

Minutes of the General Assembly of the Members of the Blue Shield

Wednesday 31 May 2023, 13.00 CEST – 15.30 CEST

On 31 May, the Blue Shield hosted its 2023 General Assembly online. We were delighted to welcome representatives from all our Blue Shield national committees and the founding four organisations. Attendees are listed in Appendix 1.

The General Assembly was recorded and is available on the Blue Shield YouTube channel¹. Relevant comments from the Zoom chat are included in these minutes.

Minutes Doc 1 – Minutes of the GA

Minutes Doc 2 – Report of the Countering Trafficking WG

Minutes Doc 3 - National Committee Annual Report

Minutes Doc 4 – Brief Presentation on the National Committee Annual Report

Minutes Doc 5 – Use of Blue Shield Distinctive Emblems

1. Welcome

The meeting began with a welcome from the President, Professor Peter Stone (PGS). He welcomed the new committees to the GA, as the Blue Shield community grows globally: there are now 31 national committees around the world with more under construction. PGS apologised to the General Assembly that this year was a virtual GA²: the Board took the decision to postpone the in-person GA to next year, the 70th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention, when it is hoped to host a much larger celebratory conference. The President is currently in discussion with UNESCO to coordinate / not conflict with their plans. He will let the GA Members know when he has more information.

PGS emphasised the growing concern about the increasingly urgent need for long-term funding. Newcastle University currently supplies the funding for the Secretariat for Blue Shield as part of its commitment to the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property and Peace. Without it, Blue Shield would have a significantly reduced global impact. PGS is currently in the process of renewing the UNESCO Chair with Newcastle and UNESCO, but this is not a long-term solution.

2. Approval of Annual Documentation

All annual documentation is prepared according to the requirements under Dutch law. The President introduced the documents. Minutes of the General Assembly 2022 were circulated earlier (Agenda

¹ <https://youtu.be/DedEeKwRdZE>

[Technical difficulties encountered were edited out of the video. The full video is available on request].

² The annual accounts must now be audited within six months of the year end, so General Assemblies should be held on an annual basis in the first half of the year, to allow the Auditing Committee to report to the General Assembly in due time.

Document 2)³. There were no queries from the Membership. PGS noted on P3 the minutes referred to Guidance Notes: these have not yet been completed due to the competing work pressures of the Secretariat.

PGS introduced the Annual Report of the Board (Agenda Document 3), which covers both the last year in detail and highlights of the last three years of the current Board. He emphasised several thanks for hard work and commitment to the Blue Shield:

- Three members of the Board are standing down.
 - o Bijan Rouhani has been the ICOMOS Representative on the Interim ANCBS/Blue Shield International Board (2014-2017) and then on the Blue Shield Board following the revision to the statutes since 2017.
 - o Kidong Bae was elected from the national committees and served as Vice-President 2020-2023
 - o Lidia Klupsz was elected from the national committees 2020-and 2023, having previously served on the ANCBS Board 2014-2017.
- The President publicly thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the Blue Shield. He also thanked who are not stepping down for their continuing work.

Thanks also went to:

- Emma Cunliffe (EC) and Michael Delacruz (MD) for the proactive work they for Blue Shield, and the ongoing administrative support.
- The volunteer Jessica Barry for all her support with social media, the website, and communications
- The volunteer Jennifer Price-Jones for all her work with the humanitarian sector
- The Countering Trafficking Working Group
- Fionnuala Rogers (Chair BS UK) for all her help and support to PGS with legal advice, and (confidential) work in countries with no BS Committee
- Anna Puhr and Suzanne Harder for representing BS to various international organisations.

Without the support of these individuals the Annual Report would look very different.

PGS introduced the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan and 2023/4 Annual Plan. The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan (Agenda Document 4) shows the direction of travel the Board aims to take the Blue Shield Movement in. Claire McGuire (CM, representative of IFLA on the Board) congratulated BSI on the work in the Annual Plan. She recognised the need for and welcomed the plan for coordination with the FF⁴ in situations of conflict and disaster that are presented in the Strategic and Annual Plan to improve emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. She looked forward to working with the new Board to improve ways of information sharing and coordinating She also invited the national committees to work with IFLA and library colleagues in the field. PGS also supported this and suggested the need for a working group to ensure this is taken forward.

