

<b>Date:</b>	<b>February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021</b>	<b>Place:</b>	<b>Digital meeting Teams</b>
	<b>Draft Board Meeting Minutes</b>		
<b>Present</b>	<b>From the Board:</b> Andrea Holst-Mjöbäck, Andreas Dybkjær Andersson, Dines Justesen, Flemming Hansen, Karen Jørgensen, Mette Winding Top, Sine Jensen, Sofie Lippert, Steen Folke and Stine Krøijer.		
	<b>Alternate:</b> Mette Roerup  <b>Others:</b> Kjeld Lanng (Parliamentary Audit) Marie Uldall Thomsen (Parliamentary Audit) Thea Holm Bissø (Parliamentary Audit) Ole Anand (Alternate, Parliamentary Audit)  <b>From the Secretariat:</b> Caroline Kaae Therbo-Pedersen (agenda 4), Julie Koch, Jonas Giersing, Lars Koch, Lasse Jensen (agenda 4), Sisse Egeberg, Thea Hass and Tim Whyte		
<b>Apologies</b>	Khaterah Parwani and Mehmet Aksoy		
	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 meeting on December 16th, 2020**
03. **News from AADK and AAI**
04. **Guidelines for our work with placed children**
05. **Dialogue with Parliamentary Audit**
06. **Midterm review of the Board's work**
07. **Preliminary discussion on Council Meeting 2021**
08. **Potential AADK initiatives for Action Aid International General Assembly**
09. **New development policy strategy**
10. **AOB**

### 01. Welcome and approval of the agenda

Stine 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 16th, 2020

The minutes from the Board meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> were approved without comments.

### 03. News from AADK and AAI

Tim presented the latest news from AADK and AAI.

International:

- *TCDC* - is financially challenged due to Corona, among other things. Director has resigned, former country manager from AA Kenya will be change manager for the time being for a year.
- *SPA process* - runs at full speed with, among other things dialogue and meetings with the countries. We are now awaiting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Schedule is expected to come after the process regarding. new development policy strategy.
- *Elections in Uganda*, the Chair of AA Uganda's Board was arrested. Uncertain what is going to happen, disturbing development, where formal civil society is being hit hard.
- *Myanmar* - we collaborated with AA Myanmar and try, among other things, to help them with internet access.
- *Jordan and Palestine*

National:

- Welcome to Thea Hass new National Engagement Director at AADK.
- New promising collaboration with FRAK (Fritidsakademiet) regarding Fælledvej. Dialogue with potential new partner in relation to kitchen.
- The Peoples Vaccine - Cheap or free vaccines must be available to everyone. Considerations and dialogue regarding which role we should play as AADK.
- Strengthened association democracy & commitment:
  - Work focusing on digital solutions has started (common digital platform and voting system)
  - A cross-cutting working group has stated working on the new concept Action Days.
  - Listening exercises prior to the council meeting must be planed and conducted.
  - An overall master plan will be presented to the Board at the Board meeting in March.

During the following round of comments Board members drew attention to the unequal situation in the Palestinians' access to vaccine and this could constitute a potential focus for MS. It was also questioned, how the financial situation at TCDC is expected to be rectified. The plan is to integrate TCDC more into the SPA (Strategic Partnership Agreement) in connection with the new application. Question was also raised regarding why AADK has not

made a clear statement in relation to the crisis in Myanmar. This is done at the request of Action Aid Myanmar, who has asked us only to re-tweet official communications from United Nations. AADK is in close dialogue with Action Aid Myanmar and the embassy, and we are in the process of finding out how we can best support AA Myanmar under the given circumstances.

In relation to the SPA process and the work on our new AADK strategy, Stine drew attention to the importance of the two processes being well coordinated and interacting with each other.

The Board took note of the briefing.

#### **04. Guidelines for our work with placed children**

Global Contact has developed a policy with guidelines for our work with placed children around the world. Prior to the meeting, the Board had received the guidelines together with an encouragement to approve the new guidelines.

