

# VOICE Network 2022 Annual Report

This annual report provides a justification of activities and expenditures over the calendar year 2022

## Contents

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Who we are .....                 | 2   |
| Activity Report.....             | 3   |
| Legal and Governance.....        | 7   |
| Annual Financial Statement ..... | 9   |
| Financial statements .....       | 101 |

# Who we are

We are a global network of NGOs and trade unions working on sustainability in cocoa, tackling issues such as poverty, deforestation, and child labour. Our key work is around advocacy and research, speaking truth to power in the global cocoa and chocolate industry.

Our **Mission** is to be a watchdog and catalyst for a reformed cocoa sector, addressing blind spots and underrepresented issues in the value chain.

Our **Vision** is a sustainable cocoa sector, in which all stakeholders can earn a living income, under decent working conditions, where human rights – and especially child rights – are respected, within a thriving and healthy environment.

Our **Core Activities** fall into three categories:

- Informing and coordinating civil society working on sustainable cocoa.
- Ground-breaking research and publications on under-represented topics, and
- Effective advocacy at global and regional level

Our **Strategic Focus Areas** are:

- Living Income
- Human Rights
- Environmental Protection, and
- Transparency & Accountability

## Methodology

For this annual report, VOICE members submitted input, identifying core impacts of the network on their work and on the broader developments of the cocoa sector. Direct quotes from this impact survey can be found dispersed throughout this report, in the same formatting as this text box. Key learnings that were harvested in this impact survey are also being reviewed as part of our own continuous improvement model.

# Activity Report

## An informed and coordinated civil society

Our first priority is to facilitate an informed and coordinated civil society working on sustainable cocoa. We do this by creating spaces where global civil society – including but not limited to our members – are informed about current events in the cocoa sector, are aware of each other’s activities, and through this can increase their effectiveness, synergies, and alignment.

### For our members

Members of the VOICE network receive a wide range of communication around the latest developments in the cocoa sector. The members’ mailing list is a dynamic and diverse source of information around member activities, developments in the sector, discussions on key developments, and much more. Our members receive quarterly briefing documents on key developments in the cocoa sector, and the network hosts host monthly calls that are open for all members. As we are a global network, these calls are staggered throughout time zones and days of the week to ensure that all members are able to attend at least some of our calls.

“The VOICE mailing group is a very valuable source of information to be informed about what’s happening in the sector, typically with very timely and good quality info.”

“Understanding what other members are working on helps me prioritise my campaigning goals and structure content, e.g. around living income as the main topic different orgs are pushing on right now.”

“Having the opportunity to share my own initiatives on the mailing list and members calls has helped me drum up support from other orgs.”

### Southern voices

A key focus in 2022 was to strengthen the voice of the global south, both within our network as well as at a global stage. A significant amount of southern organisations became member of the network in 2022. In order to reduce the threshold of participation for our members, we have become a fully bilingual organisation, ensuring all internal communication and meetings are translated from French to English and vice versa.

“It is good to have members from producing countries on board to challenge our assumptions are NGOs from consuming countries.”

“We now get more exposure to southern perspectives more easily, and we’ve been able to connect directly with some people for further collaboration.”

“The entry of organizations from African countries promotes better coordination of activities between African organizations and also their organizational capacity building.”

“Already the fact that the meetings are translated simultaneously is a very good point. This allows the sharing of information and its relay in real time with the members of organizations based in Africa by allowing them to follow the international dynamics.”

### ISCO CSO Platform

In 2022, we started hosting a separate network of European CSOs involved in the various national platforms on sustainable cocoa, or ISCOs. This project, largely funded by GIZ and IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative, is aimed at ensuring an informed and aligned presence of the civil society actors in these national platforms. Membership of the ISCO CSO platform is based on membership of the national ISCO platforms and as such is not linked to VOICE membership. The role of VOICE is to provide the back office for this CSO platform, as well as to be one of the many participants in the network.

## Workshops and meetings

Beyond our own membership, we regularly host workshops and meetings bringing farmer-based organisations and civil society from the global north and south together. We also facilitate discussions on relevant topics when and where needed. Furthermore, strategic partnerships have been established with a variety of CSO coalitions throughout West Africa, Europe, and the United States. Latin America, as a major cocoa region, is an area where we still need to strengthen our partnerships.