³ Available here: <https://theblueshield.org/blue-shield-general-assembly-2022/>

⁴ FF refers to the Founding Four: ICOM, ICOMOS, IFLA and ICA, the international branches of which founded Blue Shield, and whose national branches are key members of BS national committees.

Suzanne Harder (BS Germany) asked whether it was wise to prepare the Strategic Plan in advance of the Board changeover? PGS agreed that whilst it may be odd that the new Board are committed to a Strategic Plan written by the old Board, this was a statutory process in the Articles of Association. He also noted that, as the GA is now held annually, the Board could easily revise the Strategic Plan, to be approved at the GA. He felt that the Strategic Plan was simply a prioritisation of fairly clear work.

Sophie Delepierre (SD, ICOM) shared her experience in ICOM, who had the same discussion. ICOM found that it was very beneficial for a new Board to have some existing direction. The former Board provide general guidelines for the direction of work, and the details are realised by the new Board – but it does not constrain them.

There were no comments or questions on the 2023/4 Annual Plan (Agenda Document 5).

Klaus Weschenfelder (KW, Treasurer) introduced the Financial Report (Agenda Document 6). He apologised that the wrong document was initially circulated, and that as a result the Annual Report was circulated late. The primary income was: a grant from Cultural Emergency Response (CER), who provided two tranches of money totaling €11 966 (with currency fluctuation); € 183,30 left when the old bank account was closed; and a donation from Museum Chueechlihaus Langenau/CH € 376,23. This money was all handled by BS Germany in support of BSI while BSI tried to open a bank account. KW elaborated the expenditure, and assets. BSI has now opened a bank account with TRIDOS and BS Germany has transferred all remaining funds to them: these arrived 6 weeks ago. BSI's costs for Secretariat and travel expenses are currently covered entirely through the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection & Peace at Newcastle University (UK). Newcastle University also provided a small grant (£1000) towards the safeguarding leaflets, and Swansea University awarded a grant of £6742 towards humanitarian videos. Work for both is ongoing; neither grant is managed by BSI, but by the respective Universities.

KW introduced the report of the Audit Committee (Agenda Document 7) in which they approved the Annual Financial Report. There were no questions on the Annual Financial Report or the Audit Committee Report. PGS emphasised his thanks to KW for overseeing the money BSI has received over 2022, but especially for his Herculean efforts to open a bank account for BSI. PGS noted that BSI has now received three grants for project work in Ukraine, Syria and Iraq, which BSI looks forward to reporting on next year. BSI is now establishing itself as successful for project work, which – although it does not provide financial support for a core team – is a major step in the right direction.

2.1. Voting

Members were asked to approve the

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 2.1 Minutes of the General Assembly (2022) | Agenda Document 2 |
| 2.2 BSI Annual Report (May 2022 – May 2023
with highlights from 2020-2023) | Agenda Document 3 |
| 2.3 BSI Strategic Plan (2023-2026) | Agenda Document 4 |
| 2.4 BSI Action Plan (June 2023-General Assembly 2024) | Agenda Document 5 |

2.5 BSI Financial Report of the Treasurer (Financial Year 2022)
And Audit Committee Report (Financial Year 2022)

Agenda Document 6
Agenda Document 7

26 National Committees were eligible to vote, having submitted the required paperwork and registered, along with the 8 Board members (including the FF); the President only votes in case of a tie. Voting is usually held online via the Election Runner Programme. However, there were significant technical difficulties. The agenda was re-ordered while EC tried to fix the technical difficulties: voting was delayed until after the elections.

3. Countering Trafficking Working Group Report (Agenda item 4)

Professor Patty Gerstenblith (PG), Chair of the Countering Trafficking WG, presented a brief report on the activity of the WG. The full WG report will be circulated to Members with the minutes of the General Assembly (Minutes Document 2⁵).

The WG on Countering Illicit Traffick in Cultural Objects was approved by the Board approximately 2 years ago. Current members are:

- Neil Brodie (Blue Shield United Kingdom⁶)
- Joanne Farchakh-Bajjal (Blue Shield Lebanon, committee in formation)
- Patty Gerstenblith (Blue Shield USA) (WG Chair)
- Eleni Korca (Blue Shield Greece)
- Fionnuala Rogers (Blue Shield United Kingdom)

Activities have focussed on three areas. The first is support to law enforcement, largely focussed on market countries, particularly the US and UK. They have continued to advise law enforcement including UK (London) Metropolitan Art and Antiques Squad; activities in the Netherlands; the Italian Carabinieri; and the US FBI, Customs, and Attorney Generals Office on investigations and prosecutions. They have acted as a resource for referrals, providing expert opinions on laws in different countries, and coordinated experts in the countries of origin of the trafficked objects. Most activities are confidential, and details of specific investigations cannot be given.