At the meeting, Lasse Jensen, Head of Global Contact, gave a short presentation of the background for the new guidelines. The need for these guidelines has been there for a long time. Due to the COVID-19 situation and lack of travel activity there has now been time to develop some solid guidelines. In connection with the development of the guidelines, there has been a dialogue with various organizations, including Save the Children. Now we have some good guidelines which we can relate to and hold each other up to. The guidelines are aligned with Action Aid SHEA (Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse) Policy.

The guidelines for our work with placed children around the world were approved by the Board.

#### **05. Dialogue with Parliamentary Audit**

At the meeting Kjeld Lanng from Parliamentary Audit presented the expected focus and for this year's Parliamentary Audit report based on the conclusions and recommendations from last year's PR report.

Furthermore, Parliamentary Audit informed that they are organization a simple survey focusing on the Board works and how the council can give the Board the best possible terms and framework.

Kjeld requested that agenda 05 were recorded. This was rejected.

Reflections from Parliamentary revision so far:

- a communicative task in relation to equipping council members and others with information about what MS does.
- good and systematic work to put our strategy and political plan into practice.
- a very exciting proposal for the renewal of the Council meeting - much of what we have proposed in last year's Parliamentary Audit report is address in connection with the strengthened association democracy effort.
- does the Secretariat and the organization succeed in making sufficient use of the support from MS people alle over the country? There is great potential.
- The work with sub-committees - International Committee and Strengthened Association Democracy, which did a good job towards the Council and Member Day.

In the following round of comments, some board members expressed concern regarding whether Parliamentary Audit aims on the right focus. Parliamentary Audit plays an important role in looking at the whole organization, especially on the financial issue in the light of the

direction that the Council has set. Instead, Stine suggested a focus on how it is that we have chosen to deal with the Corona situation?

There was a brief exchange of views on whether the Board can question the focus that PR chooses to apply in accordance with current descriptions and rules.

There is still room for improvement in relation to make the connection between the Council and the Board work well. It is especially difficult now and here with the Corona-crisis. The development of a new way of conducting council meetings (Action Days), with involvement of Council members, volunteers, etc., is a step in the right direction. It is important that the Council has its role (Adequate formal democracy), but council members one can also be active in other contexts, for example in the campaign work.

In conclusion, Kjeld stated that the Parliamentary Audit focuses on the Board and the Council - possibly some qualitative methods can be useful.

In addition, Marie Ulldahl Thomsen from Parliamentary Audit called for dialogue with new board members and invited them to make contact.

Thea Bissø also from Parliamentary Audit informed that Parliamentary Audit would like to invite to a questionnaire survey among the board members. The purpose is to investigate how we as an organization can become better at supporting the Board.

In conclusion, Kjeld thanked the Board for input to the further work of Parliamentary Audit and Stine thanked Parliamentary Audit for their efforts.

## **06. Midterm review of the Board's work**

Prior to the meeting, the Board has received a survey regarding the Board's work. The Board has prior to the meeting received reports with the results of both surveys, which provided the platform for the discussions at the meeting. At the meeting Stine led the discussion.

It has been a short and special board year. Overall, the responses indicate that, given the situation, things are going well. We have established an International Committee. It is difficult to be new to the Board and have a dialogue as a Board when you do not meet physically. Attendance at board meetings has improved. At best, the board members have helped each other to roll out some of the important key issues. Several board members have taken great responsibility and made great efforts in relation to the Board's priorities. Stine thanked the board members for their efforts.

During the following round of comments, board members stressed among others:

- Satisfaction regarding the list of abbreviations.
- Difficulties getting an overview of what is going on at the Secretariat.
- The "don't know" category in the survey is being missed.
- Hard to get onboarded to the Board as a new member.
- The board meetings have worked well despite the COVID-19 situation.
- More clarity about roles and about processes is needed.
- An International Representative from Action Aid is missed.
- Great satisfaction with the board day in October
- A single member expressed a desire for more board meetings.
- It is important to maintain the international focus.

In conclusion, the Chair expressed that we should not strive for more board meetings. We need to think more pragmatically and more dialogue-based instead.

## **07. Preliminary discussion on Council Meeting 2021**

A small working group has had the first initial discussions in relation to creating a draft concept for Action Days on June 5th-6th. The concept unites the Council meeting, with the volunteer day and summer school for activists.

