

# Protocol of the General Assembly 2020

**Date:** 28.03.2020  
**Time:** 15:00-17:00  
**Location:** Online by Zoom Meeting

**Participants:** 26 total (26 members, 0 guests)  
**Able to vote:** Total: 26 members (20 non-board members)  
Absolute Majority: 14 votes

**Board Members:**

Katharina Schulthess	present
Christian De Maddalena	present
Lukas Dössegger	present
Keith Wilson	present
Eric Carrera Escartin	present
Andreas Wende	present

**List of Participants:** Appendix 1

**Head of GA:** Katharina Schulthess

**Protocol:** Keith Wilson

## 1. Welcome

Katharina Schulthess opened the twelfth ordinary annual General Assembly of Ingenieure ohne Grenzen Schweiz at 15:05 by welcoming the participants and extending a special welcome to those attending the General Assembly for the first time. This meeting was somewhat different to usual for IngOG+ – due to the ongoing nationwide restrictions in place to combat the COVID-19 virus outbreak, 2020's General Assembly could not take the form of a physical meeting for the first time and so took place as an online video conference instead.

This meant a slightly different set of house rules to be reviewed at the start, including how to pose questions to the speakers and how to register votes when the time came.

## 2. Quorum

Since the General Assembly was duly convened, it is quorate.

## 3. Outlook 2020, Part 1

In order to allow the necessary time to verify the number of participants, establish whether any guests had joined the meeting, and determine the number of eligible votes which could be cast on each of the questions, the meeting opened with a brief outlook for 2020. This small modification to the agenda covered the expected progress of the currently-active projects. This outlook was slightly curtailed compared to that of a more normal GA, due to the online meeting and dispersed presenters.

**Eric Carrera** began with a brief recap of the progress made on the **social housing project** in **Gradačac** in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** in 2019. The year's efforts cumulated in successfully fulfilling the Bosnian legal and administrative criteria - which were prerequisites to the construction of a social building on private land with funds from a foreign organisation.

Now that the local foundation (NAŠ-IZVOR) which will hold the land has been established and the necessary paperwork required for granting the building permit is submitted, summer 2020 should still see the beginning of construction (notwithstanding any eventual restrictions which could arise from the ongoing pandemic and affect the Balkan region).

Further fundraising is still required for the whole lifecycle costs of the project now that the detailed planning of the operations and maintenance concept is underway, therefore the focus is currently being placed on securing the funds for the first year of operation of the project. Eric shared the details of the crowdfunding scheme which has been initiated on the crowdfunding platform "I Care for You" and advised that actions to generate support for the project among IngOG+'s network were still planned - however, due to the Federal Government's restrictions in place at the time of writing, active fundraising focused on corporate donors is temporarily paused in Switzerland.

The second project presented to the GA was the ongoing **water supply** project in **Hugua Chini** in **Paraguay**, where **Dorothee Kurz** told the attendees that the groundwork done by IngOG+ is now being

used as the basis for a master's thesis. It will research the applicability of Biosand Filters for a range of situations where there are shortages in the supply of clean water. This means that our collaboration in partnership with the University of Asunción will continue throughout this coming year. Video conferencing has been established with the students involved and this allows IngOG+ to also support smaller projects directly.

Meanwhile the power supply to the village has taken priority for the inhabitants of Hugua Chini and so the rate of further development of the pilot projects there will be according to their initiative.

**Andreas Wende** then took over to give a short update on IngOG+'s largest involvement in **Nepal** – the **extension of a specialist hospital in Ratnanagar**, in partnership with the Spital Limmattal in Zürich. As the region surrounding Ratnanagar – in the south, near the Indian border - lacks the ability to fully support the local population in the fields of gynecology and obstetrics, an extension to the existing hospital has been planned. IngOG+ will support the association set up by Spital Limmattal in the design of the new buildings and planning of the project, as well as with fundraising.