“The level of organization of the CSO space in cocoa is a best-in-class example compared to other sectors. This success is to a very large extent due to the VOICE network, uniting a wide range of CSOs which are quite diverse and unique but have one strong voice in advocacy.”

## Continuous improvement for 2023

We are in the process of hiring a new staff member, part of whose remit will be to strengthen internal communications and relationship management. This will likely include more frequent sector updates for our members, more frequent direct engagement with individual members, as well as more frequent internal learning webinars on topical subjects, often based on our research papers.

We will also continue to work on our decolonisation process, strengthening the voice of our southern members and allies, and ensuring that our internal structures reflect the realities of the global cocoa sector, with both membership and governance proactively finding a strengthened voice for the global south.

## Ground-breaking publications and research

Our second Core Activity is to provide ground-breaking research on under-represented topics. Information is one of the most effective tools for improvement. A public and informed debate on the most pressing issues is essential.

### Cocoa Barometer

In December of 2022 we released the latest version of the Cocoa Barometer, a ‘state of sustainability’ overview of the cocoa sector that we (and our predecessor the Tropical Commodity Coalition) have been publishing since 2008, outlining current sustainability issues, future challenges, and identifying recommendations and calls to action.

#### Purpose

The Barometer is an **agenda setting** publication which aims to be ahead of the major sustainability conversations, indicating the next fields of improvement necessary. Internally, the Barometer is a **common reference** with facts and figures for the members of the Barometer Consortium, ensuring a consistency and continuity within Civil Society actors, and enabling everyone to use the same data and the same recommendations. The bottom-up process with which the Barometer is developed is a **key tool for alignment** of VOICE members on identifying joint priorities and recommendations.

“As we sometimes consult business cases of chocolate companies, the implication and explanation on the points where attention should be paid to in designing an intervention programme are helpful for our work.”

“The Cocoa Barometer has definitely helped in shaping the agenda and pushing the ball on these difficult topics.”

## Development

At the start of the development of the 2022 Cocoa Barometer, **consultation workshops** were held in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, where in each country circa 50 representatives of local civil society and farmer-based organisations provided **the key building blocks** for the content of the publication. In the next phases, several drafts of the document were shared with all the members of the Barometer Consortium – consisting of members of the VOICE network as well as several partner organisations from the global south – creating a **bottom-up approach to content development**. Though this process takes longer than simply hiring a consultant to write the document, it creates a much stronger, wider, and more inclusively argued set of priorities. It also helps all the members to better understand the various interrelated challenges facing the cocoa sector.

“Through the process of compiling the Barometer, we could deepen our understanding of the whole picture of the issues of cacao, as we normally focus on child labour issue.”

## Consultation papers

Three consultation papers were developed in the course of the year, allowing for in-depth analyses of key topics, in collaboration with content-specific expert contribution organisations.

The **Latin America Baseline Barometer** provided an overview of the key developments in the Latin American cocoa and chocolate sectors. The second largest cocoa producing region in the world is often overlooked in the discussions within the sector – a gap that previous Barometers have also been partial to – and as such it was high time for a proper dive into the origin continent of the cocoa tree. After a bottom-up development process, bringing in a range of Latin American civil society organisations from across the continent, the Latin America Baseline Cocoa Barometer was released in September 2022, in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

The **Transparency and Accountability Consultation Paper** was [released](#) in October 2022. Transparency and accountability are essential to make sustainability efforts both credible and effective. They also provide a level playing field for all supply chain actors, enable improved market access, and help increase farmer income. However, there's a lot of confusion about them. This paper was developed with several expert organisations in this field (EFI, UCLouvain/Trase, IIASA, the Hamburger Stiftung für Wirtschaftsethik, and Fairfood).

The **Living Income Compendium** is an attempt to bring facts to the conversation around living income as well as debunking stubborn myths (and lazy excuses). Though there is a real place for Good Agricultural Practices in achieving a living income, this is only feasible if the enabling environment of Good Governance and Purchasing Practices are in place. In that light, the cocoa sector has been attempting to solve the issue of farmer poverty in exactly the wrong order; after two decades of focusing on agricultural practices, it is time to address the enabling environment first. The Living Income Compendium was released in September 2022 in both [English](#) and [French](#).

“We have found these publications to be useful in deepening our understanding of these complex topics. The shorter position papers released between Cocoa Barometers are really great to signal to companies and other orgs as deep dives on particular topics. Our online audience is unlikely to read any of these reports, but we use them to frame and inform our content to raise awareness of the key issues.”

