

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL 30 MAY 2022

EC=the Executive Committee (blue print)

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>ORGANISATION</u>
Agi	Csonka	Chair (EC)
Jens	Vesterager	ADRA
Helene	Ellemann-Jensen	ADRA
Vibe	Klarup	Amnesty International
Mikala	Satiya Rørbech	Amnesty International
Sune	Holm Pedersen	Confederation of Danish Employers (<i>Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening</i>)
Mette	Feifer	The Danish Chamber of Commerce (<i>Dansk Erhverv</i>) (EC)
Anja	Gudbergesen	The Danish Chamber of Commerce
Johan	Hedegaard Jørgensen	The Danish Youth Council
Linda	Herzberg	The Jewish Community in Denmark (<i>Det Jødiske Samfund i Danmark</i>)
Lone	Spliid	The Jewish Community in Denmark
Christina	Borries	FH – Danish Trade Union Confederation (<i>FH Fagbevægelsens Hovedorganisation</i>)
Marie	Sonne	FH – Danish Trade Union Confederation
Jørgen	Estrup	The Danish UN Association (<i>FN-Forbundet</i>)
Ole	Olsen	The Danish UN Association
Pia Heidi	Nielsen	FOA (Trade and Labour) (<i>trade union for public service workers</i>)
Mads	Samsing	HK (Union of Commercial and Clerical Employees)
Kim	Simonsen	HK (Deputy Chairman EC)
Juliane Marie	Neiiendam	The Women's Council Denmark (<i>Kvinderådet</i>) (EC)
Karen-Lisbet	Jacobsen	The Women's Council Denmark (as from around 5.20/5.30 pm)
Caroline Maria	Tromer Dragsdahl	The Women's Council Denmark
Steen	Folke	ActionAid (<i>Mellempøkeligt Samvirke</i>)
Mette	Roerup	ActionAid
Vagn	Berthelsen	Oxfam IBIS (EC)
Bente	Christensen	Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides (<i>Sct. Georgs Gilderne</i>)
Birthe	Munck-Fairwood	The Intercultural Christian Centre Denmark (<i>Tværkulturelt Center</i>)
Cecilia	Decara	UNICEF
Janne	Ebbe	UNICEF
Ulla	Næsby Tawiah	External member of the EC
Karen Faarbæk de Andrade	Lima	Employee representative (EC)
Bettina	Bach	Volunteer (EC)
Regitze	Videbæk	Volunteer
Erik	Lyby	Volunteer

GUESTS

Henrik	Wellejus	Deloitte
Christian	Dalmose Pedersen	Deloitte
Finn	Schwarz	Audit Committee
Michael	Bach	Audit Committee
Andreas	Kamm	Honorary President
Stig	Glent-Madsen	Honorary Member
Natasha	Al-Hariri	Director of DFUNK

EMPLOYEES OF THE DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

Charlotte	Slente	Secretary General
Anne Mette	Barfod	Executive Director Finance, Supply Chain and Risk
Kenneth	Flex	Director of DRC Integration (speaker)
Vibeke	Bach Madsen	Corporate Strategy Advisor
Gitte Busk	Grønbech	Coordinator (keeper of the minutes)

Agi Csonka, Chair of the DRC Danish Refugee Council (hereinafter 'DRC'), welcomed the Council and expressed her gratitude of the large attendance and that it was again possible to meet without any COVID-19 restrictions.

Agi Csonka welcomed the auditors from Deloitte, Finn Schwarz and Michael Back of the Audit Committee, Andreas Kamm, Honorary President, Stig Glent-Madsen, Honorary Member, Natasha Al-Hariri, Director of DFUNK, and the Executive Committee.

The DRC Executive Management Team was represented by Charlotte Slente, Secretary General, and Anne Mette Barfod, Executive Director Finance, Supply Chain and Risk.

Charlotte Slente and Kennet Flex, Director of DRC Integration, gave an introduction to the theme of the meeting: the DRC's Ukraine response.

The DRC has operated in Ukraine since 1998 and has been active in 23 of the 24 Ukrainian regions since the conflict between Russia and Ukraine broke out on 24 February this year. The organisation has about 260 employees, most of whom are IDPs themselves. About 14.7 million persons are internally displaced in Ukraine or have fled to other countries, especially to the neighbouring countries Poland, Romania, and Moldova.