The second group of activities is advisory. They have provided comment to the Secretariat of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the proposed Model Provisions for the Implementation of the 1970 Convention and on Combatting Trafficking. PG has not yet received any updates on any potential revisions to the Model Provisions following the consultation. At the request of the BSI board, the WG submitted draft guidance to the Board on the role of subject matter experts in cases of trafficked cultural materials; Board comments have just been received and will be discussed at the next meeting of the WG. They hope to have a final document for use very soon within BS and to disseminate to other experts and organisations. Individual members have acted as an Expert Advisor for and contributor to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) two reports on the

⁵ The Report is publicly available on the [Countering Trafficking page of the Blue Shield website](#).

⁶ After discussion, Accreditation Committee has recommended to the Board that all Blue Shield International documentation conform to UN naming conventions for countries. This does not affect the right of countries to register under their preferred name in their country, or how they refer to themselves.

illicit trade in cultural objects. They have also provided advice to five or six governments; continuing to support heritage professionals in their efforts to prevent looting and protect movable CP in conflict zones, including advice on best practices for heritage professionals in occupied territory.

The third activity group is dissemination and awareness raising, via training and presentations. Members contributed to training modules for the Blue Shield National Committee Training Course (block 3, coming soon!) on illicit trade of cultural objects and on international law. The BSI Secretariat launched a section of the BSI website for the WG⁷. One member acted as a mentor for a Syrian scholar for the Council for At-Risk Academics. WG members have also drafted chapters on protection of cultural property during armed conflict for several upcoming multi-authored publications, including the recently published Getty volume *Cultural Heritage and Mass Atrocities*⁸, gave 14 lectures on CPP and trafficking of cultural property, and participated in conferences.

Looking to the future, the WG would like to develop more group activities. A webinar was planned on proactive steps to protect movable heritage in advance of a crisis to be coordinated with Blue Shield Greece. They have not yet found a time to offer the webinar but hope to do so in early Autumn 2023. Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly is planning a conference in Beirut, Lebanon, that will have a trafficking and antiquities element and main experts of the WG will be invited to share their case studies and/or experiences. They hope to create and expand a consultancy network that would be available to provide pro bono expertise, referrals to additional experts, and collaborations that will be available beyond the current focus in Europe and North America. They would like to expand the membership of the WG and activities, and advice via this network, but are currently working out the practical and legal logistics of doing so. They also want to increase the information available via the BS website on these issues.

PG thanked the Board for its support previously and with future activities. No questions or comments were received.

4. Elections (Agenda Item 5)

EC was still addressing the technical issues with Block One Voting so the GA moved to the Elections.

4.1. Elections for Board Members 2023-2026 (Agenda Item 5.2)

All those standing were given the opportunity to speak and introduce themselves.

Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly (JFB, Lebanon) greeted the GA. She has been actively supporting the Blue Shield for many years. She is Lebanese, and has personally witnessed the loss and destruction of cultural heritage and the impact that causes on the population. She profoundly believes Blue Shield's work can bring change and has witnessed the impact. As well as extensive experience in heritage

⁷ <https://theblueshield.org/what-we-do/countering-trafficking/>

⁸ Available open-access: <https://www.getty.edu/publications/cultural-heritage-mass-atrocities/#:~:text=Cultural%20heritage%20destruction%20invariably%20accompanies,heritage%20with%20w hich%20they%20identify>

protection, she has most recently been working to put Blue Shields on 50 Lebanese sites, libraries and museums, and works closely with the military (UNIFIL, and Lebanese Armed Forces) and with heritage professionals on disaster/emergency planning, as well as working closely with BSI on training. She looks forward to taking this forward with BSI.

Anna Pühr (AP, Austria) greeted the GA. She first learned of BS when working at the Austrian Mission to NATO at the first NATO CPP conference organised with NGOs like Blue Shield. She was a cultural studies scholar looking at the role of civil society in CPP. She visited Lebanon to look at this in more depth, and went on to join BS Austria. For the last two years she has been the NC's Deputy Secretary-General. She is also the BSI EU Digital Culture Representative as in her professional life she works in Digital Professional Communication and Outreach. She is keen on bringing this international perspective and digital knowledge to the Board and to improve connection and collaboration amongst the BS members.

