many people so quickly.
- All Role job descriptions are available on the GNDR website.
- Oenone, as trustee of GNDR, is the lead recruiter for the replacement of Marcus. The trustees are trying to find a global person and this is a lengthy process. They are considering sponsoring a visa for the right applicant. Meanwhile, the Interim director will have a position of 6-9mths. Interviews for this are being held in the next two-three weeks, the closing date for applications was 3/11/17. For the permanent Director role, the board will have opportunities to interview candidates. The interim allows for a smoother handover period. Board will be advised by email.

GNDR Governance

- The process for the replacement of the board member in South East Asia has started; Rouf is leading this. North America has not yet started.
- For board members to extend their 3-year term, a formal extension is needed. This should either be done by a formal letter requesting a 2nd term or by going to regional members to see if they approve the extension of current board member, or else if they have any specific objections. A maximum of two terms is allowed. Currently there is no policy or procedure for asking members opinion.
- Graciela wanted more information on the South East Asia process. Marcus said he had asked regional members if they were interested.
- Whether it is only one, or more than one, the interested persons' application could be screened for compliance by the other regional board members.
- Oenone suggested, with regards to extending term, that an open consultation with members is a great idea, especially given the amount of change currently at GNDR.
- José Ramón is not in favour generally of extended periods, however under the current circumstances, an extra term might be best for continuity, as long as members are in agreement.
- Nigel suggested that a notification of objection from members might be simpler, if members are not communicative
- Farah wanted to know if it was just the individual we look at, or the organisation they belong to, as well. Marcus said it is just the individual, however they should be with a C.S.O, though some are independent.
- With regards to Marcus becoming an honorary member of board. Oenone agrees Marcus history with GNDR is invaluable, however an instant board placement would not be best solution. An advisory role on an ad hoc basis is a good idea after some time.
- Nigel is in agreement that some good length of a gap before any placement is good, as it will help avoid conflicts of interest.
- Farah mentioned as this is the first time GNDR has had to replace the executive director it should include something in policy for future.
- Marcus is happy to be an honorary member of GNDR and can see himself becoming an advisor to the VFL in the future.

ACTION: Develop a letter for extension application.

ACTION: Draft an email to ask members' opinions about an extension of their Board members and/or if they have any objections to an extension of their regional representatives

Membership recategorisation

- After the ample and successful consultation, GNDR have reviewed the approach to ensure all can remain as Full Members as long as they are genuine and active organisations that want to remain/be part of GNDR. Survey results were also extremely positive, but showed low participation numbers. This lack of response means we don't know what the members that never respond think. Logistics: currently looking at communication platforms and database, it had been delayed but it is now on track and going ahead.

GNDR secretariat Team Planning Meeting in Chile

- Resources are such that it has allowed us to hold our team meeting regionally. This gives us the chance to meet members and see some communities in addition to improve the ways that Secretariat staff work together and plan ahead the workload of the next few months.

Regional Developments/Events

- Regional meetings with members are under way.
- VFL update December this year.
- MOU's with regional networks – SCT/CRGR, we are finalising the agreements.

AOB

- Marcus summed up his last board meeting as Executive Director by announcing a personal achievement he is most proud of, which is that he has attended every global board meeting in his ten years with GNDR! He is excited by GNDR's growth going forward and wishes the board all the best and gives great thanks to all the support and time and effort the board have given.

Next Global Board Meeting: Thursday 1st March 2018 14:00 UK time.