The DRC assists with:

- Protection, legal assistance and basic needs: relief aid and cash, shelter, water and sanitation
- Financial restoration and livelihood – help people help themselves
- Humanitarian mine actions

The DRC is a respected partner, who also uses local partners for implementation. The DRC was the first international NGO to sign a cooperation agreement with a Ukrainian response team. To ensure quick and efficient help to people fleeing Ukraine, the DRC has been registered in Poland and Moldova and is waiting for the formal approval in Romania.

The DRC also operates in other countries in Europe where the organisation is currently strengthening its emergency assistance to refugees from Ukraine

A DRC Ukraine Response Director has been appointed.

The generosity of private contributors, foundations, and state and international donors is unprecedented in the long history of the DRC.

The Danish Parliament fast-tracked an emergency act for refugees from Ukraine offering them temporary protection in Denmark without requiring them to apply for residence first. The

emergency act grants Ukrainians fast access to the Danish society, allowing them to go to school, study or work. The DRC considers the emergency act necessary as a means to handle the many refugees from Ukraine, but it should also serve as an example for other refugee groups.

The initiatives in Denmark aggregating about DKK 23.5 million (from foundations, the Danish Immigration Service and others) comprise:

Initiatives aimed at refugees – examples:

Enhanced support to volunteers involved in receiving refugees and providing direct help
 Better coordination and organisation of new volunteers and the creation of new groups of Ukraine volunteers
 Considerably enhanced advisory services of the Asylum Division, including outreach advisory teams at accommodation centres for asylum-seekers and other places where Ukrainians are accommodated

Initiatives aimed at professionals – examples:

Hotline for professionals concerning psychosocial support to vulnerable refugees
 Manuals for teachers and educationalists on reception and support
 Courses and advice on reception and support

Initiatives aimed at the diaspora – examples:

Mainly, cooperation with 'Save Ukraine', which plays a leading role in the Association of Ukrainians in Denmark, a Ukrainian umbrella organisation
 Coordination between diaspora organisations and the DRC
 Mapping of diaspora organisations and their activities in Denmark to improve coordination and information sharing

After Charlotte Slente and Kenneth Flex's presentation, it was possible to ask questions.

Ole Olsen/the Danish UN Association considered it essential for the DRC to maintain its position in Denmark even though its activities in Denmark are taking up an increasingly smaller share of the aggregate activities of the organisation. Agi Csonka expressed that she agreed. Unfortunately, the DRC had to scale down its activities in Denmark due to the decreasing number of asylum seekers and the loss-making integration activities, but the DRC is trying to position itself as a long-term provider of services to local governments. One initiative is 'Friends Showing the Way', which has attracted much positive attention, also from former Minister for Integration Mathias Tesfaye. 'Friends Showing the Way' is a programme set up by the Red Cross and the DRC to support personal meetings between refugees and volunteers which can make a difference to integration.

Steen Folke/ActionAid expressed his appreciation of the DRC's focus on alliances. Charlotte Slente replied that the localisation agenda is a very crucial element of the DRC Strategy 2025.

The Chair expressed her gratitude to Charlotte Slente and Kenneth Flex for an interesting and relevant presentation.

Re item 1. Election of chairman of the meeting

The Chair moved that Finn Schwarz, Attorney-at-Law, and a member of the DRC Audit Committee, be elected chairman of the meeting.

Finn Schwarz was elected by acclamation.

The chairman of the meeting expressed his thanks for the election and said that it had to be determined whether the Council formed a quorum under **article 8(3)** of the Statutes of the DRC Danish Refugee Council before the meeting could proceed: *Each member organisation has one vote on the Council. The six representatives of the voluntary groups and advisory services for refugees that are part of and have concluded a co-operation agreement with the Danish Refugee Council and the members of the Executive Committee have one vote each. They cannot vote by proxy, but before the start of the Council meeting, the member organisations and the voluntary groups may register a substitute for a Council member who is unable to attend. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote unless the Statues provide otherwise.*

The <u>full</u> Council comprises 25 x 1 persons	25
+ Executive Committee members	9
The network of volunteers	5

The Council comprises a total of **39 members**

which means that the presence of no less than 20 voting members is required for the meeting to form a quorum.

A roll call confirmed the presence of 33 representatives, that is, at least half the voting representatives were present at the meeting, and the chairman of the meeting was therefore able to announce that the meeting **formed a quorum**.

