



Minutes of the Centre for Global Equality

Annual General Meeting, 2017

May 8th, 2017

5:30pm; Emmanuel United Reformed Church,
72 Trumpington Street, Cambridge

Attendees

Centre for Global Equality Trustees

- Dominic Vergine (Chair of the Board of Trustees, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Bhaskar Vira (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Alison Walsham (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Rob Cameron (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Toby Norman (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)

Centre for Global Equality Staff

- Lara Allen (Director, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Fran Baker (Business and Operations Manager, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Sara Serradas-Duarte (Coordinator, Global Challenges Forum)

Centre for Global Equality Member Organisations

- Jack Atherton Cambridge Development Initiative
- John Barker Governance Labs
- Eeva-Maria John ECSS&S University Partnership
- Pete Jones Partners for Change Ethiopia
- Keith Virgo Tropical Agriculture Organisation
- Rainbow Wilcox Africa's Voices Foundation
- Alex Patto Waterscope
- Martin Burchell Aptivate
- Toby Norman Simprints
- Evelyn Brealey Addenbrookes Abroad

Centre for Global Equality Individual Members and Supporters

- Dona McCullagh
- Chris Packman
- Serena Belluschi
- John Birchall

- Sheila Brookes
- Eugene Dalton-Ruark
- Surendra Paul
- Bill Thorpe
- Ian Tod
- Cecile Ngalia Umande
- Geoff Walsham
- Eiko Yoneki
- Tianheng Zhao
- Martin Burchell
- Toby Norman
- Evelyn Brearley
- Bang Ming Yong
- Nalin Patel

Apologies

- Shelley Gregory-Jones (Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Amy Weatherup (Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Andrew Lamb (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Charlotte Sankey (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Ian Sanderson (Afrinspire)

1. Welcome and introduction to the meeting

Dominic Vergine, Chair of the Board of Trustees, welcomed the attendees and outlined the agenda.

2. Minutes of the Centre for Global Equality AGM held on 12 April 2016

Dominic Vergine asked if there were any comments on the minutes from 2016. There were none.

The minutes of the meeting were proposed as correct by Alison Walsham, and seconded by Toby Norman, and signed. There were no matters arising.

3. Reports and Accounts

3.1 Report on Centre for Global Equality activities in the previous financial year, 2015-16

(Presented by Lara Allen, CGE Director)

In August 2015 the name of the organisation was changed from the Humanitarian Centre to the Centre for Global Equality to signal the organisation's primary activities more effectively.

The name change and subsequent re-brand reflected a substantive shift in strategy that had been agreed earlier in 2015. The main goal for the 2015-16 year was to actualise these strategic priorities, specifically to focus the resources available in global centres of excellence such as Cambridge on evolving innovative solutions to global challenges.

The new strategy was realised through three programme areas: to enhance the CGE's civil society network, to increase engagement with the academic community and to enable the evolution of innovative solutions to global challenges through the Global Goals Innovation Cultivator (GGIC).

Important enhancements of the CGE's civil society network during the year included the establishment of a University of Cambridge Student Chapter of the Centre for Global Equality, and the introduction of the CGE International Development Awards Scheme. High profile public events hosted included the launch of the Centre for Global Equality, the CGE Annual lecture by Robert Chambers, an international workshop on global e-commerce and inclusivity, an event on 3D-printing in humanitarian aid, and the annual student-run Cambridge International Development Conference (IDC). CGE also hosted networking events to facilitate collaboration between members. These included the summer garden party, the Christmas social, a networking event for international development consultants and the AGM.

Increased collaboration with academic colleagues, particularly at the University of Cambridge, was achieved during the year through three initiatives: a seminar series and workshop on science and technology for the bottom billion, Development i-Teams and Open Technology Week. The most important outcome of these activities was the evolution of a nascent community of researchers interested in the impact of new science and technology in international development and humanitarian aid. This was formalised through the formation of a university-wide 'Innovation for the SDGs Network' for which CGE was mandated to provide the secretariat function.

The CGE's new innovation programme was developed around the concept of a Global Goals Innovation Cultivator (GGIC), which supports innovations through a five stage incubation process from problem identification to impact. The CGE's innovation activities shifted from the T4D Hub in Chesterton Tower to the Cultivator, housed in the CGE's offices. By July 2016 the three ventures in the Cultivator were Waterscope, Halo and Bottles for Growth.

3.2 Report on significant activities of the Centre for Global Equality in the current financial year, 2016-17.

(Presented by Lara Allen CGE Director, Fran Baker, CGE Operations and Business Manager, and Sara Serradas Duarte, Global Challenges Forum Coordinator)

During 2016-17 CGE continued to develop the three strategic programmes established the previous year.

CGE activities are organised into three programme areas that interlock with and strengthen each other. These are the civil society network, the academic network (Global Challenges Forum) and the innovation programme, which includes Development i-Teams and the Global Goals Innovation Cultivator.

Through the civil society network CGE continued to support the Cambridge-based organisations that formed the core constituency of the Humanitarian Centre network. Presently this consists of 25 paid-up member organisations, and 26 individual members. Member-oriented events to facilitate networking and peer exchange included Annual Lecture given by Simon Trace, the AGM, students-meet-NGOs events in the Michaelmas and Lent terms, the Christmas social and the summer garden party. In order to enhance the CGE's ability to achieve impact at scale, efforts were made to establish partnerships with large international NGOs and UN multilateral agencies.

