

Minutes of the CHS Alliance General Assembly vote held from 22 to 26 March 2021

1. Introduction

This General Assembly vote was convened according to the CHS Alliance's statutes and the quorum was reached. It was conducted virtually and was required to:

- a. elect new Board members;
- b. extend Robert Sweatman, the current interim Chair, in his role until 31 December 2021 the latest in order to allow more time to recruit a new Chair.

The vote was open to eligible full members – i.e. full members with good financial standing at the time of the vote – from 22 to 26 March 2021. The voting platform used was Simplyvoting which ensured we could check that a quorum is reached and that organisations only voted once. A webinar was organised on Monday 29 March 2021 to announce to the members results of the voting and update them on the work of the CHS Alliance and priorities for 2021.

The Executive Director, Tanya Wood, opened the webinar, welcomed participants and **announced that Robert Sweatman has been extended in his role of interim Chair until 31 December 2021 the latest by the vote of the General Assembly.**

Robert Sweatman, as returning officer for the Board elections, announced the results of the elections.

2. Results of the Board elections

Total number of voters was 60, which is 56.1% of the eligible full members, whose number was 107. Therefore, the quorum of 40% was reached.

Newly elected Board members:

Allan Calma (re-elected for a second term), Global Humanitarian Coordinator, LWF
Matthew Carter (re-elected for a second term), Humanitarian Director, CAFOD/Caritas
Shama Mall (re-elected for a second term), Deputy Regional Director – Programs & Organizational Development, CWS
Hana Abul Husn, Global Planning Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, War Child Holland
Susan Otieno, Executive Director, ActionAid International Kenya
Aimee Wielechowski, Head of HR Partnering and Development, Danish Refugee Council
Michael Barnett, University Professor, George Washington University (*Independent*)
Meg Sattler, Director, Ground Truth Solutions (*Independent*)

The interim Chair congratulated all new and returning Board members and thanked the current Board members and in particular office bearers, John Beverley – Treasurer of the CHS Alliance –, and Shama Mall – Vice-Chair. He also thanked two Board members leaving the Board, Dorothea Hilhorst and Anne-Cathrine Seland, for their contribution to the Board over the past few years.

Members were informed that the Chair recruitment process is still ongoing and that they will be asked to vote again when a suitable candidate will be found and presented to them before the end of the year.

3. Update on CHS Alliance's work

4.1. general update

The interim Chair mentioned that during the last Board meeting, three main themes were discussed on which the CHS Alliance will seek engagement from its membership, and these are:

- CHS revision process
- development of the new strategy for the CHS Alliance
- "localising the CHS" discussion paper.

The Executive Director listed the many opportunities for members to engage throughout 2021, exchange learning and experience among them and feedback on the Alliance's work, this includes: engagement through the Communities of Practice (COPs); participation in the Global Gathering on Cultivating Caring and Compassionate Aid Organisations taking place on 20-21 May 2021; participation in the Humanitarian Human Resources (HHR) Conference in June 2021 and in the CHS Exchange that will take place at the end of September 2021; engagement by piloting the Code of Conduct toolkit; and responding to Secretariat's requests to feedback in the frame of various projects, including the CHS revision process, development of the new strategy and the "localising the CHS" discussion paper.

4.2. Bringing the CHS closer to the people we serve

Bonaventure Sokpoh, CHS and Outreach Senior Advisor, presented the key elements of a discussion paper on "localising the CHS" that was shared with the membership on 22 March 2021 and on which feedback from members has been sought.

The CHS Alliance aims at having greater impact on people and contributing to the drive for localisation as the Core Humanitarian Standard offers significant potential in this area. The Alliance suggests developing activities that will help:

- increase engagement with national member organisations
- better understand the opportunities and challenges regarding the CHS verification with national NGOs
- advocate for increased donors' recognition for the CHS verification.

"Localising the CHS" discussion paper will be shared again with participants to the webinar.

4. Closing

The Executive Director reminded participants of the ways to keep in touch with news from the CHS Alliance, including subscribing to the newsletter.

The interim Chair concluded the meeting by encouraging once more the members to participate in the 2021 upcoming events and encouraged them to get in touch with the Secretariat to feedback on and contribute to the work of the CHS Alliance.

The interim Chair also thanked Tanya Wood for her great leadership and inspirational attitude.


end of the meeting



Robert Sweatman
Interim Chair



Matthew Carter
Board member



Hélène Maillet
Minutes taker