



Fifth General Assembly of the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety 24 March 2022 Online and Budapest, Hungary

A. Welcome from the Chair of the Board

Rochelle Sobel (RS), Chair of the Board of Directors, welcomed members and reflected on the first ten years of the Alliance and its growth over the years. RS announced that she is standing down from the Board of Directors.

RS proposed Dan Campsall (DC) to chair the meeting and asked if there were any objections. None were noted.

B. Introduction

DC explained the housekeeping rules for the online meeting and explained that all voting (full) members of the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety (the Alliance) are invited to participate in the General Assembly. He explained that the General Assembly is charged with establishing the priorities for the Alliance's activities, approving or criticizing the Alliance's accounts, deciding the selection criteria for new Members, electing and discharging the Board, and electing the auditor.

He noted that the Board sets the date, the place, and the agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly and communicates this eight weeks in advance, that the Agenda is presented six weeks before the General Assembly and Members may make comments in writing to the Secretariat up to four weeks before the General Assembly. Only information items can be added after the deadline. DC noted that these requirements had been met and that no comments had been received.

The agenda was shared on the screen:

1. Appointment of the minute taker
2. Appointment of the persons counting the votes
3. List of accepted voting members of the Alliance present at the meeting
4. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly of 2019, Chania.
5. Approval of the changes to the Bylaws
6. Presentation of activity report and accounts
7. Report of the Auditor
8. Discharge of the Board
9. Election of new Board Members
10. Presentation of planned activities (this was covered under point 6)
11. Information about the financial planning for the coming years (this was covered under point 6)

DC asked if there were any objections to the agenda. None were noted and therefore the agenda was accepted.

1. Appointment of the minute taker

DC proposed Liz Man (LM) as the minute taker. No objections were noted. LM was appointed as minute taker.

2. Appointment of the persons counting the votes

DC proposed Christian Thomas (CT) as the person to observe the voting process and confirm the voting count. No objections were noted. CT was appointed as observer.

3. List of accepted voting members of the Alliance present at the meeting

The meeting was temporarily halted due to a Zoom issue with meeting size that prevented some members from joining. The issue was resolved to enable all voting members to attend and the meeting continued.

A list of accepted voting members of the Alliance present at the meeting was shared on the screen.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly of 2019, Chania

DC invited comments on the Minutes of the General Assembly in 2019, in Chania. No comments were received and therefore the Minutes were approved.

5. Approval of the changes to the bylaws

DC noted that according to the Alliance bylaws the General Assembly maintains the competence to change the Bylaws to the extent legally permissible. Such changes require the consent of two-thirds of the Members present. Requests for revisions of the Bylaws should be presented no later than six weeks prior to the General Assembly and must be submitted to the Head of Secretariat who is charged with transmitting the request to the Board. On 12 January 2022, the changes on the bylaws were shared with all voting members. No comments were received in advance.

DC invited comments on the proposed changes to the bylaws. No comments were received and therefore the bylaws were approved.

6. Presentation of activity report and accounts

DC introduced Lotte Brondum (LB), Executive Director of the Alliance, to present the activity report and accounts.

LB noted that there had not been a report to the General Assembly since 2019 as no meeting could be held in 2021 as per the usual schedule.

LB thanked RS for her dedication and support as a Board member and Chair.

LB presented that the Alliance now has 295 NGOs in 99 countries and there is an ongoing effort to cover more countries and more members. Alliance members were invited to encourage others to apply. LB presented a regional breakdown of members.

LB presented a summary of key activities during the reporting period including:

- #CommitToAct campaign, which highlighted the role of NGOs to hold governments to account and incorporated the People's Survey with 6,211 responses leading to The Day Our World Crumbled. The Chania Declaration, defined for the Fifth Global Meeting in 2019, was refined for the People's Declaration which received 63,000 signatures.

The #CommitToAct campaign led to a number of roundtables where specific commitments were made, some of which involved the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety. The 2019 #CommitToAct campaign culminated in the the People's Exhibition and People's Meeting in Stockholm at the Third Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety

- The Alliance received two Prince Michael Award during the reporting period (one for #CommitToAct in 2020 and the other as part of the UN Global Road Safety Week Streets for Life campaign)
- Through UN Global Road Safety Week Streets for Life #Love30 campaign, NGOs reached 112 million people and obtained 21 commitments
- Global Plan handover following the launch of the Global Plan highlighting the role of NGOs - 38 handovers so far.
- 2020 Member Survey influenced Secretariat activities going forward and resulted in the Meaningful Participation Guide
- Secretariat has increased to 11 staff members
- Stakeholders include SUM4All, IRF, UNRSF, UNRSC. Working toward closer collaboration, coordinating campaigns and resources, so that we are not pulling in in different directions
- Representing NGOs on the global road safety arena: involved in the Supporting Event for the High-level Meeting along with other Alliance members, Towards Zero, YOURS, and Asociación Madres del Dolor
- Implemented governance committees to utilize the knowledge and experience of members and stakeholders. Committees include the membership committee, looking at membership criteria, and conflict of interest committee
- Increased capacity for financial governance

LB pointed out that there is more needed to develop the way the Alliance supports members. She reminded those present that the Alliance is a member organization and its role is to represent them.