## Publication

All of the Cocoa Barometers, Consultation Papers, as well as supporting documents, can be downloaded at [www.cocoabarometer.org](http://www.cocoabarometer.org).

### Continuous improvement for 2023

We will improve our online presence by professionalising our website. We are also going to work on creating more low-threshold visualisations of our publications, so that the content becomes more accessible for all interested parties, including consumers and laypersons.

## Advocacy

With an informed and aligned civil society, it logically follows that a third key part of VOICE's activity is to engage in joint advocacy: raising the voice and concerns of the underprivileged and addressing blind spots and underrepresented issues in the value chain.

It is precious for us the secretariat of the VOICE network acts as contact point and has built a trustful relationship with the EU committee, the governments, and the private sector to conduct advocacy

### European Union

VOICE has been the key civil society representative in the global Cocoa Talks dialogue, hosted by the European Commission, providing panellists and speakers for these high-profile events, as well as being part of the consultations to the Commission surrounding these talks. Additionally, we have actively engaged in bilateral engagement with European governmental actors, including many DGs within the European Commission and the European Parliament.

### Global advocacy

VOICE acts as the key civil society representative in the International Cocoa Organisation's Consultative Board, advocating on strategic issues such as deforestation and living income. We are also in regular engagement with the Department of Labor of the United States, and in increasing dialogue with government officials of cocoa producing nations, particularly towards the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana Cocoa Initiative (CIGHCI), the transnational collaboration between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

### Multistakeholder engagements

We are part of the Steering Committee of the Alliance for a Living Income in Cocoa, providing leadership and helping to develop and drive the strategy of this sector-wide multi-stakeholder collaboration to drive Living Income in the cocoa sector, as well as member of the Advisory Board for the Living Income Community of Practice, providing input and advice on general strategies of this cross-commodity multi-stakeholder platform. VOICE was also part of working groups developing handbooks for the OECD on due diligence on Child Labour as well as on Living Income.

### Bilateral engagement

In addition, VOICE is in continuous bilateral dialogue with almost all the major global chocolate industry players; umbrella organisations (such as the World Cocoa Foundation, the International Cocoa Organisation and the International Cocoa Initiative), chocolate manufacturers (including the 'Big Six' Nestlé, Mars, Mondelez, Ferrero, Hershey and Lindt), traders and grinders (including the 'Big Three' Barry Callebaut, Olam and Cargill), as well as voluntary sustainability standards (including providing input to the standards and trading practices of Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance).

### Cocoa Coalition

VOICE has played an active role in forming the "[Cocoa Coalition](#)", an increasingly influential informal working group where cocoa and chocolate companies work together with civil society and sustainability standards, calling on the European Union to develop and implement mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence regulations.

Many companies in the cocoa sector were convinced at an early stage that legislation is necessary. This played a role to counterbalance umbrella organisations of other sectors who opposed legislation. It showed politicians that there is at least part of an industry in favour of human rights regulation.

### Driving force in the cocoa dialogue

After more than ten years of activity in the cocoa sector, VOICE's agenda and profile have never been as strong as in 2022. However, despite all the work in the first ten years of the network, cocoa farmers are still desperately poor, their children are still far too often in child labour, and old-growth rainforests are still being cut down to grow cocoa instead. Structural change is as necessary as ever.

Without VOICE, we would not have an industrywide discussion about living income. As an organisation, the use of these discussions in the cocoa sector was an example for other sectors.

### Continuous improvement for 2023

We will strive to increase the presence and visibility of representatives of southern voice, rather than putting the secretariat or European and American voices centre stage.

# Legal and Governance

## **Incorporation of association**

The VOICE Network is an association with full legal capacity. It has been established by notarial deed dated 27 August 2015, by notary C.G. Zijerveld. The association is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under number 64003833.

## **Statutory regulations concerning the appropriation of the results**

According to article 13, paragraph 2 of the articles of association, the annual statements are determined by the general meeting. By taking a board decision in a board meeting such as recorded in article 12 paragraph 3 of the articles of association, the allocation of the result is determined.

## **Tax duties**

We are registered with the Dutch tax authority as a tax-exempt charity (ANBI) and are not liable for turnover and corporation tax.

