

MINUTES OF NCD ALLIANCE 2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Virtual - Geneva

17 May 2023

1. WELCOME INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

NCD Alliance President, Anne Lise Ryel (ALR) warmly welcomed all NCD Alliance members to the virtual General Assembly (GA). ALR noted that this meeting was being held virtually in the same order as the previous GA in 2021. She thanked all NCD Alliance members for their tireless work in doing everything within their capacity to raise voices for the rights of people living with NCDs.

ALR outlined logistical information on the running of the virtual General Assembly and the role of the General Assembly as set out in the NCD Alliance Constitution.

ALR introduced the General Assembly agenda, explained each of the items and requested approval of the agenda.

The agenda was approved.

2. ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

NCD Alliance CEO, Katie Dain (KD) presented an overview of NCD Alliance performance, outlining the main strategic areas of focus for 2021-2023 and the work delivered and progress made.

KD stated that most of NCD Alliance activities were covered in the Annual Report for 2021 and 2022, the latter being published today. It was noted that the NCD Alliance Strategy 2021-2026 and the four impact goals on prevention, care, financing and community engagement guides the work of the organisation across the main strategic pathways.

KD's presentation covered highlights and achievements across global advocacy and accountability, capacity development, knowledge, and partnerships. Global advocacy milestones were covered, as well as the Global Week for Action (GW4A) campaign which had continued to grow and mobilised the movement every September with a different thematic issue. NCD Alliance's growing capacity development programmes such as the Advocacy Institute were highlighted, as was the impact of the work to promote the meaningful involvement of people living with NCDs. NCD Alliance's knowledge activities have grown, with a focus on solution-focused story-telling. And NCD Alliance's membership and partnership base has been extended, and the landmark of NCD Alliance achieving Official Relations status with WHO.

KD closed by acknowledging the work of the NCD Alliance team and their commitment, dedication and professionalism.

3. OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

Cary Adams (CA) NCD Alliance Treasurer, shared a summary of NCD Alliance's financial performance for 2021 and 2022 and an overview of the 2021 and 2022 audited accounts.

CA highlighted that in 2021, PwC performed a full audit of the financial statements and, to comply with NCD Alliance donor requirements, an additional audit was performed in accordance with International Standards of Auditing. It was also noted that in 2022, as part of their full audit, PwC conducted an examination of the organisation's internal control systems using a validated risk assessment model. It was noted that this new type of audit was an additional guarantee to NCD Alliance's credibility and a reassurance for the donors. CA stated that both audits were clean and were in line with Swiss

standards.

CA advised the GA that NCD Alliance had secured nearly \$7.5m over the two years by securing more partners and encouraging existing partners to increase their level of investment to support NCDA's work. He also highlighted that NCDA responded quickly and professionally to the COVID crisis from a financial management perspective, carefully controlling costs, working with partners to cover the costs of essential projects and adjusting its financial forecasts given the ongoing economic uncertainties.

CA advised the GA that the Board's policy was to maintain the reserves at a prudent level given the ongoing global economic uncertainties. It is currently set at 6 months of operating costs. NCDA has steadily increased its reserve level since 2017, and despite the operating deficit in 2022, the reserve position was still in line with the financial policy agreed by the Board.

CA recommended that the General Assembly approves the annual accounts for 2021 and 2022.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

ALR advised the GA that the NCDA Board had conducted a governance review in 2022 to reflect upon the nominations and election process for the last General Assembly in 2021. There were three main focus areas of the governance review: Founding Membership; Board composition and term of NCDA President; and the Nominations process. A set of recommendations on each of these areas was unanimously approved by the NCDA Board in May 2022.

ALR stated that all members had received the changes to the Constitution in advance of the meeting, and stated the changes were for approval by the members.

5. OVERVIEW OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS PROCESS FOR 2023

José Luis Castro (JLC) past President of NCDA, former Board Member and member of the Nominations Committee, gave an overview of the nominations process for the election of President-Elect and Board of Directors for the term 2023-2025.

JLC outlined the relevant NCDA Constitution articles for the nominations process. He stated that the NCDA Board was made up of 14 Board Members (including President and President-Elect). The President-Elect and 8 Board member seats were up for election at the GA. Four seats on the Board are appointed representatives of the four founding members UICC, IDF, WHF and The Union.

JLC outlined the purpose and role of the Nominations Committee, mandated to review the nominations and shortlist a slate of candidates. The shortlisting process was conducted in line with the criteria outlined in the Nominations Policy, while also ensuring a balance of geographies, gender, and skills and expertise. In addition, the Committee also considered the need to balance continuity and renewal of Board of Directors. He also stated that it was important to note that none of the members of the Nominations Committee were running for election or re-election, thereby avoiding any potential or real conflict of interest.

JLC provided a timeline of the process which started on 20 January 2023 with key milestones. He advised that 20 outstanding nominations for the Board and 2 nominations for President-Elect had been received from members, covering all geographical areas. The names and profiles of the candidates were announced to members on 24 March 2023. He presented the shortlisted candidates up for election at the GA and wished all candidates a successful election.

ALR thanked JLC for the presentation and thanked the outgoing Board who have contributed

significantly to NCDA over the past 2 years.

