F1 Minutes of 2023 General Assembly

Organization: CDN

Resolution date: 12.03.2023 Agenda item: 1. Formalities

Motion text

- Minutes of the 2023 General Assembly was published on the CDN website within a
- time set by the IRPs.
- 3 Acces here.
- 4 *Link:
- https://static1.squarespace.com/static/65ccbc7d223cc759efa7aacf/t/660eb5f5036a7b-
- <u>586638894b/1712240117541/Minutes_CDNGA23.pdf</u>

IR Internal Rules of Procedure

Organization: CDN

Resolution date: 12.03.2023

Agenda item: 3. Organisational and Governance Documents

Motion text

24

1. Introduction:

- 1. These rules of procedure are supplementary and subordinate to the Statutes of Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe, hereinafter referred to as CDN.
- 2. These rules of procedure regulate the implementation of the Statute.
- 3. In case of contradiction between the Statute and the Rules of Procedure, the former shall prevail.

2. General Assembly Rules of Procedure:

 The rules of procedure for the efficient realization of the General Assembly (GA) shall be shown and explained at the beginning of every General Assembly.

2. GA announcement and preparation:

- The location of the General Assembly is to be decided by the Executive Committee based on an open call for the host organisation of the CDN General Assembly.
- 2. The open call for the host organisation has to be sent at least 120 days before the General Assembly by the Secretariat.
- 3. If the capacity allows, the study visit for potential host organisation should be organised at least 45 days before General Assembly.
- 4. The open call for amendments on the documents of CDN, open call for new Member organisations and the open call for new Executive Committee members have to be sent at least 60 days before the General Assembly by the Secretariat.

25 26	5.	These open calls are to be sent together with relevant applications and other relevant information included.
27	6.	The collection of all open calls, applications, working group
27 28	0.	reports and other internal documents needed during the
29		preparation of the General Assembly is included in the file
		called CDN General Assembly preparation – internal documents,
30 31		available in the Secretariat.
31		avaitable in the Secretariat.
32	7.	Changes of these internal documents from 2.2.6 are subject to
33		the EC decision and all of these changes should be presented
34		to the following General Assembly.
35	8.	Application procedures for membership, and observership:
36		■ The Executive Committee has to formulate a report on the
37		membership application. This report must be written
38		along the membership criteria.
39		■ The membership application has to be put on the agenda
40		of the General Assembly.
		or and contact account,
41		Representative of a candidate which is running for
42		membership, or observership has to present the
43		application. If no one to present the organisation is present on the GA, someone from the EC has a mandate to
44		
45		do it.
46		After the presentation of the application, one EC member
47		has to report from the Executive Committee on the
48		application membership to the General Assembly
49	9.	The draft agenda has to be decided by the Executive Committee.
50	10.	The announcement of the date and location of the General
51		Assembly has to be sent out by the Secretariat to all member
52		organisations 90 days in advance of the General Assembly. The
53		official invitation to the General Assembly including a draft
54		agenda has to be sent out 90 days in advance.
55	11.	Each member organisation shall inform the Secretariat of the
56		names of their representatives at 45 days before the General
57		Assembly. Each Member and organisation can send as many
58		representatives as it can afford.
50	12	Every second delegate of MOs and DOs has to have participation
59	12.	Every second delegate of MOs and POs has to pay participation
60		fee of 10 EUR, unless they are younger than 25.
61	13.	Any member organisation may propose changes on the agenda.
62		the proposal is sent five days before GA it has to be
63		circulated through the Network.

64 65	14.	Amendments to the documents of CDN and resolutions can be submitted by the Executive Committee, any Member organisation
66		or working group 15 days prior to the GA.
67		1. In case of amendments to amendments as well as
68		amendments to the resolutions the compromise can be
69		reached between the proposers during the GA and a new
70		version/alternative can be suggested.
71		2. Emergency resolutions can be submitted after the
72		deadline but no later than the opening of the General
73		Assembly. The Executive Committee should decide if the
74		resolution is eligible to be discussed and voted on.
75	15.	Applications for new Member, and Observer organisations and
76		applications for new Executive Committee members have to be
77		submitted according to the Open call latest 30 days prior to
78		the GA.
79	16.	If the minimum criteria from the Statutes are not met, the
80		Open call will be extended till the first day of the GA.
81	17.	Amendments on the documents of CDN, applications for new
82		Member and organisations and applications for new Executive
83		Committee members (together with other necessary documents
84		requested in the call) will be sent to the Network at least 10
85		days before the General Assembly if sent to the Secretariat
86		until that point.
87	18.	The legal fulfilment of all obligations of the General
88		Assembly described in Statutes and the IRPs has to be
89		validated by 2/3 majority of the present organisations before
90		the start General Assembly. This is verification that GA is
91		entitled to make valid decisions according to the quorum
92		prescribed by the Statutes and IRPs.
93	19.	At least 30 days before the General Assembly Presidency,
94		consisting of at least 3 and maximum of 6 persons, is to be
95		selected by the EC of CDN and ratified by the GA. The main
96		responsibilities of the Presidency is to:
97		■ chair the meeting;
98		■ give word to the presenters;
99		■ read out the amendments;

100			moderate the discussions;
101			■ make the call for voting;
102			■ count votes after each voting;
103			make sure that voting and elections are taken according
104			to the IRPs and Statutes
105			■ take down the minutes of the GA
106 107		20.	The presidency members cannot be running for any positions, or be members of organisations that are running for membership of
108 109			CDN, they should be unbiased and cannot make content-related comments regarding any of the candidates or amendments.
110 111		21.	The General Assembly has to approve the final agenda before any further proceedings can take place.
112 113		22.	Once approved, the agenda can be modified during the General Assembly by 2/3 majority.
114		23.	EC recommends the number of members to be elected for the new
115 116 117			EC. This recommendation should be announced in the call for the EC candidates. The General Assembly confirms the decisions by 2/3 majority.
118	3.	Voti	ng and elections:
119 120 121 122		1.	Every Member organisation has two votes on the General Assembly. Votes can be distributed between one or two delegates attending General Assembly. Candidates for the Executive Committee do not have voting rights.
123 124 125 126		2.	Unless otherwise determined, votes are taken by showing the voting card. If any of the delegates propose secret voting it should be put on vote and if passes by simple majority, secret voting should take place
127		3.	Each delegate entitled to a vote shall have a voting card.
128 129		4.	Elections for EC and candidate MOs, POs and OOs must be by secret voting.
130		5.	The quorum can be questioned at any time by any delegate.

131	6.	Definition of voting majorities:
132		Present votes at the General Assembly: all registered
133		votes at the beginning of a General Assembly;
134		■ Supermajority: At least 2/3 of present votes;
135		■ Absolute majority: 50% plus one vote of present votes;
136		■ Simple majority: the highest number of all present
137		votes.
138	7.	Majorities needed for decisions:
139		■ Activity Report of present year: 2/3 majority in favour
140		of present votes at the General Assembly is required.
141		■ Financial Report of present year: 2/3 majority in favour
142		of present votes at the General Assembly is required.
143		■ In case of disapproval by the General Assembly, the
144		Activity and the Financial Report for the previous year
145		has to be redone by the new Executive Committee based on
146		the comments of the GA within the next 2 months and
147		distributed to the MOs. For approval a 2/3 majority in
148		favour of all MOs by email is needed within 30 days.
149	8.	For the membership in CDN as a MO/OO a 2/3 majority in favour
150		of the present votes at the General Assembly is required.
151	9.	For becoming member in the CDN Executive Committee a 2/3
152		majority in favour of all present votes at the General
153		Assembly is required.
4.5.4	10.	If coveral candidates get more than two third majority in
154	10.	If several candidates get more than two third majority in favour of all present votes than the highest number of votes
155		in favour will decide.
156		iii lavoul witt decide.
157	11.	If one or more candidates get less than 2/3 majority in favour
158		of all present votes at the General Assembly, then in case
159		of:
160		■ 1 candidate: the place in the Executive Committee
161		remains empty
162		2 candidates: an absolute majority of present votes in
163		favour at the General Assembly in a second round is
164		required. If both candidates get more than an absolute
165		majority than the candidate with the highest number of
166		votes in favour will pass. In case there is a draw among
167		the candidates, the next round of voting should be done
168		among those two. The candidate with a higher number of

