



## **18th ICVA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **18 and 19 MAY 2021**

#### **Minutes DRAFT**

### **Introduction**

The ICVA General Assembly takes place every three years. The 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly held on 18 and 19 May took place online due to COVID restrictions.

PHAP supported all the technical details of the meeting.

The meeting was conducted in two separate sessions: the first on 18<sup>th</sup> May from 13.00-15.00 CEST, and the second on 19<sup>th</sup> May from 13.00-15.30 CEST.

Present: The list of all those present can be seen in Annex 1. The General Assembly was quorate – with 82 (63%) ICVA members present.

### **Welcome and review**

The 18th General Assembly was opened by the Chair, Roger Yates, who welcomed everyone to the online meeting.

The General Assembly adopted the Agenda (see Annex2) by consensus.

The Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly were adopted by consensus, with no comments raised.

### **Looking back over the past three years**

This session included reports from the Chair and the Treasurer, and a presentation of the Impact Study from the external consultant. The full presentation can be found in Annex 3.

#### **Chair's Report**

Roger Yates, Chair of ICVA Board, provided a summary of ICVA's main achievements during the last three years. The summary focused on the high quality of the engagement of the members, ICVA's critical role in coordination and amplifying a diverse set of NGO voices and ensuring the inclusion of national actors in humanitarian responses, and ICVA's collective voice with members and other NGO networks to bring a grounded and realistic perspective to the global debate.

Mr Yates finished his presentation by thanking donors for their support, members for their engagement and the ICVA Secretariat for their commitment.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report was presented by Ignacio Packer, ED ICVA, as the Treasurer, Dr James Munn, was unable to attend due to technical reasons.



The report showed that the ICVA Secretariat expenses have increased over the years, with an annual yearly expense of CHF 3.25 million. There was a managed deficit in 2020, which reduced the level of reserves, though they are still above the requirements of the ICVA reserves policy. The financial statements for 2018, 2019 and 2020 were approved by the ICVA Board with the recommendations the statutory auditor, PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

The Treasurer on behalf of the Board had no cases of allegations, corruption, or related issues.

### **Impact Study 2019-2020**

Adrio Bacchetta, of Sandstone Consulting, presented the findings of their 2019-2020 mid strategy impact study. The key question being investigated was “What has been the impact of ICVA’s efforts in influencing and amplifying NGO perspectives in humanitarian dialogue and policies across each of the four selected focus areas and other issues arising for the period 2019-2020?”

He summarized the ICVA 2019-2021 strategy highlighting key activities of each of the focus areas and noting the more detailed case studies. Referring to ICVA’s added value the report shows that; ICVA is clearly recognised and valued as an established and respected network in the field of humanitarian action; Its complimentary rather than competitive approach is appreciated; being a conduit for diverse voices is both a strength and a challenge.

He concluded that ICVA has achieved considerable impact in 2019 and 2020 and demonstrated an agile and flexible response to COVID-19. In particular, the regional hubs have been a major force multiplier for ICVA’s work, and it is at the regional level that there is most potential to achieve its ambitions of diversity and inclusion.

### **Board Elections**

The Chair introduced the Nominations Committee, consisting of Eunice Ndonga from the Refugee Consortium of Kenya, Delphine Pinault of Care International, and Marvin Perez of Community World Service Asia.

Delphine went on to explain that the role of the Nominations Committee is to ensure clear and impartial governance of the election process run by ICVA to appoint the board members and the Chair. None of the members of the committee are standing for election thus ensuring there is no conflict of interest.

The committee received 23 nominations for the Board two of which did not qualify, one from a non-member, the other a nomination received after the deadline. 21 candidates were presented to the General Assembly for nine places on the ICVA Board. Short video presentations of each Board candidate were shown at the General Assembly.

Voting for the Board members was open from 4pm CEST on 17 May and closed at 4pm CEST on 18 May. Voting was conducted through Eballot administered by PHAP.

The results of the Board elections resulted in a tie break for the ninth candidate – with Amity Foundation and Coast each receiving 32 votes. As the Statutes do not allow for more than 9 board members, and nomination committee is unable to make any decisions on behalf of the members, this tie was put to the members to vote. The result of the tie vote was Amity Foundation.

The final nine candidates elected to the Board were:

- Islamic Relief Worldwide, Ms. Shahin Ashraf (56 votes)



- African humanitarian action, before Wossen Tesfaye (55 emails)
- Amel Association International, Ms. Virginie Lefevre (54 votes)
- War Child Dr. Unni Krishnan (45 votes)
- Concern Worldwide, Reiseal Ni Cheilleachair (42 votes)
- Translators without Borders Ms. Aimee Ansari (41 votes)
- Jane Backhurst with Christian Aid (39 votes)
- Dignidany justica, Mr. Luis Enrique Gonzalez (36 votes)
- Amity Foundation, Ms Ling Chunxiang

### Election of the Chair

The three candidates for the Chair: Ms. Aimee Ansari of Translators Without Borders, Ms. Jane Backhurst of Christian Aid, and Mr. Unni Krishnan of War Child – presented themselves to the General Assembly.

The members attending the General Assembly elected Ms Jane Backhurst of Christian Aid as Chair.

### ICVA Statutes

Every three years the Board reviews the Statutes to ensure they are fit for purpose for the coming period. Amendments around the follow four areas were put forward by the Board to the General Assembly for approval.