According to **article 9(2)** of the Statutes of the DRC, the annual meeting of the Council must be convened by the Chair at no less than two months' notice. Proposals that Council members wish the Council meeting to consider must be submitted in writing to the Chair no later than 21 days before the Council meeting. No later than 14 days before the Council meeting, the Chair must circulate any proposals as well as the annual report and the agenda for the meeting setting out a number of regular items.

- Notice of the meeting was given by email on 28 March 2022.
- The agenda, the Annual Report for 2021 and appendices were circulated to the Council members by email on 12 May 2022.

The chairman of the meeting announced that **the meeting had been duly convened**.

Re item 2 The Chair's oral report and its adoption

The chairman of the meeting gave the floor to the Agi Csonka, who presented her oral report.

"Unfortunately, we are missing someone today," Agi Csonka said at the beginning of her oral report. We are missing Bent Melchior, who died last July aged 92. Bent Melchior was a great and warm person who knew from his own life the impact of being forced to flee, to leave his home, friends and family. He chose to use this knowledge to make a difference for refugees and similar causes. Bent Melchior became involved in the activities of the DRC in the early 1970s, including as a member of the Executive Committee, and became the first Honorary Member of the DRC in the late 1990s.

In her oral report, Agi Csonka focused on Afghanistan, which is suffering from extreme weather conditions (heavy rain and drought), increasing food prices and the Taliban's takeover of power in August 2021, which has given rise to flows of refugees both internally and to other countries. The DRC has a strong base in the country with about 700 Afghan colleagues working with tasks like mine clearance, monitoring and protection programmes and financial support.

Another conflict in focus was that of the Sahel region, the border area between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, which has seen major upheaval, violence, organised crime and climate changes. The DRC distributes direct relief aid and supports both refugees and local communities through long-term sustainable projects.

Agi Csonka emphasised that the DRC now has a global strategy (Strategy 2025) with targeted efforts and the measurement of results. A huge effort has been launched to adapt the organisation to be able to perform and live up to the global strategy.

The DRC helped more than 8 million refugees and IDPs in 2021, and in 2022 the DRC will also use the global focus and year-long expertise of the organisation to increase protection and enhance inclusion of even more displaced persons.

2021 was the year of change to the DRC in Denmark as the organisation unfortunately had to discontinue two former significant business areas: LearnDanish (*Lærdansk*) and the DRC Interpreting Service (*Tolkesevice*). A decreasing number of refugees in combination with extremely low rates for the activities that were put out to tender gave rise to the decision to close down these two particular business areas. But DRC Integration in Denmark is not a thing of the past. Future activities will focus on the following four areas: Employment, Children & Families, Volunteers and Knowledge & Development. Agi Csonka sincerely thanked all employees of DRC Integration, both those who had to leave the organisation and those who have been involved in reviving and consolidating DRC Integration as one of the leading Danish players within the integration of refugees.

Agi Csonka ended her oral report by thanking all attendees by saying:

"I am happy with seeing your commitment to the DRC by your attendance today. It is invaluable to us. Our donors appreciate that the DRC is a professional organisation and that the DRC is an NGO attracting wide support. You are the ones giving us this support. Thank you for your commitment."

After the Chair's oral report, it was possible to ask the Chair questions:

Mette Roerup/ActionAid expressed concern about the basic rights of women in Afghanistan. Charlotte Slente said that it is essential for the DRC to continue its programmes in the country under the Taliban regime, especially when Western country governments have also withdrawn from the country. It is essential for the DRC to be present in order to talk to politicians. Charlotte

Slente herself had had the opportunity to talk to several ministers when she visited Afghanistan in April this year.

The DRC pursues ongoing and dedicated work in 18 of the 34 Afghan provinces. This is a way of ensuring that female DRC staff members can continue their work.

Vibe Klarup/Amnesty International and Jens Vesterager/ADRA were pleased with and praised the DRC for the steady activities of the organisation, including its strong finances. They both expressed gratitude for the good collaboration on refugee issues.

After it had been possible to ask questions regarding and comment on the report, the chairman of the meeting noted that the Council had approved the oral annual report.

The oral report is appended to these minutes.

Re item 3 Adoption of the Annual Report for 2021 of the DRC Danish Refugee Council

The chairman of the meeting said that the Annual Report for 2021 had been submitted to the Council members together with the recommendation from the Audit Committee and the Executive Committee that it be approved.

Henrik Wellejus and Christian Dalmoose Pedersen of Deloitte, the external auditors of the DRC, attended the meeting to answer any questions.