169		votes and absolute majority will become the next member
170		of EC. In case there is a draw again or none of the
171		candidates reach absolute majority, the spot in the EC
172		will be left vacant.
173		3 or more candidates: The candidate with the highest
174		number of votes considering they have absolute majority
175		in favour in the second round will pass. In case there
176		is a draw among two or more candidates, the next round
177		of the voting should be done among those candidates. The
178		candidate with a higher number of votes and absolute
179		majority will become the next member of EC. In case
180		there is a draw again a third round of election should
181		take place. In case there is a draw again or none of the
182		candidates reach absolute majority, the spot in the EC
183		will be left vacant.
184	12.	Statute voting procedure is explained in detail in the
185		Statutes.
186	13.	IRP voting procedure:
187		Simple amendments require absolute majority in favour of
188		all present votes at the General Assembly;
189		■ Whole Chapters require 2/3 majority in favour of present
190		votes at the General Assembly;
191		■ Whole document requires 2/3 majority in favour of all
191		present votes at the General Assembly.
193	14.	Political Platform voting procedure:
194		Simple amendments require absolute majority in favour of
195		all present votes at the General Assembly;
196		■ Whole Chapters require 2/3 majority in favour of present
197		votes at the General Assembly;
198		■ Whole document requires 2/3 majority in favour of all
199		present votes at the General Assembly.
1))		present votes at the deficial Assembly.
200	15.	The Strategy statement, resolutions and any other documents of
201		CDN requires an absolute majority in favour of all present
202		votes at the General Assembly.
203	16.	The Financial Plan of CDN requires a 2/3 majority in favour of
204		all present votes at the General Assembly. The Financial Plan
205		has to be approved before closing the General Assembly.
		-

- 17. The Activity Plan of CDN requires a 2/3 majority in favour of all present votes at the General Assembly. 18. In case of disapproval, changes can be done during the meeting to put the Activity Plan of CDN for the present year to vote again. In case of further disapproval, a new Activity Plan for the present year based on the comments of the General Assembly has to be done by the new elected Executive Committee and distributed to the Member organisations within 2 months for voting by email. A 2/3 majority in favour of all Member organisations is required within 30 days. 19. Activity and Financial Report should be presented in comparison with respective Activity and Financial Plan for the same year (adopted on previous GA), including deviations and reasons for the same. 4. Minutes: 1. The Minutes are to be written by members of the presidency. The Minutes are to be passed on from the Secretary General within 21 days after the end of the General Assembly to all Member and organisations. 2. The Minutes of the General Assembly has to include all resolutions, decisions, motions and votes together with the necessary explanatory information. 3. The list of the delegates is annexed to the minutes of the session. 3. Executive Committee rules and procedures: 1. After the end of the General Assembly, the new Executive Committee
 - shall have its first meeting together with the members of the former Executive Committee.
 - 2. The summary of the minutes of the live EC meetings has to be published latest 30 days after the EC meeting, unless there are justified circumstances and accompanied by an explanation by the Secretariat.
 - 3. On every Executive Committee Meeting the last meeting's minutes should be checked and approved.
 - 4. Each physical meeting should be announced to the Network at least 15 days prior to the meeting and regular e-meeting time should be published at website

- 5. Comments, suggestions and proposals can be sent by any MO and these motions have to be discussed during the meeting.
 - Each Executive Committee Meeting has a standard form for the Agenda
 of the Meeting. This form should be completed and sent to the EC
 list at least five days prior to the meeting.
 - 7. The Agenda should be annexed by documents and information needed to further explain points of the Agenda.
 - 8. The list of issued calls and report of official correspondence should be prepared for every Executive Committee Meeting.
 - 9. The Executive Committee can make decisions on a non-objection basis between the meetings, unless requested otherwise by one of the EC members or by the Sec-Gen and in that case this issue has to be on the Agenda on the following Executive Committee Meeting.
 - 10. In case of EC member's unnotified absence for over 30 days, the rest of the EC has a right to co-opt a new person until the end of their mandate upon:
 - exhausting the means of reaching out to the missing EC member;
 - informing the Member Organisations about it.
 - The new EC member should be co-opted by consensus of all the remaining EC members after a dedicated discussion. When possible, the new EC member will be elected in a democratic way, via online election of registered delegates. This person should be satisfying the EC candidate criteria stated in the previous GA calls.
 - 11. In case of EC member's notified absence for more than 45 days, the EC has right to co-opt a new person based on the same principles as in the previous point. Exceptions can be made for force majeure situations like war, etc.
 - 12. In case of SS violation or harm to the organisation by an EC member, their continuation or termination of mandate can be decided by a 2/3 majority vote within the EC. If SS violator is a member of the secretariat, their contract may be terminated by a 2/3 majority vote from EC. The person who is subject to vote does not participate in the voting, and the 2/3 majority is defined by the number of members in the EC with a voting right.
 - 13. The procedure for decisions on non-objection basis:
 - A deadline shall be set by the Secretary General for the EC members to give their vote on the issue concerned.

281 282 283		In case one of the EC member does not give their vote in due time, their vote will be automatically counted as positive (approval).
284		Derogation from this is accepted only if the respective EC
285		member has announced in advance to the rest of the EC and
286		Secretariat that they will not be available for communication
287		for a certain period of time that coincides with the decision-
288		making period.
289		■ In this case the decision is either postponed until all EC
290		members are available or the vote of the absent EC member will
291		be counted as they specify in their note of absence
292	14.	The Executive Committee can establish financial regulations
293		concerning travel expenses for participants at any CDN activity or
294		meeting of CDN bodies within the confines of the Financial Plan.
295		Unless other financial regulations are decided upon by the EC the
296		general rule for all CDN events is that participants who are subject
297		to reimbursement can only get reimbursed for their travel costs only
298		in the case of 85% of their attendance of official programme
299		(exceptions can be made under adequately justified circumstances).
300	15.	These financial regulations have to be transparent to all which are
301		subject to that.
302	16.	The Executive Committee should comprise of 5-7 people with different
303		responsibilities::
304		■ Chairperson
305		■ Treasurer
306		■ Secretary
307		■ eventually Vice-Chairpersons
308		1. The Treasurer is obliged to make a financial update to the EC
309		at every physical meeting (including general expenditures and
310		incomes). The treasurer also presents a detailed annual
311		financial report to the MOs and POs at the General Assembly at
312		the end of their mandate.
313	17.	These Executive Committee positions are to be chosen by Executive
314		Committee members from amongst themselves and this decision has to
315		be published.
316	18.	In case of the lack of capacities, the Executive Committee has a
317		right to delegate a person outside of the EC (member of MO, OO,
318		alumni, WG member, etc.) to represent CDN on certain occasions. A
319		written report has to be presented to the Executive Committee during
320		10 days after the end of the event.

321 322 323 324 325 326 327	19.	All EC members should be coming from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and located in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, or the neighbouring regions (EU/EEA, North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia) during the whole mandate. An exception can be made if EC member travels to different region for a maximum of 2 months period. In case this is not satisfied, the EC has the right to replace this EC member according to point 3.1.10.
328 329 330	20.	All Executive Committee Members are obliged to respect and represent the wider interests of CDN and not solely represent the interests of their organisation.
331 332 333 334	21.	 Executive Committee tasks include the following: Work on the implementation of CDN's Activity Plan, approved by the General Assembly (including project writing, coordination, implementation and reporting);
335 336		 Maintaining close and continuous communication with Member organisations;
337		■ Monitoring work-flow of the Working Groups;
338 339		Representing and promoting CDN during its and partners' activities;
340 341 342		Answering challenges and making decisions throughout the year, between GAs, based on the CDN Strategy and CDN's best interest;
343		Actively participating in the regular (biweekly) EC meetings .
344		■ Keeping track of the well-being of CDN's Office
345 4. 346	Study 1.	visits The study visit is the tool to get an overview of an organisation.
347	2.	The EC mandates one or several persons to perform the study visit.
348 349 350 351	3.	Project study visit is obligatory for every international project and activity of CDN and it must gather all necessary information concerning the activity, capability and ability of an organisation especially concerning their obligations as a host organisation (including the preparation facilities local circumstances and

4. At the end of the study visit, the appointed persons have to send the report on the study visit to the members of the EC, not later than 45 days after the study visit. The report has to provide clear

hosting environment of the activity).

and objective picture of the situation so that, based on that
Report, the EC members can make relevant decisions.

5. Member, and Observer organisations:

- The definition of Member and organisation is explained in detail in the Statutes.
 - Observer organisations have the right to fully participate in CDN's events and Working Groups. Furthermore, observer organisations have the right be present at the General Assembly. Reimbursement of travel costs to statutory meetings will be done according to CDN's financial possibilities. Observer organisations are not necessarily bound to Eastern Europe geographically but express interest in the political and topical issues of the region and want to get involved and contribute to CDN.
 - 3. Criteria for becoming a Member, or Observer organisation:
 - General criteria:
 - Youth organisation (NGO, Youth wing of Green party, youth movements, youth of organisations that are dealing with issues applicable with CDN aims)
 - 2. Do not need to be registered, but statutes needed
 - 2. Sustainability criteria:
 - Not one project-based organisation
 - Democratic structure (as understood by the GA on an ad hoc basis)
 - 3. Value and issue criteria:
 - Compatible with CDN Political Platform
 - Open for Green values as a whole, even if actions are streamed towards specific issues
 - 4. All Member, and Observer organisations must name one contact person from their organisation and provide contact details to the Secretariat.
 - Member, and Observer organisations can send comments, suggestions and proposals to the EC or Secretariat at any time. EC or Secretariat has to reflect to this motion latest 7 days after receiving.

