



# **General Assembly 2024 of the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety**

**20 March 2024 14:00 CET Online**

## **A. Welcome from the Chair of the Board**

Kulanthayan Mani (KM), Chair of the Board of Directors, welcomed and thanked members for joining and handed over to Manpreet Darroch (MD) to run the meeting.

## **B. Introduction**

MD explained the housekeeping rules for the online meeting and that all voting (full) members (nominated representatives) of the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety (the Alliance) are invited to participate in the General Assembly. He noted that Associate members and additional NGO representatives are not eligible to vote but can observe.

MD noted from the Alliance by-laws that the Board sets the date, the place, and the agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly and communicates this eight weeks in advance, that the agenda is presented six weeks before the General Assembly and Members may make comments in writing to the Secretariat up to four weeks before the General Assembly. MD noted that these requirements had been met and that no comments had been received.

The agenda was approved with no comments.

### **1. Appointment of the minute taker**

MD proposed Alexandra Ciobica (AC) as minute taker. No objections were noted. AC was appointed as minute taker.

### **2. Appointment of the persons counting the votes**

MD proposed Chukwu Otuto (CO) and Federico Tucci (FT) as the persons to observe the voting process and confirm the voting count with no objections. CO and FT were appointed as observers.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly of 2022, Hybrid (Online and in person)**

MD invited comments on the Minutes of the General Assembly in 2022, held in hybrid format (online and in Budapest, Hungary). No comments or objections were received and therefore the Minutes were approved.

#### **4. Minute of silence for road crash victims**

A minute of silence for road crash victims to remember those countless lives lost on the world's roads daily was held.

#### **5. Presentation of biennial report**

MD handed over to Lotte Brondum (LB) to lead this agenda. Find LB's presentation [HERE](#).

Highlights:

- The Alliance has 359 member NGOs in 104 countries, with members distributed across different regions.
- Membership has grown from 158 members in 2015 to 359 in 2024.
- LB described key activities and moments during the reporting period.
- She noted that underpinning all the activities is a focus on building an organization that is transparent. The Secretariat is working with the Board on financial management, backed with policies and audits.

#### **6. Presentation of the accounts**

LB presented the Alliance financials and explained the income sources for 2022 and 2023, including efforts to diversify income streams

#### **7. Report from the auditor**

LB explained that every year we conduct an audit. We are not required to do it annually according to our registration, but for transparency purposes we have chosen to. She noted that the accounts have been audited by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) for the past three years. PWC is recognized as a global well-recognized auditor. For 2022 and 2023, which are covered in this General Assembly, PWC have given us a "clean" opinion, which means that there is nothing that has raised any concerns.

The audits have been approved by the Board. No comments to the biennial report or financials were received.

#### **8. Presentation of planned activities 2024/2025**

LB spoke about planned activities for 2024 and 2025 to:

- Grow the network and cover more countries.
- Establish a member reporting tool in the near future to assist us to support members better.
- Boost the work at regional level through our Chapters in Africa and Latin America and with a view to building an Asia Chapter.
- Organize the first Regional Meeting in Latin America in November 2024 in Mexico City. We are working on the registration to begin soon.

- Organize a Global Meeting back-to-back with the Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in February 2025 in Morocco.
- Build Accountability work, looking at what is working and where the shortcomings are and considering scorecards and different tools that can be used to support accountability.
- Build capacity through webinars, trainings, and programs.
- Create as many advocacy moments as possible (e.g. #CommittoAct and the Global Plan anniversary).
- Continue to strengthen our governance structure with multiple registrations (U.S., Denmark, Switzerland).
- Continue work on strong financial management.
- Mobilize NGOs for Mobility snapshots.

## **9. Information about the financial planning for the coming years**

The Alliance's financial plans are to continue with existing funders and aim for multi-year funding (strategic perspective) as well as diversification of our income sources. LB thanked funders for supporting us and NGOs for being the face of the Alliance, showing why funders should support us and trust us.

