



PUBLISH WHAT
YOU PAY

**Global Council, Africa Steering Committee and Board meeting
15 July 2021
MINUTES**

Attendees

Global Council

Adnan Bahiya, Iraq (MENA) AB
Chadwick Llanos, Philippines (Asia Pacific) CL
Joe Williams, UK (Global Reach) JW
Maria Ramos, USA (Global Reach) MR
Mariatou Amadou, Niger (Francophone Africa) MA
Miles Litvinoff, UK (Europe and North America) ML
Olena Pavlenko, Ukraine (Eurasia) (Chair) OP

Africa Steering Committee

Christian Mounzeo, Congo Brazzaville (Central Africa), Chair
Fatima Mimbire, Mozambique (East & Southern Africa), Vice-Chair
James Koryor, Liberia (Anglophone West Africa)
Brice Mackosso, Congo Brazzaville (EITI international board member)

Board

Carlo Merla, Chair
Alan Detheridge, Treasurer
Ali Idrissa
Victoria Ohaeri
Susan Hazledine

Secretariat

Stephanie Rochford, Director of Member Engagement SR
Rami Hassouna, Director of Finance and Operations
Joseph Bardwell, Strategic Communications and Campaigns Manager
Emil Omarov, Member Engagement Manager (MENA, Eurasia, Asia-Pacific)
Nelly Busingye, Member Engagement Manager (Africa)
Nyree Woolston, Operations Manager
Eric Bisil, Regional Coordinator, Central Africa
Zoé Spriet-Mezoued, Communications Coordinator
Aroa de la Fuente, Senior Regional Coordinator, Latin America and Caribbean (LAC)
Annette Theu, interim Executive Assistant

Apologies

Gloria Majiga (Global Council)
Athayde Motta (Global Council)
Fatima Diallo (Africa Steering Committee and Global Council)
Julie McCarthy (Board)



PUBLISH WHAT
YOU PAY

Actions

Action	By who	By when
Circulate TOR for GA 2022 advisory committee	Secretariat	31 July
Revise and circulate GA 2022 concept note	Secretariat	17 September

Welcome

OP welcomed participants to the joint meeting of all three of PWYP's governing bodies, and highlighted the principal objective which was to **provide guidance to the Secretariat on the format of the 2022 Global Assembly (GA)**, in light of the ongoing and significant impacts of the Covid-19 **pandemic**. The secondary objective was for governing bodies and Secretariat staff to **meet and get to know each other**. Participants were invited one by one to introduce themselves, including their role in PWYP and location, to the group.

Presentation on risks and opportunities for the GA 2022

SR presented an overview of the discussions to date on PWYP's GA 2022; the risks presented by the pandemic; and a proposed way forward.

She noted that during their first meeting this year, the GC had identified four objectives for the GA 2022:

- 1) celebrating PWYP's 20th anniversary;
- 2) upholding good governance principles through the election of new GC members and the adoption of revisions to the Governance Manual;
- 3) reviewing progress on implementation of the Vision 2025 strategy;
- 4) and connecting members.

At that time, the assessment of pandemic-related risks was that a GA could *potentially* take place in person during quarter three of 2022. Since that meeting, with further insights available into the progress of the pandemic as well as the progress of the global response, the Secretariat's assessment is that an in-person global meeting in 2022 would present two significant risks:

- **perpetuating inequalities**, by disadvantaging coalition members in countries where there is limited or no access to vaccines;
- **inefficiency in the use of human and financial resources** by trying to plan in a period of continued high uncertainty (noting that a minimum of one year would be required, even under normal circumstances, to plan a GA, with significant costs needing to be incurred early on, such as for a venue).

As a result of these risks, the Secretariat recommends that the GA 2022 be delivered in an **adapted form**, using **digital spaces and creative approaches** in order to achieve the objectives despite not being able to meet in one, global group. Initial ideas include a series of regional meetings, which may be possible in some cases to hold in-person, or as hybrid



**PUBLISH WHAT
YOU PAY**

events; a film project to document PWYP achievements and activists over the past 20 years; creating digital platforms to share photos and stories.

SR noted that there is a strong demand from members for opportunities to meet in person; and while it would be disappointing not to be able to do so in 2022, other opportunities could be available for in-person meetings in 2023 (assuming they are feasible by that time), including the EITI Global Conference.