Significant progress was made in establishing a research network established in collaboration with a group of University of Cambridge academics. Called the Global Challenges Forum, this network has a governing committee and, since January 2017, a funded coordinator. The network consists of over 250 researchers from many disciplines across the University, issues regular newsletters, and has an active website:

<http://www.globalchallengesforum.group.cam.ac.uk>

The two main programmes in the CGE's innovation programme are Development i-Teams and the Cultivator. Development i-Teams has continued to be a productive generator of projects and ventures for the Cultivator. Assessing whether technologies emerging in the University could be applied for the benefit of poorer populations in developing countries, Development i-Teams takes a 'technology-push' approach to innovation for international development. The projects in the Michaelmas Term were:

- Establishing sustainable community cloud infrastructures in the developing world;
- Global health applications of cell-free extracts for rapid, low-cost, paper-based diagnostics;
- Farming and processing microalgae to address Vitamin B12 deficiency.

The CGE Global Goals Innovation Cultivator is presently housed in the CGE office where ventures have access to hot-desking space and meeting facilities. A peer-learning, mentorship and training programme was launched in January 2017. The nine projects and ventures presently in the Cultivator are: Waterscope; OpenDiagnostics; AlgalB12; Halo; Blue Nile Centre; Bottles for Growth; CamSES; Camnexus; The Whistle.

3.3 Report on the accounts for the period 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2016 and the report of the independent examiners.

(Report presented by Alison Walsham (Trustee))

An overview of the 2015-2016 year was presented. Particular note was made of the following:

Income

CGE would like to thank to our donors and supporters, particularly our major donor who continued to support us during 2015-16 and 2016-17 through the Charities Aid Foundation America. The final instalment of this grant was received in September 2016. The CGE thanks Trinity College, Cambridge, for ongoing support of the T4D Hub in Chesterton Tower (through subsidised rental rates), ARM for support of the establishment of the CGE Cultivator housed in the CGE offices, and Dr Reddy's for sponsoring the Dr K. Anji Reddy Award for Global Health Innovation. The CGE also thanks Emmanuel College, Christ's College, the Department of Engineering and the Judge Business School at the University of Cambridge for in kind support with the hosting of meetings and events. Further income was received from membership fees (organisations and individuals) and consultancy fees for relevant work carried out by staff for external agencies. Membership fees decreased but income from consultancy and payments for services increased significantly.

Expenditure

The largest budget items are staff and office costs including rent. For most of the year there were two full-time staff, including the Director. This is a reduced staff as compared to the previous year, resulting in lower staff costs. Costs under bookkeeping and website include the paying of external contractors. Overall expenditure stayed below the planned budget for the year.

Financial Management

The reserves policy remains as three months' average expenditure (c.£33k). There was a net surplus of £86,606 on 31st July 2016, which included funding donated in advance for 2016-17. This was brought forward into the present financial year. Significant work was done over the year to strengthen the financial management systems. This process continued into the present year.

Present Financial Year: 2016-2017

Efforts have been focused on increasing payments for services and consultancy (such as running courses and conferences) in order to diversify the CGE's income-generating portfolio and reduce dependency on donor funding. Staff costs were reduced further by reducing the staff compliment to 1.5 full time employees. This excludes the Global Challenges Forum Coordinator who is paid through the University of Cambridge.

Going forward into 2017-2018

With cash carried forward, projected charges for services, and support from our major donor, we have funding in place for the next financial year – at present rates of spend. £75,000 per year for the next two years has been pledged by our major donor and will be administered through NPT-UK.

Questions were invited from the floor about the organisation's finances. There were no questions.

4. Appointment of Trustees

(Chaired by Dominic Vergine, Chair of the Board of Trustees)

The Chair provided an overview of the current Board of Trustees and the proposed changes to the board for the coming year.

Elsbeth Bannister stood down as a member of the Board of Trustees. She was thanked for the very significant contribution that she has made to the organisation over the past two years.

Alison Walsham stood down after six years on the Board of the Centre for Global Equality, and significant support of the organisation prior to her appointment as a Trustee. The Board, Director and staff thanked Alison for her remarkable support and contribution to CGE for so many years. We look forward to her continued association with the organisation in the future.

It was proposed by Toby Norman, and seconded by Rob Cameron, that Dominic Vergine be appointed for a third term of three years on the grounds that, as Chairperson, he is an office holder. The majority of voting members present voted in favour.

Sian Nash was proposed as a new Trustee by Keith Virgo, and seconded by Dona McCullagh. The majority of voting members present voted in favour.

5. Proposed Resolutions

5.1 Appointment and remuneration of independent examiners

On behalf of the Board of trustees, Bhaskar Vira proposed the appointment of Chater Allan as independent examiners for the 2016-17 financial year, and that the CGE trustees be authorised to set the remuneration of the independent examiners. The motion was seconded by Rob Cameron and was passed.

6. Any other business.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for Global Equality Dominic Vergine thanked the following for their contribution to the success of the AGM: Fran Baker, Sara Serradas Duarte and Lara Allen for organising the event, the speakers for the second half, and past and present trustees and active CGE members and supporters.

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Accompanying Documents:

The Centre for Global Equality Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2016.