Klaus Weschenfelder (KW, Germany) is standing for his second term on the BS Board. By training he is a historian and museum professional, dealing with emergency cases which has given him CPP experience. Having served for three years on the BS Board already, he feels he can serve best by continuing to assist the Board in setting up a financial system that is compliant with Dutch Law; and assisting those who want to set up new Blue Shield Committees in the paperwork through the Accreditation Committees. He hopes to encourage greater use of the expertise of the members and to motivate the national committees to engage more to share experience via the informal meeting network (or another platform). He hopes the Board can assist the Secretariat in this.

Hamady Gaye (HG, Senegal) is a current member of the BS Board, standing for his second term. He is the Secretary-General of the Senegalese BS Committee, a curator and a specialist in the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage and activities in the field of emergency aid. More than ever cultural heritage in all regions is under attack or threat due to recurrent armed conflicts, and human aggression of all kinds. This is within the framework of our international Blue Shield Committee – BSI. He went on to say that they are developing ongoing strategies, proactive activities, and active response to implement proactive protection and safeguarding. During his current term of office on the BSI Board, he has worked to set up new Blue Shield Committees in Africa, particularly in Niger and Mali, and others are under construction are on the way to being accredited. Together, these African Committees produced a brochure (with the support of the German Blue Shield and BSI) explaining the BS mission and taking stock of the situation of the cultural heritage situation in Africa, coordinating strategy and action to optimise our responses and outline our perspective for heritage protection, particularly in areas of armed conflict. We are on the right track. Our challenges are to work further on the creation of new national committees, encourage as many states as possible to ratify the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention and extend the enhanced protection status of the Convention to heritage located in conflict zones as provided for in Articles [10], 11 and 12.

4.2. Election for President 2023-2026 (Agenda Item 5.1)

PGS is the only candidate standing for President. He had intended to ask EC to run this part of the agenda, but she was still unavailable. He noted he had already flagged what he saw as the most

important role of the Board over the next few years, which is to find medium – long term funding for a larger Secretariat, moving as a minimum from the 2.5 people funded by Newcastle University to a team of four. Realistically to achieve everything that BSI are being asked to do without failing to deliver on it (e.g. the Guidance sheets), a minimum team of 12 is needed. This seems an enormous ask, but fundraisers (noting they often tell you what you want to hear) believe it is feasible given the high profile of CPP, if you can be in the right room with the right people. He is currently working on this with others. The UNESCO Chair renewal application has also been submitted for a further four years, which should provide four more years of funding. He hopes for a large endowment from which BSI can keep the capital and spend the interest to create the team of 12 (£30 million). £10 million will fund a team of 4. Figures are approximate depending on location of the team. He asked the Members for any suggestions. Other tasks include continuing to deliver on increasingly onerous existing commitments: the team are currently having to turn down requests for support. PGS also noted that the Secretariat are seriously over-committed.

4.3. Election of the Auditing Committee for financial year 2023 (Agenda Item 5.3).

The President then introduced the two people standing for the Audit Committee: Ömer Dabanli (ÖD) of Blue Shield Türkiye, and Gerrit de Bruin (GdB) of Blue Shield Netherlands, who are both standing for their third term⁹. Both candidates circulated a biography and statement in advance: GdB could not attend the GA and ÖD was not able to introduce himself.

4.4. Voting for all candidates

No questions were received for any candidates.

Block 2 - Voting for candidates took place via the online system Election Runner. EC shared the results as they came in live. EC and PGS apologised for another technical issue (caused by human error): voting for Block 2 accidentally closed at 4am, instead of 4pm (so it could be closed manually during the General Assembly). All those who did not vote online before 4am on 31 May CEST were added to a new online election by EC first thing in the morning of the 31st and voting links resent. There are two sets of results available online¹⁰. EC is happy to show any Member who requests it the administrator screen view so they can confirm for themselves that only those who did not vote in the first election vote (before 4am) were added to the second election vote, and each person only voted once. She emphasised that it is not possible to see in Election Runner how someone votes, only that they have voted and what the results are, and there will be no breach in confidentiality.

All those standing are elected by the majority of Members.

