



## Minutes of the Centre for Global Equality

# Annual General Meeting, 2023

7 June 2023; 17:30-18:30 BST

Hauser Forum, West Cambridge and online

### Attendees

#### **Centre for Global Equality Trustees**

- Alex Patto (Vice Chair, Centre for Global Equality)
- Kimberly Gire (Chair of the Board of Trustees, Centre for Global Equality)
- Ian Steed (Trustee, Centre for Global Equality)

#### **Centre for Global Equality Staff**

- Lara Allen (CEO, Centre for Global Equality)
- Andrew Birley (Finance & Operations Manager, Centre for Global Equality)
- Kirsty Mackinlay (Programme Coordinator, Centre for Global Equality)
- Elizabeth Tennyson (Programme Director, Centre for Global Equality)
- Alex Millington-Jung (Cultivator Lead, Centre for Global Equality)
- Ligia Zagato (Programme Officer, Centre for Global Equality)

#### **Centre for Global Equality Member Organisations and Individual Members**

| <u>Individual</u>                             | <u>Representing Voting Member Organisation</u> |
|---|--|
| • Alyshia Gouldsborough (Waterscope)          |  |
| • Amitabh Mehta                               |  |
| • Ana Rita Dias                               |  |
| • Andrew Lamb                                 | Internet of Production                         |
| • Ben Moore                                   |  |
| • Beth Tennyson                               | Sustain-Ed                                     |
| • Brandon Smith (Eyevu)                       |  |
| • Damaris Ndegwa (Africa's Voices Foundation) |  |
| • Darold Cuba                                 |  |
| • David Baulis (Vesma)                        |  |
| • George Lewis                                | Waterscope                                     |
| • Ian Sanderson                               | Afrinspire                                     |
| • Jenny Molloy                                | Beneficial Bio                                 |
| • John Barker                                 | Governance Labs                                |
| • John Binns                                  | Partners for Change Ethiopia                   |
| • Kitty Liao                                  | Ideabatic                                      |
| • Lorraine Charles                            | Na'amal  |
| • Remy Turc                                   |  |
| • Samuel McDermott (autohaem)                 |  |
| • Samuel Kimeu                                | Africa's Voices Foundation                     |
| • Subrata Banerjee                            |  |

- Tessafe Ashagarie
- Victor Kang (SAFE)
- William Thorpe
- Wee Kii The

Tropical Agriculture Association (TAA)

### Apologies

Apologies were received from Howard Griffiths (Trustee); Shelley Gregory-Jones (Life Member); Amy Weatherup (Life Member); Chris Frank (open-seneca).

## **1. Welcome and Introduction to the Meeting**

*(Chaired by Alex Patto, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees)*

Alex Patto welcomed the attendees and led the introductions.

## **2. Minutes of the Centre for Global Equality AGM held on 7th June 2022**

*(Chaired by Alex Patto, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees)*

Alex Patto noted that the minutes of CGE's AGM on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 had been circulated to the membership. He asked if these could be agreed and if there were any matters arising.

The minutes of CGE's 2022 AGM were proposed as correct by Beth Tennyson and seconded by Ian Steed.

There were no matters arising.

## **3. Reports and Accounts**

### **3.1 Overview of Centre for Global Equality activities**

*(Presented by Lara Allen, CEO)*

Lara Allen presented an overview of CGE's activities and achievements in the financial year from August 2021 to July 2022, and updated the membership on progress during the present year from August 2022 to May 2023.

Lara noted that the 2021-2022 year was strongly defined by Covid-19 and its repercussions, which limited CGE's networking and international travel, and because of the sweeping budget cuts that occurred when the UK's ODA budget was cut from 0.7% to 0.5% of GDP. Nevertheless, CGE's response to these challenges was proactive and the organisation pivoted effectively to virtual working including for our international collaborations. CGE also managed to deliver funded programmes adapted in response to funding cuts. The organisation continued to deliver on its strategy, evolve the Inclusive Innovation approach and deliver case study initiatives.

