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PWYP Global Council (GC) & PWYP General Assembly Meeting

25 September 2023, Zoom Webinar

Attendees

Global Council

Fuad Hasanov, FH, Azerbaijan (Eurasia)
Georges Mpaga, GM, Gabon (Francophone Africa)
Maria Ramos, Oxfam America, USA (Global Reach)
Monday Osasah, MO, Nigeria (Anglophone Africa), Chair
Nora Hasan, NH, Iraq (MENA)
Saswati Swetlena, SS, India (Asia Pacific) & Board liaison
Tengi George-Ikoli, TG, Nigeria (Anglophone Africa), NRGI (Global Reach)
Maybel Acquaye, MA, Ghana (Anglophone Africa), ASC representative

Secretariat

Joseph Bardwell, JB, Director of Communications and Campaigns
Naila Sebbahi, NS, Executive Assistant and Team Administrator
Stephanie Rochford, SR, Director of Member Engagement
Zoé Spriet-Mezoued, ZS, Strategic Communications and Campaigns Manager

Invitees

Gabriela Flores, consultant
Emily Benson, consultant

Apologies

Aida Gamboa, AG, Peru (Latin America)

GC MEETING MINUTES

Decisions

- N/A

Actions

Action	By who	By when

Welcome and review of agenda

The meeting opened with a round of introductions. The Chair reviewed the agenda, highlighting the purpose of the meeting to discuss PWYP's global approach to transition mineral governance; implementation of PWYP's gender policy; and PWYP's global strategy development process.



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New and departing GC members

The Chair welcomed new Global Council member Maybel Acquaye, who is representing the Africa Steering Committee on the GC. The Chair also acknowledged the work of departing GC member Carly Oboth, who recently stepped down from her role at PWYP US. The Secretariat will coordinate an election process in the coming weeks to find a new Europe and North America representative who will attend the final GC meeting before the end of the year.

Global context of transition minerals work

GF made a brief presentation to outline some of the strategic issues pertaining to mining of critical minerals that are required to support the transition to a low carbon economy, including some entry points for PWYP to influence policy and regulations in different regions. JB shared an update on how PWYP has been responding to this context: growing a coordinated response from PWYP members; understanding fast moving policy spaces, particularly the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA). PWYP has joined the CRM coalition to influence that policy process. Fierce competition is driving action quickly, which is a challenge; but there is also an opportunity, with minerals taking centre stage in the energy transition, for PWYP to drive forward conversations about true benefits of mining for people, including being able to say no to it.

PWYP's work in Africa to date has focused on four countries as well as a Pan-African approach to transition mineral governance, captured in a Pan-African transition minerals campaign plan with two overarching goals: African minerals for Africa development; and strengthening responsible mining practices. The Secretariat is actively pursuing funding for this work.

In Asia, work is ongoing but not as advanced as the work in Africa. Key emerging priorities include socio-environmental issues, indigenous peoples' land rights, bilateral agreements, transparency, accountability, human rights. The countries involved are diverse so there is a challenge ahead to develop collective advocacy goals that respond to all of the contexts.

The GC were invited to share feedback on the messaging and approach taken by the Secretariat to support members on this; where the Secretariat should focus in 2024; and what other opportunities PWYP could take advantage of. Reflections included the following:

- The shift from multilateral to bilateral engagements - what are the implications of this for PWYP?
 - This is a result of the fierce competition for transition minerals, in particular competition with China. The more accountable multilateral approaches are not as present as bilateral actions in this new context. Multilateral action hasn't disappeared but there is an increase in bilateral deals
 - For PWYP and its members, it's important to recognise that there are less defined spaces for CSO engagement and consultation; and so we need to be able to source intelligence rapidly and build relationships on the ground to be able to respond quickly
- The implications of the recent Nairobi declaration coming out of Africa Climate Week
 - In defining the climate agenda as getting the world to meet the Paris agreement to limit the world to 1.5 degrees, there is very little discussion of the role of mining in achieving this. Minerals issues are outside the remit of the climate movement, possibly because there isn't a lot of bandwidth to really understand the potential costs due to the massive increase in mining. Nevertheless, this is changing, and there was a more meaningful conversation on mining in ACW than, for example, at COP 28.