Michał Wosiński will replace Bijan Rouhani as the ICOMOS Representative to the Board. PGS congratulated those who had been elected / re-elected and welcomed the new Board.

⁹ There is no limit on members of the Audit Committee, or how many terms they are appointed for.

¹⁰<https://vote.electionrunner.com/election/9wbf4/results>
And <https://vote.electionrunner.com/election/9OutP/results>

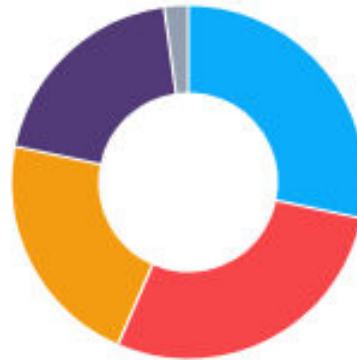
Blue Shield General Assembly 2023: Voting Block Two (Elections)

Assemblée générale du Bouclier bleu 2023 : bloc de vote deux (élections)

Asamblea General de Blue Shield 2023: Bloque de Votación Dos (Elecciones)

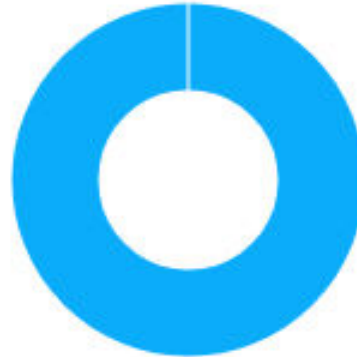
Election of Candidates to the Board of Blue Shield International

Option	Votes
 Bajjaly, Joanne Farchakh (Lebanon)	28% 13
 Goye, Hamady (Senegal)	28% 13
 Weschenfelder, Klaus (Germany)	22% 10
 Puhr, Anna (Austria)	20% 9
 Abstain / S'abstenir / Abstenersi (0 candidates)	2% 1






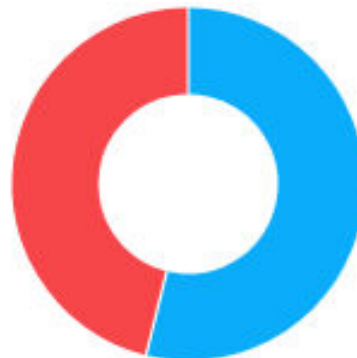
Election for the position of President of Blue Shield International

Option	Votes
 Peter G. Stone	100% 16
 Abstain / S'abstenir / Abstenersi	0% 0



Election of Candidates to the Audit Committee

Option	Votes
 de Bruin, Gerrit	54% 14
 Dabanli, Ömer (Türkiye)	46% 12
 Abstain / S'abstenir / Abstenersi	0% 0



Blue Shield General Assembly 2023_2: Voting Block Two (Elections)

Assemblée générale du Bouclier bleu 2023 : bloc de vote deux (élections)



Asamblea General de Blue Shield 2023: Bloque de Votación Dos (Elecciones)

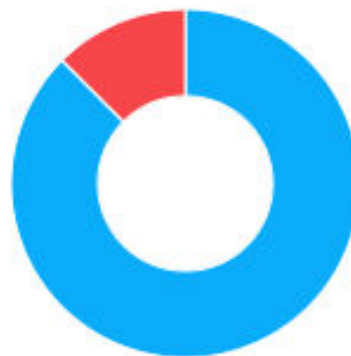
Election of Candidates to the Board of Blue Shield International

Option	Votes	
 Weschenfelder, Klaus (Germany)	28%	14
 Gaye, Hamady (Senegal)	26%	13
 Bajaly, Joanne Farchakh (Lebanon)	24%	12
 Puhr, Anna (Austria)	22%	11
 Abstain / S'abstenir / Abstenerse (0 candidates)	0%	0






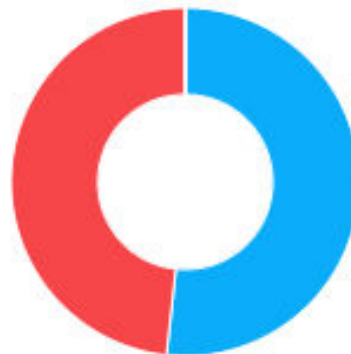
Election for the position of President of Blue Shield International

Option	Votes	
 Peter G. Stone	88%	14
 Abstain / S'abstenir / Abstenerse	13%	2



Election of Candidates to the Audit Committee

Option	Votes	
 de Bruin, Gerrit	52%	15
 Dabankı, Ömer (Türkiye)	48%	14
 Abstain / S'abstenir / Abstenerse	0%	0



2. Approval of Papers

EC was unable to fix the technical difficulties.

