

Minutes of the Nominations Committee Meeting of the CIVICUS Board held on Wednesday 12 August 2020, 15h00-16h00 (SAST) via Zoom

Present: Nilda Bullain (Chair), Amitabh Behar, Jesse Chen, Pauline Wanja and Anabel Cruz

In attendance: John Mang'ana (Secretariat Rep).

1. Confirmation of participants/ adoption of agenda

The meeting opened at 15:06 with confirmation of quorum, following which, the Agenda was adopted as presented, with all in favour.

2. Opening remarks by Chair

The Chair in setting the tone for the work ahead, started by inviting general comments on strategy and process from Committee members.

- The Committee noted the importance of Board elections as a moment to re-energise the movement and our alliances. Ensuring their active participation in the process was therefore an important measure of success.
- It was recorded that five positions are open for the 2020 Board elections. These are currently held by Board members who started their three-year term in January 2018 and who are all eligible for re-election.
- It was noted that the limited number of available positions is a challenge when there is a high number of qualified nominations, especially as serving Board members are often re-elected. It was recommended that this matter be referred back to the Board for a broader structural discussion.
- The Committee reaffirmed the Board's decision not to automatically short-list current or serving Board members to be part of the slate – past performance must be considered.
- The Committee noted the significant gap in the number of Voting and Non-voting members. Some Committee members expressed a desire to see an improvement on this front.
- The Committee emphasised the importance of arriving at diverse and representative slate, including youth leaders, informal groups/ grassroots movements.

Action point: Secretariat to share with the Committee a list of the outgoing members including their geographical locations.

1. Patricia Lerner – North America (United States of America)
2. Lorenzo Marsili – Europe (Italy)
3. Daisy Owomugasho – Africa (Uganda)
4. Ziya Guliyev – Asia (Azerbaijan)
5. Nyaradzo Mashayamombe – Africa (Zimbabwe)

3. Elections timeline

Approval: The Committee approved the proposed elections timeline.

4. Call for nominations

Approval: The Committee authorised the Secretariat to proceed with the elections process and specifically, to open the call for nominations as outlined in the approved elections timeline.

Approval: The Committee approved the mailers and the nominations form. The Secretariat team was asked to ensure that the dates reflected in the documents were correct.

5. Assessment criteria

Approval: The Committee approved the recommended assessment criteria to be applied in the primary vetting.

The following assessment criteria is recommended for both seeking Board candidates and for preparing the slate:

- Commitment: to the organisation, support for the CIVICUS Mission, Vision, Values, Goals and Programmes;
- Service: a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort, serving on committees and representing CIVICUS from time to time;
- Strategic vision: prepare and adhere to a sound strategic plan that provides measurable goals and ensures ongoing financial resources to support the organisation's staffing and programmes;
- Accountability and personal reputation among peers;
- Understanding/Promotion of gender equality dimensions of civil society issues;
- Good, independent judgement;
- Innovation: an ability to think creatively;
- Candidness: a willingness to speak their mind;
- Enthusiasm: eager to learn, willing to be team players, and energetic in their service;
- Responsibility: understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of a Board member: demonstration of compliance with Board responsibilities and policies (attendance to Board meetings, participation in Committees and similar Board duties)
- Teamwork: an ability to work effectively as a member of a team.

Whilst selecting the candidates, it is important to ensure that there is good:

- Thematic expertise balance;
- Geographic/regional balance (Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania);
- Demographic balance (including marginalised groups and youth representation);
- Gender balance;
- Reasonable age distribution;
- Grassroots / informal groups versus established / formal groups balance;
- Critical competencies and necessary skills, e.g., finance, gender equality, evaluation;

6. AOB and confirmation of next steps

The Secretariat will provide an update to the Committee on the next phase of the process after Nominations are received and recorded.

It was noted that email communication remained an option (in between Committee meetings) for any matters that required the Committee's urgent attention.

There being no other matters, the meeting closed at 16h00 SAST.

Documentation:

Reference documents distributed by email included:

1. Meeting pack