6. Dismissal and suspension of Member, or Observer organisations is explained in detail in the Statutes.

6. Working groups:

417

413

414

415

418

419

422

- 1. The Executive Committee may set up a Working Group if the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - The initiative working group is active for one year and had at least two meetings;
 - Working on a specific topic or goal to achieve that is according to the Political Platform of CDN and its objectives;
 - It has its own aims, goals and has activity plan for the following year;
 - It consists of at least 3 members from different Mos, OOs or other organisations or interested individuals from different countries;
 - The Executive Committee is keeping the right not to set up the Working Group even if the conditions above are fulfilled. In that case is EC has to formulate and published the reasons for that:
 - It is recommended that one EC member is a member of the Working Group. If there is no EC member in the Working Group EC has to choose one of its members to follow its work. The EC has to follow the main developments in the WG and be always able to update the rest of EC regarding changes in the WG.
- 2. The Working Group should have at least one meeting per year.
- 3. Working Groups are obliged to send a report on their activities and plans to the General Assembly.
- 4. Working Groups can propose project ideas to the EC and develop them further with the consultative role of the Project Coordinator and the EC responsible. CDN will then can apply for the project in the WG name, the project coordinator will be selected by the Executive Committee.
- 5. Executive Committee can terminate the Working Group if there is violation of CDN Statutes, IRPs, or Political Platform, if there is no activity for a year and no initiative for the following year, or on the wish of the Working Group itself.

6. Each WG has a right to propose to the GA a social media campaign that should last a maximum of 2 months. In case the campaign becomes part of the CDN activity plan, the videos, pictures, texts and any other materials that will be uploaded on CDN social media, should be sent to the EC for comments at least 2 weeks before the start of the campaign and the whole campaign, including the visual identity and content, should be reviewed and confirmed by the EC and/or Secretariat.

⁴³⁴ 7. Prepteams:

454

- Prepteams are temporary bodies for the planning, organisation and follow- up of specific projects.
- 2. Prep team members are selected by the EC via an open call. In case of prep team member opting out, EC can co-opt a new prepteam member.
 - 3. At least one EC member should be part of the prepteam and be a communication person between prepteam and EC.
 - 4. Prepteam can take decisions regarding the project independently and can consult EC for a support or in case of internal problems.

⁴³ 8. Office rules and procedures:

- The daily work of the Network is carried out by the Office/Secretariat under the responsibility of the Secretary General.
- 2. The Secretary General is responsible for the legal representation of the organisation; managing the secretariat; coordinating the work of the Executive Committee; supervising the HR processes; supervising statutory activities; overseeing finances with the relevant employee and a treasurer; overseeing external communication; keeping good communication with partners and relevant stakeholders; representing the organisation to 3rd parties; tracking and monitoring major political and social developments throughout Eastern Europe.
 - 3. The Secretary General has to be selected by the 2/3 majority of the Executive Committee.
- 4. All members of the office are appointed by the Executive Committee based on the proposal by the Secretary General. EC cannot dismiss any member of the office without the consultation of the Secretary General.

461 462	5.	The office is responsible for: ■ Daily Management of the organisation;
463 464		 Supervising of development and responsibility of all formal contract obligations of projects towards funders;
465 466		 External communications with 3rd parties (administrative responsible contacts) i.e. fundraiser, organisations;
467		 Coordination and facilitation of the CDN Activity Plan and Strategy Statement;
469		■ Support of the EC work and facilitation of EC meetings;
470		■ Reporting of all of its responsibilities to the EC;
471 472		Other duties and responsibilities of the office are explained in the internal documents of CDN and secretariat contracts.
473 474	6.	The detailed explanation of the work and responsibilities of the members of the office are written and described their contracts.
475 476	7.	The Executive Committee has to publish an open call for candidates for any paid position longer than 3 months.
477 478	8.	Short term employees for up to 3 month can be excluded from the open call.
479 480	9.	The selection criteria for an employee will be decided by the Executive Committee.
₄₈₁ 9.	Age	limitations in events and structures:
482 483	1.	Participants of CDN events can't be older than 35 at the moment of applying, while only 15% can be older than 30;
484 485	2.	Prep Team members can't be older than 35 at the moment of applying for PT, while only 1/4 can be older than 30;
486 487	3.	EC members can't be older than 35 in at the moment of applying for EC, while only 1/4 can be older than 30
488	4.	Office members can't be older than 35;
489	5.	WG members should not be older than 35;

6. Members of temporary structures (presidency, electoral committee, etc.) can't be older than 35 years old;

492 10. CDN Events

490

491

493

495

498

- 1. In order to minimise the environmental impact of our events, all participants, PT members, EC, office, guests and trainers should be travelling by land to CDN events, in case their trip would last less than 15 hours. An exception can be made for people that have health-related issues, or urgent obligations that do not allow them to have long travels (e.g. work, exams, etc.).
- At events CDN and LPT should strive for participants to have sustainable and nutritiously balanced vegan or vegetarian diet, unless they require different nutrition based on their medical requirements.

PL Political Platform

Organization: CDN

Resolution date: 12.03.2023

Agenda item: 3. Organisational and Governance Documents

Motion text

Introduction

- We, the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe (CDN), are committed
- to upholding and advancing the values of the Green movement. We believe that the
- well-being of people and the flourishing of the environment are closely linked
- and that one cannot defend the interests of one while forgetting the other.
- We are convinced that a radical change of our current social, political, and
- economic institutions is necessary. Eastern Europe where issues such as
- corruption, armed conflicts, pollution and discrimination loom large –can only
- profit from a Green vision. We strive for a world in which human rights are
- upheld, the genders are truly equal, people actively participate in democracy,
- minorities are included, and the environment is protected. We believe that human
- and social rights are fundamental everywhere and that global affairs must be
- conducted in a spirit of peace, solidarity and fairness.
- As Greens, we know that our values are interrelated and that solutions are
- sustainable only when these values mutually support each other.
- 16 This document lays out the values that inform and motivate our actions.

1. Democracy

- We believe in democracy as one of the cornerstones of a free and just society.
- Democracy includes more than just elections a strong and fair institutional
- 20 framework, free and diverse media, human rights, and economic and social
- 21 equality are all crucial. It is especially important that our political
- 22 structures are inclusive and give a voice to minorities and the disenfranchised.
- 23 We strive for a democracy that enables and encourages active participation in
- the shaping of our common future.

5 Democracy

- We believe in democracy as the fairest way of governance. But for democracy to
- 27 fulfil this promise all citizens must have equal rights and the capacity to be
- involved in decision-making processes. Election systems must be representative
- and inclusive in order to give a voice to the disenfranchised and to avoid the
- unjust accumulation of power. We support self-governance at the grass-root level
- as the most non-discriminatory and just manifestation of democratic governance.
- We believe in self-determination as all people's right to pursue their

- independent political status or cultural development without external interference.
- We stand for actively engaged civil society as an integral part of democracy. An
- 36 appropriate environment for a sustainable and well-functioning civil society is
- of utmost importance for the development and stability of democratic practices.
- 38 Voluntary action and active citizenship is important tool to strengthen
- 39 democracy.
- 40 We demand:

- democratic governance in all social and political institutions;
- the implementation of grass-root methods on all levels of governance;
- the support decentralisation policies;
- that community activism and human solidarity be encouraged by the
 legislative framework;
- the recognition and validation of voluntary work by employers and
 educational institutions;
 - the guarantee of youth participation in institutional politics;
 - that the voting age is lowered to at least 16.
- Human rights and the rule of law
- We believe that human rights are universal. A democratic society must ensure the
- 52 protection of individual liberties, human rights and the rights of minorities.
- Freedom of expression and speech must always be respected. We acknowledge that
- respect for human rights cannot be guaranteed without recognizing and combating
- hate speech, which affects the most vulnerable groups in society.
- 56 The protection of human rights depends on the rule of law. Equality, before the
- law is imperative for all societies for it, ensures that all people, regardless
- of their status, get equal access to the rights they are entitled to. It
- furthermore allows governmental decisions to be challenged on an equal footing.
- The rule of law both depends on and enables transparency, which is a crucial
- 61 element and backbone of democratic societies. Transparency provides powerful
- tools that enable people to hold their governments to account and help prevent
- abuse of power and corruption. We believe that transparency and rule of law are
- not only a matter of justice, but it further enables people to empower
- 65 themselves.