After the recent visit of the partnership's representatives to Nepal, the detailed planning will take place across a series of workshops. A finalised design within this year is targeted, in order to allow construction to begin in 2021.

The fourth and final project to be presented to the attendees of the General Assembly in more detail was also the newest project to move on from the evaluation stage – having been voted for by the project group in a specially-convened meeting just two hours before the General Assembly! **Jean Randhahn** summarised the findings of his team's recent evaluation trip to the **Ilkeek Aare Primary School** in the **Suswa Region of Kenya** and outlined the next steps in the project's development.

The recent evaluation trip (in February 2020) found a capable and determined management team and parent's board at the school, but that the installations and the specifications of the school (at close to European standard) bring with them a demand for water which the locality's rainfall and the school's existing water collection infrastructure are currently unable to support. The subsequent challenge of issues related to maintenance (availability of support, parts etc.) are now also beginning to be felt, which exacerbates the issues of water scarcity when losses from the existing system cannot be rectified in time.

The team presently sees a change in policy of the involved Lions Clubs (the long-term supporters of the school) as a priority for enabling change on the ground; and will be recommending an approach which aims for maximum self-sufficiency of the school in the near future.

The project team also sees involvement in the project as bringing the opportunity to engage with the local community on other issues of importance such as the school adopting fully the Kenyan School Laws, the implementation of budgeting for the school to identify the road to financial self-sufficiency, and the transfer of greater responsibility and decision-making powers to the school management from the Lions Clubs.

#### 4. Vote Counter

Carola Bänziger volunteered to be the vote counter.

#### 5. Agenda

The agenda for this General Assembly was sent to all invited members in electronic format together with the invitation e-mails on 09.03.2020.

Question: Do you accept the agenda for this General Assembly?

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

#### 6. Protocol of the General Assembly 2019

The protocol of the General Assembly of 2019 is accessible through IngOG+'s website, and was also forwarded to all invitees on 09.03.2020.

Question: Do you accept the protocol of the General Assembly 2019?

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

#### 7. Annual Report 2019

The annual report for 2019 was also published on 09.03.20 in electronic format (on IngOG+'s website) and a link was sent in the invitations for the General Assembly.

One question to the annual report was raised: it concerned a difference in figures for the social housing project in Bosnia in the annual report, compared to those presented shortly earlier in the GA as part of the project summaries. The project team clarified that the difference was because the figures in the annual report were relating only to the financial year 2019 (until 31.12.19), whereas the figures mentioned at the start of the GV were up to date (reflecting the situation as of March 2020).

Question: Do the attendees accept the annual report 2019?

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

## 8. Financial Report 2019

Having presented the financial highlights of 2019 and comparisons against the achievements of the previous year (2018), the treasurer Lukas Dössegger confirmed the closing balances of the organisation's accounts for 2019.

The item raised for further discussion from the financial overview was the large difference in non-project specific donations between 2018 and 2019 (a drop of 50% last year in comparison to 2018). In clarification Lukas explained that early in 2018 a number of donations from new donors were booked as non-project specific and later, the donors consented to their contributions being used in their entirety for the Benefit of the social housing project in Bosnia.

Although the celebratory 10 Year Anniversary event at the end of 2018 was a significant contributor to non-project specific funds in that year, this was presented as a separate account to allow clearer comparisons of the other regular unspecific donations in future.

Finally, the starting budget of each key project and of the general reserves for 2020 were confirmed.

Question: Do you accept the financial report 2019?

Yes: 25

No: 0

Abstentions: 1

## 9. Discharge of the board for 2019

With the annual report and financial report of 2019 accepted, the next step was the discharge the board. As the board members cannot discharge themselves from their positions, they abstain from this vote.

Question: Do you want to discharge the board for the year 2019?

Yes: 21

No: 0

Abstentions: 5

## 10. Departing Board Members

Three members of the present board have decided not to run for board positions again in 2020, however the primary intention of all three is to re-occupy themselves more deeply in other projects within IngOG+ for the coming year.

