

## Minutes from DRC Danish Refugee Council's Executive Committee Meeting held on 8th of June 2021

### Present

#### From the Executive Committee:

Agi Csonka, Chair  
 Bettina Bach  
 Juliane Marie Neiiendam  
 Kim Simonsen  
 Mette Fejfer  
 Sophie Rytter  
 Ulla Næsby Tawiah  
 Vagn Berthelsen

#### From the Secretariat:

Charlotte Slente, Secretary General  
 Vibeke Bach Madsen, Committee Secretary  
 Anne Mette Barfod, CFO, under items 2, 3, 4 and 5

#### Apologies

Jeton Kryezi, Observer, Chair i DFUNK

### Agenda

	Items		Content
	<b>Welcome and introduction by the Executive Committee</b> (Agi Csonka)		Presentation round of committee members
1)	<b>Brief update from the field, Myanmar</b>	Briefing	
2)	<b>Approval of the Agenda</b>	Decision	Comments on the agenda
3)	<b>Approval of the Rules of Procedure</b> (Agi Csonka)	Decision	Annex 3 Draft Rules of Procedure Annex 3.1 DRC's articles of association
4)	<b>Constituency of Executive Committee</b> (Agi Csonka)	Decision	Election of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vice-Chair</li> <li>- Representative of the Audit Committee</li> </ul>
	<b>BREAK</b>		
5)	<b>Financial briefing</b> (Anne Mette Barfod, CFO)	Decision	Annex 5.1 Budget follow-up January-April 2021 Annex 5.1.1 Investments April 2021 Annex 5.2 Forecast May 2021 Annex 5.3 Balanced result 2021 Annex 5.4 Status from DRC Integration

	Items		Content
			The Executive Committee is presented for Budget Follow-up January-April 2021, forecast 2021 and discusses plans to ensure a balanced result for 2021.
	<b>BREAK</b>		
7)	<b>FOCUS TOPIC: Introduction to DRC Operation and activities</b> (Charlotte Slente)	Briefing	Annex 7 Intro to DRC There have been new elections to ExCom, which is why time is set aside for introduction to and dialogue about DRC's operation and activities.
8)	<b>Mexico - Approval of Office Opening, Step 1</b> (Charlotte Slente)	Decision	Annex 8 DRC Mexico Registration – Recommendation for decision Annex 8.1 DRC Mexico Risk Assessment Annex 8.2 DRC Mexico business case calculations DRC is called upon to contribute to solutions for refugees and migrants now also in Mexico. This presupposes the opening of an office in the country - a question ExCom must decide on.
9)	<b>Assessment of the Council Meeting, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b> (Agi Csonka)	Discussion	ExCom's assessment of the Meeting of the Council, and how to ensure good cooperation in the future (and for possible further discussion).
10)	<b>Notices from the Chair</b>	Briefing	
11)	<b>AOB</b>		
	<b>Summary of the meeting</b>		ExCom's "own time" with the possibility of subsequent evaluation and summary of the meeting.

## Welcome and introduction by the Executive Committee

Agi Csonka welcomed the newly elected by the Council ExCom, especially newly elected Vagn Berthelsen nominated by Oxfam IBIS.

### Re 1) Brief update from the field, Myanmar

The Executive Committee was presented with the situation in Myanmar, where the DRC has been since 2009. The situation in the country has worsened since the military coup in February 2021.

DRC has 400 national employee and 30 expats at 9 offices with a project portfolio of almost 167.5 mDKK.

The programs include protection (basic, focus on children and women), income-generating activities, camp coordination and camp management, water, sanitation and hygiene, and humanitarian mine activities in the local community (security).

In 2020, the DRC has reached 125,000 people with lifesaving activities.

### Re 2) Approval of the agenda

The agenda could be approved as above.

### Re 3) Approval of the Rules of Procedure

Issued as Annex 3 were *Draft Rules of Procedure* and Annex 3.1 *DRC's Articles of Association*.

Agi Csonka briefly presented the slightly updated Rules of Procedure, primarily related to amendments to the statutes.

⇒ **Decisions:** *Executive Committee approved the Rules of Procedure as submitted.*

*In relation to the Articles of Association, where updates and amendments were approved at the Meeting of the Council on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021, there is a wish to clarify and make the rules for elections to the Executive Committee more distinct. This will be discussed at the Executive Committee's first meeting in 2022.*

### Re 4) Constituency of Executive Committee

Based on some probing in the Executive Committee, the Chair recommended the following constituency, which was approved by the Executive Committee:

- Vice-Chair: Kim Simonsen
- Representative of the Audit Committee: Vagn Berthelsen

### Re 5) Financial briefing

Issued as annex to the item were:

Annex 5.1 *Budget follow-up January-April 2021*

Annex 5.1.1 *Investments April 2021*

Annex 5.2 *Forecast May 2021*

Annex 5.3 *Balanced result 2021*

Annex 5.4 *Status from DRC Integration*

Anne Mette Barfod, CFO, reviewed the budget follow-up January-April 2021 as well as the forecast for 2021 as a background for proposals on how to ensure a balanced result for 2021.

Where 2021 has started slightly below budget, March showed that the *revenue side* of budget and that April has caught up. In other words, it looks really good for the year.

#### **Forecast 2021**

The forecast is typically prepared at the beginning of Q2 and is a reassessment of all contracts per. country. This year's forecast shows an overall increase in the result. Unchanged costs are expected despite the increase in revenue.

