

UNION AID ABROAD – APHEDA
Minutes of Union Aid Abroad APHEDA AGM
Monday 11 December 2023 – 5:30pm-7:00pm
Training Room 1 &2, Ground Floor, 377-383 Sussex St, Sydney NSW 2000 and ONLINE

Acknowledgement of Country was made by the Acting Chair of the AGM, Board member Lori-Anne Sharp.

The meeting is taking place on the land of the Gadigal people of Eora nation.

1. PRESENT

In-person:

Lori-Anne Sharp (Acting Chairperson), Kate Lee (Co-Executive Officer), Sharan KC (Co-Executive Officer), Danae Bosler, Mark Lennon, Michael Wright, Jo Schofield, Michelle Robertson, Lois Rahayu, Ken Davis, Jessie Yang, Maria Gaona, Tasneem Roc, Cho Cho Win, Peter Jennings, Peter Murphy, Pat Ranald, Katie Camarena, Carol Matthews, Angelo Gavrielatos, Henry Rajendra, Jennifer Killen, Kate Harrison.

Online:

Lachlan Batchelor, Linda Kelly, Nicole Calnan, Jill Biddington, Phillip Hazelton, Mark Taylor, Marg O’Callaghan, Deb Nicholls, Anne Picot, Shirley Huang, Peter Duffy, Lachlan Hurse, Peter Moss, Tim Dymond

In attendance: James Winter, Partner, Grant Thornton Accountants (online) and special guests from Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour: Mr. Ngo Duy Hieu, Vice President of VGCL and Mr. Duong Xuan Hieu, Senior Official of VGCL International Department, VGCL

Thanks were given to all members for their attendance at the AGM.

2. APOLOGIES

Michele O’Neil, Lisa Chesters MP, Penny Gilmour, Ruth Ellis, Peter Weitzel, Kelly Marks, Pat O’Donoghue.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2022 AGM HELD ON 12 DECEMBER, 2022

Recommendation: That the minutes are an accurate and correct record of the previous meeting

Moved: Michelle Robertson **Seconded:** Michael Wright **Carried**

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil to note for this AGM.

5. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report and Audited Financial statement

The Treasurer Mark Lennon spoke to the financial report for year ending June 2023, copies of which are provided in the room and online. An expected small loss of \$38,357 for the financial year was noted. There was a decline in fundraising through the national raffle but alternative fundraising strategies are being developed and trialled.

The Treasurer noted that funding for the Australian Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement (AMENCA) project from DFAT ended during the financial year. Mark thanked all those on the Finance and Risk Committee, and all staff involved and thanks to the auditor James Winter at Grant Thornton.

Recommendation: That the report of the Treasurer be accepted.

Moved: Michelle Robertson **Seconded:** Peter Murphy **Carried**

Recommendation: That James Winter, Partner, Grant Thornton Accountants be appointed as Auditors for 2023/24.

Moved: Michael Wright **Seconded:** Jo Schofield **Carried**

Auditor's Report

James Winter, Partner at Grant Thornton, presented the audited financial statement and answered questions and comments from the membership. James noted it is a comprehensive work and report completed by APHEDA in comparison to other similar organisations, and that APHEDA has the financial means to operate; and finally that all information needed to complete the audit was duly provided by APHEDA.

An unqualified Auditor's Report was issued in 2023.

Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson, Andrew Dettmer is an apology and the Acting AGM Chair and Board member Lori-Anne Sharp directed attendees to the Chairperson's statement in his annual report, a copy of which has been provided to all in attendance. Lori-Anne noted the report will be available online very shortly.

Executive Officer's report

The Executive Officer thanked all attendees for their time and provided the following report:

Kate referred to her report provided in the annual report and note there has been a rise in union repression in the Asia-Pacific region. She drew attention to a few items including: in the last year, we started a climate justice project in Nepal, the Philippines and Indonesia with our partners, which will be groundbreaking in ensuring workers and their unions are central to the just transition. Additionally, the Federal Labor Government has agreed this year to provide funding within the aid budget for trade union development, similar to many other OECD countries around the world.

Kate acknowledged the unexpected death of Betty Hounslow earlier this year in July this year, who served tirelessly and generously on APHEDA's board. Fundraising dinners and union conferences helped to assist net growth in membership in the post-COVID era.

