



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK  
FOR PRINCIPLED  
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## 17<sup>th</sup> ICVA General Assembly

### Minutes

DRAFT- *to be approved at General Assembly 18 & 19 May 2021*

21 March 2018

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

## Contents

Contents .....	2
Welcome by the Chair.....	3
Report from the Chair.....	3
Appendix 3.....	3
Treasurer’s Report .....	4
Commitment and Motion for Action .....	4
Proposed Amendments to the Statutes.....	5
2019-2021 Strategy.....	6
Formal adoption of the 2015-2018 Strategy.....	8
Presentation of Board candidates .....	8
Election of new Board .....	9
Election of the Chair.....	9
Members’ Market Place .....	10
Closing.....	10

## Appendices

1. List of participants
2. Agenda
3. Chair’s Report
4. Treasurer’s Report
5. Presentation on proposed amendments to the Statutes
6. 2015-2018 Strategy

## Welcome by the Chair

The Chair of the ICVA Board, Dr Faizal Perdaus (Mercy Malaysia) officially opened ICVA's 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Welcomed all to the meeting and thanking them for their presence.

introduced the members of the Board,

Introduced the new executive director Ignacio Packer – pleased with the quality of candidates from across the sector. Replacement of ED done quite quickly as did not want the position vacant for long.

thanked the ICVA Secretariat for the preparation of the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

Quorum: confirmed that there was quorum, as 44 of 98 total members were present. See Appendix 1 for the list of participants.

The Agenda (Appendix 2) was approved with no modifications. However, during the day due to lack of time, the ICVA café was cut, and the time for the Members' market place was reduced.

The Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly were approved.

## Report from the Chair

Appendix 3

Dr Perdaus, Chair of ICVA Board, provided a summary of ICVA's main achievements during the last three years.

Summary structured around the following key areas: Significant changes at ICVA, the collective achievements of the network, and some reflections on the future.

Dr Perdaus finished his presentation by thanking all who worked with him during the past three years, and in particular Nan Buzard, the Executive Director, for her excellent leadership of the ICVA Secretariat.

*Floor opened to members for comments and questions.*

- *What is ICVA's position at global level?*
  - *ICVA advocates at the global level that humanitarian space must be respected, enlarged with no compromises.*
- *How is ICVA supporting NGOs and NGO for a regarding the shrinking space for NGOs?*
  - *ICVA has raised the issues with Governments and the IASC EDG. IT was the theme of the 2016 Annual conference. Issue larger than just the humanitarian sector so ICVA is looking at who best to partner with- other organisations have good tools eg Civicus. Is a cross cutting issue. Acknowledge that it is a a real threat caused by militarisations, the nexus etc, Several members also working*

*on the issue - Need us to work together and build collective to have an impact on the issue. Work needs to be better contextualised and driven more by members.*

- *What is the role of the regional hubs in technical support?*
  - *Hubs still a work in progress.*
- *ICVA and IOM*
  - *Governments prefer to work with IOM rather than UNHCR, as less accountable in their way of working. Most NGOs do not have good access to IOM, so good if ICVA can continue to support entry points*
  - *ICVA engagement with IOM essential – need to encourage IOM to work more closely with NGOs on the ground, Need to push protection agenda with IOM, need to have a focus on mixed refugee/migrant movement*

## **Treasurer's Report**

(Appendix 4).

They Sabaux, the Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report

Overall finance of ICVA are good, in balance, no loss. Audit meets Swiss Gap standards.

- **Income:** diverse funding. Challenge of the Swiss franc and volatility of exchange rate as some grants in other currencies
- **Expenses:** main expense is staff. Quality of human capital, skills and capacity building important if want to deliver mission. All within reasonable proportions re secretariat and hubs.
- **Budgets:** Action plans and budgets created by ICVA staff and validated by the Board and adapted during the year to balance.

## **Commitment and Motion for Action**

The ICVA Board presented a motion for endorsement by the members due to explosion on PSEA and Sexual harassment in the workplace cases in the humanitarian sector.

Although ICVA is not operations, many members are.

This motion is to show ICVA's position, and for members to commit and adopt a strong motion against any form of abuse.