#### **Balanced result for 2021**

It is important that a positive result is delivered for 2021 and the following years, so that continued investments can be secured for the continued development of DRC's efforts and of the organisation. Furthermore, there is need for reconstruction of the equity that especially must ensure partly liquidity flows and partly the necessary flexibility to deal with the risks of DRC's operational condition.

With the decision to close the loss-making activities in the DRC Integration and with the forthcoming work on further development of the business model the aim is that the equity is restored to a satisfactory level – i.e., between 6-9.5 weeks of activity – over the next 5-6 years.

⇒ **Decisions:** *The Executive Committee thanked for the review of the financial data. It was gratifying that the revenue side in April has caught up with the first month's decline of the year, and there is great recognition of the positive forecast for 2021.*

*The chairmanship will continuously follow the financial reporting and will together with the secretariat assess any need for adjustments.*

## Re 7) FOCUS TOPIC: Introduction to DRC Operation and activities

Issued as annex to the item was Annex 7 *Intro to DRC*.

Secretary General Charlotte Slente presented the structure, objectives and activities of the DRC. Including a review of program areas in the international operation, the Asylum Department's activities, DRC Integration's overall operation and the advocacy work.

The presentation also included a review of "DRC in numbers", including an overview of the donor landscape and the results from the private collection.

## Re 8) Mexico - Approval of Office Opening, Step 1

Issued as annex to the item were:

Annex 8 *DRC Mexico Registration – Recommendation for decision*

Annex 8.1 *DRC Mexico Risk Assessment*

Annex 8.2 *DRC Mexico business case calculations*

Based on the identified opportunities in Mexico, it is recommended that the Executive Committee approve a registration of the DRC Mexico following a two-step approach:

- 1) An initial "soft" registration supported by DRC Colombia with only an Area office in Mexico
- 2) Establishing an actual country operation once sufficient funding has been identified, most likely in Q2 2022.

The recent developments in the region have made Mexico into a receiving country for *mixed migration*. In 2019 Mexico has received more than 70,000 new asylum applications. In 2020, the number was approx. 41,000 asylum applications despite the C-19 pandemic.

At the request and with funding from ECHO, at the end of 2019, it was decided to carry out a scoping mission and collect data on migration and the humanitarian needs of refugees and migrants in Mexico.

Registration of the DRC Mexico will, in accordance with Strategy 2025, enable the DRC to provide increased protection and improved inclusion of displaced people. Funded by ECHO, DRC Colombia currently delivers several projects in Mexico through local partners, and DRC is thus in a good position to establish itself in the country. Establishing a country operation in Mexico will increase DRC's regional presence and further widen the possibilities to position DRC as a key protection actor on the mixed migration route to the US with the ability to represent persons of concerns more effectively.

Funding opportunities in Mexico are growing, but with registration requirements. Therefore, there are currently opportunities for the DRC to initiate registration and gain access to the expected funding flows – and thus solutions for the displaced.

⇒ **Decision:** *The Executive Committee approved the registration of DRC in Mexico according to the outlined two-step model. At step two, there should be a detailed and sustainable country strategy, updated risk assessment and recommendation for decision approved by the EMT.*

*At a forthcoming meeting, the Executive Committee wishes to have a strategic discussion of how to handle the localisation agenda with requirements for the establishment of local DRC organisations.*

## Re 9) Assessment of the Council Meeting, May 27th, 2021

The Executive Committee assessed that the Meeting of the Council has proceeded satisfactorily. There was a great attendance. It is good and important to present the DRC's work and it was a very good presentation on externalisation of responsibility and the right to seek asylum and the so-called pushbacks in the Balkans.

The Executive Committee is aware of the importance of ensuring that member organisations perceive their membership as relevant and valuable. It is therefore important to continuously ensure the support of the member organisations, and to seek opportunities to develop the meetings so that they are perceived as value-creating.

⇒ **Decisions:** *The chairmanship will draft ideas for the development of the Council Meeting, including that the member organisations regularly receive information about the DRC's work and activities.*

## **Re 10) Notices from the Chair**

- **Minister for Development Cooperation Flemming Møller Mortensen**

Charlotte Slente was invited to a coffee meeting with the Minister on May 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a good, forward-looking and positive dialogue. DRC is an important partner, and it is fruitful with ongoing dialogue, where DRC also has the opportunity to present and clarify views. On a forthcoming visit to the Sahel, the Minister for Development Cooperation will have the opportunity to visit the DRC's activities there.

- **Mission to Yemen**

Charlotte Slente is on a field visit to Yemen from July 5 – 16.

With six offices around the country and more than 430 employees DRC is one of the largest international INGO's in Yemen.

DRC began its operation in Aden in 2008 with a focus on migrants from East Africa, but after the outbreak of the civil war in 2015, DRC changed focus. Today, the DRC is working to save lives and help the displaced to build a better future.

DRC's main objectives in Yemen is to provide immediate lifesaving assistance, increase protection and reduce the risks and vulnerabilities that follow in the wake of displacement.

Activities in Yemen include emergency response, protection services, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), economic recovery programming, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), shelter & Non-Food Items (NFI), and humanitarian mine action.

## **Re 11) AOB**

There was nothing to AOB.

### **ExCom meetings in 2021**

ExCom /5      September 14th at 3-6:30 PM

ExCom /6      Nov. 18th at 6 PM to Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> 6 PM

ExCom/7      December 7th at 3-6:30 PM