**Eric Carrera** originally joined the board in 2014 and together with playing key roles in the first projects in Argentina, he has continually led IngOG+'s project execution team - also supporting the teams of other projects in addition to those he was directly undertaking.

He has been involved in the project in Bosnia since its beginning in 2016 and took on the role of Vice-President of the organisation in 2017, supporting Katharina in the first two years of her presidency. Even

after his relocation away from IngOG+'s hub of Zürich he continued to play his part in developing IngOG+'s databases and he will carry this project into the new year with him, alongside his commitments in the social housing scheme in Gradačac.

**Christian de Maddelena** also has six continuous years of board membership to look back on, first joining in 2014 too. As well as his important role in many early overseas projects and his guidance of the collective project groups together with Eric, he has established several important long-term partnerships for IngOG+ over the years.

Most recently he filled the role of Vice President in 2019 and has decided, based on the growth of the Project Group and the potential of the newest projects, to fully occupy himself here for the foreseeable future. Here his experience gained from the projects he has seen reach completion, as well as from his leading role in the project in Gradačac, and his specific knowledge in the field of seismic protection, will benefit the whole organisation going forwards.

**Keith Wilson** joined the board in 2018 as the organisation's secretary, after having worked on the translation and refreshing of the IngOG+ website the year before. He has since joined the evaluation team for the developing project in Kenya.

His goals for the coming year are to be able to take time out to once again move the website and IT-related internal projects forwards, while also exploring deeper the possibilities for further partnerships in Africa.

One other significant change occurring with the discharge of the 2019 board is that **Katharina Schulthess** has decided not to run for the position of president again in 2020. She has held the position for three consecutive years and together with Sandra Vecchi and Christina Borelli (the first and third presidents respectively), becomes the joint longest-serving president of the organisation.

Katharina explained her decision to take a step away from filling the president's position at this time, though confirms that she will remain within the new board – which is planned to grow to seven positions.

Fortunately, the fact that the GA is being held online doesn't prevent Katharina from still being presented with a surprise gift for her contributions over the past years - and her bouquet of flowers is delivered to her table right on time!

## 11. Elections 2020

### President

Dorothee Kurz runs for the position of President of the organisation, after several years of involvement in IngOG+ alongside her PhD studies in Zürich. She has actively supported the initial project and ongoing research in Paraguay and is motivated to support other projects as well as the development of IngOG+.

Prior to entering her PhD program Dorothee spent a year overseas with an established NGO in India, specialising in the improvement and maintenance of water resources.

Question: Do you accept Dorothee Kurz as president of the organisation for 2020?

Yes: 25

No: 0

Abstentions: 1

### Remainder of the Board

In addition to Katharina Schulthess remaining within the board, **Lukas Dössegger** and **Andreas Wende** run again for their positions. Lukas has enjoyed his role in the past year and wants to contribute further to the financial control of the organisation, while Andreas is motivated to look at new and innovative ideas for fundraising.

Katharina plans to make the project execution guidelines and improvement of the organisation's documentation her priorities, in her new role within the Board.

To strengthen the Board and replace the departing members, three candidates are running for Board positions for the first time in 2020:

**Nora Mühlberger** has been within IngOG+ for three years already and beside her role on the Bosnia project team, has increasingly supported the organisation and running of several events. In offering her candidacy for a Board position, she looks forward to learning a lot in the coming year.

**Emmanuelle Sallin** has also supported several of IngOG+'s most important events recently and as well as lending her support to numerous technical support projects involving earthquake safety, she is now handling a new proposal from Nicaragua and is keen to experience more of the organization.

**Carola Bänziger** is looking for an opportunity to implement what she has learned in her recently-completed studies in real-life projects, and so brings further in-depth knowledge in the area of water sanitation and management.

Question: Do you accept Lukas Dössegger, Katharina Schulthess & Andreas Wende, and Carola Bänziger, Nora Mühlberger & Emmanuelle Sallin as members of the board of the organisation for 2020?