Prior to the meeting, the Board has received a cover note describing the draft main structure and idea regarding Action days 2021. At the meeting Sisse Egeberg, Governance focal point at the Secretariat presented the concept of Action Days and the suggested format for Action Days, including the AADK Council meeting 2021 to be conducted as part of this concept.

In the following discussion, the Board generally expressed great support for the Action Days concept. It was emphasized that it is important that the event is not split into two separate parts (Governance - and everything else). It is important that both council members and volunteers are involved and that we gather around the change goals.

It was agreed that great emphasis should be placed on the possibility of meeting physically.

If, as the time for Action Days approaches, it does not appear possible to have a physical meeting, it should be considered whether to transform the day into a hub model or to postpone the meeting. If Action Days are postponed being conducted in the Fall, council members must meet for a day in the Spring. The decision on whether to postpone Action Days is made in the Governance group. Mette Roerup signed up to take part in the planning of Action Days 2021.

The concept and main structure for Action Days 2021 was adopted by the Board.

## **08. Potential AADK initiatives for Action Aid International General Assembly**

As AADK Assembly representative, Stine has participated in the AAI general meeting, held several meetings and taken part in the Governance review process.

At the meeting, Stine provided an overview of the situation and key governance related discussions in Action Aid. Governance review, SIF (Strategic Implementation Framework) and especially LTFFS (Long Term Finance and Funding Strategy) have given rise to some unrest and concern over the situation. The key discussion at last year's Assembly, was some of the big countries (France and Italy among others) arguing that there should be some smaller more voluntary coalitions in Action Aid. It was not adopted, but the proposal also pointed out that there are some challenges in terms of being able to act in a timely manner in relation to current challenges. There are challenges in terms of making the collaboration work better.

Strict requirements were set in relation to the international Board's handling of the situation, including the Global Secretariat, which must see itself reduced. It is important to be able to be an international player to a greater extent also with political influence. We hope we can help turn AAI more in that direction.

Now the work begins again in relation to this year's General Assembly in Action Aid. In that regard, we must

- consider whether we will try to field a new candidate for the international board. Helle Munk Ravnborg is proposed.
- decide what we will try to do in relation to new front person for AAI.
- consider whether we want to make an exercise, for example in relation to CMR (Country Model Review).

Tim added that in relation to the follow-up on the financing discussion, a plan is underway, which we are following closely. Proposals for restructuring in the Global Secretariat are being prepared. We have proposed that we should have a strong international campaign track, for example in relation to the theme of climate justice. It is important that we do not forget the external focus. Four different working groups has been established: Geographical Footprint, Identity, The Federation model (Confederation or Federation), Joint investments. Furthermore, Tim participates in FLT (Federation Leadership Team).

Steen pointed out that there is time to consider and follow up. There is a meeting of the International Committee at the end of the month and one more board meeting in March before the deadline. We should consider whether it will promote our interest if we present a formal resolution on joint campaign efforts on climate justice or is it better to use more informal channels. The work on the consequences of the development in relation to the financial situation is relatively slow, including CMR. We should consider whether we should create a motion to speed up that process. Regarding candidates we should ask Helle Munk Ravnborg. A youth candidate should also be considered.

It was decided that the discussion should continue in the International Committee, which is responsible for following up on the candidate in the board and any motions. Possible candidates can be suggested to Stine via email. Christian Friis Bach was suggested.

## **09. New development policy strategy**

Tim introduced agenda 09.

AADK focus points in relation to new development policy strategy.

- Democracy / civil society
- Youth / social movement
- Financing development. Tax location also in developing countries.
- Climate - what is the political and civil society's part and role?

Meetings are taking place with the rapporteurs primarily from the supporting parties and we are in dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. AADK has had articles in the newspapers etc. The reception centers, which the government would like to have located abroad and funded by development aid, are expected to be the big battle. Furthermore, it will be an important point of discussion as to whether Danish development assistance should be concentrated in Africa. We do what we can to make sure that does not happen.

The deadline for the consultation process is 5 February. Before then, the consultation response must be sent to Steen / International Committee.

The Board took note of the briefing.

## **10. AOB**

Proposal for an informal digital Friday bar for the Board.

The meeting closed at 18:08

Adopted during the Board Meeting February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.