



MERI TOKSAVE 2017 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good Afternoon and Gutpla Avinun to our members, supporters, volunteers, partners, guests and fellow members of the Management Committee! Welcome to the 2017 Annual General Meeting of Meri Toksave Incorporated. Moving forward into 2018, the Meri Toksave Management Committee puts forward the following priorities for the organisation:

1. NEW PRORAMMING

Given our strong financial position and strong relationships in the sector and in the region, Meri Toksave should explore opportunities to develop new programmes that align with our objectives, mission and vision. Indeed, aside from our Meri Toksave Directory reverification process, our last major program was the “They Say, We Say” campaign in late 2014.

A. Moving on from the Directory

Whilst our Meri Toksave Directory was groundbreaking in serving as the first and, for a time being, only nation-wide directory of its kind, the 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain and its accompanying Family and Sexual Violence Service Provider Directory by ChildFund, Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, and FHI 360, supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme and USAID have surpassed our ability to add value in the form of information accessibility and referral system improvement.

B. Young Oceania Gender Equality Think-Tank

In late 2015 we had the idea of a “Young Oceania Gender Equality Think-Tank” (YOGET) consortium to deliver a policy fellowship program and to provide learning and leadership development pathways for young leaders, with a focus for young women, passionate about gender equality and public policy.

This will be a priority for 2018. The think tank would aim to recruit a cohort of young people to be involved in a policy fellowship whereby they will be researching, drafting and formulating a major Policy Paper on a particular issue in gender equality selected by the cohort. The Policy Fellowship would entail sessions over 6 months with workshops for public policy skills, thematic knowledge, and policy paper research and formulation. Sessions would feature leading individuals with experienced backgrounds across the public, nongovernmental, academic and private sectors. The Policy Fellowship would be an incubator program for a generation of young leaders to have a new, developed, and enhanced understanding of the public policy implications of gender inequality. Leadership is predominantly about fostering an environment of mentorship and investing in people and we believe that the Think-Tank would be investing in young people and further building the profile of youth engagement within the development sphere.

A major element for the Think-Tank would be undertaking policy research and advocacy for gender equality. This would entail providing policy submissions to governmental and nongovernmental organisations along with developing a strong knowledge bank and research basis of public policy with an impact or focus on gender. An essential aim of the Think-Tank would also be to engage the community and the media to raise awareness of gender inequality and to have an impact in popular and intellectual discourse. This would entail writing opinion articles and generating commentary to be published and broadcast by the media and to conduct outreach and advocacy in the community.