- open and accessible government documents and data;
- fair and accessible legislative processes;
- that states recognize and fight hate speech;
 - that laws are designed in accordance with people's rights;
- the active participation of civil society in the design and management of public institutions;
 - that governments ensure full and equal access to justice for all citizens.

4 Media and digital rights

- A free, diverse and critical media landscape is crucial to a well-functioning
- democracy, allowing citizens to express their views, gain information, and
- engage in political deliberation. We believe that only a media that is not
- controlled by a few big enterprises and political actors can fulfil its role in
- 79 holding governments accountable.
- Media must be supported in this task by adequate transparency laws and the
- protection from government interference and arrest.
- The internet has quickly become one of the main public spaces where people gain
- and exchange information, both among themselves as well as with those who are in
- positions of government. For the internet to remain a space where society can
- meet and deliberate, we must ensure that the internet is free from mass
- 86 surveillance both by government and commercial entities. New online forms of
- 87 participatory democracy and culture must be explored. We must encourage the
- 88 formation of free and open online social spaces that are self- governed and
- 89 inclusive.

- an end to censorship and threats to free media both online and offline;
- a media law that ensures that media is not controlled by the economic elite advancing their own interests;
 - an end to the detention and imprisonment of journalists;
 - the protection of journalists' sources and whistle-blowers;
- an end to invasions of privacy online both by governments and by companies;
- establishment and sufficient support of an independent public broadcasting;
- support for alternative online communities that function according to principles of self-governance and inclusion;
 - net neutrality, which implies treating all Internet communications equally;
 - affirmative action programs that foster the active participation of women and other disadvantaged genders in the digital sphere;
 - ensuring equal access for everyone regardless of geographical disbalances.

of Solidarity against nationalism

- An inclusive society and long term sustainable prosperity can only be achieved with a defeat of exclusionary ideologies such as right-wing nationalism and populism. Applying the populist narrative to politics, social and economic policy leads to insecurity, divisions and exclusion of the most threatened groups. This can, in the future open space for conflicts between these groups. Nationalist and xenophobic political agendas further weaken the disenfranchised and strengthen the powerful. Nationalism is often bound up in racism and bigotry, organising against which is a key part of Green politics.
- We believe solidarity to be a foundation on which all progress is built. We stand for cooperation and mutual collaboration as solutions to the split societies that exclusionary ideologies create.

- the rejection of politics of division and politics that seek to use nationalistic or any other kind of exclusionary rhetoric at the expense of minorities and vulnerable groups;
- not to provide a public arena for rhetoric and policies that aim at
 inciting hatred;
 - an end to the discrimination of groups that do not conform to national customs shared by the majority.

^{2.} Social rights

We believe that social rights are essential for all people to be autonomous members of their societies. Social rights should be considered fundamental and be provided by all governments. Social rights include equal access to quality education and healthcare, right to housing and employment. It is crucial to have a strong implementation of social rights to have an inclusive, equal and just society in peace.

134 Gender

Gender equality is fundamental to a just society.

The capitalistic economic system and mode of production, alongside longstanding patriarchal traditions, have resulted in the oppressive, exploitative and discriminatory treatment of non-males, effectively relegating them to second- class status. Sustained action, guided by a strong feminist perspective, is needed to overcome this problem. Gender equality is the necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. The first step in achieving these rights is the proportional representation of people of various gender identities in representative bodies.

144 We demand:

- equal access to the labour market, opportunities and fair pay for people of all genders; the gender pay gap must be eliminated;
- better policies against gender-based violence with determined combating of discrimination and hate crime against LGBTI+ people and legal

- recognition of all sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender expression and sex characteristics;
 - that governments ensure equal access to social rights for people of all genders;
 - LGBTI+ people should have equal rights with regard to marriage, adoption and parenting, work-related benefits, pension rights and immigration and asylum;
 - that sex work is regulated -- or at the minimum decriminalised -- to protect the human, health and labour rights of sex workers;
 - proportional representation of all gender identities in assemblies on all levels of government.

Social security

We believe that one of the strongest cohesive forces in any society is social solidarity expressed in practice through state-guaranteed social security.
Social security is an important means for achieving prosperity for all, equality and meaningful lives. A welfare state should enable all inhabitants to lead dignified lives. In order to achieve this social security should not only ensure survival but enable people to actively participate in the cultural and social life of their communities.

68 We demand:

- free, accessible and adequate healthcare guaranteed by the state;
- affordable, accessible, adequate housing as well as free public housing guaranteed by the state with a special emphasis on the housing needs of young people;
- the right to an income that covers physical and social needs and which does not depend on employment;
 - that all citizens have full and equal opportunities for personal and social development.
 - that the housing market/rental market is regulated on the local level, through decisions made by the local government civil society and local communities as equal partners;
 - that state bans (either by expropriating or purchasing property) large landlords in the city and turns the property into free or affordable social housing.

.83 Youth

174

As an organisation of young people, we recognise the key role of youth in society. Youth is not only the future of society but its present too. Often, they are not seen as an active and equal actor in the political, social,

cultural, and economic spheres and are excluded from decision-making processes or treated as mere tokens. We support youth rights in every aspect of social and political life and strive for making youth's voices heard. We believe that active citizenship should be encouraged among youth and, as a minimum, youth rights should be proactively defended in order to strengthen their position in society. Education is one of the most important means enabling youth to stand up for their rights and fully contribute to democracy. We believe the current educational system must be fundamentally reformed enabling the direct and equal participation of students in the learning process. Education is for progress, sustainability, diversity, and prosperity. We highlight the value and importance of non-formal education as an inclusive alternative to current institutional forms of education and as a major provider of skills to foster participation in democracy.

200 We demand:

- free, accessible, and adequate education for all;
- ensuring youth political representation on national and local levels;
- accessible legal means for youth to insist on their rights;
 - youth centres in every community;
- independent funds for youth projects by youth;
- learning processes that are adjusted to individual learners' needs,
 competencies and interests;
 - support for and recognition of non-institutional and alternative forms of education.

210 Inclusion

- As a Green organisation encompassing a geographically and ethnically diverse region, cultural rights and non-discrimination is a vital part of our worldview.
- Cultural diversity is of fundamental value to us. Protection of diversity fosters inclusion and equal participation of every person in state affairs, public and everyday life, and guarantees that each individual has equal opportunities for personal and social fulfilment. Inclusion and openness help create a more welcoming society, where a variety of ideas, efforts and perspectives may thrive.
- We believe that every community has the right to use their own language and to preserve their traditions as long as they do not violate the rights of others.
- Therefore we stand for social sensitivity, peaceful co-existence, preservation of local languages and cultural heritage and traditions where their compatible with non-violence and inclusion of vulnerable groups. We condemn any discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, belief,
- self identity et cetera.

- that state guarantees for the protection of cultural heritage for all ethnic and cultural groups in accordance with values of non-violence and non-exclusion;
- that discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, belief, self-identity etc. is made illegal;
 - that state guarantees for the usage of minority languages in areas where accepting them as official languages is reasonable;
 - that states do not impose any defining characteristics, such as exclusionary cultural norms, as the ones to be followed by citizens.

27 3. Environmental justice

We as Young Greens take ecology and environmental justice as guiding principles in our world view and political ideology. Out of all species on Earth, human beings are the only ones drastically using and subduing nature to suit their own needs. Pollution, the altering of habitats, extinction of species, climate change, active hostilities, et cetera affect all living organisms. A healthy environment and stable ecosystems are a prerequisite for a healthy society. At this moment many are living beyond the capacities of this planet and have little awareness of the repercussions thereof. We need to start acting responsibly and humbly, building a society on the principles of sustainability and respect of nature's capacities, limiting our own harmful impact.

248 Climate change

Decisive action to counteract climate change should be taken immediately. The global scientific consensus has laid out very clear warnings that this is non-negotiable. As an issue that will have irreversible and tragic effects on all of humankind, this is something we understand as urgent and a priority. To properly fight the acceleration of climate change, climate action should be taken at all levels, from the personal to the global.

We condemn the discourses in mainstream politics relying on future solutions to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis, such as carbon (re)capture, nuclear fusion and heavily electrified machinery. These instruments promote growth based economies which are exploitative of our natural resources and most of individuals in the society. Furthermore, all these solutions shift the responsibility to future generations, while it's in fact, up to us to act today to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

- the ownership of responsibility to mitigate the effects of climate crisis by the political and business elites;
- that the biggest polluters both companies and countries are held accountable for their contribution to climate change and care for its victims;
- that all states create comprehensive plans to transition to 100% renewable
 energy that is produced and controlled locally and affordable to everyone;
 - that no plans for new fossil fuel extraction or burning are made or approved and divestment from fossil fuel is encouraged;
 - that global climate policy (i.e. UNFCCC) is not a vehicle for corporate interest and instead puts the needs of all citizens first.
 - the application of present solutions to mitigate climate change instead of potential future instruments;
 - the dismissal of exploitative growth based economy in favour of a just degrowth based economy.