Kate thanked ACTU, member-unions and all individual members who contribute.

The Executive Officer took a number of questions from members regarding our international projects and their work.

Recommendation: That the report of the Executive Officer be accepted.

Moved: Danae Bosler **Seconded:** Michael Wright **Carried**

Special Resolution: Noting that Director Mark Lennon has been a member of the board for 12 years it is hereby resolved that he be eligible for re-appointment as a director for a further 4 year term.

Moved: Peter Murphy **Seconded:** Michelle Robertson **Carried**

6. RETURNING OFFICER REPORT

Pat Ranald, Returning Officer reported that there are 5 members of the APHEDA board appointed by the ACTU and they were Andrew Dettmer, Michele O'Neil, Nicole Calnan, Lori-Anne Sharp, and Mark Lennon. There are also 4 elected

members and the nominations for those positions were: Michael Wright, Michelle Robertson, Danae Bosler and Jo Schofield. There being 9 positions in total and there being 9 nominations, Pat declared all those nominated elected.

7. GUEST SPEAKER

Recording from MA'An Development Center on conflict in Gaza

Ken Davis, International Programs Manager provided context to the recorded message from the MA'AN Development Center, namely APHEDA's long relationship with MA'AN over many years in Gaza and the West Bank. The recording was delivered and spoken to by Tamara Malouf, Humanitarian Coordinator at MA'AN.

8. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Cliff Dolan Award – Angelo Gavrielatos, to be accepted in person

Angelo served on the Board of Union Aid Abroad from 2006 to December 2021. He was the Chairperson for 10 years from 2011-2021 leading the organisation with a deep commitment to equality, justice and solidarity.

During his time as Chair of APHEDA, Angelo visited APHEDA projects, partner organisations and local APHEDA staff in Vietnam, Timor Leste, Indonesia, Myanmar, West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and the Thai-Myanmar border.

His trip to the Gaza Strip was 5 months following the war in 2014, witnessing the aftermath of intense bombing by Israel, the destruction and re-building of El Wafa hospital and re-establishment of the agricultural greenhouses of poor communities. These agricultural programs were being implemented by the MA'AN Development Center, supported by APHEDA since 1989.

Angelo was Chair during the Murdoch press attack on APHEDA in 2018, which led to a suspension of DFAT funding and an audit by Deloitte. All accusations were found to be false and funding eventually restored after 6 months.

Angelo also saw APHEDA through its 30th anniversary celebrations of 2014, a new strategic direction and approach including the prioritisation of a flagship campaign, Asbestos. Not here. Not Anywhere, and of course APHEDA's international COVID response in 2020 and 2021.

As many of you know, Angelo was recently the President of the NSW Teachers Federation and also held the position of Federal President of the Australian Education Union (AEU) for 7 years. Angelo worked for Educational International's (EI) leading the union's response to the growing commercialisation and privatisation of education, particularly in global South countries where rapacious for-profit education providers seek to make profits at the expense of the world's poor. EI is the global union federation representing teachers and other education workers.

Solidarity Award - Betty Hounslow, to be accepted by her partner Kate Harrison

Betty served on the board of Union Aid Abroad from 2018 until June 2023, as our organisation's expert appointee, advising on development.

Betty made an enormous contribution to our organisation during that time, bringing critical and strategic thinking to decision-making, policy discussions and programming challenges.

She did this with a deep commitment to our organisation, and to our values of solidarity, partnership, accountability, movement building, equality and justice.

Prior to retirement, Betty held the position as deputy director of the Fred Hollows Foundation and she held the position of vice president of the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID) board from 2009 to 2012.

Before working in international development. Betty had a long career in Australian community development in women's refuges, community legal centres, and as the executive director of the Australian Council Of Social Service (ACOSS) during the 1990s period.

Betty was also known as a tenacious advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, including serving on the board of the Asylum Seekers Centre of NSW.

Betty spent her whole life being an activist for LGBTQI+ rights and is acknowledged as a pioneer for human rights in Australia, as one of the 78'ers who organised Sydney's first Mardi Gras. She was a lifelong trade unionist and social justice advocate and had been appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

We will remember Betty for her generosity, her warm heart and her fighting spirit. Betty died in Sydney on July 27, 2023.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Items for general business:
None tabled.

10. DATE OF NEXT AGM

Monday 9 December 2024

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7pm.