Yes: 20

No: 0

Abstentions: 6

### Auditors

Although neither could be present, Lukas Haas and Yasser awaad Salem remain willing to be our auditors for the coming year. Yasser brings a wealth of experience in matters relating to management and controlling while Lukas continues to run his own business.

Question: Do you accept Lukas Haas & Yasser awaad Salem as auditors for 2020?

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

## 12. Outlook 2020, Part 2

With the outlook in terms of project milestones for the coming year already presented, the proposed budgets for 2020 were confirmed to close the General Assembly.

The questions to the proposals for the year centered mainly on the most recent additions into the 2020 budget: the projects moving on from the Evaluation Phase (at present this concerns just KEN002, Ilkeek Aare Primary School) and those which may require additional evaluation trips within the year (the opportunity in Nicaragua).

As the fixed yearly sum for evaluations has presently been attributed to KEN002, and the arrangements for project funding are that evaluation costs are moved to the project budget once it progresses, a concern that the ability to fully evaluate the Nicaragua opportunity depended on the progress of KEN002 and its fundraising was raised.

In response, Lukas confirmed that the exact situation would be looked at on a regular basis. It is expected that the project in Kenya will continue to move forwards but if not, and there is also no delay to construction in Bosnia, the year's non-specific funds to date can be checked before deciding finally if additional costs for evaluations could be absorbed within the year.

The treasurer and managers of the main projects abstained. It was confirmed that a further review of the final budget would be undertaken, considering the points raised by the audience.

Question: Do you accept the budget for 2020?

Yes: 21

No: 0

Abstentions: 2 + 3

## 13. Applications of members

No applications for new memberships were received during the General Assembly meeting itself.

## 14. Varia

Three varia items were briefly discussed at the end of the General Assembly:

- **Nadine Truyol**, as the author of the new IngOG+ Newsletter and having a central role in IngOG+'s presence on social media, reminded that there is still room for more people to become involved in the organisation's Marcoms. (In case of interest, contact: [nadine.truyol@ingog.ch](mailto:nadine.truyol@ingog.ch)).



- **Christian Groves** asked if the urgency and investment of resources in fundraising would be maintained throughout the year, if it became apparent at a later point in time that the planned construction stages in Bosnia could not be completed before the winter [as a result of a delayed start to the project].

The project team reiterated that flexibility in the project, as well as the ability to re-plan in the event of the pandemic disrupting progress within 2020, could only be helped the more of the budget was on hand. For this reason, chances will still be proactively followed up even in the event of a forced change in plans for 2020.

- Noting Dorothee Kurz's previous experience in India, **Christoph Schärli** inquired as to the extent of the projects done there and how the organisation in India worked.

## 15. Closing of the General Assembly 2020

Dorothee Kurz, the sixth president of IngOG+, closed the formal part of the 2020 General Assembly at 16:58.

Witnessed and correct:



Katharina Schulthess

*President*

Zürich, 28.03.2020



Keith Wilson

*Secretary*

Zürich, 28.03.2020

# Appendix 1: List of Attendees

## Board (6)

Katharina	Schulthess	<i>President</i>
Christian	De Maddalena	<i>Vice President</i>
Lukas	Dössegger	<i>Treasurer</i>
Keith	Wilson	<i>Secretary</i>
Eric	Carrera Escartin	<i>Membership Secretary</i>
Andreas	Wende	<i>Fundraising</i>

## Members (20)

Lukas	Allemann
Carola	Bänziger
Dominik	Burkhart
Samira	Cabdulle
Fabianna	Carrera
Carina	Doll
Christian	Groves
Martin	Hergersberg
Dorothee	Kurz
Markus	Leutwyler
Lorina	Locher
Michael	Meili
Cleophea	Michelsen
Nora	Mühlberger
Jean	Randhahn
Janine	Rush
Emmanuelle	Sallin
ßChristoph	Schärli
Dionysios	Stathas
Nadine	Truyol

**Total Attendees: 26**