## **Members**

Our highest body is our Members Assembly, which met twice in 2022, once virtually and once in person in October 2022. Our membership in 2022 comprised of ABVV-FGTB/Horval (Belgium), Action against Child Exploitation (ACE) (Japan), Be Slavery Free (Australia/The Netherlands), Fern (Belgium), Green America (United States), Global Labor Justice – International Labor Rights Forum (USA), Inkota Netzwerk (Berlin, Germany), Mighty Earth (United States) Oxfam America (United States), Oxfam Belgium (Belgium), Oxfam Ghana (Ghana), Rikolto (Belgium), Solidaridad (Netherlands), Südwind Institut (Germany), Tropenbos International (Netherlands) and WWF France. Freedom United (USA), Ecocare Ghana (Ghana), IDEF - L'association Initiatives pour le Développement communautaire et la conservation de la Forêt (Ivory Coast), ROSCIDET - Le Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour le Développement du Tonpki (Ivory Coast) and Tropenbos Ghana (Ghana) joined during 2022 as applicant members.

EFFAT (the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism trade unions), Public Eye (Switzerland), and Fair World Project (USA) are official Observers to the network.

## **Growth in 2022**

During 2022, we saw our membership grow with ACE Japan, Tropenbos International, and WWF France joining as a full legal member, and Freedom United joining as a new applicant member.

We also officially opened our membership to applicants from cocoa producing countries - with Ecocare Ghana, IDEF (Ivory Coast), ROSCIDET (Ivory Coast) and Tropenbos Ghana joining the network as applicant members.

## **Board**

At the moment of publication of this Annual Report, the Board consists of:

- Julia Christian (Fern) – chair
- Bart van Besien (Oxfam Belgium) – secretary
- Kris Goosenaerts – (not affiliated with a member organisation) treasurer
- Abdulahi Aliyuh (Rikolto) – board member

The Members of the Association elect a board. Board members are not paid for their board duties. During 2022 board members Bart van Besien (Oxfam Belgium), Julia Christian (Fern) and Kris Goosenaerts continued in their positions providing crucial support to the Network, and Abdulahi Aliyuh (Rikolto) joined the board as approved by the members during the General Assembly in October 2022.

**Staff**

The staff are accountable to the Board. At the end of 2022, the staff counted two paid employees, Antonie Fountain (Managing Director), contracted for 36 hours per week, Anneleen Vos (Coordinator), contracted for 7.6 hours per week.

**Consultants**

The VOICE network also hired two regular consultants to support in administration, as well as to run a CSO platform for the various national ISCOs, for which the VOICE Network provided the back office.



# Financial Statements

This chapter outlines the finances of the VOICE Network over the fiscal year 2022.

## Sources of Income and Expenses

The core funding of the Network is threefold: financial contributions by members, dedicated funding for projects, and grants or donations from third parties. The coordination work of the Network is provided through financial contributions by its members. In 2022, the Network more than doubled its income compared to 2021, due to funding coming in for specific projects such as the publication of the new Cocoa Barometer 2022, consultation workshops in Ghana and Ivory Coast to inform the Cocoa Barometer and the CSO alignment platform for the Initiatives for Sustainable Cocoa (ISCOs) for which VOICE assumed the Secretariat. Projects were funded by increased contributions from members, as well as by funding from NGOs, foundations, and institutional donors.

A large part of our advocacy work in 2022 continued to be covered by an unrestricted grant of €51,400 by the Chocolonely Foundation.

Please note that many of our members contribute in-kind through human resources, legal and/or technical expertise, media outreach and engagement, organisation of workshops etc. which are just as crucial to advance our cause. An exercise to 'monetise' this is virtually impossible, but we would not be where we are today without their support.

The VOICE Network does not accept funding or contributions from companies, whom it is our mission to critically follow.

In 2022, expenditures were in line with the budget, with lower consultancy costs (regular staff assumed more work on the Cocoa Barometer which resulted in less costs for consultancy work) and slightly lower intercontinental travel costs, but higher translation and interpretation costs given VOICE's expansion to French speaking members. There were also higher conference costs with more in person conferences being organised than planned. The income for 2022 was in line with the budget noting that € 11.458 is deferred income related to the ISCO project to be spend in 2023 . This resulted in a final result of € 15,833,-

## Risk management

There are three categories of risk that VOICE must manage: reputational risk, governance risk and financial risk.