278 Environmental preservation and biodiversity

We recognize that the planet does not serve just humankind but all living
beings. We believe that the protection of natural resources and the Earth itself
is crucial. Other living beings and their preservation should be considered an
important part of all decision making. Energy should be produced sustainably and
not do irreversible damage to the planet.

We demand:

- that all policies' effects on the planet are considered and that harmful extraction techniques (e.g. fracking) are banned;
- that authorities stop deforestation and support the growth of new forests and trees:
- that animals be given legal rights that go beyond their utility for humankind;
- more education on endangered plants and animals and the crucial role plants and animals play in our ecosystem;
 - that the use of agricultural land for fuel is forbidden and that research into recovering fuels from waste is promoted.

95 Water and food

Water and food security have to be one of the primary concerns and aims of society. They are basic for the survival of every human being. Access to clean

water resources and quality food should be unconditionally guaranteed as an intrinsic right for all living beings. Consumers should be incentivised to change their habits, prioritising a low carbon diet by consuming local and organic food. We oppose any monopolisation in food production and seed. Food production should be done with great care for their impact on human health, the environment and other living beings and based on principles of sustainability.

04 We demand:

- clean and potable water for every household; the privatisation of water sources should be forbidden;
- that water and food are secure and sustainable based on the latest scientific knowledge and social values;
 - access to true adequate, easy to understand information about the production, origin, content and health effects of the food products we consume;
 - a ban on the use of additives and other substances that harm living organisms, soil and water;
 - regulation of the monopolies in food production and water provision.

315 Urban ecosystems

Urban areas are the most quickly developing human settlements in the world. A majority of the population now lives there, making cities a crucial part of our societies. Cities have high demands for goods (e.g. food, water and energy) which they are not fully able to satisfy themselves, and which are imported from other areas. As big concentrations of people and human activity, cities produce and are subject to high pollution and lower standards of living than in rural areas. Cities should not continue to function in a way that is harmful to their inhabitants and the rest of the planet and its people.

- that measures of precaution are taken to ensure that the Air Quality Index (AQI) in inhabited areas stays below 100;
- that public transportation is a reliable, accessible, fast and cheap or free option of transport for all citizens;
- that urban areas are transformed to encompass green zones and prioritise cycling and walking to other means of transport;
 - an uncompromising zero-waste policy for all national and local waste management systems, with strong incentives (e.g. high fees for unsorted waste);
 - the promotion of waste prevention and re-usage of materials from an early age and to all generations of society, and simple and accessible recycling for everyone.

37 4. Economy

- We believe that we urgently need a new form of organising our economy. Our societies should orient themselves away from consumerism and the accumulation of wealth and instead provide everyone with the opportunities needed to live a fulfilled life. The current economic model has had serious negative consequences for people and the environment. Firstly, the unequal distribution of wealth directly affects countless lives and entrenches power imbalances. Secondly, the use of natural resources to produce more and more material goods endangers the environment and affects especially the lives of the marginalised and future generations.
- We believe that the answer can only be a community-based approach based on cooperation and sustainability where meeting everyone's fundamental needs including our desires for sociality and creativity take centre stage.

50 Labour

- Work constitutes a large part of most people's lives and livelihoods are often
- directly linked to income generated by labour. Therefore, fair and just labour
- rights are crucial aspects of personal well-being and functioning democracies.
- The right not to be exploited in the workplace is fundamental for a healthy
- society. Women, youth and minorities are still the most vulnerable to
- exploitation in their work- there should be stronger protections for these
- 357 groups. Today's economic model has seen a rise in jobs that offer unsatisfactory
- working conditions such as low wages, unstable hours, tasks that are not
- mentally stimulating, and precarious contracts. These developments are
- detrimental to society as a whole. Our economy and concept of work should focus
- on providing jobs that give enable material and mental well-being.

- equal labour rights for all people, regardless of their gender, race,
 sexual orientation, disability, or nationality;
- abolishment of unpaid internships;
- a living wage, or income that is enough to sustain your basic needs;
 - abolishment of contracts that do not guarantee a set number of hours;
 - protection of labour unions and collective bargaining;
 - that the highest salary in a company is no more than 6 times the lowest salary.

371 Trade

As one of the key drivers of globalisation, trade is a crucial aspect of our societies and current economic model. This has resulted in the proliferation of economic inequality and instability, rather than creating an economy that benefits everyone. This has been driven by reckless self-interested behaviour by multinationals and the financial sector and aggressive trade policies that are created in the interest of corporations, not the wider society. This gives unequal power to business interests, leading countries to a democratic deficit. Trade is important and can benefit humanity greatly, but it must be undertaken in the spirit of fair cooperation and respect for the environment.

81 We demand:

- trade with aggressor countries and authoritarian regimes should be limited;
- that undemocratic trade deals that favour corporate over citizens' interests are replaced with fair trade deals where partners benefit equally;
 - that all trade agreements are put under serious scrutiny: negotiations must be transparent and review from citizens groups and civil society should play a crucial role;
 - that trade relationships between Eastern Europe and the EU and other major partners are truly beneficial to all parties;
 - that all trade agreements have a sincere environmental evaluation chapter taking the centre stage of the contract.

Alternative economic organisation

We envision a system of economic organisation that is based on collective stewardship of our natural resources and collective control of the means of production. Communities need to be in control of the production facilities and decide themselves what their needs are and how they can be best fulfilled. We

- need to put an end to the privatisation and commodification of our common goods:
- 400 our environment, our cultural heritage and the knowledge produced by the
- 401 sciences.
- Work must allow people to contribute to our common good and realise their
- capacities. Less stress should be put on the production of material goods and
- more on collaboration, the provision of social goods, and the development of the
- arts and sciences. This new economy needs to be sustainable in all aspects and
- always include the needs of future generations and of our environment in its
- 407 thinking.

- reform of intellectual property rights law;
- progressive taxation and prosecution of tax avoidance;
- transparent and participatory budgets controlled by citizens;
- a stop to the privatisation of common goods;
 - a re-democratisation of privatised public and common goods;
- support for the establishment of cooperatives.

Global Affairs

- 416 We strongly believe that the social change we envision can only be achieved
- 417 through cooperation at the global level aimed at reaching sustainable solutions.
- 418 We support international organisations, unions and agreements that work towards
- peaceful solutions to armed conflict and foster cooperation on climate issues,
- 420 fair international trade and humanitarian support. We call for the countries
- that have the most access to the wealth to assume responsibility for their
- historical behaviour and act to lower the difference with the majority of
- countries, which have suffered and still suffer from exploitation. All
- international relations should be based on non-violence and conflicts should be
- 425 solved in negotiations based on mutual respect and multilateral communication. A
- 426 fairer and more equal world, with a more balanced distribution of goods and
- resources, is better for everyone.

428 Peace

- 429 We as Young Greens strongly stand for peaceful means as a core principle and
- 430 strive to create a world with a culture of non-violence. War is both the cause
- and consequence of great human suffering and as such must be overcome if people
- are to live fulfilling lives. International cooperation and peaceful
- 433 facilitation of negotiations should be the primary way of addressing conflict.
- 434 We condemn all behaviour by public and private stakeholders that aims at
- 435 profiting from armed conflict and see it as complicit in the perpetuation of the
- destruction of societies and the earth. We want to build a strong and
- sustainable peace by strengthening tolerance, economic equality, environmental

protection, respect of human rights and social security in all parts of the world.

440 We demand:

- the abolishment of organisations that propagate military actions, except when acting in self-defence against armed oppressive regimes;
- the pursuit of general and complete disarmament and a stop to arms trade;
- an international agreement to ensure a complete and definitive ban on
 nuclear, biological and chemical arms, anti-personnel mines and depleted
 uranium weapons;
 - respect for everyone's right to self-determination, specifically the peaceful separation of countries who desire independence;
 - that the international treaties on armed conflicts, such as the Geneva Convention, are respected in all armed conflicts and that breaches of these treaties are severely punished.

452 European Union

451

- We understand Europe as being more than just an accumulation of individual countries. Cultural, economic, historical and political reasons make Europe an interdependent and transnational community.
- The European Union should be a mutual and crucial project to enhance the cooperation among the countries of the continent. The European Union must be a community based on mutual respect, transparency, and prosperity. We see the future of Eastern European countries as being part of this community, however, not at the expense of becoming a source of underpaid labour or a market for otherwise unwanted products.