6. Q&A SESSION

KD moderated a live and interactive Q&A session with members, with questions raised on NCDA's achievements, the new type of audit, the implications of the WHO official relations status, and the Global NCDA Forum.

7. NCD ALLIANCE STRATEGY 2021-2026 AND PLANS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Monika Arora (MA) stated that it was a real honour to take up the position of NCDA President from today and for the next two years; she is extremely committed to NCDA and serving its members. She also thanked ALR for her commitment and leadership as NCD Alliance President over the past two years.

MA reminded the GA that NCD Alliance's work is guided by the long-term strategy 2021-2026 which was developed by the Board in consultation with members and presented at the 2021 General Assembly; it is now year three of the strategy, which marks the half-way point to 2026. For the next two years, NCDA has a clear set of priorities against each of the 4 impact goals. These will guide and frame NCDA's work across all 4 pathways for action: advocacy and accountability, capacity development, knowledge and partnerships.

MA summarised the priorities on prevention, care, financing and community engagement being taken forward over the next two years, along with priorities on integrating NCDs within other global health and development priorities such as pandemic preparedness and response, HIV/AIDS, climate change, and women and children's health.

MA outlined the outcomes that NCDA will strive to achieve as a result of the work and activities:

- Progress made against the WHO and UN global NCD goals and targets for 2025 and 2030.
- Political leadership and commitment on NCDs at global, regional and country levels.
- Accelerated national and regional action and implementation on NCDs.
- NCDs integrated within other global health and development priorities, resulting in more joint-up approaches and focus on win-win solutions.
- An active and strong NCD civil society movement, including a strong network of national and regional NCD alliances, that is building demand for change at global, regional and national levels.
- Meaningful involvement of civil society and people living with NCDs within NCD policy development and implementation, decision-making, health service design and delivery, and monitoring and accountability.
- Increased and expanded NCDA's membership base across all regions, and strengthened interaction and engagement to foster exchange of best practice and drive change.
- Increasingly diverse partnership base which is aligned with NCDA's long-term ambitions and goals.

MA thanked NCDA members and handed back to ALR.

8. VOTE RESULTS OF THE MINUTES, THE FINANCIALS AND DISCHARGE OF THE BOARD

ALR announced the vote result from the electronic voting platform for the various agenda items. Members had been able to vote on the platform since 00:01 GMT on 17 May 2023. The following

agenda items were approved by members:

- **Approved the 2021 General Assembly Minutes.**
- **Approved the Financial Accounts 2021 and 2022.**
- **Approved changes to the NCD Alliance Constitution.**
- **Approved the discharge of the Board and the CEO for the reporting period.**

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2023-2025 PRESIDENT-ELECT AND BOARD

ALR announced the results of the new NCD Alliance President-Elect first, followed by Board for the term 2023-2025:

President Elect: **Leslie Rae Ferat**, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Tobacco Control (Canada)

Elected Board Members: **Beatriz Champagne**, Executive Director, Coalition for Americas' Health/Coalición Latinoamérica Saludable (CLAS), (Brazil)

Marie Hauerslev, Former Chair, NCD Child (Denmark)

Ishu Kataria, Senior Public Health Researcher, Center for Global NCDs, RTI International, (India)

Eva Njenga, Chair, NCD Alliance Kenya (Kenya)

Bo Norvving, Past President, World Stroke Organisation (Sweden)

Kaushik Ramaiya, Honorary General Secretary, Tanzania NCD Alliance (Tanzania)

Pubudu Sumanasekara, Executive Director and President, NCD Alliance Lanka, Sri Lanka; Consultant for RESET Alcohol Initiative, Vital Strategies, (Sri Lanka)

Laura Tucker-Longsworth, Board Member, Healthy Caribbean Coalition; President, Belize Cancer Society, (Belize)

These board members join Monika Arora who is now President of NCD Alliance, as well as the appointed Founding Federation representatives on the NCD Alliance Board for this term, as outlined below:

Founding Federation Reps: **Guy Marks**, President and Executive Director, The Union, (Australia)

Peter Schwarz, IDF President-Elect and Head of Division, Prevention and Care of Diabetes at Carl Gustav Carus University, (Germany)

Saunthari Somasundaram, UICC Representative; Chair, NCD Malaysia and President, National Cancer Society of Malaysia (Malaysia)

Liesl Zühlke, WHF Board Member and Vice President, South African Medical Research Council, (South Africa)

ALR congratulated the new President-Elect and the new members of the Board of Directors of NCD Alliance.

10. CLOSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Before closing the General Assembly, ALR invited the new President-Elect, Leslie Rae Ferat, to say a few words. She then thanked the outgoing Board again for all their work, thanked KD and her team

for their dedication and impact, and the members for their tireless work at national, regional and global levels for NCD prevention and care. She shared that it had been an honour for her to serve as NCD Alliance President over the past two years and congratulated the incoming Leadership and was assured they would steer NCDA to further increase its impact and promote health, protect rights, and save lives.

ALR closed the General Assembly.

Signed: _____

Anne Lise Ryel
President of the General Assembly

Signed: _____

Marion Ovide
Secretary of the General Assembly