

Date:	February 5th, 2020	Place:	Fælledvej 12, 2200 KBH N, Lok. Community Hall
	Draft Board Meeting Minutes		
Present	From the Board: Anders Hamming (AH), Andreas Dybkjær-Andersson (ADA), Flemming Hansen (FH) (agenda 4-12), Karen Jørgensen (KJ), Mahmoud Ismail (MI), Sine Jensen (SJ), Steen Folke (SF) and Stine Krøijer (SK)		
	Others: Julie Madsen (JM) (Parliamentary Audit)		
	From the Secretariat: Jonas Giersing (JGI), Julie Koch (JK), Nora Christiansen (NCH), Ole Damkjær Nielsen (ODA) (agenda 6) and Tim Whyte (TRW).		
Apologies	Asger Narud (AN) (Alternate), Helle Munk Ravnborg, Khaterah Parwani (KP), Mary Consolata Namagambe (MCN) and Rasmus Kjær Slot (RKS)		
	Minute –Taker: Helene Bach The meeting was conducted in Danish		

Agenda

01. Welcome and approval of the agenda
02. Approval of minutes and matters arising from the Board Meeting on December 11th, 2019
03. News from AADK and AAI
04. Update from Zambia
05. Campaign focus 2020
06. Annual Report format
07. Light touch strategy review
08. Preliminary discussion on Council Meeting 2020
09. Potential AADK initiatives for Action Aid International General Assembly
10. Linking activists globally
11. AOB

01. Welcome and approval of the agenda

SK welcomed the board members to the Board Meeting.

The agenda was approved without comments.

02. Approval of minutes and matters arising from the Board Meeting on December 11th, 2019

The minutes from the Board Meeting on December 11th, 2019 were approved without comments.

03. News from AADK and AAI

Tim presented a quick overview of latest news from Action Aid's work in DK and globally, highlighting a good start to 2020, in part with a focus on the recent inequality report and a successful debate in Tingbjerg. TRW also highlighted a press event with Gretha Thunberg as well as renewed dialogue with our pension scheme provider regarding disinvestment in the fossils fuels industry. Finally, TRW encouraged Board members to fill out the distributed survey related to the coming Story Project and the collaboration with Dancing Fox.

News from ActionAid included a brief profile of the new Secretary General Julia Sánchez and of the incoming new Executive Director of TCDC, Richard Ssewakiryanga.

04. Update from Zambia

Stine gave an update on ActionAid's work and activities and the current situation in the country after her trip to Zambia together with Tim and International Director Julie Koch as well as two colleagues from the International Cluster. The update included a positive impression of ActionAid's work in Zambia, and observations of increasing pressure on civic space. The visit covered many events and meetings with partners, as well as a visit to the Global Platform. The coming general elections were a thematic focus among youth, as was the climate crisis and if/how ActionAid should be doing more work in this area. The latter is actualised by severe drought in one part of Zambia, while another part is experiencing serious flooding. It was interesting to observe how the various groups interacted and challenged each other in the space provided by the Global Platform. The AAZ office expressed concerns about the child sponsorship programme.

JK and TRW also shared a few reflections from the trip, followed by a brief discussion.

05. Campaign focus 2020

Nora presented the Campaign focus and resources for 2020 and the preliminary timeline for key activities.

Two larger pro-active and longer-term campaigns are planned – one on anti-discrimination and one on climate justice. The anti-discrimination campaign will focus on online engagement as well as off-line activities engaging volunteers. Opinion-maker trainings are also being investigated in collaboration with NPP. AADK will also take a critical look at our own communication to ensure that its non-discriminative, not using stereotypes etc.

The climate justice is still not fully conceptualised, but ideas we're looking into entail a focus on solidarity between North and South, climate financing ie pension funds, an international youth leadership seminar in April, cooperation with the Roskilde Festival and a climate solidarity week in September. Nora pointed out that with 4 staff members in the campaign/communication department prioritising is key; mobilising of volunteers and engagement I reactive issues is essential, but also demand resources from the secretariat; we have to keep the focus on creating an economic surplus related to all activities and being clear on the unique selling points of AADK.

The Board was asked to reflect upon whether the presented priorities and focus reflect our change goals and strategy. The need to reach out to new partners and organisations, such as DI, trade unions etc was raised. Also, the importance of North/South linkages as well as connecting all our work to inequality and SDG10. The balance between the two larger proactive campaigns and more ad-hoc reactions to upcoming issues were discussed, where Palestine, Syria and development policy will continue to be part of the AADK campaign and communication activities as smaller more ad-hoc interventions. This year also "Befrielsen" may give AADK opportunities. Nora pointed to the lessons learned in testing an organising approach to campaigning, where members were approached directly during the recent election, this provided us with useful learning but is not something we would do again without ensuring longer term commitment and resourcing. Organising is mainly be done through the NPP programmes.

06. Annual Report format

Ole Damkjær Nielsen from the Secretariat presented the format for the 2019 Annual Report (Årsberetningen).