62 We demand:

463

- that the EU guarantees equal treatment and rights of Eastern European citizens coming to work within the EU in law as well as in practice;
 - that Eastern European countries are treated as equal partners within and outside of the EU;
- the democratisation of the EU's institutions direct elections for the Commission, real decision making power for the Parliament;
- that accession negotiations are transparent and in the best interest of all people and that information regarding accession criteria and progress are publicly available;

472 Migration

- Both voluntary and involuntary migration has increased in recent years due to various factors it is one of the most pressing matters of our age. Economic
- uncertainty, armed conflicts and climate change are all driving people away from

- their homelands in search of a safer existence. We understand that we all bear
- the responsibility of providing a safe environment and a fair asylum system for
- the people fleeing conflict, hunger and oppression. We condemn any form of human
- 479 trafficking, human rights violation and abuse of power by authorities regarding
- 480 refugees.
- We believe that freedom of movement is the right of every human being. We strive
- to create a world in which no person is considered illegal, where people are not
- forced to leave their homes, and where societies show solidarity with all people
- seeking refuge. Not only does diversity boost the economy and innovation, but a
- diverse and culturally rich society is a strong one.

- a right to asylum in all countries and the abolishment of the concept of illegal persons;
 - easing naturalisation procedures;
 - the right to reunite with one's family;
- the availability and accessibility of institutions that facilitate integration;
- that the international agreements guaranteeing the basic human rights of refugees and asylum seekers (regardless of their official legal status) be respected;
 - that all refugees and asylum seekers have the same social rights as citizens and be allowed to settle in the country of their choosing;
- the abolishment of visa regimes that obstruct the free movement of people, especially between Eastern European countries and the EU.

SP Safe Space Policy

Organization: CDN

Resolution date: 12.03.2023

Agenda item: 3. Organisational and Governance Documents

Motion text

Introduction

Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe is a capacity-building network comprised of different youth and green-minded organisations from Eastern and Central Europe. Fighting for a Green movement is our common goal but at the same time, we acknowledge that we differ a lot based on the diverse cultural environments we come from. In addition, patriarchy/sexism/ nationalistic discourses are highly embedded in our societies, therefore the creation of a safe space is a crucial component for CDN activities in helping to dismantle existing power structures and challenge oppressive mechanisms. This way we ensure the creation of a welcoming environment where participation is equalised for all despite the ethnicity /religion/ sexual orientation/gender identity/ class background and different abilities of all (participants, Executive Committee, Prep Teams and Office).

In general, Safe space policies are the rules by which a community agrees to behave. They help in guaranteeing that everyone feels free to express themselves and help prevent some of the problems common in our societies (such as racism, sexism, transphobia, etc.) from becoming part of the community.

This document provides an overview of what safe spaces are, the definition of inappropriate behaviour, and what key principles/mechanisms should be followed when establishing such spaces in CDN's activities and structures (CDN Executive Committee and Office, Prep Teams and Working Groups). This document is developed by a Working team comprised of some of the members of CDN Executive Committee/ Secretariat/ Gender Working Group, and adopted by the General Assembly as an internal document of CDN in 2021. CDN aims to create a respectful, understanding and open space, and we encourage everyone, from organisers to participants, to be pro-active in creating an atmosphere where the safety of everyone is validated.

This document is a result of consecutive meetings of the Working team throughout the period between November 2020 - February 2021. The document refers to experiences documented by previous CDN EC members and Secretariat, who have recorded cases where safe space was breached at CDN activities. Guidance has also been taken from other similar youth-oriented organisations, which have documents in establishing safe spaces, and we are grateful towards all the organisations who shared with us their resources (see more on page 12).

This document is just a set of mechanisms/ techniques for constructing a safe space environment but is not a definitive document. We welcome you all to give us feedback and further suggestions for ensuring safe space at the following email address: office@cdnee.org.

Types of unacceptable behaviour

- In this chapter, we will explain the types of behaviours that violate the safe
 space as a whole and which we aim to prevent. In case of recognizing some of
 these behaviours, please report to Safe Space Persons (SSP). We are aware safe
 space is an individual perception, and this list contains general behaviours,
 whilst other violations are not excluded. Any other situations that are not
 mentioned here but would lead to someone feeling uncomfortable, unsafe or
 excluded will be assessed as a violation of safe space and people are welcomed
- Disclaimer: This chapter contains examples of unacceptable types of behaviour which some readers might find triggering. Examples are listed for the purpose of better understanding of these types of behaviour. The following behaviours can vary from moderate to severe violations of safe space, and the measures are taken accordingly(elaborated further in the last chapter).

3 Physical:

to voice them out.

54 Breaking personal boundaries

- Indicating personal boundaries, whether physical or emotional should be a basis prior to interaction and should be respected at all times. The boundaries are often defined internally and presented with body language and verbal statements. These need to be observed, recognized (or verbalized) and respected.
- Example: Person X has said they do not want to be touched, and person Y teases them and "jokingly" touches the person X, and gets within their personal space without their consent.

62 Physical assault

- Inflicting physical harm or unwanted physical contact upon someone. Any kind of physical violence or touching without consent is completely unacceptable. Any kind of touching between people has to be consensual and thoroughly communicated. Physical assault can also be sexual harassment and is a severe violation of safe space and personal boundaries. In the physical form of sexual harassment, assault can be anything from inappropriate touching and teasing to severe sexual assault and rape (further explained in point Sexual harassment).
- Example: Person X punches person Y because of a disagreement of their opinions during an intense informal discussion about some topic.

72 Usage of hate/disrespectful symbols

Carrying (jewellery, clothing, accessories) or physically presenting (writing, drawing, mimicking) disrespect and/or hate symbols connected to religious, national and extreme ideological beliefs. List of international recognized hate symbols (link: https://www.adl.org/hate-symbols).

- Example A: During an art session on a CDN activity, the participant draws a swastika on a piece of paper and shows it to others.
- Example B: participant comes to an activity wearing a T-shirt with disrespectful writings about Muslims.

81 Verba:

Stereotyping and discrimination

- 83 Stereotyping is acting based on assumed ideas or beliefs regarding someone based
- on their gender, sexual orientation, national, religious identity, physical
- 85 appearance. Includes assuming facts about someone based on their identities. For
- 86 example: assuming that a feminine man is gay. Discrimination is the act of
- making unjustified distinctions between individuals on basis of race, gender,
- age, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, disability or other
- sp characteristics. It involves restricting members of one group or an individual
- 90 from opportunities that are available to others. Extreme discriminatory
- behaviours like racism, chauvinism, nationalism, linguicism, homophobia,
- 92 transphobia and similar will not be tolerated in CDN activities.
- Example: A group of participants in a session refuse to involve a participant
- with hearing difficulties because this person speaks in a manner the group finds
- 95 uncomfortable.

96 Objectifying

- This behaviour conveys the idea of treating a person as a commodity or an
- object. Another form, sexual objectification is the act of treating a person as
- a mere object of sexual desire. Everyone's individuality and autonomy are their
 - own and objectifying behaviour is destructive of these characteristics.
- 101 Example: participant X is told by another participant "hey girl! You would be
- 102 prettier if you smiled".

103 Sexual harassment

- 104 Even though sexual harassment can be physical, it's verbal form is explained in
- this chapter. Along with objectifying and bullying, it is the root of other
- unacceptable behaviours that can lead to physical assault. Sexual harassment
- involves the use of explicit or implicit sexual overtones, non-verbal cues and
- signals, unwanted and non-consensual touch and sexual assault.
- 109 Sexual harassment includes a wide range of behaviours and interpretations,
- examples of which can be found here
- (https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/pdf/whatissh.pdf)

112 Mansplaining

- 113 The explanation of something in a patronizing manner, usually by someone who is
- privileged because of their gender. This behaviour is often present in group

- discussions when the privileged person or a group of people are not allowing others to present, speak and behave in an authentic way. Mansplaining severely
- disturbs dynamics and create a sense of hierarchy and domination of a privileged person or group.
- 119 Example: A cis-gender white man dominates the discussion about gender equality
- and argues with the points of the wage gap and denies the existence of
- 121 inequality.

Invisibilising / belittling

- The act of not giving chance to speak, speaking over someone, ignoring opinions etc.
- Excluding someone from the conversation on purpose by either not giving them a
- chance to speak, speaking over them or ignoring what they are saying. To
- marginalize someone and to erase or ignore their presence or contribution.
- Example: During an event, participants are divided into small groups and working
- on some presentation. Within one group, one participant is missing because has
- gone to the bathroom, Meanwhile, the rest continue with the work and take some
- important decision without the presence of this participant.

Shaming and blaming

- Shaming is the act of bringing negative attention to an individual or a group
- because of their opinions; actions; physical, racial, ethnic, religious or
- cultural characteristics or activities. Blaming an individual or a group is a
- way of shaming them based on actions and the development of a situation.
- 137 Unexpected or undesirable results are not a responsibility of the action doer,
- and no one should be blamed or feel quilty.
- For example: participant X is approached by another participant and asked: "What
- is wrong with you? Why do you behave like this?" or "The situation that happened
- is your fault and you should face consequences"

142 Ridiculing/bullying

- 143 Using dismissive language or behaviour towards someone. Especially problematic
- when done based on someone's gender identity, sexual orientation, language,
- national or religious identity. Bullying can be verbal, but also physical and
- 146 then is seen as physical assault.
- Example: Participant X calls participant Y offensive names and laughs at them.