Recovery from this challenging period was marked by the restart of international travel and in-person collaboration from March 2022. CGE team members subsequently travelled to Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, India Lao PDR, Vietnam and the USA. Cambridge-based in-person networking recovered less well, however, in part because the small organisations that previously made up CGE's membership were hit hard by the pandemic and its aftermath.

The period was marked by a number of strategic shifts that reflect an overarching swing towards research and innovation stakeholders as CGE's core community of practice, mirrored by a change in reliance on philanthropic grants to programme funding. These included shifts from a focus on the interests of members to contributing SDG outcomes, and from facilitating a network and organising events to co-delivery of programmes and collaborating in consortium research initiatives.

Furthermore, increasingly active CGEs members are Cultivator ventures rather than small NGOs, consultancies and student organisations.

The challenges of the times notwithstanding, CGE's finances, programmes and staff levels all increased during the period. The organisation's staff compliment grew from four full time employees in July 2022 to six in May 2023. The additional staff were a new member of the Climate Compatible Growth (CCG) programme's team, and a full-time team member to lead the Cultivator programme, an important step in the growth of the innovation side of CGE's work.

Looking forward Lara presented an overview of CGE's Five Year Strategy (2023-2028). Based on CGE's values (inclusive, collaborative, enabling, long-term and fair), this strategy aims to enact the organisation's vision (a fairer and more sustainable world is achieved through inclusive research and innovation) and mission (to evolve, demonstrate and share an effective approach to inclusive research and innovation, and contribute to sustainable development through this approach). The four goals of the strategy are: (1) Develop and diffuse the Inclusive Innovation Model; (2) Institutionalise a global Inclusive Innovation Community of Practice; (3) Deliver Programmes for Inclusive Innovation Ecosystems; and (4) Grow Inclusive Innovation Leaders of the future.

Lara outlined the main objectives for the upcoming year as follows:

- To scale i-Teams to Vietnam and Indonesia and employ a new team member to support the international i-Teams programme.
- To enhance the Cultivator programme with new training modules, a network of expert advisors and deliver an international co-creation travel competition.
- To develop new collaborative research proposals and support impact initiatives evolving from flagship research collaborations. To establish CCG networks in Ghana and India.

Lara concluded her presentation by thanking the CGE staff team (Andrew Birley, Beth Tennyson, Alex Patto, Kirsty Mackinlay, and Ligia Zagato) for their hard work and contributions to the year's successes. She then invited comments and questions from the floor. There were no questions.

### **3.2. Report on Accounts 2021-22 and the report of the independent examiners**

*(Presented by Andrew Birley, Finance & Operations Manager on behalf of the Board of Trustees)*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees Andrew Birley provided an overview of CGE's accounts and the report of the independent examiners for the financial year from August 2021 to July 2022. Overall, it is the opinion of the trustees that the Centre for Global Equality continues to be in a strong financial position at the close of the financial year ending July 2022.

Summarizing the results for the year and the financial position of the company the following points were made:

- The total funds brought forward were £183,842 as of 31 July 2022.
- CGE was solvent on 31 July 2022.
- Total income for the financial year was £610,063, compared with total income of £315,441 pounds in the previous year, an increase of £294,622. The increase of income puts CGE over the 500K threshold and therefore the organization is now considered to be a medium sized charity and is therefore required to provide additional information and data in line with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).
- The total expenditure for the financial year was £535,921, compared with total expenditure of £282,846 pounds in the previous year, an increase of £253,075.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, other than those related to the macro-economic impacts of COVID-19 including on funding flows, Brexit and global conflicts, not least in Ethiopia where we have ongoing partnerships.

CGE's operational model has proven sufficiently agile to ensure delivery of programs through lockdowns and other shifts in the broader operational context. In the light of these circumstances, the Board have approved revised cash flow projections for the next twelve months. This assumes the success of various grant applications and the continuation of the Climate Compatible Growth Program, which is presently in year four out of five. The CEO and the Board of Trustees regularly review the situation and consider various contingency plans and scenarios to ensure the Charity continues as a going concern.

Regarding CGE's Reserves Policy, the Trustees agreed to maintain the company's reserves at a level equal to three months average expenditure, which equates to £45,000. This level of reserves is in place at the end of the financial year, with free reserves at the end of the year being £182,946.