- The VOICE Network is at the forefront of discussions in the cocoa sector. This brings the risk of publications that might be incorrect or incomplete. To this end we use several principles when releasing publications.
  - All data that our publications are based on are made publicly available where legally possible.
  - Caveats are always made when dealing with insufficient or incomplete data.
  - The Network is always willing to adjust positions based on better or more factual data.
  - Publications are released with consensus of VOICE members, ensuring all members have had the opportunity to provide input in any publication.
  - Positions held by Voice staff must be in line with Voice publications.
- For risk management on governance and operations, we have internal communication and transparency.
  - The staff provides monthly updates on activities to the members.
  - The board has full access to online financial systems.
  - Payments above €1,000 are subject to board approval.
  - Reimbursements to staff must always be approved by second party - board or staff member.
- For financial risk management, the Network works to maintain.
  - financial reserves sufficient to provide a buffer in times of less financial income,
  - diverse income streams,
  - a wide member base to spread the risk of individual members' contribution reductions.

### Accountability

- For full transparency, the VOICE bookkeeping is fully digitalised and accessible to its members at all times.
- An internal audit committee consisting of members of the VOICE Network performs an annual audit on the bookkeeping. The internal audit committee have approved the 2022 books.
- The financial administration of the VOICE Network is performed by Van Tiggelen Financiële Administratieve Dienstverlening, an accredited accountancy and administration firm based in Leusden, the Netherlands.
- A full audit was performed by CROP registeraccountants, an accredited audit firm based in Ede, the Netherlands.

### Forecast 2023 budget and activities

The Voice network is projecting 301k EUR for operational costs in 2023. This is slightly higher than the expenditures for 2022, as we have plans to hire a new consultant for supporting VOICE with member communication and advocacy, we foresee increasing travel costs and we will implement an additional project to evaluate the possibility of setting up a network similar to VOICE in the coffee sector. We will continue our activities as the Secretariat of a CSO alignment platform across the various national initiatives for sustainable cocoa (ISCOS).

We are projecting our income for 2023 to be in line with 2022. We are projecting a lower income for Cocoa Barometer related expenses as the next one will be published only in 2024, but we will have a higher income given funding we have secured from GIZ for an initial scoping project in the coffee sector. To note, much of our core funding has been secured through a 3-year unrestricted grant from the Chocolonely Foundation for €51,400 per year, a 5-year agreement with Solidaridad who confirmed to pay €20,000 membership contribution per annum, and a 5-year agreement with Oxfam Wereldwinkels who confirmed to pay €10,000 membership contribution per annum.

We will continue our core activities during 2023 and follow the agreed 5-year strategy where we continue to focus on living income, human rights, environmental protection, and transparency & accountability in the cocoa sector.

This report was published on April 17, 2023

Signed:

Vereniging Voice Network

J.A. Christian

B.R.E.K. van Besien

K.J. Goossenaerts

A.Aliyu

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Member

Contact

- Antonie Fountain: [antonie@voicenetwork.cc](mailto:antonie@voicenetwork.cc)
- Anneleen Vos: [anneleen@voicenetwork.cc](mailto:anneleen@voicenetwork.cc)
- Julia Christian, Chair of the Board: [julia@fern.org](mailto:julia@fern.org)

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

(After proposal appropriation result)

|                                                   | 31.12.2022 |                | 31.12.2021    |        |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|--------|
|                                                   | €          | €              | €             | €      |
| <b>Assets</b>                                     |            |                |               |        |
| <b>Current assets</b>                             |            |                |               |        |
| <b>Receivables</b>                                |            |                |               |        |
| Debtors                                           | 1          | 0              | 1.000         |        |
| Other receivables, prepayments and accrued income | 2          | 2.016          | 1.920         |        |
|                                                   |            | <u>2.016</u>   | <u>1.920</u>  | 2.920  |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>                  | 3          | 135.113        |               | 87.569 |
|                                                   |            | <u>137.129</u> | <u>90.489</u> |        |

|                                                              | 31.12.2022 |                | 31.12.2021 |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------|------------|---------------|
|                                                              | €          | €              | €          | €             |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                           |            |                |            |               |
| <b>Association capital</b>                                   | 4          | 82.422         |            | 66.589        |
| <b>Current liabilities, accruals and deferred income</b>     |            |                |            |               |
| Trade payables                                               | 5          | 14.373         | 1.167      |               |
| Payables relating to taxes and social security contributions | 6          | 4.013          | 2.390      |               |
| Other liabilities and accrued expenses                       | 7          | 36.321         | 20.343     |               |
|                                                              |            | 54.707         |            | 23.900        |
|                                                              |            |                |            |               |
|                                                              |            | <u>137.129</u> |            | <u>90.489</u> |

