ICVA
2019-2021
MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY

A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION
The Membership Strategy is guided by the overall mission for ICVA, formulated as follows:

*A global network of non-governmental organisations whose mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by working collectively and independently to influence policy and practice.*

Membership is the basis of ICVA’s legitimacy. It is developed as one of the “enabling strategies” to implement the ICVA Strategy 2019-2021.

1. **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

ICVA’s influence and reach is increased through the credibility and legitimacy of its membership base offering a unique and diverse global humanitarian network.

2. **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

**Specific objective 1 – Member engagement**

By 2021, the engagement of ICVA’s members that enhances ICVA’s impact and outreach has increased.

As at 01/01/2019, ICVA has 107 members working in 160 countries. Total financial operational footprint of members is over 20 billion CHF. 75% of NGOs engaged in ICVA activities are southern NGOs, national NGOs, medium-sized and NGO fora.

⇒ ICVA develops models of engagement within the network to value a membership varying widely in size and scope. Members external engagements on behalf od ICVA are framed by the “Guidelines on External Representation”. While all members have an equal voice, ICVA will facilitate for all its members to benefit and contribute according to their capacities and common priorities.

**Specific objective 2 – Recruitment**

By 2021, the recruitment of new members continues to reflect ICVA’s diversity, humanitarian focus, and global dimension.

While the priority is given to engage better and more strategically with the existing members, yearly targets for recruitment of new members are set - at global and regional levels - considering the capacity to coordinate the engagement of new members.

The overall number of ICVA members is not an objective as such but rather a consequence of the membership strategy.

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1 Extract for ICVA Strategy 2019-2021 - *We will review our membership strategy, considering ways to improve the communication with and collaboration among our members. This will provide further clarity on how we engage, process and amplify membership views’ and voices’. It will articulate approaches to the administration of membership services (from recruitment, to validation, to orientation), while ensuring continued prioritisation of maintaining diversity within the membership.*
Linking to the localisation agenda, ICVA is proactive in inviting and supporting national networks/fora to join the ICVA network. Recognising the challenges and opportunities of national networks/fora, a specific type of membership engagement for national networks/fora will be considered.

Partnership models with civil society organisations, other than NGOs, are developed as a complementary way to increase ICVA’s influence and reach.

ICVA is engaged in an (informal) community of practice of global and regional networks and develop the potential to coordinate approaches on big issues.

The learning from partnership models and membership in Latin America prepare for the development of influence in Latin America for the period 2022-2025.

**Specific objective 3 – Member Support**

By 2021, ICVA members’ systems that prevent, mitigate and learn lessons from all forms of misconduct, fraud corruption, sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment are collectively strengthened.  

While recognising the collective work on issues related to misconduct, it is the individual responsibility of each ICVA member to have systems in place. ICVA members come together to share and exchange experiences and information, collaborate, leverage expertise, challenge and inspire each other to increase the capacities to have systems in place to prevent, mitigate, respond and learn on all forms of misconduct.

**Specific objective 4 – Due Diligence**

By 2021, membership criteria strengthen ICVA’s credibility.

The membership and reaffirmation criteria are refined keeping them light and relying on existing accountability mechanisms. They reflect due diligence requirements and consider the realities of NGOs and the evolution of the sector.

All new members are compliant with the membership criteria. The clauses concerning the reaffirmation process of members is conducted prior to the 2020 General Assembly.

The dispositions in the Statutes concerning ICVA Membership (Part B) and in particular Article VII. Suspension, Termination of Membership are applied.

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2 ICVA members have committed “…to have systems in place for preventing, detecting, and responding to abuse and misconduct”. *ICVA General Assembly March 2018*