

GDate:	October 23th, 2019	Place:	Fælledvej 12, 2200 KBH N, Lok. 01 - Freedom Room, Entry C, 1st Floor.
	Draft Board Meeting Minutes		
Present	From the Board: Anders Hamming (AH), Flemming Hansen (FH), Karen Jørgensen (KJ), Mahmoud Ismail (MI), and Stine Krøijer (SK).		
	Others: Asger Narud (AN)(Alternate) Steen Folke (SF) (Alternate) (agenda 1-6) Marie Uldall Thomsen (MUT) (Parliamentary Audit) Anton Barré (AT) (FAC)		
	From the Secretariat: Annette Them Serup (ATS) (agenda 1-4), Anne Louise Carstens (ACA) (agenda 5), Lars Koch (LAK) (agenda 5), Nora Christiansen (NCH) (agenda 1-5), Jonas Giersing (JGI), Sisse Egeberg (SE) and Tim Whyte (TRW).		
Apologies	Andreas Dybkjær-Andersson (ADA), Annette Rohde (AR), Khaterah Parwani (KP), Mary Consolata Namagambe (MCN), Rasmus Kjær Slot (RKS) and Sine Jensen (SJ)		
	Minute –Taker: Sisse Egeberg The meeting was conducted in Danish		

Agenda

01. **Welcome and approval of the agenda**
02. **Approval of minutes and matters arising from the Board Retreat on September 14th and 15th, 2019**
03. **News from AADK and AAI**
04. **Preliminary budget 2020**
05. **AADK and the climate crisis**
06. **ToR for Board-subcommittees**
07. **Council- and membership day 2019**
08. **AOB**

01. Welcome and approval of the agenda

SK welcomed the board members to the Board Meeting and determined that the number of participants was barely quorum.

SK emphasized that it is important that everyone strives to be present at the board meetings and announce cancellations in due time in advance.

The agenda was approved without comments.

02. Approval of minutes and matters arising from the Board Retreat on September 14th and 15th, 2019

The minutes from the Board Retreat on September 14th and 15th, 2019 were approved without comments.

03. News from AADK and AAI

TRW brief:

The *EU* is interested in continuing our efforts and cooperation on *African Union*.

Turkey's invasion of the Kurdish-controlled areas of Syria - AADK has been active on the current agenda, primarily digitally by means of petition. It is a terrible and serious situation. We have also been invited to get involved in other ways for instance via one of our council members.

AAI - a significant political initiative/joint project is underway in AA. There is a desire to make a common effort across the federation, which was also called for at the recent Assembly in AA. A FLT meeting was conducted in Amsterdam first days of October and a communique from the FLT meeting was circulated to the Board prior to this meeting. The document reflects the good discussions about a joint campaign and mobilization effort regarding Climate Justice across the countries in Action Aid. The joint project on Climate Justice could be referred to as a watermelon; green on the outside and red inside, in that sense that we are concentrating on the green climate agenda while working on what we have always stand for regarding combating social inequality. A joint initiative like this in AA does not mean that we cannot also make our own initiatives on this agenda, but it creates new opportunities with significant potential.

The Board applauded the FLT communique and the establishment of a joint global initiative across the AA countries on Climate Justice. Looking forward this will provide a long-awaited opportunity to collaborate closer within the AA Federation.

It was discussed whether more should be done in relation to the situation of the Kurds in Syria. SK argued that it is important to use people power for achieving political gains. The Board called for attention to how AADK can support and collaborate with other smaller organizations and initiatives that are active in relation to this situation. It was noted from the Secretariat that we have already been significant more active on this agenda than recommended by Action Aid in the area. A consensus was reached on how to support the

Rojava Initiative. Looking forward, it is important to be aware and clear about what we are supporting and why.

04. Preliminary budget 2020

SK introduced Agenda 6. The Board had prior to the meeting received a preliminary budget for 2020 and the draft structures of a 3-year plan for transition to a balanced budget. The Board was asked to discuss and make decision on the preliminary budget and the direction outlined in the three-year plan. In light of the FAC discussion prior to the board meeting, the approval of the budget for 2020 was postponed for the December board meeting, but the board was asked to discuss and approve the direction outlined in the three-year plan.