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- There was a clear reference in the final text to “raw materials” even if not explicitly to transition minerals. Nevertheless, the framing was in the context of value addition as well as contributing to energy access in Africa, but not addressing issues around human rights or the environment
- Clarification on the rationale for the choice of PWYP coalitions engaged to date
 - The choice was guided by countries with significant amounts of transition minerals as well as where there is energy to work on these issues. The working groups are not intended to be exclusive, but they are intended to be *working* groups, i.e. where participants are doing work on transition minerals
- Messaging
 - Our awareness is heightened in this transition minerals boom of the inequity of mineral extraction to date, leading to a focus on value addition (e.g. the special economic zone in DRC and Zambia). The energy transition must be seen not only in light of the shift away from fossil fuels but also in the context of economic development. But we need to be careful that we don't forget our watchdog role, particularly on corruption as well as human rights risks, as we also look to support the discussions around meaningful economic benefits
 - Transition minerals are a shared inheritance which must be safeguarded for future generations. Production cannot be indiscriminate - extraction needs to be rationalised and we need to question some of the demand projections which speak of mindless extraction
- PWYP's organisational approach
 - How do we match our influencing capacity in both countries involved in a specific bilateral deal? Do we need to rethink how we are organised as a network to be able to influence rapidly and ensure that there is alignment on our political asks?
- Partnerships
 - How do we engage with other groups? There are new frontiers being opened up when it comes to mining - including the deep sea and outer space - which we need to reflect on as PWYP
 - How is PWYP using different platforms to bring these conversations into a broader domain?

Gender Policy Implementation

SR has shared a survey a few weeks ago asking a few regional members for their input on what a national gender champion would look like.

The output of the analysis from the survey has led us to:

- We decided to develop a model of terms of reference to be used as a prompt, to give a steer.
- The gender champions will be organisations rather than individuals; so we can draw on the experiences within the network and have a more sustainable approach as organisations might not require capacity building for which we might not have enough resources.
- One of the ambitions is to have a gender champion, not just at national level, but also within the governing bodies. Currently working with a consultant on developing a TOR to see how it would look like for governing bodies. Documents to be shared within the upcoming weeks for the Global Council's feedback.
 - NH: How are we going to measure women's effective participation at national and international levels?



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Global Strategy Consultant

Emily Benson has introduced herself, and briefly talked about her background working with Green Economy Coalition as well as multiple UN agencies and international NGOs, particularly on SDG's and local implications of global policies (as part of the environmental and developmental space). Nick, her colleague, also has experience in coalition and strategy building (humanitarian space).

GC members were invited to share what is exciting them about the global strategy development process and what they think the biggest challenges are. Reflections and questions included:

- How different perspectives in the movement and across regions will be balanced in the final strategy
- How the organisational culture will be aligned to the strategic direction
- What we can do to stimulate ownership and final adoption of the strategy
- How to reflect the impact of the climate crisis in our strategy
- How to balance the understanding from the past, the political context today and situating ourselves in the next 5 years
- How to reflect the severity of restrictions to civic space globally
- Strengthening the network to work together more effectively on advocacy and influencing
- How can advocacy priorities be stream-lined into achieving better results out of the global strategy specifically in resource-rich countries

EB noted that strategy is about the process, not the outcome, and that she will not have all the answers and indeed that the strategy process itself won't be able to provide all the answers because the mission is so large, and getting bigger. She noted that we are working in a big and complex system. Ultimately, culture matters more than the document that's produced at the end. The aim is to feel more connected, enthused and excited about the journey in the coming year as we embark on this process.

The big question that faces every coalition is how to make something general but also specific. You can define the vision and the set of principles that inspire collective action. But the national context is specific so there are going to be multiple strategic directions - but this doesn't diminish the shared vision of the network as a whole.

Civic space is declining everywhere. But there are glimmers in terms of how advocacy and action can be inspired to combat this, and how shrinking space nationally can be exposed by global alliances.

There are multiple models for how we might consider organisational effectiveness which we can explore through this strategy process.

Scenario planning is one methodology that we will use to help explore some of the big questions that have been raised.

Next steps

- Gender champions within PWYP's governing bodies: a TOR will be developed with a consultant and shared within the upcoming weeks to get feedback from the Global Council.



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- The strategy sub-committee will be working closely with the strategy consultants, Emily and Nick, and reporting back to the GC. There will be multiple ways for the GC to engage moving forward.

AOB and close

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting closed at 17.04.