

# Global Board Meeting Minutes – Digital meeting

8 September 2022

**Board Participants:** Claire Tiffen (Vice Chair of Trustees), Dr Emad Adly, Farah Kabir, Graciela Salaberrri (Chair of the Global Board), Ian Farrer (Treasurer), Lewis Makurumure, Loreine Dela Cruz, Lorenzo Mota King, Peter Curran (Chair of Trustees), Prime Nkezumukama, Rod Snider (Vice Chair), Ruiti Aretaake, Sophie Rigg, Tania Triminio, Tolekan Ismailova, Usha Menon (Trustee), Zenaida Willison (Vice Chair)

**Apologies:** Emmanuel Seck, Ewout van den Blink, Heleen van der Beek (Stichting observer), Mario Flores, Oenone Chadburn (Stichting observer), Rudi van den Hurk (Stichting observer), Thea Hilhorst (Stichting observer)

**In attendance from the Secretariat:** Domitille Francois (BLO), Florencia Pasquale (TPA), Liza Hernandez (Americas and Caribbean RL), Naomi Paul (FM), Nick Roberts (HO), Rebecca Murphy (PL), Shivangi Chavda (SRL)

**External Support:** Alejandra Vallebona (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 September 2022. She thanked Peter for agreeing to facilitate this meeting.

Graciela advised that this meeting will be an opportunity to discuss and collect reflections, and she asked everyone to contribute to the conversation.

## 2. Recording Apologies

Apologies were received from Emmanuel, Ewout and Mario. It was also noted that observers from Stichting GNDR, Heleen, Oenone and Rudi and Thea, would not be attending the Board meeting.

## 3. Agenda

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

Resolution: The agenda was approved

## 4. Global Board 8 September 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

## 5. Summary actions from 8 September 2022 Global Board meeting

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

*2022.09.08 Agenda 5 Summary action from 23 June 2022 Global Board meeting*

## 6. Update from Secretariat

HO introduced the Secretariat update and invited PL to take the floor and give an update about the upcoming COP27 in Egypt.

- Policy influencing draft for the COP27 has been developed (focused on members from the Global South)
- The Climate Experts' group met for the first time to comment on the draft as well as on a letter intended to be sent to governments by NFPs.

- GNDR has secured a place at two high-level official side events (with partner in Niger - about communities at the frontline of risk of loss and damage; and through UNDRR SEM - showcasing the role of CSOs)
- GNDR received 5 badges to be shared throughout the 2 weeks of the COP27.
- Due to funding restrictions, 2 staff members and 2 members will be sent to Shar El-Sheikh (GNDR is committed to send the same number of staff and members).
- Members' briefing call will be scheduled in late October.

HO also went through the risk matrix and highlighted a few points:

- Staff turnover has been high since last September; SLT are addressing the issue by looking at updating policies and working on a staff wellbeing plan. In August, a 4-day week was introduced and welcomed by staff.
- Financial sustainability is still marked as high risk, but HO advised that we were likely to receive a grant from BHA (\$5.7m over 5 years), which would substantially reduce the risk.

HO also presented the financial scorecards and noted the following:

- Total expenditure: £1,843,762.
- Funding gap: 10.6% (that will be covered once we receive the BHA grant)

FM presented the funding pipeline to the Board. She confirmed that we have been successful for a consortium with EU Horizon, for which we will access funds via UK Research Innovation (due to Brexit). BHA has requested some clarity on our risk assessments for the high risk areas of Iraq, Yemen and Colombia. We are hopeful for a positive outcome soon.

Additionally, a bid for an extension of the Making Displacement Safer project in Turkey (£59,800) has been submitted to the JAC trust and we should hear from them in the next 3 years. Regionally, the LAC team supported a member in submitting a bid to a USAID/IUCN call on gender and climate change.

The Secretariat is organising a Virtual Field Visit with donors so that they can meet members (capacity building/profile raising). FM also encouraged Board members to sponsor staff members running the Virtual London Marathon for GNDR (link for international sponsorship will be published on GNDR website).

Finally, FM announced that during each board meeting, the Secretariat will present a couple of donors that GNDR is going to approach, so that if any board members have links or insights on

how the organisation functions, they will be asked to come forward and give some advice. This time, FM encouraged Board members to contact her if they had any information about the Oak Foundation (Switzerland) and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Comments from the Board:

*Graciela wondered why she was not invited to join the Climate Experts' group as she works in the meteorological sector.*

*Dr Emad asked what his role is as a Board member in the organisation. He explained that he was very happy when it was announced that the COP27 would be held in the region he represents on the Board as he saw a clear opportunity to connect with members from this region. After the COP26 in Glasgow, he met with the Secretariat and the then ED, and during the first meeting, many good ideas on how to organise the event were shared. There was a second meeting in Bali at the GPDRR with the ED, where some activities and preparatory meetings were discussed. However, since the ED left, there has not been any action taken. He advised that he is hearing for the first time what the policy team is doing. He added that he would have liked to be involved in the experts' group and told the ED about it, but never heard anything back. Dr Emad insisted that we need to build on the capacity of Board members. In this specific instance, where a board member has proposed to be involved and put some ideas forward, the Secretariat should take the opportunity, instead of not following up. Dr Emad stated that we are not building on the capacities of our members.*