LB shared the funder list and details of funding and expenditure for the past three years. She noted that expenditure has increased and the Alliance is focusing on different areas than previously, with advocacy increasing a lot. She also noted that board and secretariat costs are kept low so that funding goes into activities for members. She said that Alliance funding is primarily from corporations, multilaterals, and grants from foundations.

LB described the upcoming plans and activities for the Alliance:

- The next Global Meeting, which is planned to be held in 2023.
- #CommitToAct Streets for Life Week of Action
- Street intervention at the High-Level Meeting with other stakeholders
- Anniversary event for the Global Plan, focusing on advocacy that has been achieved
- More capacity building, including the Alliance Incubator and LEARN
- Accountability framework, collecting data from members to inform advocacy plans
- Research on 30 km/h advocacy and the enabling environment for NGO participation
- Regional Chapters: Africa Chapter is up and running and Latin America Chapter will be launched this year, with support from Michelin. It is hoped that other Chapters can be launched in future but not yet, due to the amount of work required to set up each one.
- The Alliance has two boards now, in addition to the member board, the Alliance has set up an entity in the US to be used for fundraising purposes. It has been dormant due to COVID but will now become active.
- Membership processes will be finetuned so that the Alliance Secretariat knows members and what they are doing better. It will mean member reporting and periodic renewal of membership, which was already allowed within the bylaws.
- Partnerships are being developed. The Alliance is pushing for the UN Road Safety Fund to enable NGOs to access funds. Discussions are underway with Uber and the Michelin partnership for the Latin America Chapter was announced today.

Sandra Torres of member NGO Bien Argentino requested that the Alliance send more of its communications in Spanish. LB responded that the Secretariat is trying to do more in this regard. It is costly but that is not an excuse. The Secretariat now has more Spanish speakers on the team and that will hopefully enable it to provide more support in Spanish.

7. Report from the auditor

DC explained that the accounts had been audited by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), who are recognized as an international, competent organization and therefore competent to undertake the audit.

The accounts have also been examined by Soren Hansen, also an accountant registered in Denmark.

He noted that it is therefore evident that the accounts meet requirements of law and are transparent and efficient

CT noted that as members do not pay for membership, that there is a financial risk to the Alliance but it has still achieved sustainability.

It was recommended that CT continue as the Alliance's legal advisor. No objections were raised and CT was therefore appointed for another term.

CT, as the Alliance's legal advisor, confirmed that the accounts are in good order and that the Executive Director and Secretariat had done a good job of achieving sustainability and commented specifically on the importance of FedEx's support for a number of years.

8. Discharge of the Board

DC discharged the existing Board.

9. Election of new Board Members

DC explained that three board positions were open and that there were seven candidates.

Two-minute video presentations were shown for each of the candidates:

- Rajni Gandhi, TRAX, India
- Horst Heimstadt, Namibia Road Safety Forum, Namibia
- Gela Kvashilava, Georgia Partnership for Road Safety, Georgia
- Simon Kalolo, Amend, Tanzania
- Viviam Perrone, Asociacion Madres Del Dolor, Argentina
- Manuel Ramos, Associação de Cidadãos Auto-Mobilizados, Portugal.

DC explained the election process using ElectionRunner software. He confirmed that the number of voting members in the voting pool was 117, which was the number of voting members at the General Assembly. He explained that the online poll would show the list of candidates by alphabetical order, all candidates are on the list, but that members might need to scroll down to see all of them. Voting members should select three candidates.

A first round of voting would take place with votes counted electronically. If a candidate(s) receives an absolute majority (50% of votes cast), they would be elected and announced as a board member. If three candidates did not receive an absolute majority in the first round, a second round would take place. The candidate(s) from the first round with the lowest number of votes would be eliminated from the second round and after each round, all candidates would be asked if they wish to continue as candidates or wish to be eliminated.

CT confirmed that, although the bylaws hadn't been written with digital voting in mind, that they allowed for it and that the proposed voting mechanism met the requirements of the bylaws.

DC led voting members through a test vote to make sure that the voting software was received and working. The voting was verified by CT.

DC led the first round of voting for the Board positions. 84 votes were cast in the first round meaning that candidates needed to secure 42 votes to be elected. Three candidates achieved this in the first round: Rajni Gandhi, Viviam Perrone, and Simon Kalolo.

CT confirmed that the result was valid and that no further rounds of voting were needed.

DC announced that the three candidates were appointed. He welcomed the new board members.

LB thanked outgoing Board Members Manuel Ramos, Gela Kvashilava, and Rochelle Sobel for their hard work and said that she was looking forward to working with the three new candidates.

DC closed the General Assembly.