Secretariat will contribute to 1) the discussions around the impact on policies and procedures – cost for NGOs to meet accountability measures - ensure that NGOs do not commit to measures that they are not able to deliver on. Needs a cultural change in the sector. 2) talk to other stakeholders in the sector - Many of the conversations dominated by international NGOs and the UN. Secretariat talking with members states in Geneva - donors are reacting differently. And will reach out to national NGOs and NGO for a. 3) CHS core

standard 5, which calls for communities and people affected by crises to have access to a safe and responsive complaint mechanism - is lowest rated standard, there needs to be much stronger focus on making humanitarian response accountable

*Overall Motion well received, and seen as timely - however, some discussion around the wording - suggestion and agreement that wording to be reworked and revert back to Members - This was done so through an email sent to members on .... No objections received : so wording adopted by GA*

*Adopted wording:*

Commitment and Motion to Action on Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Sexual Harassment

ICVA members agree and endorse the following commitment and take their responsibilities seriously.

**COMMITMENT**

Our organisations have a responsibility in relation to men, women and children in the communities in which we work and towards our own employees to protect from sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse which are completely unacceptable.

We are fully committed to being transparent and accountable towards the people we serve, our partners, supporters and the public at large.

We expect the ICVA Secretariat and the ICVA members to strengthen the humanitarian community's fight for integrity in engaging in inter-agency cooperation.

We require ICVA Secretariat and the ICVA members to have systems in place for preventing, detecting, and responding to abuse and misconduct.

**MOTION TO ACTION**

ICVA is taking action on victims' rights advocacy on sexual exploitation and abuse.

ICVA is to document and voice the challenges of all ICVA members in complying to safeguarding standards and engage with their governments when appropriate.

ICVA Secretariat is engaged in dialogue with UN Permanent Missions in Geneva.

## **Proposed Amendments to the Statutes**

(Appendix 5).

Board member Leila Muriithia (RCK), chaired the session on proposed amendments to the Statutes to be approved by the General Assembly

She explained the process that had been followed for reviewing the Statutes, explaining that the Board and members had proposed changes to the Statutes. The amendments were proposed to provide clarity with regard to ICVA membership criteria, limits and terms of office for board members and officers, absence of a Chair, and the HR focal point.

### *Comments /Questions from the floor:*

- Concern raised by one member that limiting the terms of office for board members was not democratic. Another member responded by saying that yes it is tempting to keep good board members, but also important that the board reflects the diversity of membership.
- Reminder that it Board organisations that are elected to the Board. So representative from organisation may change. No impact on quorum of board.
- However, if Chair leaves the Board, their member organisation can put forward a new representative as a board member, but not as the Chair. Between GAs a new Chair is chosen from within the Board members themselves.

members were asked to adopt all the proposed amendments in one single vote. The proposed amendments were adopted with one abstention.

## **2019-2021 Strategy**

Draft strategy 2019-2021 **appendix x**

The session, facilitated by Igancio Packer, started with Anoop Sukarman (Board member), Jeremy Wellard (Regional Representative for Asia) and Melissa Pitotti (Director of Policy) introducing themselves.

introduced the Strategic plan process - The strategy was developed with strong engagement from over 70% of members- through completing both an online survey and through more detailed interviews and conversations with ICVA staff. There were also focused discussions with UN partners and donors. The board and Secretariat appreciated the engagement and participation of members in the process, and hope that the Strategy reflects how the members see the network moving forward.

introduced the 2019-2021 draft Strategy which comprises 6 sections to cover the who, what, why and how of ICVA. Building on the previous strategy the four thematic focus areas have been updated to reflect the constantly changing context, challenges and approaches.

- Forced Migration – most traditional area of ICVA’s work has been forced displacement with a longstanding role with UNCHR. During the consultations heard from members that they would like ICVA to connect better with migration issues. Will maintain focus on refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons, but will have more consistency, coherence and complementarity with processes related to migrants in vulnerable situations.
- Coordination – Will continue to be engaged with the IASC. Will aim to intensify work with NGO fora. And explore alternative coordination models.
- Financing – financing an issue for most NGOs - so will continue to advance the implementation of the Grand bargain looking at efficiency and effectiveness. Will also

look at how to deepen and widen the resource base. Look at the different options that members are already exploring.

- Navigating Change – environments in which NGOs are working is changing rapidly. ICVA looking to build the resource base and capacity of all members to understand and engage in a wide range of issues, including localisation, engagement with regional actors, emergence of new government actors, shrinking space and its complexities, and working with non humanitarian and other actors

ICVA has 5 ways of working that apply across the four focus areas (see strategy if want more language)

- Analyse and explain
- Convene
- Connect
- Influence/ Advocate
- Support

ICVA will also invest in strengthening monitoring and evaluation.

ICVA will also revise their communications, membership and fundraising strategies to adapt to the new strategy.