*Graciela recorded her appreciation for Dr Emad's sincerity. Farah advised that it would be helpful to understand how the Climate Experts' group was formed.*

*PL advised that we are only in phase 1 of planning the COP27. She explained that the policy paper was written out based on the recommendations from a survey done with all members, which then fed into the 3 global events that GNDR prioritises (GPDRR, HLPF and COP27). She added that we are bringing members we are partnering with to the COP27 in order to present the evidence we have gathered (projects).*

*In regards to the Climate Experts' group, PL advised that the Regional Lead for Africa (also the Climate risk driver Lead) contacted individuals from a list based on the last COP in Glasgow. PL added that Ghada from RAED is part of the experts' group and she has also been put forward for a side event.*

*PL advised that she would be happy to touch base offline and discuss this further. She encouraged Board members to email her and RL Africa with any questions. She advised that our current challenge is funding, so we do not have the means to commit to sending a lot of members, but we are committed to match the number of Secretariat staff (to coordinate) and*

members attending global events. She confirmed that getting more funding would open more spaces in global events.

Graciela advised that she would like to submit a proposal of having smaller regional working groups to feed into that Climate Experts' group.

Lorenzo added that members are relevant to this network and GNDR should demonstrate its relevance through participation of the membership to those global events.

Farah advised that the policy position paper needs to be shared with members so that they can input into it. She also added the importance of taking into account the expertise of Global Board members with significant experience. She also insisted that we must involve members that are in the region where the event is taking place - not only project members, as there are more members outside our projects. We need to work together to ensure that members in the region are included.

She added that, since the number of badges is limited, we could ask which members are already going and liaise with them. There will be a limited number of CSOs due to the expensive cost of travel, so we also need to think of our online presence and encourage online side events.

PL asked the Board whether our methods of communication with them were not working. She advised that the Secretariat has been using surveys, emails, and the community platform, and noted that members have been very engaging. However, it seems like there are some communication issues with the Board. She asked what means of communication would be most effective with Board members.

Farah said that the Board needs to be involved in policy documents and must be satisfied that the Secretariat represents the members. She added that the Secretariat knows who has expertise on the Board and should contact those Board members when an experts' group is formed. Farah concluded that GNDR is a democratic member-based organisation and she appreciates how difficult it can be.

Sophie advised that the policy paper is indeed based on a survey from all members focused on members from the Global South. She added that the paper was also discussed at the GPDRR to include a wider CSO perspective. She believed that there might have been a bit of a breakdown in communication and this might be partly due to data protection issues. She said that, although the members contributed to the policy paper, the Secretariat could have sought further input from the Board in particular for this policy message and look into better leveraging the expertise within the Board.

*Tolekan also agreed that there might be a gap in our communication, and added that we need to make sure we promote GNDR's mission together as it is a unique network.*

*Dr Emad advised that we have to define the ownership and balance between Secretariat, Board and members.*

*Peter agreed that strategy and policy needs to be approved by the Board, and asked Board members to make sure they respond when they are asked for feedback.*

**2022.09.08 Agenda 6.1 Update from Secretariat**

**2022.09.08 Agenda 6.2 Risk Matrix**

**2022.09.08 Agenda 6.3 Financial Scorecard**

**2022.09.08 Agenda 6.4 Funding Pipeline**

## **7. RAGs feeding into the Board meeting**

Graciela and Tolekan presented the RAG reports for their respective region. The Africa report was presented by SRL.

The findings can be summarised as follows:

- Across the 3 regions, members are directing their efforts to strengthen collaboration across levels, champion localisation movement and accelerate risk-informed development. In Afghanistan, which is a conflict and disaster-hit country, the NFP supported the local government in coordinating resources through collaborations with the national and international NGOs present in the country. This is a classic example of achieving goal 1 and 2. Similarly, members of Swedish Resilience Network are working with their members to advocate for localising the Sendai Framework.
- Members across regions have stated that the discussions through RAG meetings and NCMs, and the dissemination of the tools created by GNDR on risk-informed development have supported them towards building resilience of the communities that they are working with.
- Through GNDR's contribution, members have been able to strengthen or strategise their collaborations. For instance, in Mozambique, the NFP has collaborated with the Tearfund's Regional Representative in Africa. Similarly, in Kyrgyzstan, the NFP has adopted VFL tools and methodology in addressing the issue of glacier melting with the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

- Members across the 3 regions have cited several key challenges. These include not being able to communicate with the members due to data protection issues, lack of face to face meetings due to shortage of funds, and overall lack of funding opportunities enabling them to achieve the stated goals.
- In the LAC region, it was noted that there was a lack of attendance from NFPs at the RAG meetings. Graciela advised that it would be important to see if there was a similar situation in the other regions.

**Action: NFPs' attendance at RAG meetings to be monitored and addressed if there is any issue.**

Loreine advised that there should be a thematic focus for the next RAG report.