Too few people are reading the annual report. Focus will be on online format and linkages with the newly launched newsletter. We should still focus on the good stories from our programs, but maybe not to a large degree through the annual report.

The Board agreed to the format for the Annual Report 2019. Thus, it was approved to make a less comprehensive digital model. At the same time, expectations were expressed regarding stories from the global South to be disseminated via other media and channels. The Board stressed that attentions should be on the dual purpose of the Annual Report – communication and accountability. Where the accountability element is mainly addressed by other means such as the dashboard, Danida reporting etc. The importance of learning and challenges was stressed, where this could be addressed at the council meeting and not in the Annual Report having in mind the short format.

07. Light touch strategy review

The Board had prior to the meeting received a proposal from the Secretariat concerning a light touch midterm review of the strategy.

Having two years left of the strategy period and that the process of making a new SPA application will start in late 2020, key focus is to keep the revision a **light** focused at clarifications of concepts and approaches as well as adjustment of selected targets. If it is a revision the Council don't have to be consulted, if its actual changes to the strategy the Council has to be involved. A decision on the need and possible process of involvement of the council will be taken, when an overview of the proposed changes to strategy is done.

The thematic headlines for the light touch strategy review were: Climate justice, to sharpen our approach to the SDGs/making SDG10 and alternative, which could focus more on climate justice.

08. Preliminary discussion on Council Meeting 2020

Julie Madsen gave a quick status of the work in progress on behalf of the Coordination group and the Governance group.

An assessment of the challenges related to the governance structure has been carried out, which has influenced the draft agenda, where sessions on governance, roles and expectations related to various positions and introduction to teams are suggested to be included in the program.

There was an agreement by the Board on the importance of addressing the governance issues and participation of members, but it was stressed that this has to be done in an inspiring way e.g. by bringing in experience from others. And clarification is needed whether the council meeting is to prepare people to sit in the Board and Council or if it is for the members to have influence on work of MS. Enough time have to be set aside in the agenda for thematic discussions and information on the actual work of AADK in Denmark and in the Global South.

“Den rullende plan” should have a critical review in order not just to carry over the topics and process from last year.

The idea to carry badges indicating who are members of the Board and who are Candidates was well received. It was suggested to have posters on the wall informing members on how to engage actively in committees, as volunteers etc.

The contact group will look at the feedback and come with a new suggestion for the agenda, which the Board will look at the next meeting.

09. Potential AADK initiatives for Action Aid International General Assembly

Steen Folke provided the Board with a brief overview of what is currently at stake in AAI and the expected focus on this year’s AAI General Assembly.

Julia Sánchez has been appointed as the new Secretary General. Shrinking space and localization are priorities for her, which are in line with the AADK priorities. The strategy implementation framework (SIF) put more focus on climate justice. This will be discussed and voted upon at the General Assembly meeting. This is in line with the focus of AADK. AADK would still like to see a clearer alignment and direction around fewer intervention areas.

The Resource allocation framework sets a frame for contributions from the various AA members, but it has been a challenge to get all members to pay. The missing payments amount to 12 – 15mio. DKK. The child sponsorship is going down, and there is more focus on institutional funding. In the country model review is suggested to establish hubs, but it’s not clear how far the process is, e.g. closer cooperation among European AA offices. There is some progress on include young people in governance structures.

The Board discussed potential AADK initiatives related to the AAI General Assembly in June. AADK should see if the SIF will be sent out before the assembly and be clear on our stand points before the assembly. There will be a new chairperson of the Board elected, as well as new members. The Board should decide if AADK should try to promote a candidate.

Can AADK use the Youth Community of Interest to push the agenda on youth in governance structures and programs further? AADK should prepare a standpoint on how to approach applications from associated member and try to advocacy for a more external focus during the assembly e.g. a communique on climate justice that could be launched.

Andreas Dybkjær-Andersson, who is also a member of the AA Nepal board, will participate and possibly also Stine Krøijer as AADK Chair. A smaller AAI group has been established by the AADK Board prior to the AAI General Assembly.

10. Linking activists globally

The Board had prior to the meeting received a document from the linking activist globally sub-committee.

Stine presented the recommendations from the paper.

Camilla Holm (head of YOA) gave a short update on the existing interventions related to linking activists globally such as Activista, GP as a model that has proven successful in supporting young activists, campaigning and links between DK and global.

Tim pointed out that we should challenge our self and be clear on why it is important to create linkages – how does creating of linkages contribute to social and political changes? Our approach is that we are all part of the same political struggle, where linkages is essential, but clarity could be made on the level, where the regional level is often were there are thematic and political issues in common.

With regards to the discussion about the linking struggles paper from the working group, several board members highlighted the importance of becoming better at connecting struggles, ex from national to international level, if we want to work more as a social movement in the future. This was one of the key conclusions from the discussion.

The recommendations from the paper was approved. This will give input for the new strategy, SPA application and the organising paper, when it will be adjusted.

11. AOB

Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 18:15

Adopted during the Board Meeting February 5th, 2020.