Minutes of the GWI Board 2022-25 Meeting held on 27th March 2023, 5pm Central European Time (CET), zoom

Fourth Board Meeting

Attendees: President Patrice Wellesley Cole (PWC); VP Advocacy Shaila Rao Mistry (SRM); VP Education, Shirley Gillett(SG); VP Legal & Governance, Ujwala Shinde(US); VP Membership, Meera Bondre (MB); VP Projects, Mildred Asmah(MA); Treasurer, Sudha Srivastava (Sudha),GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara (SDL)

Meeting called to order at **5pm CET**

1. **Welcome**: PWC welcomed all to the Fourth Board Meeting. VP Fundraising Nneka Chiedozie-Udeh (NCU); and VP Marketing Shruti Sonthalia(SS); conveyed their aplogies for remaining absent.

2. **Conflict of Interest**: None

3. **Adoption of Agenda**: Sudha proposed agenda and seconded by SG. MB suggested to include the subject which was mailed by her earlier, PWC accepted to add to the agenda and deal with it.

4. **Adoption of Minutes** of 23 February 2023 Board meeting: SG moved the proposal and MB seconded it.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

   Sudha updated about the Audit Report, as Audit happened on 24th February 2023, SDL and Accountant Catherine were present in GWI office, Sudha joined it virtually. She further mentioned that the Audit Report is received and it is with FinCom for approval, and thereafter it will be presented in Board. FinCom meeting is in April, therefore in the next Board meeting Audit Report approval will done.' She further updated about the NFAs dues, since from last board meeting more payments are coming up from NFAs. She had sent first reminder e-mails to 18 NFAs and from 5 to 6 NFAs have replied asking for payment options and instalments. Sudha shown positive hopes about the recovery of dues, that in due course of time all the NFAs, who have not paid would pay their dues that is before 31st of March deadline. As reminder emails were sent before 31st March, it was helpful, many NFAs become aware of the dates. She further updated that TURKEY matter is with FinCom, to find out some options/ solutions about the Turkey payments, because it is a quite significant payment for GWI. She further informed about the Nigeria's request for considering about the dues adjustment and this matter also is with FinCom. She further mentioned that Nigeria is already on concessional rate in 2023. Also, reminded that Board and FinCom cannot do any constitutional changes it is the General Assembly where we need to propose changes.

Sudha updated about the Credit Suisse issue which is now taken over by UBS Bank. GWI has cover for up to 100,000 CHF. After consulting President PWC, SDL and FinCom Convenor, the extra money was proactively transferred to UBS Bank before this issue came up with Credit Suisse Bank. Situation seems to be stable for now.

Donations are received for Hegg-Hoffet Fund and we should start projects to utilise this fund. Beena Roy project needs funding. She mentioned that we should start thinking of applying for SDG grants; it is in the budget, which is quiet significant amount, which we are aiming at 23000 to 25000. NFAs with fully paid dues should get opportunity in Train the Trainer programme and young members. She thanked SG and made mention of New Zealand donation (3410 CHF) made for GWI fellowships – Daphne Purvis and Bina Roy. Board appreciated SG for New Zealand donations and also people from NFAs who are donating. She informed about NFA dues status 10-12 NFAs have not yet paid their dues.

SRM asked whether we sent any email to board members requesting for donations that might be helpful.

SDL informed that the office typically communicates to the NFAs via the President and CIR and not directly to the NFA members because GWI does not have a member list from the NFAs. She mentioned that she was ready to work with VP Fund Raising for this purpose.
SRM mentioned that other organisations used to send mails asking donations.
MA suggested that donations can be started from Board members itself.
SG mentioned that she is not in favour of asking money from board members.
Sudha updated about Bulgaria that they have technically lost the membership as they have 3 years arrears. Sudha sent invoices to defaulter NFAs, to initiate conversation, Sudha also asked Meera if she wants to do anything about Bulgaria rejoining. Sudha reminded about the role of treasurer that all the plans, payments and expenditure should be notified and consulted with the treasurer in advance, as it is the duty of the treasurer to manage the finance and to keep the FINCOM in the loop. Mb asked whether there is any reply from Bulgaria to treasurer's mail , MB as a VP membership assured to try for reviving membership of Bulgaria.

6. **CSW67 planning- Shaila and Stacy, to include AC/ Agreed Conclusions and Legacy document**:
SRM mentioned that with CSW67 her experience was excellent, her day used to start at 5 am and end at 10pm or more. She mentioned that she participated, organised laid spoke at CSW67 in 12 events. Her objective to participate in CSW was to understand what do we take forward with us to work for year, those were the issue level , what are our priorities and how do we advance them and 2nd level for GWI personally, how do we advance to the cause to grow membership, to raise funds and to advance our issues. She informed that she is creating a document, which would be the blueprint for going forward. She asked from all the participants who joined virtually or personally to send prargraph on the event. She would also like to know from the participants what was the take away and how is benefiting us , that will help us to creat a mission report that how we are going use this to grow our organization, to increase the fund raising to have impact. She

further mentioned that she is working on creating Legacy document, she also wanted to have discussion on that, because that is the active part.

This year for participation process was very short. We did get a chance in Europe and US to actully speak to missions that this is not the way we would like and to sent some comments. Our priority areas are education, health, climate and steam leadership. Steam leadership and all leadership part we have pushed and , we have established some relationship with the missions, but it is not that strong relationship yet. Our advocacy will only be effective if we have strong linkages in each of our countries in inflencing the legislators and decision makers, that will give us hilighted position that we need. and that led to another issue, that is how do we as GWI or as a VP of Advocacy,how I would reach out to all the other NFAs for their key person does advocacy , how do we spotlight them, how do we come together to work on the issue we wish to highlight and also to object all the time right now, impact and effectiveness to help people, help women and girls , to grow membership and to raise funding. All three of these will go hand in hand and we make the document almost like a blue print which will help us to go forward that will be like a road map as ever.

