



Report of the CIVICUS Board of Directors Meeting 12 – 14 November 2024, Johannesburg – South Africa

The CIVICUS Board of Directors held its second in-person meeting of 2024 in Johannesburg, from the 12th to 14th of November 2024. [This followed the meeting held in London in June 2024.](#)

The Board tries to hold at least one in-person meeting annually at the Joburg Hub as an opportunity to meet and interact with Secretariat staff. This meeting was hosted by the Interim Co-Secretary Generals, Claire Nylander and Mandeep Tiwana.

The first day started with the Board joining the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Cluster Leads for a workshop. The formal Board agenda kicked off in the afternoon, with updates from the core Board committees: Membership, Governance, Operations and the Executive Committee.

The Co-SG's briefed the Board on developments at the Secretariat, including operations, programmes and governance before the Board proceeded for an in-camera session to discuss the ongoing SG recruitment process. The in-camera session extended into the start of the second day.

Following the in-camera session at the start of the second day, the Membership and Networks team from the Secretariat updated the Board on planning for the first physical post-Covid International Civil Society Week, to be held in 2025.

Board members reflected on the Board culture as part of a discussion around the Board's ways of working, in response to a disturbance in inter-personal relations between some Board members experienced at some point in 2024. It was noted that no single entity is immune to disruption of some form, the Board included, and therefore this discussion focused on remedial measures, lessons learned and way forward.

The Board held a final discussion on the anonymous complaint from 2024 and considered the process finally closed. The Board discussed the upcoming Board elections, focusing on constitution of the Nominations Committee and key guidelines for the Committee. The Board ended the day with an engagement with the Youth Action Team.

The third day started with administrative/strategic/governance obligations, including a robust discussion on the Risk Register, the Board attendance policy and induction of new Board members. This was followed by a discussion with a representative from the Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA), before reflective discussion with the SLT focusing on CIVICUS' identity.

The meeting ended with a brief from the Board Chair to Secretariat staff before a sit-in lunch by the Board and staff.

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Below are some of the key decisions from the meeting:

- The Board recommended a review of its By-laws to address a few administrative gaps that may compromise the realisation of full accountability by Board members in certain instances, e.g. where a Board member with an ongoing conduct matter decides to resign rather than face a full accountability process.
- The Board decided to develop a full-fledged operational Board Code of conduct that is separate from the Member Code of Conduct.
- The Board considered the anonymous complaints case closed and advised that further issues on the matter should be channelled to the Governance Committee for guidance.
- The Board decided that the Nominations Committee to oversee the 2025 Board elections will comprise of 5 members, including two possible external members.
- The Board acknowledged the importance of election audits as good practice. However, it was noted that the 2025 Board election will only be subjected to an independent external audit if there is a compelling reason to do so.
- The Board approved the Risk Register with comments and asked for an updated version to be submitted at the next Operations Committee meeting for a final review.
- It was decided that there should be further conversation on CIVICUS' identity and that this should be guided by a complete Board.

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