



Guidelines for International Changemaker Network

1. Introduction

The members of the International Changemaker Network are national non-governmental youth groups, organisations or networks (hereafter referred to as “Changemaker groups”) in their respective countries promoting global justice through focusing on development issues.

The following documents includes the guidelines of what a changemaker group is and how to become a member of the International Changemaker Network. The document is a framework for the cooperation between the Changemaker groups.

2. Changemaker name and logo

The International Changemaker Network uses the Changemaker name and logo. National youth groups wanting to use the Changemaker name and logo should be a part of the International Changemaker Network. Members of the International Changemaker Network are free to choose whether they want to use the name and logo or not.

3. Guidelines for national Changemaker groups

3.1. Aims

Members of the International Changemaker Network work to promote global justice through focusing on development issues on a national and international level. Changemaker groups aim to approach the fundamental causes of the unequal distribution of resources between the rich and poor, the North and the South and to develop and promote solutions to these issues. Changemaker groups seek to engage young people in acting on global issues and to raise awareness of injustice in the world.

3.2. Principles

3.2.1 Changemaker groups are politically independent.

3.2.2 Changemaker groups are youth driven, democratic and based on voluntary work.

3.2.3 Changemaker groups respect human rights, are non-violent and non-discriminative.

3.3. Working methods

The Changemaker groups identify problems of global injustice and come up with constructive solutions to solve them. The working methods of Changemaker groups are campaigning, collecting signatures, lobbying, mobilizing youth, educating and raising awareness of global issues.

3.4. Economy and funding

Each Changemaker group is responsible for their own financing and shouldn't be financially dependent on other national Changemaker groups. Changemaker groups can be funded by several donors, provided they do not influence or interfere with the values of the group.

Changemaker groups can support each other when possible and necessary (for example travelling to other Changemaker countries), but strive to avoid creating a dependency relationship between the different countries based on economy.

3.4. Relationship to other organisations

Changemaker groups can belong to or work in partnership with other organisations or be organisationally independent.

4. Guidelines for international cooperation between Changemaker groups

4.1. The aims of the International Changemaker Network

The aim of the International Changemaker Network is to offer a platform for the cooperation between the national Changemaker groups. This cooperation should result in capacity building, exchanged experiences and ideas as well as a common platform for action.

Activities on national, regional and local level are the core foundation of the International Changemaker Network. The International Changemaker Networks is not and should never be an organisation in itself, or govern the national Changemaker groups.

In each country there can be only one national Changemaker group.

4.2. The international contact persons

Each national Changemaker group has an international contact person. The contact persons are responsible for;

- a) communication and information sharing within the International Changemaker Network and bringing information back to their national groups
- b) coordination of the international meetings.

4.3. International meetings

Representatives from the national Changemaker groups meet physically every other year. These meetings offer a platform for developing the cooperation between the Changemaker groups. The physical meeting should circulate between countries who have enough structure and funding to host it. At the physical meeting it will be decided which Changemaker group will host the following physical meeting.

All Changemaker groups are responsible for handing in topic for the agenda at least six weeks before the meeting. The hosting Changemaker group is then responsible for distributing any documents needed for the meeting at least four weeks in advance. That includes the agenda for the meeting, any new applications, latest copy of the guidelines and the minutes from the previous meetings.

In between the physical meetings the contact person are responsible for coordinating and hosting online meetings.

5. Becoming a member of the International Changemaker Network

5.1. Application

Membership is possible for national youth groups, who are already organized and who agree to the guidelines and principles of this document. A separate application form must be sent to Changemaker Norway.

5.2. Procedure for accepting new member

Changemaker Norway is responsible for distributing the application to all members of the International Changemaker Network within seven days upon receipt.

All the applications will be discussed in the next online meeting of the International Changemaker Network, and decision is made with consensus.

When a group is accepted as member of the International Changemaker Network it is

immediately equal to the other members of the network.

If a group is rejected, the international contact persons are obliged to give an explanation.

If there is an existing Changemaker group in an applicant's country, the applicant will be referred to the already existing group.

It's possible to accept a new member for a trial period for up to two years. During the trial period, it will be assessed whether the applicant respect the principles and guidelines of the International Changemaker Network to a satisfying degree.

5.3. How a member of International Changemaker Network can be excluded

If a national Changemaker group is not following these guidelines or is harming the reputation of the International Changemaker Network, it can be excluded from the network. A decision on exclusion should be reached with consensus of the other member groups, and the group in question should be given a warning.

6. Endnote

Accepting the different contexts existing in the world and the need to have a common global approach to global injustice, the national Changemaker groups have agreed on these guidelines for the International Changemaker Network.

These guidelines can be revised at the physical meetings of the International Changemaker Network.