SDL commented that she was pleased with result and time spent with evey one. Advocacy work done in CSW was satisfactory and impactful. In august we are going to putting together a team for what we are going to be doing, also in August we need send call for delegates, we will get back applications in Sepember , by October applications will be given to the board for signing purpose. Sudha commented that it was a great experience attending the CSW in-person. However the YMN parallel event was hosted, virtually. She further mentioned that engaging with UK Mission was beneficial with daily briefings.

SRM and SDL will be working on preparing CSW report.

PWC informed that during CSW event SDL and PWC had a meeting with an Under-Secretary-General of UN, the meeting was minuted by UN. It was informed that GWI has Renew and Rebuilt working with UN and global funders. At the end of the meeting UN general secretary asked for the policy paper. This policy paper is an important document.

PWC mentioned that she herself , SDL, SG AND SRM will be preparing policy papers. It was decided to send email after retreat session.

7. Action on Projects - Mildred, Nneka, Shruti and Shaila

MA informed that there was no meeting, and they are waiting for retreat session. Renew and Rebuilt session would give them clear idea and they can take fair decision. Bina Roy needs fund raising. She further mentioned that Hegg Hoffet fund is getting in funds. Sudha mentioned that there are some terms of references for Hegg Hoffet, that what kind of project and who can actually do the project, it was requested to SDL to share the information with all. SDL informed that the terms of references of Hegg Hoffet is outdated and it required that a women who is applying for Hegg Hoffet grant is already be in official refugee status in her host country. Many applications are there but nobody is qualified according to terms

of reference of Hague Hoffet grant committee. Therefore it has become necessary to change the terms of references to better support refugees. She further mentioned that if anybody wants to learn German, then the amount can be sent directly to institution for these courses because in last 6 years we have not heard back from anybody who were given grants and they were notified that they failed the course. Often times they change the course. By releasing these grants we really want to make change in peoples life. It is necessary not only to look into the terms of reference as well as applicants. We can have hotspot for women at refugee camps, we can have partnership with many other agencies working at ground level. We need partner like UNHCR. PWC commented that we can have collaborative programme with UNHCR. Sudha supported the idea. SDL mentioned that previous VP Project and herself used to attend the meetings, and presently MA and herself both would attend the meeting. MA agreed to the contention to attend meetings of Hague Hoffet Committee. SRM shown her support. Sudha asked about who will change the terms of references, SDL answered that Governance Committee would work with Hague Hoffet Committee and they will do the changes and Board would adopt the same.
PWC informed that on 25th of April 2023 she would be going to give a talk to MSF London for having collaborative projects, SDL, Sudha , SRM and SG would join her. SDL informed that GWI had two big projects that can be shared with MSF as examples, one is on Dental Hygiene Bina Roy Project and another girls leadership project GWI did in Rwanda. PWC suggested that she herself, SDL, Sudha, SRM, MB, MA would work on promotional videos and the content will be decided in strategy meeting. SG and Sudha and SRM supported for promotional video to advertise GWI, so that it is possible to collaborate in different ways , .

PWC shared that in New York she had a constructive conversation with Canadian Federation (CFUW) President, Joy Hurst. Joy came with two interesting ideas, she is interested in the concept of a Feminist Forum Policy, she can contribute in policy paper of it. Both Germany and Canada have their Feminist Forum Policy . Another idea of Joy is that some NFAs are small and neglected so some of us, and Joy can have zoom discussions with small NFAs. SDL mentioned that, many times she has sent a Call for Engagement/Participation to the NFAs but that only a few reply and depending on the topic. So it is necessary to find out in what they want to participate, we have to reach out to them in informal ways. It should be seen that whether NFA to NFA can be put together like twinning project, whether NFA wants replicate what the other NFA has done, that can be renew and rebuilt. PWC and SRM supported this. SRM shown her willingness to participate in Feminist Forum Policy Paper. MB informed that MEET AND GREET session was introduced by Joy in PUNE UWA, which was very successful in last tenure. With Canadian Federation we have joint projects like making of the sanitary pads which are biodegradable specially for high school girls.SDL mentioned that there are days of, United Nations Days of observance and 28th May is Menstrual Hygiene Day, last time we did very big online webinar with India. If we do something regarding that, it would be relevant with that date. PWC suggested that, we can link three major NFAs India Syria Canada on Menstrual Hygiene Day and Scotland gives free sanitary pads.

8. AOB/Any Other Business to include office matters

Saarc topic added to the agenda. MB mentioned that since 2007, the headquarter shifted to Pakistan, it has become non-functional. As we have revived UWASIA, India is interested to revive SAARCFU, we can

call it SAARCGWI. We want ratification from Board that they agree with revive. PWC supported the idea. MB added that we will not be charging anything from these countries for becoming members. SRM supported the principle, but she raised the question of fund raising. PWC suggested that SRM can write questions on this part to MB, and MB would answer the questions by the next meeting. US also supported the MB's initiative. MB informed about the UWASIA conference to be held in Pune, India.,in Feb. 2024.
Next Board Meeting is fixed on 26th of April 2023 Wednesday at 6pm CET.

Wrap Up: PWC thanked to all the Board member for long but productive meeting.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday 26th April 2023. 6pm CET

Meeting adjourned: 6.48.38pm CET

Minutes drafted by US