27 of the 35 registered voters had voted online, but it was not possible to determine who they were (other than the President, who did not vote). All voters, however, had approved all the papers.

She suggested that, as the approval of the Annual Papers does not need to be a closed vote, and 28 of the 35 registered voters (including the Board and President) were present, that voting be approved in open vote via a show of hands.

All papers were passed by those present.

(PGS apologised to those who had not previously attended a GA, and noted that those who have attended previously will agree that voting is normally much smoother).

5. National Committee Report

EC gave a short presentation summarising the highlights of the national committee report. The full report and presentation are circulated to Blue Shield members with the minutes (Minutes Documents 3 and 4, and publicly available at the link below¹¹). She noted that – given the full report was 35 pages long, this presentation was only highlights. EC reminded NCs that photos are very welcome in annual reports, so they can be included in the National Committee activity report, and on the website. As a final point, EC clarified that NCs have requested that Strategic Plans are not made public, and although some NCs leave the Future Plans section of the Annual Report blank as they have submitted a Strategic Plan, it is useful for the Board to have a brief overview that can be made public.

She and the President thanked all the committees for their hard work and offered sincere congratulations.

SD congratulated and thanked the Accreditation Committee (herself, EC and KW) as the work they do is not seen, and was not included in the National Committee Report (but was in the Board Annual Report). BS, together with the FF, have a strong network in every country they are present in. It is very important to ensure that there is no overlap in work but complementarity in the work we do together in cultural heritage protection. She also thanked HG for his work in Africa supporting NCs as well. She offered sincere congratulations to the NCs from the Accreditation Committee, who would continue to work to support new NCs to make sure that national FFs and BS can fill the gap in heritage protection in the framework of the implementation of The Hague Convention (1954). PGS added that he had intended to thank the Accreditation Committee in AoB, and personally thanked SD as Chair of the Committee.

¹¹ Report on National Committee Activity and overview available here: <https://theblueshield.org/bsi-report-national-committees-2022/>

6. Use of the Blue Shield Emblem

EC is receiving an increasing number of queries regarding appropriate use – and possible misuse – of the blue shield emblem. The President agreed that the GA would be an appropriate venue to share an overview of what constitutes appropriate use of the blue shield emblem under international law for awareness amongst the national committees. It is important to note that international law is ratified into domestic law, so this is also the case in national law for signatories to the 1954 Hague Convention.

Following the presentation, several questions were asked. EC has revised the presentation to include the discussion. The presentation is shared with the minutes (circulated to members as Minutes Document 5, and publicly available at the link below¹²), and EC welcomes any further questions.

Andrea Kiesamp shared the example of the Netherlands: the Government has decided not to update the register of protected sites with blue shields. Even when it was updated, it was mostly monuments and buildings, with few libraries, for example, and it was not updated when collections were moved as it was not clear whether the shield related to the building or the collection. Susann Harder (SH) noted that in Germany the matter is devolved to the Federal State Level, which has resulted in inconsistency and confusion. The symbol is widely recognised as relating to protection, but this does not equate to the Hague Convention: for example it is used by firefighters.

SH also raised the issue of whether targeting of cultural sites is increased by placing emblems on them: EC would also welcome further discussion on this. It was agreed to postpone this to a specific meeting, or an informal NC meeting for discussion.

7. Discussion: improving national committee communication and coordination for international activity

This issue was put on the agenda by Angela Dellebeke of BS Netherlands, who could not attend. EC raised her points on her behalf. AD found that last year, when the situation in Ukraine was very intense, particularly in the first few months, that she struggled to find out from the other national committees what was happening to be able to coordinate in terms of funding, shipping supplies, and finding out who was sending what? She wanted to see if BS could improve coordination and response, and what method might work best.

EC added that this goes beyond response to include coordinating information. BSI has sent out multiple requests to ask national committees to inform BSI when an international action is undertaken. EC reiterated that this was not to stop people acting, but so that when people ask what the Blue Shield doing in Ukraine, BSI is able to give an answer. EC went on to note that most committees don't let BSI know what they're doing on the international level and coordinating that information is very difficult. EC thanked Jessica Barry for her vigilant searching of NC social media

¹² The presentation, amended to include answers to all queries asked during the GA, is available to download here: [Conditions of Use and Misuse of Blue Shield Emblems.pdf](#)

and websites (the main source of updates), but emphasised that this was time consuming. She noted that BSI get a lot of requests now from different members of the Blue Shield Movement asking to better coordinate for disasters and see how we can best respond.