148 Criticism without constructive feedback

- 149 Criticism, if presented in a constructive way, is a tool for growth and
- development, however it is often misunderstood. If offered without constructive
- feedback, criticism can be connected to insulting, ridiculing and similar
- behaviors. However, everyone must be aware of different levels of knowledge,
- language, experience, and different opinions, and give feedback accordingly.

For example: While discussing over a topic participant X responds to participant Y in the following way: "This is stupid, you should stop talking".

156 Threatening and blackmailing

Threatening behaviour includes physical or verbal actions that don't involve actual contact/injury (moving closer aggressively), general verbal or written threats to people. Blackmailing is manipulative behaviour that includes the act of demanding personal and material belongings or degrading and non-consensual activities with the threat of revealing personal information or compromising autonomy.

Example: Person X found out person Y is queer, and forces person Y to give them money or they will "out" them on social media.

165 Ideological claims

(Extremist) Ideological claims are strict beliefs about certain groups, geographical locations, religious beliefs, cultures and similar identifications that lead to conflict or violent thoughts and actions.

For example: As it is stated in CDN Political Platform, we should strive to acknowledge and reject the politics of division and politics that seek to use nationalistic or any other exclusionary rhetoric at the expense of minorities and vulnerable groups.

173 Tools and mechanisms

This chapter enlists some practical tools and practices that can help making and obtaining a safe space environment. These tips are mostly associated with activity planning and executing, but most of them are suitable for an organizational level as well.

Before an activity

Inclusivity

One of the first steps in the creation of an inclusive environment is enabling
the participation of people of different backgrounds. When selecting
participants, CDN Secretariat, EC member(s) and Prep Teams (PT) are paying
special attention to underrepresented groups and ensuring their participation.
Depending on the topic of the activity, CDN will spread its calls for
participants to various channels, putting efforts into reaching out to these
marginalized groups even outside of the Green family. Both regional and gender
balance (a minimum of 50% of participants are young people that self-identify as
woman, trans or genderqueer) are taken into consideration.

Ability

Addressing the needs of everyone prior to the activity with a simple questionnaire (e.g. question box within an application form) will help

organizers (CDN) to be aware of everyone's needs and assist accordingly if needed. Local PT (hosting the activity) will secure that the venue/hotel is accessible for all differently-abled people.

Accessibility

When checking potential venues for the activity, Local PT should take into
account a provisional number of participants and search for working areas that
can host this number of people comfortably (and in different arrangements - e.g.
sitting in circle). It is recommended to choose well-lit venues and ensure
accessibility to all different venues/toilets/rooms of use to participants/Prep
Teams/EC Office members.

Information

Prior to the activity, Local PT should assemble an Infosheet with all the
essential information (local transport & hotel), including a brief cultural and
political background, as to make participants more comfortable with their
travelling. CDN will provide all the other key information about the event
itself, along with the schedule (agenda) and this policy, to familiarize new
participants with the Safe Space.

During an activity

Introduction

At the beginning of each activity, CDN organizes an introduction session, going through the agenda, background of the project and CDN. During the Introduction session, PT will go through moderation rules and introduce diverse communication tools that will be used throughout the activity. During an introduction session or shortly after, CDN will propose a round where participants will express their needs on obtaining a safe space throughout the activity.

Spatial organisation

How CDN arranges participants and chairs in the room depends on the session itself - whether there's a movement involved, small groups division, etc.

However, it is recommended arranging participants in a circle/horizontal arrangement, rather than having a classroom arrangement, for having a more inclusive environment. Moreover, working room/venue should be noise sensitive.

Language

Facilitators (CDN) will take steps to equalize participation, ensuring all participants are heard and diverse gender identities are respected - at the beginning of an activity, all participants will be asked to share their pronouns and have them along with their name attached visibly.

Facilitators will make sure to speak slowly, clearly, avoiding jargon and excessive academic language. Acknowledging that the activity is held in English, participants will be encouraged to use the language sign 'L' when a word/phrase is unclear. Moreover, participants should be encouraged to speak in English also

outside of sessions, not to exclude participants - when someone is using their
native language, anyone can raise it with 'Bora Bora' rule. This will be a
gentle reminder for everyone to speak in English. Nonetheless, if someone does
not speak English well, this should not be a basis for excluding person from
activity and that CDN will strive to have at least one more person speaking some
other language that person understands and helps with translation.

• HEGs and Morning circles

HEGs are designated groups of smaller number of participants, organised almost every day of the activity after a full-day programme and moderated by one of the PT members. This is a space where participants can reflect and share how they felt throughout the day in a more intimate environment. Each PT member shares the main thoughts/comments/concerns expressed by the participants during HEGs at the evening PT meeting. PT can make changes in an agenda, raise some points during a Morning Circle or introduce new rules according to the results of HEGs evaluation.

Morning circles are organized every day, before the actual programme begins and are moderated by one of the PT members. During this circle with all of the participants, PT will go through any changes/announcements/technical reminders for the day in question. This is also a space for PT to remind everyone of safe space and raise a point if anything had happened against safe space guidelines.

Safe Space Persons

3 Elaborated in the fourth chapter.

Question/Feedback box

During the event, there shall be a box where participants can leave written notes to facilitators and the PT members with feedback and questions. Some people might prefer this way of flagging something up, asking a specific question, or asking for support or a need to be met. The question/feedback box should be placed in a visible place where everyone can access it, and its purpose should be explained at the beginning of the activity. Other tools for anonymous messages can be also used for this purpose.

62 After an activity

Evaluation

Participants share how they felt during the event and tell if there were any situations that made them feel uncomfortable. Safe space persons can also be contacted online after the activity for the purpose of improving CDN safe space regulations.

Privacy

No pictures shall be posted on public sites or social networks without the explicit consent of the individuals who can be identified in them. In the

participants list, every participant will sign a separated column regarding the consent to be photographed and the consent to disseminate these pictures.

Data storage

274 CDN stores personal data (collected through application forms) of the 275 participants/Prep-team members and ensures the safety of data. Data erasure can 276 be done on the demand of the participant.

Finally, the best and most basic preventive measure is to educate ourselves, acknowledge privileges we have and build understanding and solidarity for one another.

280 Reporting and measures

The aim of this chapter is to create a sustainable system to prevent, identify and react to different types of unacceptable behaviour (outlined at chapter 2), which is not in compliance with the rules for the provision of a safe space environment in CDN activities (online and offline). These guidelines are written from the perspective of an international umbrella youth organization.

Disclaimer: This chapter contains hypothetical cases of unacceptable behaviour which some readers might find triggering. Examples are listed for the purpose of better understanding of these types of measures taken against these behaviours. The following cases can vary from moderate to severe violations of safe space, and the measures are taken accordingly.

Definition of SSPs

The central pillar of the Safe Space preventive measures and reporting mechanism evolve around the concept of Safe Space Persons (SSP). The SSPs are elected by the organizers prior to the event and are usually members of CDN EC / Secretariat/ Prep-teams that aim to prevent, identify and react to cases of unacceptable behaviour not only during activity sessions but applicable to breaks and informal parts of events. An SSP should be a person who is internalized with the Safe Space document and preferably has participated in previous CDN events. Depending on the capacities, it is recommended to elect two SSPs.

Safe space persons are beforehand provided with Safe space Toolkit, a document created by CDN along with Safe Space policy document, which provides knowledge and detailed procedures of creating safe space and dealing with its potential violations.

SSPs are present at events to help raise awareness about the topic, intervene in questionable situations where Safe space principles are breached, and provide a listening ear to participants who have felt harassed. Nonetheless, we highly encourage everyone to be proactive in creating an atmosphere where the safety of others is validated. In case of a safe space breach, there are three stages that an SSP goes through: 1- Prevention; 2- Identifying; 3- Reporting.

11 Prevention

- The main aim is always to prevent unacceptable behavior from happening and safe persons should guarantee this. Before the start of an offline/online event, they can briefly present the Safe Space document and measures/mechanism entailed in the document. Prevention methods are elaborated in chapter 3.
- Since the document will be sent to participants in advance, the safe space person should open the floor for questions from the participants, in case that there is something unclear from the document. After the presentation, the safe space person should let participants know that he/she/they are the right person to approach, in case that somebody faces unacceptable behaviour, and this behaviour goes unnoticed from the safe space person.
- Along with the preventive measures from chapter 3, participants and SSP should conduct regular emotional screening and be observant.