**Action: RAG report to focus on a theme for the next Board meeting.**

*2022.09.08 Agenda 7.1 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Americas and Caribbean*

*2022.09.08 Agenda 7.2 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Africa*

*2022.09.08 Agenda 7.3 RAGs feeding into the Board meeting - Asia/Pacific and Europe*

## **8. Recommendations from Finance and Audit Working Group**

The Treasurer presented the following recommendations to the Board for noting:

1. The audit work by Sayer Vincent has now been completed, and the accounts are ready to be signed off.
2. The auditors advised that sign off of the accounts should be deferred until mid-September, by which time GNDR expects to have written confirmation of a large proposal submitted to USAID.
3. Following the audit of the DEVCO VFL project, the Secretariat is still awaiting a response from the European Commission as to whether there will be any disallowed costs arising from this process.
4. The FAWG reviewed the latest version of the financial scorecard, which will be presented to the Board.

*2022.09.08 Agenda 8 Recommendations from FAWG*

## 9. Recommendations from Governance Working Group

The Chair of the GWG presented the GWG recommendations to the Board. The following points are recommended for noting:

- The GWG highlighted the importance of feedback from RAG meetings being included as a central part of the Global Board agenda.
- The GWG advised that it would be helpful to provide some guidance as to the content of the RAG feedback presented during the Board meeting.
- The group heard a presentation of the interim leadership arrangements for the Secretariat following the departure of the Executive Director and expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements.
- A brief update on the status of recruitment of the new Executive Director was presented to the GWG.

2022.09.08 Agenda 9 Recommendations from GWG

## 10. Recommendations from Membership Working Group

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

The MWG recommended the following to the Board for noting:

- Over the last quarter GNDR has welcomed 38 new full member organisations, 47 new affiliates and 43 new associates. Most of these new members are CSOs based in the global south and have been attracted through our global policy events such as the GPDRR and the HLPF.
- The recruitment for a Membership Engagement Coordinator has started and interviewing will be conducted over the next two weeks.
- Westbrook has recently been contracted to fix any major issues members have in accessing the Community Platform and keep the day to day platform running.
- A review of the criteria for becoming a GNDR member will be discussed during the next MWG meeting.

The MWG recommended the following to the Board for approval:

- The MWG requested the Board to approve membership for an organisation that does not have legal registration, 'Culture and Disaster Action Network.' Mario, our global board member responsible for the region the applicant is based, has provided approval from his side.



Resolution: The Board accepted Culture and Disaster Action Network as member of GNDR - it was proposed by Rod and seconded by Sophie.

*2022.09.08 Agenda 10 Recommendations from MWG*

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

The RWG Chair presented the following points for noting:

- GNDR will co-host a Virtual Field Visit with FRIEND Fiji for existing donors. This is a chance for GNDR donors to see FRIEND's work as well as a chance for FRIEND and GNDR to demonstrate their impact.
- As part of network mapping, it was suggested that a couple of prospective donor organisations be brought to each board meeting with some top line information, and then further information could be followed up by the fundraising team outside of the board meeting.

*2022.09.08 Agenda 11.1 Recommendations from RWG*

*2022.09.08 Agenda 11.2 Fundraising monitor*

## **12. Trustees Update and Recommendations**

The Trustees are submitting the following points to the Global Board for noting:

- The recruitment process for appointing a new Executive Director is being managed by the executive recruitment agency Daryl Upsall. They have consulted with the Secretariat, Global Board members and Trustees as part of the recruitment process to understand what we are looking for in the new ED, and representatives of all will be part of the interview process. The job will close on 11th September, after which Daryl Upsall will formally interview candidates on the long-list. A short-list will then be forwarded to GNDR for interview by a GNDR representative panel.
- Since the departure of the last ED, Trustees have been supporting the three SLT members leading GNDR through bi-weekly meetings. These meetings have discussed operational issues such as finances, funding and staff wellbeing, GNDR input at global events, and the progress of the ED recruitment process.
- Ian Farrer will resume his duties as GNDR Treasurer from this Board meeting onwards. Trustees thanked Ewout van den Blink for covering this role whilst Ian was otherwise engaged.

### **13. Stichting GNDR Update**

In the absence of the Chair of the Stichting GNDR Supervisory Board, HO presented the Stichting GNDR update to the Board and advised that Stichting Supervisory Board approved the appointment of Heleen van der Beek to replace Thea Hilhorst as Chair of Stichting GNDR SB.

### **14. Conclusion and Thanks**

Peter encouraged Board members to take the floor for questions and comments.

Tolekan stated that we should work on a new communication strategy to help horizontal leadership and the decision making process.

Graciela thanked the Secretariat for giving the Board the possibility to share their reflections. She added that Board members are allies of the Secretariat and want to be part of the policy process.

Graciela thanked all Board members for their participation and also thanked Peter for his help facilitating. She thanked SLT for their commitment and wished the Secretariat good luck at the COP27.

She concluded that we should continue reflecting on where we want to go and what kind of network we want to be.