The accounts for CGE were independently examined by Stuart Graham Berriman at Chater Allan. Andrew thanked Chater Allan, in particular Chris Marshall, for their ongoing support with preparing these accounts.

Andrew Birley also provided a summary of the financial year from 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023. He reported that, despite the challenging global economic environment, CGE has continued to perform well. According to the organisation's current cash flow forecast, CGE will remain solvent until April 2025. This is a conservative estimate as there is a reasonable expectation of receiving revenue from additional projects and programs, as well as increased revenue from existing initiatives in the coming months. These anticipated inflows are expected to extend CGE's solvency date significantly beyond the projected timeframe.

In the opinion of CGE's trustees the organisation is in a strong financial position as the end of the 2022-2023 financial year approaches and the new financial year begins on the 1st of August. CGE's staff team and Trustees are focused on maximizing this healthy runway by securing new sources of funding and developing existing funding sources.

Andrew thanked the meeting for the opportunity to present the annual accounts and welcomed any comments or questions from the attendees. There were no questions.

#### **4. Presentation of Trustees rotation**

*(Chaired by Alex Patto, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees)*

##### **4.1 Current Board and appointment of new trustees**

Alex Patto stated that the current CGE Trustees are Kimberly Gire, Alex Patto, Ian Steed and Howard Griffiths. He noted that Sadia Cuthbert, who was the Treasurer, stood down during the year due to work commitments. Alex thanked Sadia for her contribution to the board during her tenure, and her support of CGE more broadly. On behalf of the Board and staff of CGE Alex also thanked Shelley Gregory-Jones for her significant contribution to the organization: Shelley stood down during the year as Secretary to the Board, a role she fulfilled for eighteen months after nine years as a Trustee.

Alex noted that two new Trustees had been proposed: Wee Kii Teh and Amitabh Mehta.

Wee Kii Teh is an investment professional who has spent eight years working in the City of London, including six with Bank of America Merrill Lynch before moving to her current role as a portfolio manager in an asset management firm. Since 2019 she has volunteered for non-profit organisations in

London and Washington D.C. Originally from Malaysia, Wee Kii has been living and working in London since 2012. Wee Kii Teh was proposed as a Trustee by Kimberly Gire and seconded by Jenny Molloy. This motion was accepted unanimously by the members present.

Amitabh Mehta is an innovative and structured finance specialist with over 25 years of experience advising large international investment banks, development banks and multilateral organisations. Formerly the Deputy Director for GAVI in Geneva, he continues to advise the UN, WHO, Governments, Development Banks and Corporates on sustainable financing techniques and models. Focusing on sustainability and partnerships with alternative and diversified funding sources, his experience spans public healthcare, climate change, infrastructure, renewables and post-covid recovery financing. He also advises on transformational and organisational strategy. Amitabh Mehta was proposed as a Trustee by Jenny Molloy and seconded by Andrew Lamb. This motion was accepted unanimously by the members present.

#### 4.2 Re-appointment of Trustees retiring by rotation

Lara Allen, CEO, chaired this agenda item.

Lara stated that Kimberly Gire (Chair) and Alex Patto (Vice Chair) were retiring by rotation after a three-year term. Both are willing to stand for a second-term.

Beth Tennyson proposed Kimberly Gire and Alex Patto for a second-term. This was seconded by Ian Steed and accepted unanimously by the members present.

### 5. Proposed Resolutions

*(Chaired by Alex Patto, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees)*

5.1 First, Alex Patto proposed that Chater Allan be reappointed as CGE's Independent Examiners for the 2022-2023 financial year, and to authorize CGE's Board of Trustees to set the remuneration of the independent examiners. This was seconded by Beth Tennyson and accepted unanimously by the members present.

5.2 Alex Patto confirmed that there was no resolutions had been proposed by CGE members for this year.

### 6. Any other Business

Alex Patto invited the members present to raise any further matters. No matters were raised.

The formal portion of the AGM ended.

The AGM was followed by a presentation by Kitty Liao, CEO of IDEABATIC, titled "IDEABATIC: A journey to create the SMILE (Smart-mILE) Vaccine Colling System".