

Board Meeting

VIDEOCONFERENCE (2 hours)

1st June 2020

MINUTES

Attendees

Board Members

Alan Detheridge (AD) (Treasurer)

Athayde Motta (AM), GC/Board Liaison

Carlo Merla (CM) (Chair)

Julie McCarthy (JM)

Susan Hazledine (SH)

Victoria Ibezim-Ohaeri (VO)

Secretariat / Support

Elisa Peter, Executive Director (EP)

Caroline Macleod, Director of Finance & Operations (CJM)

Stephanie Rochford, Director of Member Engagement (SR)

Apologies

Ali Idrissa (AI)

Summary

Ensure we are stronger when we come out of this crisis; re-double our efforts to support coalitions; ensure we adapt and bring our members along with the new ways of working (especially virtually); consider how to provide some additional financial support to coalitions, and continue supporting those most impacted by the sector, including marginalised groups.

Decisions

- Agreement to review reserve policy with a view to increasing the reserves

Actions

Action	By who	By when
Review reserves policy	Finance and Audit Committee	By next Board meeting
Update Risk Register	CJM	By next Board meeting

Circulate final version of the articles of association of PWYP INPA	CJM	By next Board meeting
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Introduction

CM welcomed board members to this first board meeting of the year. He noted that the principal issue for the board is to understand the impact of Covid 19 on PWYP’s work and to provide insight and recommendations about priorities for the Secretariat to the end of the year. No conflicts of interest were raised in relation to the agenda.

AM gave a short overview of the Global Council meeting, which took place virtually on 6th April, and of the subsequent communique which was issued by the GC following the meeting. The GC agreed to meet on a monthly basis to ensure it provides leadership in addressing strategic risks and seizing opportunities during the COVID-19 crisis. EP noted that the Secretariat is currently developing an agenda for the ongoing monthly conversations with the Global Council that will take place until the end of the year.

COVID-19 - Where does PWYP see itself in a year's time?

EP briefly presented an overview of the analysis to date by the Secretariat staff of the impact of Covid 19 on the annual work plan. Nearly one quarter of activities have not yet started, although this is not entirely due to Covid-related delays. Nearly a quarter of activities are still being delivered but are being re-formatted (this relates principally to meetings which are now taking place online). About 10% of activities have been postponed beyond 2020 (including the Africa Conference). The workload and pace of work at the Secretariat hasn’t slowed down; additional time has been needed to adapt and reformat our plans.

The Board reflected on three questions:

- what is the most important thing for the Secretariat to focus on between now and December?
- what will success look like by December for the Secretariat?
- what will success look like for the movement?

The board enquired about robustness of funding; changes in delivery of time-bound projects and the planned contract transparency campaign in the context of COVID-19 (a Covid lens). In light of the uncertainty linked to travel, the board also supported plans to remain remote for the remainder of the year, to support activists’ ability to operate under dire humanitarian conditions and closing civic space, and to address their most pressing needs including legal assistance (in particular in relation to force majeure arguments). AD has suggested that the PWYP membership be alerted that, in the current situation, extractive companies may attempt to use force majeure or otherwise delay or revise their contractual or legal obligations in an improper (or even corrupt) manner). Calling attention to human rights abuses, as well as ensuring that communities’ voices and issues are heard

at a time when they risk becoming invisible, will be critical; as well as ensuring transparency and accountability of public emergency financial assistance schemes. Profound fiscal constraints are going to affect resource-rich countries and the pressure to

mobilise domestic resources for economic recovery will be huge - with potentially vast implications on corruption in the extractive sector (incl. linked to contract renegotiation), the energy transition, sovereign debt levels, etc. The board encouraged the Secretariat to find new ways to engage in order to support coalitions to remain active and engaged through this period of crisis, particularly when the move from in person to digital spaces is very challenging for many PWYP members; and to use it strategically, providing support to coalitions to frame their advocacy accordingly. One possible area of investment could be digital communications platforms, while plans to recruit new staff in order to deliver on Vision 2025 should also be maintained. The impacts of Covid are very varied at national level (for example curfew issues in Nigeria) and these will have an impact on members' capacity to do their work.

Board members welcomed VO to her first board meeting.

Review updated risk register (including content on COVID-19)

EP provided an overview of the updated risk register, with specific risks presented by Covid 19 highlighted for discussion. A recommendation was made to add a specific risk related to the negative impacts of well-being of the staff and members of the pandemic. VO proposed additional options for mitigating risks related to digital security. No other risks were identified. It was agreed that the risk register would be reviewed again at the next Board meeting in July.

Reserves policy

CJM presented proposed revisions to the reserves policy and made the board aware that there may be a larger unrestricted reserve than usual as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. The Board discussed how best to manage the impact of Covid-19 on PWYP's expenditure rate and whether or not to allocate anticipated unspent funds to reserves or to hold them as carried forward (deferred) income. The Finance and Audit Committee agreed to further develop the policy recommendations and to bring an updated proposal to the board at the next meeting in July.

The board also discussed implementation challenges on a restricted grant, and noted the Secretariat's actions to manage those challenges. The board noted that the action taken by PWYP to address the challenges once they were raised was slow and that the board should have been alerted sooner. The board noted the efforts being made to strengthen due diligence processes and approved the selection of a consultant.

EU entity



CJM presented an update on progress to register a PWYP entity in the European Union (PWYP INPA). The Global Council is being closely involved in this process. A collaboration agreement between PWYP and PWYP INPA has been drafted and shared with the board for their approval. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried the board approved the collaboration agreement. CJM will now prepare a proposal on the board membership of the INPA.

The board held an executive session at which the minutes were not taken.

The meeting closed at 17:52 BST.