



Minutes of the GWI Board 2022-25 Meeting held on 22nd August 2024, 6pm Central European Time (CEST), zoom

Twenty First Board Meeting

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

Meeting called to order at **6pm CEST**.

1. Welcome: PWC welcomed all to the twenty first Board Meeting.
2. Conflict of Interest: NONE
3. Adoption of Agenda: SRM moved agenda and seconded by Sudha.
4. Adoption of minutes: Minutes of 29th July 2024 to be adopted in a week subject to change mentioned by SG....Proposed by SG and seconded by PWC.
5. Projects and Legal and Governance updates- Mildred and Ujwala: MA mentioned that is that there are some of the NFAS are dormant. She sent a memo for some kind of competition for them to do innovative things. So they get involved. She further mentioned that, “the rest of our team have sent her a message that they have a conference in November in Cape Town. And that we should send them in for showcase some impact for work at the conference. Or team can be called together. They've been working on some other projects and we give them a few pictures because they are saying they just want visibility. the results will be in September. ”

SDL updated on the, the Dr. Mehta seeds fund for the SDG 4 project application, criteria and launch. Working with the Project Development Committee, they



created a Dr Mehta Seed Fund (MSF) timeline, online application, eligibility criteria and she designed a Call for Applications launch flyer.

The application is based on the success of the BRPID application. The main differences are that applying NFAs must actively be working with external stakeholders/partners, any NFA can apply, not just lower GDP NFAs and that the timeframe is not specific to two years like the BRPID. These criteria align with the Dr Mehta MOU.

Acknowledging that the seed money was given to GWI two years ago and throughout 2023 and 2024 there hasn't been any activity on those projects, a provisional finance proposal was presented. The MOU calculates to about 1,500 Swiss francs (CHF) for a project for a year, the PDC is proposing that the first round of the MSF SDG 4 projects would be for 4,500 (CHF), this takes into account that the 15% management fee has already been allocated from Dr Mehta's seed money of \$10,000 U.S.D. So, it's actually used in the first year, the second year, and ultimately the third year. And, depending on the applications received, the distribution of the funds would be allocated. Since this is a new program, there is nothing to gauge the number of applications that will be received. The PDC felt it important to differentiate between the MSF and the 2000 CHF maximum as per the BRPID. The Call for Application will be distributed as soon as possible and the deadline to receive applications will be 30 November. The project winners will be announced on 24 January 2025, International Day of Education during a webinar. In between, a webinar will be offered to all NFAs for QA about the MSF.

It was noted that the PDC wants to move quickly because they are concerned to have a robust report for the triennial report at the GA in 2025.

The Board discussed the proposed timeline and financials and gave approve to move forward.

MA added that Hegg Hoffet Committee has been receiving applications and that she will summarize soon for the Board. SDL mentioned that Hegg Hoffet applications closed on August 15. She noted that the PDC had brilliantly decided to have a specific timeframe for receiving applications, rather than receiving them throughout the year, so that they can actually have a bulk of projects of which to



look at, analyze. The timing is very critical because often the courses need to be starting soon from the applicant. At the last Hegg Hoffet Committee meeting, the committee discussed several promising applications, and further inquiry has been made to the candidates. She will be doing follow up with the candidate testing centers and universities to request invoices since no payments are made directly to the candidate.

The motion was moved by MB: “The motion is that the board approves the PDC process, to commence the Dr. Mehta seed fund Projects.” Motion was seconded by Sudha. Motion passed unanimously.

US updated on Legal and Governance. She mentioned that they had a meeting of Governing committee.

That meeting specifically focused the Proclamation of VP Advocacy. It was decided and discussed that proclamation cannot be sent by one person. It should be put forth for all the NFAs as all the NFAs are included in that and then it can be put in AGM as well.

