

## Meeting Minutes and Actions



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>WUN Global Africa Group</b>		
<b>Date</b>	28 March 2018		
<b>Location</b>	Teleconference		
<b>Participants</b>	<p>Dr David Mickler, The University of Western Australia (Co-chair)          Prof Maano Ramutsindela, The University of Cape Town (Co-chair)          Prof John Hearn, WUN Executive Director, Sydney, Australia          Mr Han Aarts, Maastricht University (HA)          Dr Julie Balen, The University of Sheffield (JB)          Professor Rachael Goberman-Hill, The University of Bristol (RG)          Dr Ann Laudati, The University of Bristol (AL)          Dr Susan Jim, The University of Bristol (SJ)          Professor Léonce Ndikumana, The University of Massachusetts Amherst (LN)          Dr Celia Gregson, The University of Bristol (CG)          Professor Leon Tikly, The University of Bristol (LT)          Professor Petra Tschakert, The University of Western Australia (PT)          A/Professor Nesrin Varol, The University of Sydney (NV)          Professor Patrick James, The University of Southampton (PJ)          Professor Shem Wandiga, The University of Nairobi (SW)</p>		
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Prof Bente Moen, University of Bergen (BM)          Dr Ibrahim Bedi, University of Ghana (IB)          Dr Rob Marchant, University of York (RM)          Susannah Sallu, University of Leeds (SS)          Gernot Klantschnig, University of York (GK)          David Lackland Sam, University of Bergen (DS)</p>		
<b>Prepared by</b>	Wilna Venter	<b>Date</b>	7 March 2018

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<p>DM welcomed everybody. He mentioned that three PIs of successful RDF grants applicable to GAG's work were invited to the meeting: Ana Juncos (Bristol), Dorcas Osei-Safo (Ghana) and George Ossom-Batsa (Ghana). However, it was only Ana Juncos (AJ) who was able to be present.</p> <p>In order to avoid AJ having to sit through the meeting until item 4 which was applicable to her, DM suggested that the item be addressed first. He invited AJ to give an overview of the project. (see item 4 for minutes applicable to the ensuing discussion).</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes and matters arising from 8 November 2017 meeting</b>

Notes	<p>In terms of actions from minutes of meeting on 8 November 2017, DM reported as follows:</p> <p>Action 1, item 3: DM reported that a letter was sent to Marije Nieuwenhuis to thank her for servicing the group until WV agreed to take over the role.</p> <p>Action 2, item 3: DM indicated that he was in Addis Ababa towards the end of last year and spoke to the African Union Commission which was interested to link up with GAG. There was appreciation for the approach that GAG was taking in terms of East, West and Southern Africa as well as the fact that GAG was trying to get as many researchers as possible from Africa involved. DM was interested in the Pan-African University, which has a postgraduate focus. It had several campuses across the continent each intended to focus on a particular discipline. DM referred people to their website for further information should they want to have. <a href="https://pau-au.net/">https://pau-au.net/</a> DM thought that the Pan-African University would give GAG an interesting opportunity to work with the African Union Commission. Going forward GAG might want to look into it.</p> <p>Action 1, item 4: DM indicated that the 2017 RDF did not allow for people to indicate in their applications whether their proposal had relevance for GAG. He took it up with the WUN secretariat who agreed to ensure it be included in the 2018 call.</p> <p>Action 2, item 4: In terms of more interaction with the Global China Group and International Policy Research Group, DM said that GAG would interact with them during a joint working dinner at the 2018 WUN Conference &amp; AGM on 21 May 2018. This would be an opportunity to determine how the three groups could work closer together, including in terms of RDFs.</p> <p>Action 1, item 5: DM would discuss it under item 6 of the agenda.</p>
3.	<b>Chair Reports</b>
Notes	<p>MR reported that most of the issues to be reported on were covered by DM when going through the actions of the previous minutes. However, one matter that was of concern was the funding situation of GAG. This would come up in the other items to be discussed.</p> <p>JH reported as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The current secretariat would continue their duties until June 2018. JH will step down as Executive Director in July 2018 after nine years. Mike Hassenmueller will move to Europe, JH will live between Sydney and the UK. Marije Nieuwenhuis will move to Melbourne. Grace Lui will remain in Sydney. Recruitment for a new Executive Director was still open. JH wanted to continue working with China Group, GAG, International Policy Research Group, Public Health and Ageing.</li> <li>b) Interaction with other RDF projects and across with WUN was important</li> <li>c) Three groups would meet at the AGM. Would develop plans for better interaction between China Group and GAG and the International Policy Research Group and right across the WUN groups.</li> </ol> <p>DM thanked JH for his support for GAG in particular.</p>