Anne Mette Barfod, Executive Director Finance, Supply Chain and Risk, presented the **2021 financial results**, which include a net profit of DKK 25.4 million. The previous four years, the DRC had made a net loss. Last year's net profit ended the downward spiral, which is an exceptional achievement during a period affected by the pandemic and the winding up of the loss-making activities of DRC Integration (LearnDanish (*Lærdansk*) and the DRC Interpreting Service (*Tolkeservice*)).

Revenue was slightly lower than previous years, and for the first time ever, there was a slight reduction in the DRC's international activities. The most comprehensive country operations of the DRC are in Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, Colombia, and Greece. The budget of the Danish operations stood at DKK 164 million, broken down into continued integration activities (DKK 65 million) and discontinued activities (DKK 74 million). A slight decrease in asylum activities. A DKK 12 million increase in fundraising, mainly from fundraising campaigns in support of Ukraine.

Investments stood at DKK 36 million, which is roughly at the same level as in 2020.

Equity stood at DKK 385 million and will hopefully see a small increase over the next years. It is the aim of the Executive Committee that the equity of the DRC will correspond to 6 to 10 weeks' activities.

Liquidity is reasonable and slightly above the level of the last couple of years.

The DRC helped 8 million refugees and IDPs in 2021 through different sectors, including protection, shelter and mine clearance. The contribution made by about 6,000 volunteers corresponds to assistance worth DKK 55 million. The vast majority of the 7,500 DRC employees are local employees.

The projected 2022 income forecast is DKK 3 billion (exclusive of Ukraine, which means that the figure will change), profit before investments is expected to come in at about DKK 32 million and investments at about DKK 30 million. Net profit is expected to be about DKK 2 million.

Henrik Wellejus, Deloitte, referred to page 42 of the Annual Report for 2021 and said that the auditors had provided a clean audit opinion for 2021.

After Anne Mette Barfod's presentation, the floor was opened to questions.

Jens Vesterager/ADRA congratulated the DRC with the fine annual report. He asked for more details about the DRC's Global Displacement Forecast mentioned on page 24 of the Annual Report. Charlotte Slente replied that the Global Displacement Forecast developed by the DRC together with the IBM is mainly a planning tool that can be used to prevent displacement. The tool cannot be used to predict incidents like the war in Ukraine and the military coup in Myanmar. The tool has an algorithm weighing many different kinds of data (financial, social and climate data etc.). The margin of error of the Global Displacement Forecast is about 10 per cent, and the DRC has great expectations of the tool.

Ole Olsen/the Danish UN Association asked whether the increasing food prices would have any impact on the DRC's activities. Anne Mette Barfod replied that the DRC would most likely be able to help fewer people for the same amount.

The chairman of the meeting expressed his thanks to Anne Mette Barfod for the presentation and announced, following the approbation of the Council in meeting, that the DRC's Annual Report for 2021 had been adopted by the Council.

The Annual Report for 2021 is available for download at <https://drc.ngo/about-us/who-we-are/annual-reports/>

Re item 4 Consideration of proposals submitted

The chairman of the meeting said that no proposals had been submitted.

Re item 5 Proposed amendments to the Statutes of the Danish Refugee Council

The chairman of the meeting referred to the circulated Appendix 5: *Proposed amendment to article 12(2) of the Statutes of the DRC Danish Refugee Council*. The proposal had been submitted to the Council members together with the recommendation from the Executive Committee that the amendment be approved.

The following amendment to the Statutes of the DRC had been proposed:

- The following sentence be added to **article 12(2) on election to the Executive Committee**:
Each representative must vote for the number of candidates up for election.
- **The paragraph on the Borda count method will be omitted.** ~~*Ordinary members are elected using the Borda count method. The individual voter must list the names of the number of persons to be elected and rank them in his or her order of preference on the voting ballot. The first place vote receives the same number of points as the number of persons to be*~~

~~electe~~d; the second place vote receives one point less and so forth. Nominated candidates are elected in descending order of total points.

The chairman of the meeting presented the proposed amendments and asked the members of the Council whether they could vote for the motion. No one voted against the motion. There was one abstention.

The chairman of the meeting announced that the motion to amend article 12(2) of the Statutes of the DRC Danish Refugee Council had been passed.

Re item 6 Election of Chair

The chairman of the meeting referred to the circulated Appendix 6 on *the election of the Chair of the DRC*.