The Board discussed the materials presented and expressed concern regarding the financial situation. The Board took note of the orientation and gave the Secretariat the mandate to continue in the outlined direction, setting out the following criteria for the further work:

- A detailed material must be presented, including a three-year budget
- It must be possible to gain an overview and understanding of the internal interconnectedness between the various budget items and activities and the consequences they have for the overall economy
- Various scenarios should be presented if applicable
- The plan and assessment of scenarios must be realistic and conservative
- Attention must be paid to employee well-being and the level of ambition
- It must be possible to monitor closely – and the plan should include a timeline for how the board is kept oriented
- External assessment regarding equity should be conducted
- Awareness on risk management and assessment

Budget for approval and revised three-year plan including draft three-year budget will be presented at the board meeting in December.

05. AADK and the climate crisis

The Chair drew attention to that the number of participating board members in the meeting was no longer sufficient to transact business.

SK continued framing the discussion that was intended to clarify AADK's position in relation to the climate crisis.

The Board has prior to the meeting received a draft AADK summary document on the climate crises, an update on climate financing enhancing our priority in relation to item 6 of the Climate law proposal and a draft AADK internal climate policy.

At the meeting, Anne Louise Carstens, Head of Youth Organising and Activism team from the Secretariat presented the *current initiatives of the Youth Community of Interest with focus on climate*.

Several things have been tested in connection with the climate week in September, including mass mobilisation, creative campaign and climate march. Among others, one day workshops were held on 6 different global platforms. In total, around 10,000 young people were mobilized.

By 2020, there will be a continued focus on the global, but also more focus on a European track aiming on strengthening youth co-operation across Europe. A Youth organizing and leadership seminar is planned with European and global party in the Spring (April) and engagement at the global youth climate summit in Rome (August) and at COP 26 in London (November).

The current key challenge is to make strategic decisions on the direction and priorities on fast-moving agenda. This include clarity about what ActionAid wants in relation to the climate agenda and what our role as AADK should be in this regard.

Subsequently, Nora Christiansen, Campaign & Mobilization Director from the Secretariat, gave a brief presentation of *MS's objectives and intervention points* in relation to the climate crisis as a complement to the material received by the Board prior to the meeting.

Regarding AADK's intervention points in relation to the climate crisis, AADK focus should be on the intersection of climate change and social inequality. The debate on the 5 billion must be turned into a moral issue of solidarity with those who suffer the most from the consequences of climate change.

It is suggested that we continue to prioritize joint efforts, support and back grassroots initiatives and social movements taking action in relation to this agenda. We also need to continue to offer opportunities for action (signature collections, demonstrations, etc.) and link campaign to political advocacy.

The approach outlined in the presentation and the material is very much in line with Action Aid. The Secretariat recommends that we are aligned.

During the following discussion the Board members expressed among others;

- It is important that AADK not only criticize but also present (innovative) solutions and link the agenda to the strategy on sustainable alternatives and just transition. There may be useful knowledge regarding solutions among the organizations we support and collaborate with.
- Prioritization on when and how to engage in the climate agenda is needed, due to the limited campaign and mobilization resources available. Priority and clarity regarding change goals and key messages is important.
- Encouragement to draw more explicitly on key point from the FLT Communique from Amsterdam, among other things, regarding alternatives and just transition.
- Suggestions for minor changes in language usage. The difference between 'nødsituation' and 'undtagelsestilstand' in messaging was discussed as this may have political implication.
- The alignment with Action Aid on this agenda was appreciated and the choice of focus was welcomed.

In the subsequent discussion of the *draft AADK's internal climate policy* the Board expressed among others:

- The ambition to make an internal policy was welcomed, and it is interesting to set a target for where we will be in 2030
- We need to convey that we are taking the climate crisis seriously and that we are doing something in this regard, but the 2030 climate neutrality might be too ambitious and needs further investigation.
- The use of compensation schemes to reach neutrality was questioned.
- It was suggested to invite experts and innovators within this field and get their perspective on the policy.

- Sustained Solutions and other similar options should be explored.
- There was a wish for the policy to be even more concrete for instance in relation to the section on transport. One possibility could be that each team has some guidelines for when to travel and when to be represented.

Furthermore, the Board had a discussion on whether AADK should make use of CO2 compensation. The suggestion presented in the draft internal climate policy for AADK is that we reduce as much as possible but compensate for what we cannot abolish.