6. Advocacy and Education updates- Shaila and Shirley SRM: VP Advocacy mentioned that, “my understanding is that a proclamation can be made and can be approved by the board and does not have to go to an AGM, the same way as a resolution does. And this proclamation is on behalf of Advocacy without Borders. It's not one person. Advocacy does not have a committee. But we have many people who are involved, engaged and bringing in all the countries, all the member states from the East, the Japan's China's Australia's New Zealand's all in a Pacific islands and so on. So it is not one person. This is the work, if governance reviews the content and sees any sections that require it to go to the AGM, we can withdraw that, make it simpler. It's just a declaration to say that advocacy is working with advocacy with our borders to bring in all the NFA's to work on issues that affect us globally and specifically in your own region.

US mentioned that the VP Advocacy has stated in proclamation that the particular dates should be announced as advocacy day, that should be removed. This cannot be the one-person decision. Board should put this to NFAs is also because all NFAs are involved in that. We are thinking about, what NFAs should do and what



should not be done. So what NFAs think that also should be taken into consideration.

Action Point: VP Advocacy, VP Legal and Governance, VP Membership and Executive Director would have the meeting to discuss the Proclamation.

SRM further shared on the B30 review with the UNEC that she did a lot of work on preparing on chairing, chairing a couple of the Beijing plus 12 platform items, one being women in power and decision making. She chaired that and written papers on that one and then on the one on health, participated a little bit on education and then critically the one on institutional mechanisms. Little videos are being made on each of the 12 Beijing birth platform of action and statements are being prepared as well. She mentioned about Advocacy webinars to be conducted. SRM mentioned that she is planning to attend the summit of the future, which is going to be in New York in September, and also planning to attend the UNEC, which is going to be in Geneva in October.

Education: SG mentioned that she is preparing the proper written formal paper on child rights.

She had a thought of making a workshop out of it for the next Triennium.

She mentioned her passion about linking in with other organizations, which is for the renew and rebuild.

She talked to the chair about it was suggested that there are lot of things with UNICEF. A lot of things that they already link in with a lot of other organizations. They have like little relationships and collaborations. She asked if any of the board members has the link or any opening that she could use it to get to UNICEF and explore a joint project with UNICEF. SDL said that she has some contacts. SG shared screen for showing 'bricks on the wall' development on GWI website.

7. Membership and Fundraising updates- Meera and Fernanda : MB thanked SDL and Sudha for their efforts to bring Soumiya in the GWI family. The next point she mentioned about the forms which were sent to all the Presidents and CIRs, she received 27 responses. On the basis of response the committee will work and find out the needs for



the associations. What they require, what they want from not only from membership, but from the entire board.

MB mentioned that NFA and a plastic pollution program, single user plastic based on the resolution 10, the leader of Indian side. has prepared. It is based on the questionnaire which she has circulated among the members. And this will be now shared with the Canadian side. She further informed that on 6th of September 4pm IST, Indian Standard Time, handing over meeting of UWAsia. India had the headquarters, now the headquarters would move to Japan. Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand. This date is suitable for them and the time.

Fund Raising: MF updated that she sent the letter to Melinda Gates. She got back from two emails saying this is not the email of Melinda. One is pending with no answer.

So she contacted directly Brooke Anderson the President of By Bottle ventures, which is the organization through which Melinda is going to allocate the money directly. MF asked her if there is a possibility of her meeting the board members. So we can present our case.

And MF also contacted through email a personal connection of Anita, who is the President ofdivision at the Melinda Gates foundation. She mentioned that she is trying to do it through both organizations. She sent a third email someone lower in the chain of command, basically at Pivotal. So that she can present the letter to Melinda. She asked for email of the GWI linked to fundraising to do all these emails concerning fund raising to give it more official sound.

MF asked Board if she can directly contact to organizations through, for example, LinkedIn, saying in short messages that we would like to have a minute from them in order for them to meet some board members and to explain our case and our needs to see if any other kind of organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, including the Norfolk, for example, which is a Fenix organization, which allocates a lot of money. It's one of the most important sponsors internationally.



