

Amnesty International members only

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2022 GLOBAL ASSEMBLY MEETING: DECISIONS REPORT

AI Index: ORG 50/5886/2022

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Summary: This document contains all the decisions of the 2022 Global Assembly meeting, which met virtually on 30&31 July 2022.

It also includes the Chair's Statement, a summary of the meeting's discussions. The full report of the 2022 Global Assembly meeting will be shared within 60 days from the end of the meeting (Global Governance Regulation 11.1.1).

How to use this paper: This is an internal document which is being sent to all standing representatives and Global Assembly meeting participants. Please share this document with your board, members and staff so that they are aware of the Global Assembly's decisions.

As mandated by Global Governance Regulation 6.2.3, all parts of the Movement are required to implement Global Assembly Decisions.

All the papers for the 2022 GA meeting can be found on the [2022 GA meeting website](#).

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CHAIR'S STATEMENT

The online 2022 Global Assembly (GA) meeting process started at the beginning of July with the International Treasurer webinars and culminated with the GA meeting on 30 & 31 July.

This was Amnesty's 61st year where we came together to reflect on our many accomplishments and the challenges we face as a global Movement. We heard from our Secretary General (SG) Agnès Callamard who highlighted some of our achievements this year such as the Climate Justice Strategy, Work on Racial Justice, 2048 Commission and the Future and Innovations Lab. Agnes stressed the importance of being transformative, courageous, and impactful and reminded us of the important work we all do.

The first day of our meeting gave us an opportunity to hold our leadership to account during the accountability session where questions were asked on a range of topics from governance to ways of working. For the first time in Amnesty's history, we discussed, approved, and voted on motions ahead of the Global Assembly meeting. Although this was an intense year for all involved, we have demonstrated that we can adapt and continue to maintain an effective global governance process. The first panellist session was centred on 'Building our Movement' where we heard from four panellists that shared the challenges they faced in their entities and the contributions they made to both their Sections and Amnesty International.

On Day 2 of our meeting, we heard about the importance of Building Trust in the Movement in a session led by Marco Blankenburgh, CEO of KnowledgeWorkx. The session was centred on communication, developing trust and cultural agility. The second panellist session was focused on 'Human Rights Impact' and the importance of celebrating the Movement, its membership and building the Movement in difficult times.

We ended the day by saying farewell to all the volunteer governors across all our International Committees. We thanked our outgoing members and welcome new members, as well as extending a heartfelt thanks to Amnesty leaders past, present, and future for their contributions and dedication to Amnesty's mission and have helped to position the organisation at the forefront of human rights.

As expressed in the presentation on Building Trust in the Movement session, "you cannot prevent a major catastrophe, but you can build an organisation that is battle-ready, that has high morale, that knows how to behave, that trusts itself, and where people trust one another - without trust people won't fight." – Peter Drucker.

In solidarity,

Lana Verran,
2022 Acting Chair Global Assembly and PrepCom

2022 GLOBAL ASSEMBLY MEETING: DECISIONS

These are the decisions of the 2022 Global Assembly meeting. As mandated by the Global Governance Regulations:

- All parts of the Movement are required to implement Global Assembly decisions (Regulation 6.2.3).
- At the next Global Assembly Regular Meeting, there will be a presentation in plenary for approval of a report on the implementation of the Global Assembly decisions (Regulation 10.1.2 (f)).

DECISION 2022/01: A SIMPLIFIED SET OF CORE STANDARDS INTEGRATED WITHIN A GLOBAL AMNESTY ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Global Assembly

Decides to adopt a simplified set of core standards updated from Decision 6 ICM 2013 and presented within a global accountability framework as a result of GA Decision 2021/2 on the Core standards Review.