SR also noted that a Terms of reference document has been developed to support the development of a PWYP gender policy, and invited comments on the proposed approach.

Discussion

Following the presentation, participants were invited to join three breakout groups to discuss in more detail how the Secretariat could deliver its GA safely and effectively in 2022 and how risks of taking this approach could be mitigated. The groups convened for 45 minutes and then reported back in plenary. Below is a summary of the main points raised by each group and the consensus reached.

Format of the GA 2022

Participants noted that in some parts of the world (for example, West Africa), travel is starting to open up across borders. However, in other parts (for example, Asia Pacific, South Africa), the situation is rapidly deteriorating, with countries experiencing second and third waves of more transmissible variants of the virus. Participants also noted that different rules apply in different countries about what is and isn't permitted, making organising across borders and for large groups very challenging. It was noted that where vaccines aren't available or taken up, travel could be permitted with negative test results. While that would be challenging to monitor in large numbers, it could potentially make some types of smaller or regional meetings possible in-person, if there was demand for them. People also noted that hybrid digital/in-person events are becoming more common.

While three people proposed postponing the GA to 2023, many others noted that this would entail its own risks, including that a global event may still not be possible by then; and that it was incumbent on PWYP to continue its work in the best way possible, and to learn to adapt to the current context, rather than delay, particularly when it comes to ensuring good governance of the network.

In terms of celebration, a number of ideas were proposed, including a PWYP film with inputs from all regions; creating and signing a symbolic global, PWYP flag; engaging proactively with media outlets to profile PWYP activists and success stories in the context of the 20th anniversary.



PUBLISH WHAT
YOU PAY

Risks and mitigation measures

The following risks and mitigation measures were identified:

- ***Digital inequalities:*** challenges with access to reliable networks means some participants would struggle to access virtual events. This risk could be mitigated by providing micro-grants to coalitions to secure data for participants.
- ***Inclusion and diversity:*** attention would need to be paid to ensuring access by women, youth and other marginalised groups. This could be done by ensuring that the data grants/allowances are directed at those groups.
- ***Online burnout:*** with the huge increase in virtual working across many aspects of work and life, participants noted that high levels of fatigue can dissuade people from participating in virtual events; or, when they do, that they can easily be distracted. One way to manage this is to stagger events, and to combine live virtual sessions with pre-recorded content that participants can engage with in their own time.
- ***Limited options for cross-regional networking:*** this risk could be mitigated by supporting virtual events that bring cross-regional participants together with targeted ways of sharing content that can prompt discussion and connections. Members could be involved in designing and curating these sessions, especially those who have strong digital and online skills and experience. A suggestion was also made to send a survey directly to members to get input on how to manage some of the risks above.
- ***Global Council elections:*** in the last 18 months PWYP's governing bodies have had to adapt to a virtual world, including for elections. The PWYP Africa Steering Committee elections were all managed through virtual regional caucuses in 2021, and this format could also be adopted for the election of new GC members in 2022.
- ***Securing funds at a time of uncertainty:*** meeting participants expressed a wish to better understand the available budget for the GA 2022, and the impact it would have, if any, on options to support in-person travel to other events in 2023 (for example, the EITI Global Conference). While no budget has been prepared to date, given the uncertainty of the options, the Secretariat expressed a clear intention to prioritise supporting PWYP members to attend in-person meetings, where those would take place, in 2023, and to fundraising for that purpose if necessary.

Conclusion and next steps

The meeting concluded with a consensus to **hold the GA in 2022 without one global, in-person meeting**, but through **a series of hybrid, regional meetings** (with elements taking place in-person, where logistically feasible); as well as through **one or more virtual, global convenings** (the format still to be decided, in order to accommodate time zones in particular). It was noted that innovations to adapt to the current context by holding a hybrid GA in 2022 despite the travel limitations would amount to an investment in the global network and its capacity to be responsive and adaptive.

Discussions about how exactly to celebrate PWYP's 20th anniversary will continue. A **GA 2022 advisory group** will be established with volunteers from across all three governing



**PUBLISH WHAT
YOU PAY**

bodies, to ensure continued support and input from PWYP's leaders into the detailed plans and implementation of the GA 2022. Options for supporting ongoing discussions in 2023 that build on the GA 2022 at in-person meetings, such as the EITI global conference, will continue to be factored into the Secretariat's plans.