

Scotland's International Development Alliance
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 1 December 2022

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees:

The minimum quorum of 10% of full membership was met.

Alastair Strickland, Alexander Davey, Amy Blake, Ana Miranda, Benjamin Carey, Calum Craig, Cathy Ratcliff, Chrissie Hirst, David Innes, Elizabeth McKernan, Frano Loots-Mudra Rakshasa, Graeme McMeekan, Hamish Goldie-Scot, Helen Hughes, Hiba Sagir, Jamie Livingstone, Jamie McIntosh, Jamie Morrison, Jo Vallis, Joanna Pearce, John Nelson, Jonathon Novakovic, Keeley Hazelhurst, Lewis Ryder Jones, Lucy Philipson, Mark O'Donnell, Martin Rhodes, Mary Ryan, Melissa Brown, Moira Dunworth, Philippa Ramsden, Samantha Ross, Smrithi Pradeep, Tracy Morse, Victoria Nicholson, William Smith, Yulia Nesterova, Zoe Hopkins.

Alliance Staff - Deirdre Muldowney, Frances Guy, Francis Rodgers, Louise Davies.

1. Introduction

Cathy Ratcliff, Chair of the Board of Trustees welcomed members to the AGM and provided outline and rationale for the meeting.

2. Minutes Of Previous AGM

Minutes of previous meetings were approved by the AGM;

2021 AGM minutes were proposed by Jon Novakovic; seconded by Sam Ross, Link Education.

March 2022 EGM minutes were proposed by Amy Blake and seconded by Chrissie Hirst, Cora.

As agreed at the last AGM both Human Resources and Policy Committees continue. As planned a new Finance, Business Development and Membership Committee was established. Trustees have remained stable throughout the year.

3. Trustees Report

Cathy introduced the Trustees report noting it technically covers year 21/22 and the full report can be found in the annual accounts.

She shared the main points of the report and shared some updates for the current financial year.

Cathy reminded the AGM of the charitable purposes of the Alliance:

- To contribute to international development by encouraging communication amongst people and organisations in Scotland committed to the elimination of inequality, poverty and discrimination worldwide;
- To increase understanding of the international development sector in Scotland;
- To build the strength and capacity of the international development sector in Scotland; and
- To provide a forum to discuss and present opinion on key issues of international development with decision-makers within Scotland, the United Kingdom and beyond.

She highlighted that through the financial year 21/22 the Alliance had sought to move from purely online working and delivery to a more hybrid approach both in terms of office work and for events.

The hosting of COP26 in Glasgow in November 21 motivated the Alliance to focus on the environmental impact of work in the international development sector. An online photo exhibition, entitled Facing the Crisis, was held with a launch event that was able to bring in participants from diverse countries across Africa as well as draw on experience in Latin America. Climate change has remained a core theme of the Alliance's work since then. The Alliance's annual conference in December 2021 on the growing imperative of action on climate change, well-being and equity included specific sessions on implementing best practice on climate change mitigation across organisations as well as a session on decolonising the use of language.

Since that last conference and the previous AGM the Alliance had revised its strategy and approach. This resulted in a new vision statement: *A more globally aware Scotland working to reduce global inequalities through joined up action on poverty, injustice, climate and environmental threats.*

To achieve that we aim to:

- Grow our network of members to include people from all sectors across Scotland
- Give our membership opportunities to work together and access to the relevant people and groups
- Encourage and grow active global citizenship throughout the Scottish public
- Have a wide network of engaged people, greater capacity for effective action and a greater voice and influence with key decision makers and bodies

The Alliance has held a series of online meetings and workshops exploring the practical implementation of decolonising aid and communicating the climate crisis. Cathy encouraged members to continue to share ideas on issues of priority for the Alliance.

The Alliance has continued to provide the secretariat for the Cross Party group on international development and have tried to make these events inclusive and open by using hybrid formats where possible.

The monthly newsletter has continued to improve and increase its outreach.

It has continued to be a challenging time for our members with continued pressure on public and private giving exacerbated by the effects of the war in Ukraine for the world's poorest as well as for inflation globally.

The Alliance received confirmation of a further two years of core funding from the Scottish Government from 1 April 2022 frozen at the same level as 2019/2020. Funding from the FCDO to the Civil Society Collective, formed from similar network organisations in Wales, Northern Ireland and England was cut during the period and looks unlikely to be continued.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Keeley Hazelhurst.

Key take aways from 21/22 are that it was a challenging year, costs have been controlled well, there has been continued reliance on grants, reserves are slightly increased and there are no queries or concerns from our Independent Examiner. There was an increase in Income from advertising and sponsorship. Membership income has been stable but forecast is increase in membership income for 2023 which is important because it is unrestricted income. Expenses have remained stable and KH is happy with how everything is being kept under control and has no concerns.

The Board are of the opinion that there are sufficient reserves to sustain the Alliance in the short term in line with our reserves policy. There are no restricted funds held at the end of the year because all grants have been used.

Looking forward: challenges are the short term grant cycles and a potential lack of unrestricted income. Actions are to diversify income (to increase unrestricted), keep work on increasing member base, engaging sponsors and in person events.

5. Presentation of Annual Accounts 2021-2022

The annual accounts were noted.

6. Election of Trustee

Dr Yulia Nesterova from was elected and welcomed to the Board. She was nominated by University of Strathclyde and University of Glasgow (Low and Middle Income Countries Research Network).

7. Approval of Fee Structure

Francis Rodgers explained there will be no increase and categories agreed in March 22 will remain.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was proposed that Paul Clelland be appointed again to examine 2022-2023 annual accounts. Paul's appointment was approved by the AGM: proposed by Moira Dunworth; seconded by Tracy Morse.

9. AOB

A question regarding membership categorisation based on UK wide figures instead of Scottish figures was asked. FR welcomed a call with individual members to discuss such anomalies.

A question was asked whether the Alliance was being paid for the feminist workshops or was absorbing costs and what are plans for diversifying income? The Alliance is being funded for this work by the Scottish Government and is working with the Scottish Council for Global Affairs for these workshops and will continue to tender for work like this. The Finance, Business Development and Membership Committee will be working at identifying other income opportunities such as sponsorship and Trust and Foundation funding.

The meeting was then concluded.