Membership need to be involved in the roll out of this strategy. There are key platforms identified eg CIVA working groups where members can share their own perspectives and experiences. Need to also look at which other critical groups/platforms members can also engage in to sculpt and push agenda forward. Members need to contribute as Secretariat does not have all the answers. Contribution of membership to the strategy and ownership by the members is the only way for ICVA to be an effective voice. Collaborative space is crucial to influencing policy.

### ***Comments from the Plenary***

Overall the strategy was well received. In the last call for comments from the membership re the strategy the Secretariat received no comments. Comments from the plenary included: balanced strategy taking up strengths and room for new developments, simple and clear.

### ***Questions from the plenary***

- Looking forward to more discussions around the nexus and civil society space
- How can as a network we can increase our collective work ?
- Human rights and IHL are key issues not mentioned in the Strategy - how do we include them?
- Would like to learn more about how to show impact of advocacy.
- How support diaspora and their work- this is work done by members already (eg DRC and RCOA)
- Could ICVA do an advocacy mapping to help members to know how/how to address concerns to

- Countering hatred message and xenophobia – how can ICVA counter these messages?

## Formal adoption of the 2015-2018 Strategy

The members were asked to adopt the Strategy in the afternoon sessions, allowing time for members to reflect and ask the Secretariat and Board more questions.

The 2019-2020 Strategy was adopted unanimously.

## Presentation of Board candidates

The chair introduced the Nominations Committee, consisting of Gareth Price Jones (Save the Children), Stephen Wainwright (IFRC), Pascal Daudin (ICRC) and Manisha Thomas (xx )(not present).

Gareth reported on the nominations process,

- role of the ICVA Nominations Committee is to ensure clear and impartial governance of the election process run by ICVA to appoint their board of directors and officers. None of us, or anyone from our organisations, is standing for election.
- received 19 nominations for board membership, of which all qualify. We're delighted with the diversity and range of those candidates – thanks to ICVA members for stepping up. Of those, one, Reza Choudhury of COAST, has withdrawn his nomination and so is no longer standing.
- have short presentations from each of the 18 candidates, to supplement the statements in their nominations. Two candidates who could not be here today will be presenting via a video.
- Reminder to members that they are electing a Member Organisation to be board members, not necessarily **Individuals** – it is perfectly possible for members to change representations, for example if individual staff members leave.
- Explained that there was both a secret ballot for board members for those present at the GA, . In addition to the votes cast here in the room, 32 members have been invited to vote electronically, using the third-party software Election Buddy, via a one-use only electronic vote. These have been received as of this morning – electronic voting closed at 8am today - but remain secret to avoid influencing voting in the room, and have not been seen by the nomination committee. Both electronic votes and ballot papers will be add together to provide final tally.
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The floor was then given to the candidates for two minutes in order for them to introduce their candidature to the plenary.

## Election of new Board

The Nominations Committee led by Gareth Price Jones announced the results of the Board election.

- 29:** online ballots issued
  - 55:** in person ballots issued
  - 8:** online ballots cast
  - 55:** in person ballots cast
  - Total: 462** individual votes cast
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- Amel Association International- **40 votes**
  - Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)- **39 votes**
  - ACT Alliance- **36 votes**
  - Action Contre La Faim (ACF)- **35 votes**
  - Terre des Hommes- **34 votes**
  - Plan International- **29 votes**
  - Christian Aid- **29 votes**
  - Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)- **28 votes**
  - African Humanitarian Action- **28 votes**

## Election of the Chair

Two candidates for Chair – Roger Yates (Plan International) and Anoop Sukumaran (Act Alliance)

Candidates were asked to write the initials of their preferred candidate on the ballot papers.

Results: 49 ballots returned - one blank. Roger yates 22 and **Anoop 26 votes.**

Anoop the new Chair

The Chair Dr Faizal Perdaus –congratulated the new Chair and thanked the Nominations Committee.

## **Members' Market Place**

Ignacio introduced the Members' market place- List of stalls were ....?  
Timing reduced to 30 minutes.

## **Closing**

The outgoing Chair thanked all the participants for coming to the General Assembly, and their active participation.

He also thanked the Secretariat, former staff and the outgoing Board for having confidence in him to be the Chair during the past 3 years.

Thanks to the nominations cmt.

And usual thanks to all staff of Conference centre, and the Interpreters

In turn the newly elected Chair, Mr Anoop Sukumaran thanked Dr Perdaus for his excellent leadership – noting that he will be looking to Fiazal for guidance and support.

The meeting was closed.