324 Identifying

- Safe Space persons are trained to identify unacceptable behaviours in CDN activities and observe participants in a non-intrusive way for the sake of timely reactions. Unacceptable behaviours are not necessarily obvious and visible for bystanders and (if not verbalize) can be recognized through body-language. SSPs are trained to recognize subtle signs and react if someone feels uncomfortable. This of course depends on the specific context.
- The key action in creating safe space, along with prevention, is identifying the breaches of safe space and boundaries in groups and on a personal level. There are different ways of recognizing and identifying safe space violations:
 - Direct report to SSP;
- These are usually subtle cases when the SSPs are notified or approached by participants/ or active bystanders who have noticed some kind of violation or strange situation. This can be a person directly seeking action to prevent further harassment, a complaint against other participant, seeking advice etc.

 If someone from bystanders notices someone else is feeling uncomfortable, they can inform SSP who will take further measures.
 - SSPs observation;
- As mentioned previously, SSPs are observant and notice disturbed power dynamics, uncomfortable situations etc. by observing body language of participants (Example: Person A repeatedly sits next to person B on a break, each time person A moves away and appears uncomfortable. This keeps on happening and person B is retreating to their room). SSPs in these cases approach these participants and make sure to understand if there is some underlying issue that needs to be resolved.
 - Feedback from the box
- The box represents an opportunity specifically for reporting of safe space violations. The tips can be reported anonymously and will be researched further

by SSP and PT members. Messages in the feedback box don't necessarily have to be reports, but also suggestions, for example, to rearrange groups or be aware of some situations happening outside the venue (for example accommodation). The box is checked daily for feedback along with other preventive measures, but should not stop participants of contacting SSP or other PT members on anything relevant.

Reporting:

- The SSP serves as the first line of contact and provides a type of first aid.
 Depending on the context, there are different ways of reporting the incident:
 - the immediate reaction from the SSPs
- In this scenario, the SSP are reacting immediately on spot to address the issue that have disrupted the safe space. This is sometimes done in a very intrusive way.
- Techniques: educating participants, collective emotion check, body awareness exercise etc.
- Examples: For instance, an SSP notices that only some participants are speaking in a discussion, therefore the SSP suggest to leave space for others who have not engaged much with the discussion.
 - communication with victim/perpetrator
- In case when there is a breach of Safe Space, SSPs try to identify the victim and perpetrator and have a moderated conversation separately with each of the sides involved in the dispute. Through this conversation, the SSP can understand the reasoning behind the perpetrator's behaviour and provide emotional support to the victim.
 - communicating with the PT;
- After consulting with both sides involved in the incident, SSPs sum up the case to the PT. This way, the PT can adjust the sessions accordingly in order to avoid similar cases for the rest of the programme, and make sure that everyone feels included and comfortable.

81 Measures

- Based on the scale of the misbehaviour (mild-severe-extreme) there are different measures to be taken by the SSPs and PT of the activity. We will exemplify this by showing one hypothetical incident and different escalation of it from mild to an extreme incident. Let's imagine that we are facing a case where a transgender participant is being misgendered by another participant.
 - Mild case: After the SSPs approach the "harasser", it turns out that this
 is done unintentionally due to the lack of information on the topic/
 misuse of the PGP.

- Measures: moderated communication/ SSPs remind participants again to read the Safe space document and ask if something is unclear.
 - Severe: After the SSPs approach the "harasser", it turns out that this is done intentionally due to the discrimination based belief. For instance, person believes, that only ciswoman are categorized as women and transwomen are men.
- Measures: Emotional support to the victim, explanation to the harasser why their behaviour is unacceptable and they are asked to apologize to the harassed person. We can communicate with the problematic participant that if the behaviour will be repeated, then further measures will be taken. This will be taken into consideration for their future participation at CDN events, follow-up from the EC. If the participant is part of CDN MO, CDN EC will proceed with contacting the MO contact person.
 - Extreme: when it involves instances of physical harassing/unwanted touch
 etc.
- Measures: They can bring people to a safe place, away from whomever they felt harassed by. Furthermore, decisions and actions regarding what happens to people and an event remain with the organizers and/or CDN EC.

408 Other measures:

- Group discussion can also be made during the event, where people collectively discuss the situation, and then participants can propose measures.
- In case if there's an extreme situation (ex. if there is a fight, if the safety of participants is risked), then the next measure will be:
- 414 2.1 contact the authorities;
- 2.2 expel the participant involved in the physical incident.

416 Safe space in online environments

- CDN online spaces in which SS needs to be monitored include chats, mailing lists and online calls. This is monitored by SSP in accordance to SSP document and "SS guidelines for online spaces". If possible, every chat should have at least one preferably more SS persons who will overlook discussions and react in case of SS breaches.
- 23 General rules of SS in an online environment
- 424 1. Space for all
- 425 CDN chats are a space for all people, no matter one's gender, sexuality, race,
- religion, nationality, physical ability, etc. Stereotypes and insults are not
- allowed on chats. Personal opinion is valued, but it's crucial to give space to

- people who are experiencing the discussed issues directly and encourage all people to share their thought.
- 430 2. Respect
- There should be respect towards everyone no matter their identities. No
- 432 previously outlined unacceptable behaviours are allowed in CDN chats. Trying to
- 433 force religious and/or cultural beliefs is forbidden.
- 434 3. Gender and pronouns
- Every member should respect other people's pronouns which should be clearly
- defined (or clarified if not clear). Disrespectful remarks towards a person's
- 437 gender and gender identity is unacceptable.
- 438 4. Trigger warnings
- 439 If a participant is discussing topics that could be triggering to someone, it's
- 440 crucial to use trigger warning (TW) or content warning (CW).
- 441 5. Misinformation
- 442 It's prohibited to spread misinformation in the chats.
- 443 6. Verbal and non-verbal communication in calls
- Be aware of disctracting behaviours you might show in videos, which might be
- interpreted as offensive, insulting or simply distract the speaker (eg.
- discussions in chats of the meeting, facial expressions, physical needs,
- 447 personal obligations, discussions in chats).
- 448 7 Safe space in EC and office
- In order to ensure SS in the working structures of CDN, there should be similar
- concepts of ensuring SS in terms of unacceptable behaviours and general rules.
- lt is recommended that 2 safe space persons are appointed one from office and
- one from EC, who mutually consult and communicate on ensuring SS in these
- structures. Along with standard preventive methods of ensuring safe space, it is
- recommended that SSPs conduct regular (at least every 2 months) SS check with
- 455 all members of structures, including persons under temporary contracts with CDN.
- 456 In addition to the previously mentioned examples of SS breaches, the SSPs shall
- 457 pay attention to the following conditions and situations: burnout states, mental
- 458 health issues, communication within the team, working hours and vacation times
- etc. SSPs will gather recommendations on the improvement of working conditions,
- structure them, and regularly implement new positive practices.

461 Methods of ensuring SS in online spaces

- 462 SSP is responsible for chat monitoring, issuing warnings, ending conflicts, and
- 463 reporting members that have been warned more than three times for not following
- the SS guidelines. SS guidelines are a document outlining procedures and
- unacceptable behaviours which can occur in online spaces and ways how to
- overcome them, similar to outlined SS policy procedures.
- 467 Additionally, SSP for online spaces should be aware and moderate gender balance
- 468 and encourage all groups concerned to participate in the discussion. SSP can
- 469 restrict people from dominating discussions in order to provide SS for everyone
- 470 to share.
- 471 If personal attacks, accusations, spreading misinformation or defensive
- 472 communication occurs, chat members need to be reminded by the SSP to keep

- 473 discussions constructive and reminded of the SS Guidelines and Policy. If
- participants ignore this reminder then SSP needs to contact involved
- participants privately and bring to their attention the issue.
- 476 If necessary SSP should create smaller chats for specific conversations. In case
- that conversations are getting out of hand then SSP (also an admin) should
- 478 install slow mode (in Telegram chats).
- 479 In online meetings in cases of inappropriate verbal and non-verbal communication
- or breaking of moderation, SSP should remind of the SS guidelines and if the
- behaviour is not stopped after 3 warnings, SSP can restrict online activity as a
- meeting admin. In extreme cases of this behaviour, SSP can restrict activity
- without warning and contact the involved persons with a warning and
- 484 clarification.

485 Resources

- 486 Hereby we would like to thank the following organisations for providing
- materials and resources with us in the process of creating the Safe Space
- 488 Policy.

489

494

- Col·lectiu Eco-Actiu/ The Ulex project <u>"Anti-oppression toolkit: A facilitator's guide"</u>
- Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l'Europe (AEGEE)<u>"Smash</u>
 guidelines: Structural measures against sexual harassment"
 - Federation of Young Europen Greens (FYEG) <u>"Smash Glass ceiling: Handbook for brave feminist leaders"</u>
 - Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) "Internal Rules of Procedure"
- European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet) "Safe Space Policy for Equinet Events"