EC flagged that she has been sending out emails about whether BSI should have a forum or a mailing list, but highlighted that in some countries the internet connection is really limited, and that it needs to be something everyone can access. There is a perhaps a need for both an Emergency Response group, with a nominated member of each national committee in it, which only coordinates emergency response in crisis, and a wider discussion group for all BS members. EC noted that Whatsapp is not practical for the latter, as many people do not have work phones and given the number of people potential members and time differences that could be awkward).

It was agreed that this should also be moved to a separate discussion in an informal meeting, or dedicated discussion time. PGs also noted that the Secretariat time is limited, and a volunteer would be needed to help run any sort of forum / discussion / communication forum.

AP was keen to assist in improving communications. CM also agreed that from the Board perspective more regular updates from and greater coordination with NC's would be very impactful and helpful for the BS Board, and suggested exploring mechanisms for this. SH, however, felt that it would be a challenge for BS Germany to provide more regular updates, even just bi-monthly bullet points.

8. AoB

SH also asked about the purpose of the informal meetings and suggested changing them to specific thematic meetings / WGs. EC clarified that she had been asked at the 2017 and 2020 GAs to provide ways for the NCs to all come together and chat and meet each other outside the in person General Assemblies. It was meant to be the virtual equivalent of a coffee morning at work, not a meeting, but just a place to chat and meet other committees. EC also noted that she asked every month for ideas for speakers or discussion points, but no NC had responded. However, she was happy to make the meeting space whatever would be most useful for NCs.

The President closed by thanking the national committees and the Board, and hoping the Blue Shield would be together in person in 2024.

Thanks were also received in the chat from:

Zoë Reid, BS Ireland; Leylya Strobl and Anna Pühr, Blue Shield Austria; Christina Ceulemans, BS Belgium; Andrea Kieskamp, BS Netherlands; Patty Gerstenblith, USCBS; Manana Tevzadze Blue Shield Georgia; Babacar Ndiaye, BS Senegal and Max Scriwanek, BS Curacao.

The President closed the meeting with a group photo (screenshot).



Appendix 1: Attendees and Voting Members

Blue Shield Board:

President Peter Stone (did not vote)

Representatives of the Founding Four Organisations:

ICA Emilie G. Leumas
 ICOMOS Bijan Rouhani
 ICOM Sophie Delepierre representing Peter Keller
 IFLA Claire McGuire

Elected Members

Korea	Bae Kidong (Vice President)	Apologies received
Germany	Klaus Weschenfelder (Treasurer)	
Senegal	Hamady Gaye	
Poland	Lidia Klupsz	

Secretariat (non-voting):

Emma Cunliffe

Representatives of National Committees:

Australia	Kathryn Dan
Austria	Leyla Strobl; Anna Puhr
Belgium	Christina Ceulmans
Czechia	Tomáš Lachman
Croatia	Tamara Štefanac
Curacao	Max Scriwanek
France	Francoise Collanges ; Romana Deleporte
Germany	Susann Harder
Georgia	Manana Tevzadze; Tamar Sopromadze.
Greece	Elena Korka
Ireland	Zoë Reid; Patrizia La Piscopia
Lebanon	Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly (Unable to vote)
Norway	Heiðar Lind Hansson
Netherlands	Andrea Kiesamp
Peru	Ricardo Rivera
Poland	Krzysztof Salacinski
Senegal	Babacar Diouf; Fatima Fall
Türkiye	Ömer Dabanli
UK	Fionnuala Rogers
USA (USCBS)	Patty Gerstenblith.

Other:

Jessica Barry, Social Media and Communications volunteer

Votes received online:

Votes were received from National Committees who were unable to be present in person:

Guatemala Samuel Franco Arce

Mali Mamadou Samaké submitted proxy votes via Tamar Sopromadze

Niger Adamou Danladi

North Macedonia Olivera Djartovska Tachevska

Votes were not received from:

Slovakia Zuzana Menzlová

Board Bae Kidong

The remaining national committees were not eligible to vote.