It was acknowledged that this is a complicated discussion, but that there is no proof that these compensation schemes are effective in bringing down overall CO2 emissions. The CO2 emissions connected to some of our work are justifiable as we are operating to counter an unjust world and the unequal effects of climate change. Furthermore, the interpersonal meeting is an essential part of AADK's work, and even though we bring down travel and improve our use of virtual meetings, we should not completely refrain from traveling or meeting each other as human beings.

Conclusion

The Board expressed substantial satisfaction with AADK being active and moving forward on the climate agenda and the aim to develop an internal policy.

The Board overall agreed with the positions presented regarding support to and collaboration with social movements and focus on inequality and climate as AADK's external objectives and key messages in relation to the climate crisis.

The Board also applauded the current initiatives of the Youth Community of Interest with focus on climate and the collaboration within Action Aid on this agenda.

An actual approval of the internal climate policy was postponed as there was no quorum due to limited attendance.

There was no clear consensus on the issue of CO2 compensation.

Next step regarding the internal AADK Climate Policy is to gain experience from others with useful knowledge within the field. An updated draft AADK internal climate policy must be ready for approval at the board meeting in December.

06. ToR for Board-subcommittees

A short round table in order to get a brief status of the four board-subcommittee's work and expected deliveries was conducted.

Sustainable economy – status by JGI. The sub-committee merges with the FAC, as there is considerable overlap between people and the purpose of the two committees.

Linking global activist – Status by SK. There should have been something prepared for the Board retreat and for this Board meeting, on both occasions the agenda item was postponed. The purpose of the subcommittee is to uncover the current work an activity in AADK related to linking young activists in Denmark and abroad. The coverage has shown that there is a lot of different initiatives going on in terms of rooted campaigning and coherence across and globally in AA. It is doubtful whether there is a need to continue the subcommittee. It is proposed that a short briefing regarding the overview that the research has conducted is presented at an upcoming board meeting.

AADK's presence in DK - Status by MI. Agreed focus on Aarhus in 2020. It is therefore debatable whether the subcommittee should continue. The subcommittee met yesterday

where the focus was on sparring among the participants. The subcommittee's purpose right now is to cultivate the germinating seeds at Fyn and Nordjylland in that way that something may arise there at long term. Some cool things happen in both Odense, Aalborg and Aarhus. A focus on what it means to be anchored is planned for the upcoming Council and Members Day. In addition, focus on how we ensure collaboration between the various AADK communities and systematization of experiences are part of the groups mandate. The subcommittee has not come to any real conclusion yet about what the subcommittee expects to deliver to the Board.

Sustainable alternatives - Status by AN. Several of the ongoing efforts and initiatives in AADK are somehow related to the work of this subcommittee. The platforms in Aarhus and Copenhagen can be experimental labs for sustainable alternatives. The new climate position and internal climate policy also relates to the working field of this subcommittee. In addition, there is a need for clarity concerning the intentions and meaning of that part of the strategy related to the development of alternatives. It is considered whether the subcommittee's focus and purpose in the future should be on a more strategic and political level. There are some exciting possibilities of creating coherence between 'sustainable alternatives' and 'climate change' in the current focus on Just Transition in Action Aid. Therefore, it might also make sense to end the current subcommittee. A strategic discussion and a position paper must be prepared for the February board meeting.

Questions were raised concerning whether the council members were invited to participate in the subcommittees, and if they can continue the subcommittees on their own. In this regard, attention was drawn to the importance of the Council and the Board operating at a strategic level. It was also pointed out that the involvement of the Council in relation to several of the subcommittees work is planned to be conducted at the upcoming Council and Membership Day.

The ToR for the Board-subcommittee's will be updated based on the information above.

07. Council- and membership day 2019

Prior to the meeting, the board had received an updated program for the upcoming Council- and membership day on November 23th 2019 reflecting input from discussions at the Board Retreat.

MI presented on behalf of the Contact Group a brief introduction to the updated program and the plans for the event.

This year's Council and Membership Day will take place in Aarhus. An open session with our global activists where external guests and interested parties can also participate has been added to the program at the end of the day.

There are also some wishes and thoughts in the Contact Group regarding a governance review. The case will be presented to the Board at one of the upcoming meetings and a motion will properly be presented for the Council meeting in June.

It was noted that it is important to be aware that there is not an overload of national content in the program of the Council and Membership Day. It could be interesting to include both national and international perspectives in both workshops.

The comments will be included in the further planning of the Council and membership Day.

08. AOB

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 19:57

Adopted during the Board Meeting October 23th, 2019.