

Board of Trustees

20 - 21 June 2024

Agenda Item 12.2 : Update on change in IPPF EN Board of Directors

Summary:

IPPF EN is established as an “*Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif (AISBL)*”, an international not-for-profit association, in Belgium. As such it has its own legal statutes, in the form of its Articles of Association (AoA) and has to comply with the relevant Belgian mandatory requirements for such Associations. These Articles have always closely tied IPPF EN to IPPF, including the stipulation that no changes can be made to them without the approval of the governing body of IPPF.

To ensure that the MA governance is directly linked to IPPF Board of Trustees and not to the IPPF EN Board, IPPF EN Board of Directors (BoD) may not comprise any person affiliated in a staff or volunteer capacity to an MA (Article 23.1 of EN AoA). IPPF EN will have a small Board of Directors – minimum three and maximum five members - of persons external to its membership. This paper provides the Board with an update in terms of changes within the IPPF EN Board of Directors.

Action Required:

The Board of Trustees **to note** this update.

Background

Responsibilities of IPPF EN Board of Directors

IPPF EN BoD meets at least twice and a maximum of three times a year. They are tasked to take note of EN Annual Report, Accounts and Budget, as well as to convey a virtual General Assembly, in order to comply with Belgian Law. IPPF EN General Assembly is normally held in June to allow for the processing of the audited accounts of the previous year and noting the budget of the current year. Thus, the legal approval has always been *after* all the IPPF procedures have been followed. The annual budget, which Belgian law mandates, must be submitted to the GA by the Board of Directors (Article 41 of EN AoA), and is in fact the IPPF EN portion of the Unified Secretariat budget, that will already have been approved by the IPPF Board of Trustees seven months earlier.

Renewal of Directors

2024 saw the end of term of members of the BoD Lina Neeb (Chair), Sam Geuens (Vice-Chair), Dirk Pyck, Felipe Rojas Lopez, and Nathalie Bollen. Board Members did not wish to stand for re-election and all stepped down at the Extraordinary GA which took place online on March 5, 2024.

A Nomination Committee was convened in 2023 with the primary objective of identifying and recruiting new members of BoD. The Committee was composed of Daniel Genberg, Esther Albarran and André Rubbens. Subsequently, the three shortlisted candidates were presented to the Extraordinary General Assembly for election.

The Extraordinary GA elected Emma Achilli (Chair), Klaudia Szymus (Vice-Chair) and Deekshitha Ganesan as members of IPPF EN BoD.

The first meeting of the newly elected BoD will take place on June 10, 2024, ahead of the EN GA which will take place online on June 24.

Short bios of the IPPF EN BoD members are below for reference.

Emma Achilli

She has 15 years of human rights, foreign policy and development work experience within the EU institutions, focused in particular on civil society support mechanisms. These have given her a strong understanding of policy and funding mechanisms, programme and project programming; and accountability to Parliament and civil society among others. Seven years of NGO work, five managing the Brussels office of an international non-profit serving human rights defenders (HRD) at risk, and its EU advocacy on policy, funding and mobilisation in the urgent support of HRDs. She has also participated in a number of safeguarding conversations regarding both staff and human rights defenders and a good knowledge of NGO and private sector laws in Belgium.

Klaudia Szymus

She is a medical doctor from Poland, pursuing a post-graduate degree in sexology. Since 2015, she worked with a special interest in gender equality, gender and sexuality diversity and sexual health, implementing intersectional approaches such as effects of climate change on SRHR, access to services by vulnerable populations or health literacy. Multiple exchange programs and working in international settings for the past 4 years also taught her the importance of diverse experiences and perspectives to create meaningful discussions on SRHR and design solutions for many problems.

Deekshitha Ganesan

She's a human rights lawyer from India and currently a policy officer at Transgender Europe (TGEU). She has experience working on issues of gender and sexuality, transgender rights, and intersectional justice in India and in Europe, issues with rapid digitalization of healthcare and how it affects the realization of the right to health. At TGEU, she focusses on two key issues – access to healthcare and the ongoing anti-rights movement that equally targets LGBTI rights and sexual and reproductive rights.