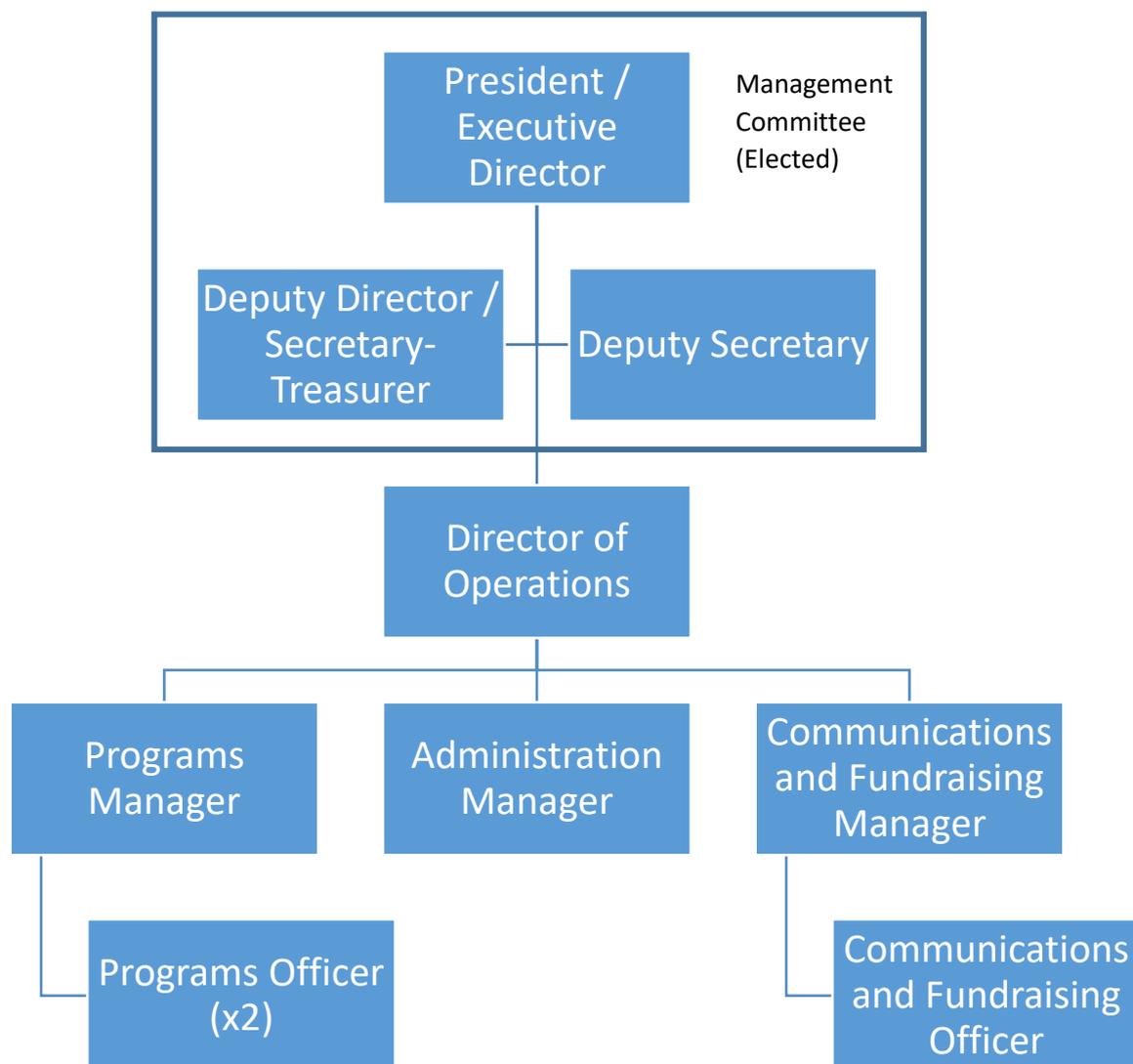
C. Youth Advocates for Gender Equality

Supplementary or independent to the Think-Tank could be a gender equality youth advocates program, recruiting young Papua New Guineans to be advocates. This will strengthen civil society and youth participation in gender equality advocacy. There are some challenges in this to ensure our youth advocates have adequate resources, training, knowledge and support particularly given some of the risks for human rights defenders in Papua New Guinea. Therefore a supportive, strengths-based mobilisation and management of such a program with adequate community training and institutional support is necessary.



2. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND TEAM RECRUITMENT

Due to our limited programming over 2016 and 2017 and personal and professional changes for the Management Committee, our volunteer team has unfortunately but understandably been disengaged. A priority moving forward is to reinvigorate our volunteer team through the reengagement of our brilliant existing volunteers and the recruitment and onboarding of new volunteers. This volunteer structure must effectively and meaningfully align with our new programming plans and ongoing administrative and organisational requirements. The finalisation of position descriptions and the recruitment process will be a priority moving forward to ensure an effective organisational structure.





3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With an eye to ensure organisational integrity and oversight of the Management Committee, the formation of a Board of Directors is a positive step forward to take. Committees of the Board would include:

- Governance and Risk Management Committee
- Finance and Audit Committee
- Programmes and Strategic Advisory Committee

As such we should firstly finalise the Board of Directors policy and terms of reference to ensure an effective and empowered Board to meet financial, legal and ethical obligations and secondly finalise the recruitment and onboarding of members of the Board. We would seek to recruit individuals with experience in gender-based violence, Papua New Guinea or the Pacific Islands, human rights, corporate governance, financial management, legal counsel, and youth affairs.

5. STRATEGIC PLANNING

To ensure a mindfulness of our organisational future and to grapple with our strategic direction, the formulation of a strategic plan is a necessary and helpful undertaking. The Meri Toksave 2020 Strategic Plan should encompass our medium term aspirations in meeting our objectives, mission and vision and outline our specific priorities across administration, programmes, and partnerships.

Strategic Goals

- Advocate for women's rights and youth empowerment, raise awareness of gender-based violence, and challenge stigma and misinformation regarding violence, abuse and inequality;
- Deliver youth-led, rights-based, gender-sensitive and impactful programmes and initiatives;
- Develop strong, meaningful and robust local partnerships across the sector and the region;
- Ensure sustainable, robust, agile and innovative organisational and administrative systems and capabilities particularly for our volunteer management, fundraising and communications;
- Build a policy bank to guide and professionalise our governance and internal processes.

Thank you,

**AYESHA LUTSCHINI
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