8. YM network and Treasurer's update - Sudha : Sudha shared the screen and updated that

1. 2nd quarter financial report
 - Report covers the period between 1st January to 30th June 2024. The report was discussed in the FinCom Quarterly meeting on 21st August 2024 and has been recommended to accept by the Board.
 - Income- Majority of dues have been received by 30th June
 - No income under the legacy donation of 52000 CHF and SDG GRANTS 10000 CHF.
 - There is no movement in restricted fund except TFRF
 - No movement in General Reserve Fund
2. Fincom Recommendation 23. ..The FinCom members present all agreed with and accepted the report, and they recommend to the GWI Board of officers to accept it. Motion was moved by Sudha and seconded by PWC.
3. Dues: Turkey arrears for 2023 are fully paid and CIR confirmed that the 2024 dues they will pay first half in mid of September and second half dues in December.
4. Conference budget planning was mentioned at Fincom meeting and looking at the current status Fincom wanted to know if the Board is flexible to change the date to make it in summer/August etc?

YMN UPDATES: Sudha updated that

1. IMP: Carrying on from the several previous discussions on this topic: Sudha again proposed the Board and special attention for President, VP Legal and Governance that -a YMN Committee is established with 6 members and convener elected who will directly report to GWI President. YMN Committee will work with other GWI Committees for the common goal of GWI, but NOT UNDER any existing GWI Committees.
2. YMN Mentoring Series was launched on 12th August commemorating International Youth Day. With topic Careers in 21st Century we had Lalita Taylor from BBC as mentor for the day. The session was very well attended and fruitful for Yms with two interaction asking their questions, sharing own



scenarios and how-to-best handle. We had a great feedback from Lalita as well as all participants.

3. The next session is on 21st September commemorating International Peace Day with topic of Careers in Humanitarian Sector. Sudha invited all Board members to participate and support YMN.

9. Bid for 35th GA Triennial Conference- Patrice : PWC mentioned that SDL and PWC had discussion, and they have several plans. PWC informed that Britain has denied and Great London said that they could do it. By the next session we can have positive solution.

10. AOB: SDL updated that

- Since the last Board meeting, she has released several Update newsletters; most notably the special edition announcing the 2024 Bina Roy Partners in Development awards
- Worked with ResCom to finalize and host the 7 August webinar on How to Write an Impactful Policy Resolution.
- SDL explained the Project Development Committee proposal to commence the Dr. Mehta Fund SDG 4 projects based on the Dr. Mehta Seed Funding (MSF) MOU criteria. The criteria are based on BRPID process that has been successful within GWI for many years, however, the MSF but significantly different in that a critical criteria is that MSF applying NFAs must be working with external stakeholders as per the MOU goal to increase GWI partners.
- After processing the 1st installment of 2024 BRPID, receiving the confirmations of receiving the funds as required by audit.
- Working with Uganda NFA to onboard two new students from the Zombo District; the new district we expanded the program to; processed 2024-2025 tuition for current student; two students ready to graduate in January 2025.



- FinCom meeting 21 August to review 2Q2024 financials, process for 2025 budget, and more.
- Helped the YMN with the launch on 12 August on International Day of Youth Day of the 4-part YMN Mentorship program.
- Preparing for the Swiss NFA centenary and conference to be held in Bern on 30-31 August. I will be reading a statement from Patrice and making my remarks at the centenary dinner.
- Drafted CSW69 written statement addressing Beijing + 30 and connection to AI and need for infrastructure for digital education access.
- Wrote and submitted Human Rights Council statement addressing the upcoming panel on education as form of peacebuilding and tolerance.
- Working in funding application for City of Geneva to support the 2nd installment of the BRPID 2024 projects. This would provide relief for the 2nd installment for three years. This funding opportunity is only to partially support an ongoing project; which GWI qualifies for so SDL is applying.
- Met with Legal and Governance committee where we discussed their support of the 2025 GA among other items.
- Released World Day against Trafficking in Persons press release and infographic, Pan-African Women's Day social media campaign, International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples infographic.
- Sudha resigned from the post of Treasurer GWI for her personal reasons. She will stay on as the GWI YMN president.

Wrap Up: PWC thanked to all the Board members

Next 22nd Board Meeting is fixed on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 @ 7pm CEST

Meeting adjourned: 7:34pm CEST

Minutes drafted by Ujwala Shinde



Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education