The Global assembly further notes that this framework:

- Applies to the International Secretariat, Amnesty sections, structures, national offices and any entity within Amnesty;
- Clarifies a definition statement on what accountability means within Amnesty and rests on principles of accountability, transparency and adaptability to the entity capacity;
- Integrates the national level accountabilities entities have to their membership and national level legislation requirements as well as the global level accountability and that these are not mutually exclusive but build on each other to strengthen Amnesty as a global organization;
- Is based on four clusters with 20 core standards expressed in principles: organizes the core standards within three accountability clusters of Governance and Leadership; Finance and Growth; Organizational Health and includes a fourth cluster on Enabling Human Rights Impact aligned with the Global Strategy;
- Commits the Movement to a process for progress for compliance on core standards, through learning and open feedback;
- Proposes an online self-assessment process for 2023 coordinated by the IS which will happen every two years and include a process of feedback on assessments, support in designing and monitoring corrective plans, and in providing capacity building and templates, and link creation of peer learning groups based on learning needs identified through the assessments;

- Asks all entities to strengthen their commitment to upholding core standards implementation and monitoring through formal adoption by their board members every year, to ensure continuity and engagement;
- Advises the IB/IS to provide support and coordinate learning resources to help national entities to meet standards;
- Stresses the importance of both compliance and learning by setting out a progressive protocol of consequences and corrective measures in keeping with Amnesty’s Statutes and Regulations to protect Amnesty people, resources and reputation;
- Recommends the creation of a working group comprised of national entity and IS colleagues to help achieve the following objectives:
 1. To finalise the ‘must have’ and ‘good to have’ indicators for each of the 20 proposed Core standards within the accountability framework.
 2. To test an online self-assessment survey that will be based on measuring progress against the 20 standards indicators.
 3. To finalize the standards assessment process and how this will be linked to future learning processes, and peer review.
 4. To discuss and finalize the accreditation/re-accreditation process which has been outlined in the accountability framework. Their work would be completed no later than June 2023.

The accountability definition statement and 20 Core standards Principles that all Amnesty entities commit to are:

Accountability Definition statement: “Accountability in the AI Movement is understood as the responsible use of resources and action taken to deliver our vision and strategy. By this, we honour and celebrate the worldwide joint impact of our work in Human Rights. We are accountable to rights holders on whose behalf we work, to Amnesty International Members, Supporters, Volunteers, Donors and fellow entities within the Amnesty movement. This means that all entities and groups are accountable to each other in a spirit of mutual respect of each other’s role and purpose. We commit to meeting our human rights objectives, agreed Core Standards in governance, organizational health, financial management and growth by monitoring our performance in an integrated methodology; by sharing information transparently; by listening through consultation and learning by feedback.”

- **Core Standard Principles**

Enabling Human Rights Impact Standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to deliver on the Strategy in accordance with the Global Strategy Measurement Framework • Planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes • Investing in learning and capacity development • Developing Members, Supporter Growth and Engagement
Finance and Growth Standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance to financial regulations • Financial due diligence: controls and Risk management • Sustainable funding • Diversification of income • Anti-corruption/bribery
Organizational Health Standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive employer -respect for labour rights • Respecting Racial and Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion • Promoting Communication, Feedback and complaints mechanism • Prioritize Health and Wellbeing • Mitigating Risks, Ensuring Security and Safeguarding • Environmentally sustainable
Governance and Leadership standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic and accountable Board, Leadership and members • Commitment to excellence and performance • Clear roles and responsibility for Feminist and Anti-Racist Leadership • Duty of Care to staff and volunteers • Transparency and Integrity in Decision-making

Arising from motion 1

DECISION 2022/02: INTERNATIONAL BOARD REFORM

The Global Assembly

Decides to accept the International Board’s proposal for International Board Reform on how it is composed, mandated, resourced, and performs. The IB has over the years struggled with equitability, wellbeing, untenable workload, perpetual crisis, and performance issues resulting in 20 out of 40 motions from 2017 remaining uncompleted, with further burnout, resignations, and under performance. To synchronise and streamline, the following reforms are accepted:

- IB members are remunerated. The Board Payments Committee will be disestablished. The existing policy for reimbursement is reviewed and approved by the Finance and Audit Committee (a committee of the Global Assembly) and the IB will report to the Movement and make public the way forward for remuneration.

