General Assembly of Members
WAN-IFRA
WAN-IFRA FR
17 June 2022, 13:30-14:00
Online

AGENDA

Opening of Assembly
Approval of minutes: GAM Online, 1 December 2021
Membership development
Report of the Treasurer 2021, ratification of annual accounts and appointment of a Certified Auditor
Election of Officers
Next General Assembly of Members

Opening of assembly
President Fernando Yarza opened the meeting welcoming the Members. He started by renewing the invitation to the World News Media Congress, which will be held from 28 to 30 September 2022 in Zaragoza Spain. On the 28th there will be the visit of the king, and the Prime Minister and Minister and Culture were invited for the following days to ensure a strong institutional representation from the leadership of the country.

Vincent thanked Fernando for his unweathering support of the Congress.

Vincent explained that in the online meetings the voting procedure would need to happen using the "chat with all" feature, in order to ensure transparency. To facilitate keeping count and record, only abstentions and negative votes should be expressed. Vincent proceeded reminding members of the contents of the agenda and inviting all to download the supporting documents for the Assembly, available on the general assembly webpage.

Vincent reminded the members that this would be the last General Assembly of Members for the year, the next taking place during the Congress in June 2023 in Taipei.

Approval of minutes and activity highlights
The minutes of the General Assembly of Members held online on December 1, 2021 and circulated to members ahead of the meeting were unanimously approved.
Vincent quickly presented the highlights of the association's activities from the first semester of the year, which saw a wealth of initiatives both from the business and non-profit side of WAN-IFRA. In six months more than 6300 participants registered to 107 professional events including workshops, conferences, webinars and trainings. 5,12 million Euros were raised to support events, activities and capacity building initiatives. 39 publishers, tech providers and individual members newly joined WAN-IFRA. Vincent mentioned the many special programmes available tuition-free to members, including Table Stakes Europe, the Subscription Lab and the Newsroom and Business Transformation Programme.

The Media Freedom activities raised 750k Euros, allowing to train and coach over 900 media professionals from 18 countries. Over the past 12 months more than 2000 journalists, editors and newsroom managers benefitted from the WAN-IFRA trainings. The "We The Media" fundraising campaign raised 170k Euros in direct support of the Ukrainian press that, through member associations UAPP-UAMB and AIRPPU reached 150+ news organisations in the country. Other vital direct financial support to media in fragile states included editorial grants for African media organisations and emergency aid to Afghan colleagues.

Report of the Treasurer 2021
Treasurer Paul Verwilt took the floor. He reminded the members that when he started his office at WAN-IFRA in 2017 the situation was dire, the association was struggling with cash and the internal goal was to reach 1 million Euros in cash reserves. He is happy that we succeeded, and it can be said that now WAN-IFRA reached a sound position to perform its activities in a comfortable way.

The profit and loss statement shows a positive net result of 428k Euros, with a difference between the budget and the result 2021 in excess of 600k Euros, and an EBITDA of 278k Euros. The main takeaway is that WAN-IFRA had a positive result mainly due to more externally funded and consult projects, better membership development, kurzarbeit (short time work) support, lower debit losses, and a few extraordinary factors such as lower vacations provisions.

He proceeded to comment in more detail the WAN-IFRA balance sheet. He showed that the equity on 1st January 2021 was 653k Euros, while on 31st December 2021 it reached 1,1 million Euros. As for liquidity, the higher cash level was made possible by the positive results over the last five years and the advance payments received.

The members approved unanimously the ratification of the annual accounts.

Election of Officers
Vincent moved to the next agenda point and reminded the members that the candidatures to the supervisory Board were evaluated by the Nominating Committee, established three years ago, which comprises Cristina Soares (Portugal), Toyosi Ogunseye (Nigeria), Stig Ørskov (Denmark), Martha Ramos (Mexico), Sinead Boucher (New Zealand), David Callaway (USA), DD Purkayastha (India) and Lisa McLeod (UK).

The 11 new candidates to the Supervisory Board of WAN-IFRA were presented to the members:
Lina Attalah, Co-founder and Director, Mada Masr Media, Egypt
Marijana Bojanic, CEO, Vijesti, Montenegro
Juan Pablo Bojanini, President, El Heraldo de Barranquilla, Colombia
Alia Ibrahim, Co-founder and CEO, Daraj Media, Lebanon
Mohit Jain, Executive Director, Bennett, Coleman & Co, India
Barbara Kaia, Editor in Chief, New Vision, Uganda
Caroline Jerotich Kimutai, Digital Editor, Standard Group, Kenya
Patty Michalski, Sr VP Content Strategy and Innovation, Hearst, USA
Agnes Kalekye Nguna, COO, Radio Africa Group Limited, Kenya
Caroline Southey, Founding Editor, The Conversation Africa, South Africa
Lay Lim Teo, CEO, SPH Media Ltd, Singapore

The Assembly elected the new Supervisory Board members with unanimous vote.

A total 14 current members of the Supervisory Board were presented for re-election and were confirmed:
Alexander Mitteräcker, CEO, Der Standard, Austria
Daniel Van Wylick, Administrateur, Lapresse.be, Belgium
Stoyana Georgieva, Publisher/Editor In Chief, Mediapool.Ltd., InfoSpace Foundation, Bulgaria
Juan Jaime Diaz, President, Asociación Nacional de la Prensa, Chile
Jean-Pierre de Kerraoul, President, ENPA, France
Thomas Lindner, CEO, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany
Paul Peckels, CEO, Mediahuis Luxembourg – Président ALMI Luxembourg
Sinead Boucher, CEO, Stuff, New Zealand
Rolf Dyrnes, Chair Person, Global Alliance for Media Innovation, Norway
Pia Rehnquist, Head of Content, Bonnier News Local, Sweden
Guy Black, Group Deputy Chairman, Telegraph Media Group, United Kingdom
Lisa MacLeod, Principal Publishing Lead, FT Strategies (Financial Times), United Kingdom
Toyosi Ogunseye, Senior News Editor for News and Commissioning, BBC, Nigeria
Jennifer Bertetto, President and CEO, Trib Total Media, United States

Vincent expressed heartfelt thanks to 7 members who are leaving the Supervisory Board:
Juan Amaya, Gerente General, El Tiempo, Colombia
Fatimah Farag, Founder/CEO, Welad ElBalad Media, Egypt
Shailesh Gupta, Director, Jagran Prakashan Ltd, India
José Manuel Lozano, former Managing Director, 20 minutos, Spain
Donna Hall, former Publisher, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, United States
Majella Gallagher, former Managing Director, The Irish Examiner and The Echo, Ireland
Petru Macovei, Executive Director, API (Association of Independent Press), Moldova

The Supervisory Board of WAN-IFRA comprises now 73 members from 49 countries, 26% of which being women. Vincent commented that the changes in the Board advance WAN-IFRA’s ongoing commitment to deliver on its strategic plan for Diversity Equality and Inclusion initiated in 2017 and confirm that a growing
number of women are taking up senior positions in the media. He admitted that the association did not reach its original goal to have its governing bodies composed by at least 30% of women by 2020: an update on the strategy will be presented at the Board meeting scheduled for September 2022.

**Next Meetings**

The next Supervisory Board meeting will take place on September 29, during the 73rd World News Media Congress in Zaragoza, Spain. The next General Assembly of Members will instead be organised in June 2023, alongside the Congress in Taipei, Taiwan.

The President closed the meeting at 13:56.

WAN-IFRA President
Fernando de Yarza López-Mandrazo

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General Assembly of Members Secretary
Elena Perotti