- **To allow the ICVA Board to be able to convene a General Assembly under an electronic format**  
*Article IX. Meetings. Quorum. Voting*
- **To update the functions of the General Assembly and the Board in relation to the adopting of long-term strategy and strategic priorities**  
*Article VIII. Functions of the General Assembly and Article XIII. Functions of the Board*
- **To provide clarity on the term of office of elected board members** *Article XII. Composition of the Board*
- **To provide guidance around coopted board members**  
*Article XII. Composition of the Board*

The General Assembly approved the amendments unanimously (100% of 56 votes)

### Reaffirmation of Principles /Commitments

Virginie Lefevre introduced this session reminding members that they had all committed to the following humanitarian principles and standards either when joining ICVA or during the 2017 reaffirmation process.

1. Humanitarian principles, including the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief](#).
2. Collaboration with other NGOs and/or partner agencies, in line with the [Principles of Partnership](#).
3. Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse as guided by the [IASC Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#), the [Statement of Commitment on Eliminating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and Non-UN Personnel](#) as well as the [ICVA GA 2018 Motion to Action](#)



4. Quality and accountability in humanitarian action, including use of the [Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#).

The General Assembly reaffirmed these commitments by consensus.

The participants of the General Assembly then split into eight breakout sessions to discuss further the four commitments and their implementation. There were two breakout sessions on each commitment. The presenters from ABS Yemen, Alliance4Impact, ICRC, Partnership BA, ABADD, CARE, and Sphere, each gave a short presentation on one of the commitments and the facilitated a discussion in each of the breakout sessions.

## ICVA 2030 Strategy and 2022-24 Strategic Priorities

Roger Yates introduced this session. The General Assembly were being asked to approve two documents: the ICVA 2030 Strategy, and the Strategic Priorities 2022-2024. He went on to explain how these documents sit within the ICVA Vision, Strategy and Planning Framework. The ICVA 2030 is a high-level nine-year strategy for the network as a whole and adopted by the General Assembly. The three-year Strategic Priorities, adopted by the General Assembly, will provide clear indication of directions to guide the three-year strategic plan. The ICVA secretariat will develop a three-year strategic plan and annual workplans as framed by the ICVA 2030 and Strategic priorities that will be adopted and overseen by the Board.

The Board has proposed a longer-term strategy as it had seen over time that a three-year strategy and a new strategy process every three years, was an incredible drain on a small organisation and challenging when looking for long term funding and continuity. The ICVA 2030 Strategy gives a sense of identity and direction and set long term transformations, while the Strategic Priorities 2022-2024 set very clear and specific priorities for the next three-year period.

Jane Backhurst, Vice-Chair, provided an overview of the overall ICVA 2030 process. The deep and inclusive process to look beyond the usual three-year horizon began in late 2019 and was led by the ICVA Board. Over 90% of members took part in the various consultations: interviews, meetings, workshops, videos, regional meetings and thematic workshops, and a survey. External stakeholders, other NGO networks and UN agencies were also consulted. The process itself has also been important. The high member engagement increased connectedness and collective learning with a range of different perspectives in a complex environment. Engagement with other stakeholders has been perceived as innovative and constructive. She thanked the Conrad Hilton Foundation for the financial support to do this work in a diverse, inclusive and participatory way as possible.

**The ICVA 2030: a collection of voices video was shown.** This video was a collection of views of members at the beginning of the ICVA 2030 process.

**Ignacio Packer, Executive Director, provided a more detailed description of the ICVA 2030 Strategy.** The strategic vision is about our collective impact as ICVA - the Secretariat and the network. With the overlap between the individual missions of members and the mission of ICVA the ICVA 2030 Strategy is more than the sum of our parts to influence policy and practice in humanitarian action. The ICVA 2030 Strategy sets out ICVA's ways of working, the five transformations the network commits to in order to evolve, and the three focus areas carried over from the previous strategy. The document has been translated into French, Arabic and Spanish.



There were some supportive **comments from the participants** saying the strategy was relevant for the ICVA members to enhance their collective commitment in terms of shepherding principled humanitarian action in the fast-changing world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was noted that the Strategy identifies the big challenges and opportunities that NGOs are facing. Appreciation was expressed on the consultative process and members were looking forward to further collective advocacy particularly around the politicisation of aid.

### **ICVA Strategic Priorities 2022-2024**

This document was introduced by Ignacio Packer, which includes priorities drawn from the ICVA 2030 strategy and provides more specific focus for the period 2022-2024 for both the ICVA secretariat and the network. The documents lists 15 key initiatives within the three focus areas and five transformations.

**The General assembly adopted the ICVA 2030 and the Strategic Priorities 2022-2024 unanimously – (65 votes - 100% yes)**

## **Commitment and Motion to Action on Climate and Environment**

The commitment and motion to action on climate and environment was introduced by Thorsten Göbel of the ICVA Board.

One of the big issues that was very evident in the ICVA 2030 process was how the importance of climate and environment is now absolutely central. 84% of participants in the consultations said that environmental change and its impact were creating and alleviating humanitarian needs and that this must be a focus of ICVA. This was in contrast to the previous strategy consultations where there had been a complete absence of this issue.

Addressing the impact of climate and environment on humanitarian action is one of the transformations in the ICVA 2030 Strategy. The Commitment and Motion to Action on climate and environment provides additional emphasis on the need to mitigate the increased impact of climate change on humanitarian needs and to minimize the climate and environmental impact of our own operations.

Nishanie Jayamaha, ICVA Programme and Learning Coordinator, read out the document.

**The General Assembly adopted the Commitment and Motion to Action on Climate and Environment (58 votes 97% in favour, and 2 abstentions)**

### **Close of meeting**

Roger Yates closed the meeting thanking the outgoing board, the members for attending, all those involved in the organisation and planning, and inviting Jane Backhurst, the new chair to say some closing words.

*Draft Minutes pre-approved by the ICVA Board at their 15 June 2021 meeting. Minutes to be fully approved at the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2024.*