



Minutes of the Centre for Global Equality Annual General Meeting, 2020

28th May 2020; 5:30pm
Video Conference Call

Attendees

Centre for Global Equality Trustees

- Dominic Vergine (Chair of the Board of Trustees, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Shelley Gregory-Jones (Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Lynda Connon (Treasurer, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Alex Patto (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Ian Steed (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Howard Griffiths (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Sadia Cuthbert (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Kimberly Gire (Trustee, The Centre for Global Equality)

Centre for Global Equality Staff

- Lara Allen (CEO, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Kelsea Pastore (Communications & Partnerships Officer, The Centre for Global Equality)
- Andrew Birley (Finance & Operations Manager, The Centre for Global Equality)

Centre for Global Equality Member Organisations

- Andrew Lamb (Field Ready)
- Ben Woodington (SoliCamb)
- Cassi Henderson (WaterScope)
- Gerard Kuenning (Cambridge Development Initiative)
- Ian Sanderson (Afrinspire)
- John Binns (Partners for Change Ethiopia)
- Kitty Liao (Ideabatic)
- Luca Canal (Martha's Dream)
- Luke Church (Africa's Voices Foundation)
- Nalin Patel (WaterScope)
- Patrick Beldon (Cortirio)
- Sharath Srinivasan (Africa's Voices Foundation)
- Sophie Ward (Cambridge Global Health Partnerships)
- Tads Ciecierski-Holmes (Cambridge Development Initiative)
- Tom Stakes (Blue Tap)

Apologies

None were given.

1. Welcome and introduction to the meeting

Dominic Vergine, Chair of the CGE Board of Trustees, welcomed the attendees and led the introductions. Lara Allen, CEO, outlined the agenda.

2. Minutes of the Centre for Global Equality AGM held on 16th May 2019

Dominic Vergine asked if there were any comments on the minutes from 2019. There were none. The minutes of the meeting were proposed as correct by Ian Steed, and seconded by Ian Sanderson. There were no matters arising.

3. Reports and Accounts

3.1 Overview of Centre for Global Equality activities in the last financial year, 2018-2019, and significant activities of the Centre for Global Equality in the current financial year, 2019-2020

(Presented by Lara Allen, CEO)

Lara Allen presented an overview of CGE strategy, activities and achievements in the 2018-19 year.

The main achievements in this period were:

- The articulation of a unique offering – Inclusive Innovation: *innovation by, with and for the rising billions*;
- A shift from convening (civil society & research networks) to developing partnerships and programmes for inclusive innovation and delivering projects;
- We generated enough funds to run a two-person office and programmes without a major donor.

Activities were undertaken in three programme strands:

- Enhancement of international development practice;
- Research for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Inclusive innovation through challenge- and opportunity-led ideation; international co-creation and partnership building, and ecosystem enhancement.

The mechanisms through which CGE contributed included:

- Facilitating implementation and impact for Cambridge Global Challenges;
- Participation in consortium research programmes and support of research projects;
- Advisory capacity for collaborator programmes;
- Convening of Knowledge sharing events and programmes.

The main achievements of the 2019-20 year included:

- A shift in focus from enabling research to inclusive innovation;

- The establishment of a new University of Cambridge association with the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (CEB);
- The establishment of successful IIF Hub partnerships, particularly in Ethiopia;
- A successful CGE-run project to establish BiT Maker Space;
- Participation in a Covid-19 consortium, OVSI.

Lara then welcomed any questions from attendees:

- Sadia Cuthbert asked who manages the Maker Space in Bahir Dar. Lara Allen responded that it is led by engineering faculty at the Bahir Dar Institute of Technology, Bahir Dar University.
- Andrew Lamb asked what happened with the Chesterton Tower site. Lara Allen answered that the Technology for Development Hub evolved into the Cultivator. Simprints took over the space and recently outgrew it and moved on. By moving offices to the present premises on King's Parade, CGE has more hot desk facilities and more meeting space. The aim is to space to support Cultivator teams as needed.

3.2 Report on the accounts for the period 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019 and the report of the independent examiners

(Presented by Lynda Connon, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees)

Lynda Connon presented CGE's financial report update and remarked on CGE's progress. Questions were invited from the floor about CGE's finances. There were no questions.

The 2018-2019 accounts were proposed by Ian Steed and seconded by Shelley Gregory-Jones.

Thanks were given to Lynda Connon for her support in CGE's financial management.

4. Appointments of Trustees

Lara Allen outlined the how membership is defined, and clarified that member organisations, as opposed to individuals, have voting rights .

4.1 Current Board of Trustees and Proposals for 2020

Lara Allen provided an overview of the current Board of Trustees and the proposed changes to the board for the 2020-2021 year.

4.2 Trustees retiring by rotation

Dominic Vergine retired as Chair of Trustees by rotation, following completion of a nine-year term. Lara Allen, on behalf of the staff, and Ian Steed, on behalf of the Trustees, expressed thanks to Dominic for his very significant contribution over the past nine years to CGE's success and evolution as an organisation.

4.3 Appointment of new Trustees

During the year three Trustees were co-opted onto the Board to replace Trustees that had stood down: Sadia Cuthbert, Howard Griffiths and Kimberly Gire. The latter introduced themselves, before members were requested to vote on formally appointing the three trustees onto the board.

The appointment of the three co-opted trustees, Sadia Cuthbert, Howard Griffiths and Kimberly Gire, was proposed by Ian Steed and seconded by Shelley Gregory-Jones. 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, Lynda Connon proposed the appointment of Chater Allan as independent examiners for the 2019-2020 financial year, and that the CGE Trustees be authorised to set the remuneration of the independent examiners. The motion was seconded by Ian Sanderson and was passed.

6. Any other Business

Dominic Vergine offered thanks to the CEO, the CGE team and the Board of Trustees.

There was no other business.

The formal business of the meeting closed at 6:50pm.

Guest Lecture

Lara welcomed Dr Sharath Srinivasan from Africa's Voices Foundation to begin his presentation, which focused on Somalia's varied response to Covid-19 challenges. Africa's Voices Foundation (AVF) is working to encourage conversations and develop appropriate and accurate responses with the population they seek to help. For example, AVF used an existing media platform for gender equality and social inclusion to help ask questions of the population, who were then able to reply with their concerns and allowing AVF to collect data and respond more effectively.

At the end of the presentation, Sharath was thanked by Sadia Cuthbert and the floor was opened for questions and discussion.

The meeting closed at 7:35pm.