	<p>DM referred participants to the annual report that was part of the meeting pack. There were many sections where there was nothing to report. It could be because it was intended for a particular project and not a cross-cutting theme. He signaled that GAG should expand its impact through publications and applying for funding.</p> <p>DM congratulated MR on his inaugural address.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>RDF round 2017 – relevant projects for GAG</b>
Notes	<p>AJ informed the Committee that the project comprised of 11 partners of which eight are WUN members. She extended an invitation to anybody else who wanted to join the project.</p> <p>The project focused on resilient peace in West Africa by exploring new approaches in peace building. It looked at how the shift to resilience impacted on peace on the ground. The study would be conducted both from an academic as well as a policy perspective - especially as the project is related to SDG 16. Peace did not only refer to security only but touched on other matters, e.g. vocation; urban transformation; development etc. Interested to see how resilience was adopted / assisted / resisted by local activists on the ground. Also looking at broader pictures.</p> <p>Trying to arrange a webinar during GAG meeting in Perth in May 2018. Another workshop in Accra in September. A final workshop would be held in November in Bristol. AJ referred the GAG members to the website resilientpeace.net for more information.</p> <p>DM said more information about the October meeting of GAG in Nairobi would be shared with AJ and that we would look at synergies where possible.</p> <p>Regarding the other two RDF projects, DM indicated that the one submitted by Dorcas Osei-Safo (Ghana) resulted directly from the GAG research workshop in Ghana in June 2017 while the other was related although not a direct outcome.</p>
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. DM to send more information about the GAG meeting to AJ once they were finalized.</li> <li>ii. DM to link the projects to the GAG web-page.</li> </ol>
<b>5.</b>	<b>GAG book project and UCT workshop update</b>
Notes	<p>DM referred participants to the report of the GAG book project that was held at the University of Cape Town in December 2017. The original book chapter outline was also included in the meeting pack. It is a big project with 24 chapters covering almost all the SDGs. The intention was to finalise the content of the book by Oct/Nov 2018 so as to get it published by Springer Publishers by Feb 2019.</p> <p>Springer agreed to have the WUN logo appearing on the book so that the link with the WUN was very clear.</p> <p>Book will also appear in the 2017/2018 report so as to profile GAG to a wider community.</p> <p>MR said that the book would not have materialised without there being committed authors. He also thanked the member universities which send their researchers to attend these workshop. The seed-funding received from the WUN secretariat made both workshops possible and they should be thanked for their commitment.</p>

	<p>JH congratulated the group and said it was an example of what the WUN could achieve through a bottom-up approach.</p> <p>DM informed the group that there would be a UN conference on SDGs and that it would be excellent if the book was published by then.</p>
<b>Actions</b>	i. DM undertook to send to participants the dates of the UN conference on SDGs.
<b>6.</b>	<b>GAG activities in 2018</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<p><i>First</i> event would be the WUN Conference and AGM in perth, 20-25 May. The working dinner with the Global China Group, International Policy Research Group is on 21 May. On the evening of 25 May, there will be a public panel discussion on Africa and sustainable development agendas;</p> <p><i>Second</i> event would in Nairobi from 22-26 October as an official side event of RUFORM and the 6<sup>th</sup> African Higher Education Week. DM and MR were in touch with the organisers in Nairobi to get a sense of their programme.</p> <p>MR was of the opinion that the GAG workshop should happen in parallel with the RUFORM meeting so as to maximise on workshop attendants. He furthermore indicated that this activity should support GAG's work in the eastern Africa hub by looking at themes that are relevant to the region. However, this concept still needed to be finalised with the Nairobi hosts. MR also said that the workshop could address two of the questions of Agenda 2063 of the African Union in line with the region's challenges but also to support the GAG strategy: (i) how the research community could organise itself to contribute to Africa's development; and (ii) how networks, like GAG, could contribute to this.</p> <p>DM invited members to send through ideas they might have. The theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> African Higher Education Week conference was '<i>Aligning African Universities to Accelerate Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals</i>'.</p> <p>JH shared his opinion that GAG should not loose its identity and purpose by amalgamating with other groups. GAG is an action-oriented group.</p> <p>Another view was to focus on the contribution of research to development.</p>
<b>Actions</b>	DM to distribute the RUFORM programme
<b>7.</b>	<b>Other activities in 2018</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<p>In terms of further activities in 2018, DM mentioned the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The workshops that AJ referred to earlier</li> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> International Climate Change Adaptation Conference in Cape Town, 18-21 June 2018</li> <li>• Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN), Australia Forum, Perth, 27 August 2018</li> </ul>

<b>Actions</b>	Members to send information about GAG-related events to WV
<b>8.</b>	<b>Review of GAG <i>Strategic Plan 2016-18</i> and preparations for <i>Strategic Plan 2019-21</i></b>
<b>Notes</b>	<p>The document shared with the meeting pack was meant to be the starting point of a discussion of what the strategy for 2019-21 could be. Members were encouraged to look at previous strategic plan to get an idea of what was achieved as well plans that did not work out as the basis of the new strategy. Key issues were funding and resourcing and GAG needed to think of ways in which it could attract funding. This could be the key agenda item for the meeting in Perth.</p> <p>Members need to communicate to WV whether they would attend the meeting in Perth. Depending on the outcomes of the responses, a teleconference would be held either before or after the meeting in Perth.</p> <p>A key item to discuss at the next meeting would be the GAG strategy for 2019-21.</p>
<b>Actions</b>	All GAG steering group members to forward their preference for the next teleconference: either before or after the meeting in Perth.
<b>9.</b>	<b>General discussion and any other business</b>
<b>Notes</b>	With no other business, the meeting was closed.