## Statement of activities for the year 2022

|                                                        |    | <b>2022</b>    | <b>Budget</b>  | <b>2021</b>    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                        |    | <u>€</u>       | <u>€</u>       | <u>€</u>       |
| <b>Income</b>                                          |    |                |                |                |
|                                                        | 8  |                |                |                |
| Income from project benefits                           |    | 137.274        | 152.853        | 0              |
| Income from contributions                              |    | 61.748         | 57.332         | 55.238         |
| Income from donations                                  |    | 51.514         | 51.400         | 51.483         |
|                                                        |    | <u>250.536</u> | <u>261.585</u> | <u>106.721</u> |
| <b>Expenses spend on the objective</b>                 |    |                |                |                |
| Barometer                                              | 9  | 79.603         | 83.225         | 3.787          |
| Coordination and network building                      | 10 | 20.282         | 32.478         | 18.477         |
| Consultation of southern partners                      | 11 | 22.016         | 24.011         | 0              |
| Advocacy                                               | 12 | 48.391         | 55.894         | 55.149         |
| ISCO Coordination                                      | 13 | 47.794         | 57.850         | 0              |
| <b>Total of sum of expenses spend on the objective</b> |    | <u>218.086</u> | <u>252.708</u> | <u>77.413</u>  |
| General expenses                                       | 14 | 16.617         | 12.040         | 11.137         |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                                  |    | <u>234.703</u> | <u>265.498</u> | <u>88.550</u>  |
| <b>Balance of income and expenses</b>                  |    | <u>15.833</u>  | <u>(3.913)</u> | <u>18.171</u>  |
| <br>                                                   |    |                |                |                |
| <b>Appropriation of result</b>                         |    |                |                |                |
| General reserve                                        |    | <u>15.833</u>  |                | <u>18.171</u>  |

## Notes to the financial statements

### Entity information

#### General notes

#### **The most important activities of the entity**

The activities of Vereniging Voice Network consist mainly of promoting the sustainability in the global cocoa sector.

The association tries to achieve this goal by:

- bringing stakeholders together to create a national infrastructure to facilitate changes;
- exchanging international knowledge and experience;
- joint lobbying activities towards companies and organizations;
- joint campaign activities to create awareness; and
- raising the voice of southern NGOs and cocoa producing organizations.

The association has no profit motive.

#### **Mission Statement**

The VOICE Network is a global network of NGOs and Trade Unions working on sustainability in cocoa, tackling issues such as poverty, deforestation and child labour. Our key work is around advocacy and research, speaking truth to power in the global cocoa and chocolate industry.

Our Mission is to be a watchdog and catalyst for a reformed cocoa sector, addressing blind spots and underrepresented issues in the value chain.

Our Vision is a sustainable cocoa sector, in which all stakeholders can earn a living income, under decent working conditions, where human rights – and especially child rights – are respected, within a thriving and healthy environment.

#### **The location of the actual activities**

The registered address of Vereniging Voice Network is Amsterdam and is registered at the trade register under number 64003833.

The actual address of Vereniging Voice Network is Prins Bernhardlaan 39, 6713 MA in Ede.

## General accounting principles

### The accounting standards used to prepare the financial statements

The financial statement is drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Title 9, Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code, Guideline 650 Fund-raising institutions as issued by and the firm pronouncements in the Dutch Accounting Standards, as published by the Dutch Accounting Standards Board ('Raad voor de Jaarverslaggeving').

Assets and liabilities are generally valued at historical cost, production cost or at fair value at the time of acquisition. If no specific valuation principle has been stated, valuation is at historical cost.

#### Financial instruments

Financial instruments include both primary financial instruments, such as receivables and debts, as financial derivatives.

For the accounting policies of primary financial instruments, reference is made to the treatment by balance sheet item.

#### Comparative figures

The comparative figures published in this report are derived from the report as prepared on 24 May 2022.

The comparative figures for the previous financial year are, where necessary, only in terms of classification adjusted for comparison purposes.