Arising from motion 2B

DECISION 2022/03: INTERNATIONAL BOARD REFORM

The Global Assembly

Decides to accept the International Board’s proposal for International Board Reform on how it is composed, mandated, resourced, and performs. The IB has over the years struggled with equitability, wellbeing, untenable workload, perpetual crisis, and performance issues resulting in 20 out of 40 motions from 2017 remaining uncompleted, with further burnout, resignations, and under performance. To synchronise and streamline, the following reforms are accepted:

1. The International Board makes a recommendation to the Global Assembly on whether GA decisions from 2017 onwards that have been superseded strategically, are no longer relevant or unable to be actioned are closed down with supporting rationale with the Global Assembly as the ultimate decision maker.
2. Following from point 1 above, the IB will create alternative models to the instruction and automatic enrolment of the IB with every GA decision, task force, and committee.
3. Motions are proposed every other year at the GA or as follows from point 2 above, the IB is not tasked to every motion.

Arising from motion 2C

DECISION 2022/04: REFORM THE VOTING MODEL FOR INTERNATIONALLY ELECTED POSITIONS

The Global Assembly

Decides to change the voting system for internationally elected positions on Amnesty International’s global governance bodies from a First Past the Post to a Single Transferable Vote.

This change will take effect in 2023 and requires the following immediate changes to article 8.1.12 of the Global Governance Regulations:

8.1.12 The elections are conducted as follows:

- (a) Voting takes place online using a voting system called the Single Transferable Vote (STV). STV is a proportional representation method of election in which voters rank candidates in order of preference.

- (b) There is one ballot for each election. Standing representatives only vote once during each election. Each Standing Representative may rank candidates on the ballot paper in order of preference (1, 2, 3 etc.). Standing representatives can vote for as many or as few candidates as they wish. The number “1” must be used in order for a ballot paper to be valid. Failure to record any preferences will limit a voter’s influence on the election result. Abstentions are not counted.
- (c) Candidates must achieve a minimum percentage of votes (known as a ‘quota’) to be elected. The surplus votes of any candidate elected with more votes than needed (i.e. above the quota) are transferred to the remaining candidates in order of preference based on voters’ second choices. This redistributive process is repeated until all the vacancies are filled.
- (d) If no one reaches or exceeds the quota, the candidate or candidates with the fewest votes are excluded from the count. The votes of candidates who have been excluded due to insufficient support and therefore cannot be elected are transferred to the voter’s next favourite choice of candidate. This process is repeated until all the vacancies are filled. The quota is calculated at each stage of the voting process using a set mathematical formula.
- (e) In the case of an uncontested election, Standing Representatives are required to select their preferred candidate(s) using STV.
- (f) In the event of a tie for the last vacant place there is a re-election between the candidates with an equal number of votes.

Arising from motion 3

DECISION 2022/05: TAXATION, INEQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (HIGH-LEVEL PRINCIPLES, WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE)

The Global Assembly

approves a set of high-level principles (as listed number 1 to 7 below), plus a work plan and timeline (as set out in the annex to document ORG 50/5516/2022) for a policy on taxation, inequality and human rights.

1. States must ensure domestic taxation policies and measures are designed to deliver sufficient resources in order to invest in the progressive realization of human rights
2. States must ensure that the fundamental principles of participation and transparency are adhered to throughout the taxation process
3. All states’ decisions and measures on taxation must be subject to effective means of accountability
4. States must ensure taxation is collected in a way that respects and advances equality and non-discrimination

5. States must respect their international cooperation and assistance and extra-territorial obligations to promote tax cooperation, eliminate harmful tax competition, combat tax evasion and tax avoidance and avoid policies that prevent other states' from maximising their own tax revenue

6. Corporate actors should ensure that they respect their human rights responsibilities with respect to all of their business practices concerning taxation

7. States must ensure that their taxation policies and measures contribute to addressing the climate crisis in a human rights consistent manner

Arising from motion 4

DECISION 2022/06: GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR FEMINIST LEADERSHIP FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The Global Assembly

Decides to adopt a set of guiding principles for feminist leaderships, as set out in the Annex to this motion, to support and guide Amnesty International.

Recognizes that feminist leadership is a heterogeneous and continuing process, not a destination. The principles that the Movement is adopting are aimed at building new forms of relationships and exercise of power through transparent, collective, collaborative, and accountable decision-making that promotes equal participation, and will help to facilitate discussions on how power is distributed and exercised in the organization, promoting social justice, and bringing about transformative change both inside and outside the organisation.

Arising from motion 5