

Board Meeting

Beijing, 23rd and 24th April 2007

Minutes

Monday 23rd

1. Agreement on the agenda and plan for the two days

Conclusion: Approved

2. Approval of minutes from Board Meeting Amman, April 2006

Conclusion: Approved

(Future minutes should have follow up points after each agenda point.)

3. Updates:

- a. Annual Report

Conclusion: To be finalised based on input from Board members and study groups.

- b. Accounts 2006

Conclusion: To be presented at the Board meeting in October 2007.

- c. Plan 2007

Conclusion: The plan for financial support to network activities presented approved.

- d. Budget 2007

Conclusion: Approved

The following principle to be applied for allocations to regional networks:

The Budget made available for regions should be used by and in the regions, not by and for representatives from other regions.

- e. Executive Committee/Secretariat

The reason for the reduced administrative capacity was presented and accepted.

4. Discussion on the status of our work based on short updates from Regions and Study Groups

A round of mutual sharing of information was highly appreciated and triggered extensive discussions on the activities in the different regions and centres.

Conclusion: A request for updates to be circulated to the whole network before Board meetings.

5. Childwatch priorities for 2008 to 2011.

The Board members were all given an opportunity to list their two most highly prioritised areas. This exercise produced the following list of issues:

- Identity
- Clarity on priorities
- Fundraising, alternative donors
- Internal Dialogue (Web etc.), Membership, the role off and expectations to Key Institutions
- Dialogue with External Stakeholders
- Regional Networks
- Key Assembly 2008
- The process for establishing new study groups

Conclusion: The Secretariat to prepare for a discussion of these issues in the board meeting in October 2007

Tuesday 24th

6. How do we create real dialogue between Childwatch Study Groups and important stakeholders in the issues studied? (NGOs/UN/other policy makers)

Critical issues that were raised during the discussion:

Identity/Activities:

- This discussion is about a strategy, while the important thing is our identity.
- How to make people feel more part of the network?
- Are we clear on who we are? Membership is still an issue, capacity building is still an issue to discuss
- Mind shift towards seeing most of what we do is part of Childwatch needed
- lack of visibility of joint activities not funded
- The board to identify issues for discussion groups. Possible new groups:
 - Recovering from disaster
 - Child friendly communities
 - Migration

Membership:

- Need to put on paper what the benefits of membership and obligations are. Clear identification of responsible persons.
- In order to stimulate international orientation, such initiatives need to be recognised by the supervisors.
- International dialogue of great interest for masters and doctoral programmes
- How can we promote much more active regional networks? Real collaboration to take place in the regions

Web/Communication:

- KIs to provide an annual report, in English to be put on the web.
- Search engine to cover all KI website
- Lack of reporting on initiatives
- The website should reflect the activities through regular updates

- Email networks to be established
- Newsletters are old fashioned!
- Email lists for people with similar interests, but needs a responsible person to keep it going.
- Dynamic website takes more resources, Resources could be freed if meetings could be organised as virtual meetings.
- The website should have a link to activities going on in separate countries
- Information on cwi activities at KIs should be both on local and cwi websites.
- Manual for how to write for the website. A group to suggest how this could be practically done.
- Skype offers an opportunity to arrange discussions on specific issues. Research discussions could be organised where members could be invited to register for participation.

Conclusion:

1. The discussion to continue during the October 2007 Board meeting.

2. Roger and Julie to present a suggestion for how an improved communication system could be designed and operated.

7. Fundraising – mechanisms and initiatives for making Childwatch activities attractive to more funding agencies?

General comments:

When you look for money you get advice, when you look for advice you sometimes get money!

The importance of a long term conversation, funding should not be the first and only point on the agenda.

Bigger companies in a certain area or sector, could possibly be willing to provide funding for assessments, studies etc.

Publishing houses could possibly fund proceedings from conferences etc.

Training in New methodologies, perspectives, may be attractive to some donors. This is a more attractive activity for donors than just a conference.

We have to present the activity we seek funding for within a context of a longer term plan for what we are trying to achieve.

How do we relate to the following question: What agencies would we not accept funding from?

Specific ideas:

- Study groups and networks should produce documents suitable for co funding of the activities. Members of groups and networks to take an active responsibility to raise more funds.