According to **article 11(1)** of the Statutes of the DRC Danish Refugee Council, *the Chair of the Danish Refugee Council shall be elected by the Council for a two-year period. The Chair may be elected outside the group of member organisations. According to article 11(2), the Deputy Chair shall invite nominations for Chair no later than two months before the Council meeting, allowing one month for submission of nominations.*

A letter from Kim Simonsen, Deputy Chair, inviting members to nominate candidates for the position of Chair was circulated on 28 March 2022.

The secretariat had not received any other nominations for the position of Chair by the deadline.

The Executive Committee unanimously proposed the re-election of Agi Csonka as Chair of the DRC for another two-year period.

The Council of members supported the proposal of the Executive Committee.

Agi Csonka was then re-elected as Chair of the DRC for a two-year period.

Re item 7 Election of three Executive Committee members

The chairman of the meeting referred to the circulated Appendix 7 and said that three candidates had to be elected as ordinary members of the Executive Committee for a two-year period.

According to article 12(2) of the statutes of the DRC Danish Refugee Council, candidates standing for the Executive Committee must send their written motivations and CVs to the secretariat no later than three weeks before the annual meeting of the Council, provided always that it is possible for candidates to announce their candidacy at the annual meeting if the number of candidates is too small.

The following had announced their candidacy:

Juliane Marie Neiiendam (nominated by the Women's Council in Denmark – renomination)

Bettina Bach (nominated by the volunteers – renomination)
 Kim Simonsen (nominated by the HK – renomination)

All three candidates had sent written motivations and CVs to the secretariat prior to the above-mentioned three-week period. That material was circulated together with the agenda and the other appendices for the meeting of the Council.

The chairman of the meeting asked the Council members to approve the re-election of Juliane Marie Neiiendam, Bettina Bach and Kim Simonsen for the Executive Committee of the DRC for another two-year period.

The Council members approved the re-election of Juliane Marie Neiiendam (the Women's Council Denmark), Bettina Bach (volunteers) and Kim Simonsen (the HK) for the Executive Committee of the DRC for another two-year period.

The chairman of the meeting congratulated the elected members on the election.

Steen Folke/ActionAid asked whether the DRC had taken any initiatives to recruit more candidates for the Executive Committee. Agi Csonka replied that it was a little difficult to strike the right balance between opposing considerations when the number of candidates was sufficient, but she would consider highlighting this issue when convening the next annual meeting of the Council.

Re item 8 Appointment of state-authorised public accountant(s)

The Executive Committee had nominated Deloitte for election as auditors for the next two-year period.

Deloitte was first elected in 2018.

The chairman of the meeting announced that the Council approved the election of Deloitte as external auditors of the DRC for a two-year period.

Re item 9 Election of two Audit Committee members

Stig Glent-Madsen, High Court Judge of the High Court of Western Denmark, previous Chairman of the DRC from 2008 to 2018 and Honorary Member, oversaw the proceedings in connection with item 9.

Stig Glent-Madsen referred to Appendix 9 in which the Executive Committee proposed the re-election of Michael Bach, State-Authorised Public Accountant (ActionAid), and Finn Schwarz, Attorney-at-Law (the Jewish Community in Denmark), for the Audit Committee for the next two-year period.

The Council in meeting approved the proposal, re-electing Michael Bach and Finn Schwarz for the DRC Audit Committee for a two-year period.

Re item 10 Membership fees for 2023

The chairman of the meeting referred to Appendix 10 and announced that the Executive Committee recommended that the membership fees for the DRC remain unchanged for 2023.

As there were no proposals to amend the recommendation, the chairman of the meeting announced that the membership fees will remain unchanged for 2023.

Re item 11 Scheduling of the 2023 Council meeting

The 2023 annual meeting of the Council was scheduled for Wednesday, 31 May 2023 at 5.00 pm.

Re item 12 Any other business

No further business to be transacted under this item.

Re item 13 Closing of meeting by Agi Csonka

The floor was passed to the Chair. She expressed her gratitude to the Council members for a good annual meeting and reminded the members that suggestions for improvements to the productivity of the collaboration between the DRC and its 25 member organisations would be warmly welcomed if sent by email to either Agi Csonka herself or the secretariat.

Agi Csonka also expressed her gratitude to the DRC employees for the tremendous work carried out in 2021, and she thanked the auditors and her fellow members of the Executive Committee. Finally, thanks were conveyed to Finn Schwarz, who had conducted the Council meeting well.

Applause and light buffet.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

Copenhagen, 15 June 2022

Finn Schwarz
Chairman of the meeting

Gitte Busk Grønbech
Keeper of the minutes