## **10. Discussion, possible amendments, and approval of the amended by-laws**

LB explained that, according to the Alliance bylaws, the General Assembly can make changes to the Bylaws.

In 2022 and 2023, the Alliance underwent an external governance review which made recommendations for more transparency and better governance. The Board has worked on how to implement these recommendations with a committee of members and Secretariat.

Requests for revisions of the Bylaws must be presented no later than six weeks prior to the General Assembly. The proposed changes on the bylaws were shared with all voting members on 19 January 2024. No comments were received in advance and the Board approved the suggested changes on 6 March 2024.

No comments or objections were made and the bylaws were approved.

MD proceeded with the appointment of the auditor. It was proposed to continue with the same auditor: PWC.

No objections were made. PWC was appointed to continue conducting the audits.

## **11. Discharge of the Board**

MD discharged the existing Board and closed the list of voters.

LB thanked Board members for their commitment and for representing the views from the members. LB personally thanked Prerana Arora Singh (PAS) and KM for their five years on the Board and their dedication.

PAS expressed her gratitude for members' support and endorsed the policy of one Board Member from one region as it ensures diversity.

KM thanked members and friends of the Alliance for their trust and hoped that all members will be able to celebrate the achievements of SDG 3.6 targets by 2030.

LB explained that the Board of Directors is composed of five members who can run for a period of four years and be reelected for another four years. LB explained that KM and PAS have sat for five years due to the COVID-19 pandemic when we could not meet for the General Assembly. She thanked all the candidates for their interest in becoming a Board Member.

## **12.Election of new Board Members**

MD explained that two Board positions were open and that there were three candidates.

Two-minute video presentations were shown for each of the candidates, followed by an opportunity to ask each candidate questions:

- Donna Price (DP), Irish Road Victims' Association (IRVA), Ireland
- Maatla Otsogile (MO), Society of Road Safety Ambassadors (SORSA), Botswana
- Valerie Smith (VS), Parachute, Canada

MD paused for questions for the candidates. Six NGOs asked questions and the three candidates responded.

MD explained the election rules.

- Voting was via ElectionRunner with the link to the poll shared in the Zoom chat.
- Only full member NGOs had received a voter id and could vote. Full members had been asked to find and check their voter ids during the meeting. Any issues were resolved by Secretariat support staff on the call.
- A test poll was conducted to ensure that voters knew how to vote and could use their voter ids. Additional support was provided to resolve any issues arising during the test poll in preparation for the Board election.
- In the Board election, voting members were able to select up to two preferred candidates corresponding to the number of positions available.
- All votes were counted electronically and confirmed by FT and OC.
- Any candidate that received an absolute majority would be elected to the Board. An absolute majority is 50% of the voting pool (+1 in the case of an even number)

- After the first round, if less than two candidates have received an absolute majority, additional rounds of voting would be required.
- There were 74 registered voters on the call. The list of registered voters had been verified against the full member list.

MD led the first round of voting for the Board positions. 64 votes were cast in the first round meaning that candidates needed to secure 33 votes to be elected.

MO was elected in the first round with 34 votes. No other candidate received a majority. CO and FT confirmed that the result was valid.

MD announced that a second round of voting would therefore take place, voting for only one candidate out of the two remaining candidates for the one remaining Board seat. 57 votes were cast requiring a majority of 29. DP was elected with 31 votes in the second round. CO and FT confirmed the result was valid.

MD announced that MO and DP were appointed. MD thanked VS for her dedication and involvement in the election.

### **13.Presentation of new Board Members**

MD welcomed the new Board members, MO and DP.

The members of the Board are: Rajni Gandhi, Simon Kalolo, Maatla Otsogile, Viviam Perrone, and Donna Price. As per the bylaws, the Board is self constituting and the functions will be decided by the Board.

LB thanked everyone for participating, those who ran for the Board, and the outgoing Board Members for their hard work. She indicated that the next General Assembly will be in two years.

MD closed the General Assembly.