The knowledge about potential donors rests with the KIs in the regions. Regional networks should identify potential donors to their own activities.

To support this:

- Template documents could be produced to help the groups to present their case to potential donors.
- Letters from Childwatch will be written to support fundraising by study groups and regional networks.
- Pilot: Develop and present a pilot project to possible donors, UN agencies
- To organise mapping of the donors of Key Institutions and other donors that may be willing to provide funding.

Conclusion: A plan for follow up of the specific ideas to be presented to the Board in the October 2007 meeting.

8. Membership policy: How to be more relevant for research groups in the majority world?

Overall issues:

How to clean up the present membership? A letter from the Board presenting some principals form for vetting the present membership could be developed.

Criteria: Research, annual report, ???

Europe and North America is different. Many of our inactive members are in the north, we need to get them out of the network: Our work is to support those who would like to build capacity in the majority world.

Should a membership fee be introduced?

Suggestion:

Two tier membership structure to be established, with Key Institutions and Members.

Outline of structure:

KIs to be approved and given a time limited mandate by the Board

Possibly one KI per country, more than one per region.

A core person in each region to be appointed a coordinator. No formal secretariat in each region, but each region to set up a mechanism for coordination.

Members to be approved by the Board, based on recommendations from the relevant Key Institution (s).

Obligations for KIs and members.:

- All to submit annual reports
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Issue to be discussed and resolved:

- Role, obligations and mandate for KIs
- Role, obligations and mandate for members. What is expected from members and define what can be gained from the membership.
- Governance: How to organise regions? KIs and members; Ad hoc, formalised, constitution, secretariat.
- If more than one KI in each region; How to share responsibility?
- Balance of obligations and incentives, review of membership, process of approval,
- Criteria for ensuring commitment?
- Procedures and Criteria for appointing/changing KIs

Conclusion:

The Board will recommend a new structure to the KI assembly in 2008, to be implemented by the next Board, including the issue of introduction of a membership fee.

Mohammed, Rose, Per Egil and the Secretariat will prepare a first document to the Board meeting in October 2007.

Pending membership requests: All interested institutions will be informed about the process and that approval will first be done in 2008. They will meanwhile be included in all communication to the present membership.

9. The Key Institutions Assembly 2008 – Programme and Venue

A conference to be organised so that funding agencies will participate, same with NGOs, UN etc.

Senegal, mid November 2008, Colombia as the alternative

Assembly

KI Assembly: 1 ½ days

- Regional networks, experience sharing, presentations
- Governance, membership structure
- KI presentations, priorities research plans, requests for collaboration
- Elections
 - Nomination of Candidates: Committee with Board and non board members: To be established in October
- Africa Network
- Solicit collaboration
- Send out a form where research plans and projects are presented, and shared, to be discussed widely in the KIs. To be presented through the web, well before.
- Using the meeting to explore and establish new partnerships.

Conference:

Conference: With funding agencies, NGOs, UN Gov etc.

Global effort for bridging the Gap (Working together!)

Organisers? CWI, SIDA, CODESRIA?; ACPF?, ANPCCAN?,

- 3 days
- Several streams
- Presentation of CWI studies:
- Participation
- Poverty
- Migration
- Bridging the Gap

Possible side events:

- Discussions with Donors on areas of cooperation: Consortium of Aid agencies, work with them before in order to create a platform during the conference.
- Film Festival: Documentary films on Children's Rights. Out of the bark: Will list a film. Categories: Made by Children, For children, For adults. The winners to be screened. Roger to contact the other KIs.

An African artist to design a poster and a flyer for the 2008 conference. To be ready before October.

Conclusion:

The Secretariat will contact possible co-organizers and prepare for discussions during the October 2007 Board meeting.

10. The interaction between the Secretariat and the Board/membership – Expectations and Models.

The following task groups were established:

Indicators:

Rose, Helen

Membership:

Rose, Mohammed

Communication

Roger, Julie

KI Assembly:

Jon-K, Executive Com

Conference 2008:

One board member, Outside the board

Identity:

Expectations to members. Jon-K

11. Next Board meeting

Board Meeting: October 2008

October, Jamaica

Conference 23. 24. Board 26 & 27.