## Accounting principles

#### Receivables

Receivables are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received. Receivables are subsequently valued at the amortised cost price. If there is no premium or discount and there are no transaction costs, the amortised cost price equals the nominal value of the accounts receivable. If payment of the receivable is postponed under an extended payment deadline, fair value is measured on the basis of the discounted value of the expected revenues. Interest gains are recognised using the effective interest method. Provisions for bad debts are deducted from the carrying amount of the receivable.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at banks and in hand represent cash in hand, bank balances and deposits with terms of less than twelve months. Overdrafts at banks are recognised as part of debts to lending institutions under current liabilities. Cash at banks and in hand is valued at nominal value.

#### General reserve

The general reserve aims to correct any deficits to be able to supplement activities if at any time the expenses exceed the benefits.

#### Current liabilities

On initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at fair value. After initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at the amortised cost price, being the amount received taking into account premiums or discounts and minus transaction costs. This is usually the nominal value.

#### Accounting principles for determining the result

The result is determined as the difference between the total of the benefits and the total of the expenses. The income is recognized in the year in which it is realized; charges as soon as they are foreseeable. Income received in the form of business or services valued at fair value, insofar as it can be determined. In that case, such income in the statement of income and expenses.

Income for which a special purpose has been designated will be shown in the statement of income and expenditure processed; if these benefits were not fully spent in the year under review, the benefits are not yet paid funds spent processed in the appropriated reserve or appropriated fund. A withdrawal from the appropriated reserve or appropriated fund is considered as spending (expense) recognized in the statement of income and expenses.

**Provided subsidies and gifts**

Benefits are understood to mean those promised from third parties and pledged for the year under review grants, gifts and income from activities intended for financing activities and the own organization.

**Expenses**

The expenses include the costs directly attributable to actions, as well as the implementation costs of the own organization. The costs are allocated to the year on which they relate.

**Financial income and expenses**

Interest income and interest expense are recognized in proportion to time, taking into account the effective ones interest rate of the relevant assets and liabilities. When processing the interest charges taking into account the responsible transaction costs on the loans received.



## Notes to the balance sheet

|                  | <u>31-12-2022</u> | <u>31-12-2021</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>1 Debtors</b> | €                 | €                 |
| Debtors          | 0                 | 1.000             |

|                                                            | <u>31-12-2022</u> | <u>31-12-2021</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>2 Other receivables, prepayments and accrued income</b> | €                 | €                 |
| Amounts still to be received                               | 2.016             | 331               |
| Accruals                                                   | 0                 | 1.589             |
|                                                            | <u>2.016</u>      | <u>1.920</u>      |

The other receivables and accruals have a term of less than one year

|                                    | <u>31-12-2022</u> | <u>31-12-2021</u> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>3 Cash and cash equivalents</b> | €                 | €                 |
| Triodos Bank, current account      | 133.124           | 85.830            |
| PayPal                             | 1.989             | 833               |
| Creditcard                         | 0                 | 1.906             |
|                                    | <u>135.113</u>    | <u>87.569</u>     |

The cash and cash equivalents are at the free disposal of the association.

## 4 Association capital

Movements in association capital were as follows:

|                                | <u>General<br/>reserve</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                | €                          |
| Balance as at 1 January 2022   | 66.589                     |
| Appropriation of result 2022   | 15.833                     |
| Balance as at 31 December 2022 | <u>82.422</u>              |

### Appropriation of the result 2022:

The Board proposes to add € 15.833 to the General reserve.

### Adoption of the annual accounts

The Annual General Meeting had adopted the 2021 financial statements on 20 May, 2023. The net result after taxation for the year ending 31 December 2021 was € 18.171.

|                                                                       | <u>31-12-2022</u> | <u>31-12-2021</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                                                       | €                 | €                 |
| <b>5 Trade payables</b>                                               |                   |                   |
| Accounts payable                                                      | 14.373            | 1.167             |
|                                                                       | <u>14.373</u>     | <u>1.167</u>      |
|                                                                       |                   |                   |
|                                                                       | <u>31-12-2022</u> | <u>31-12-2021</u> |
|                                                                       | €                 | €                 |
| <b>6 Payables relating to taxes and social security contributions</b> |                   |                   |
| Wage tax and social securities                                        | 4.013             | 2.390             |
|                                                                       | <u>4.013</u>      | <u>2.390</u>      |
|                                                                       |                   |                   |
|                                                                       | <u>31-12-2022</u> | <u>31-12-2021</u> |
|                                                                       | €                 | €                 |
| <b>7 Other liabilities and accrued expenses</b>                       |                   |                   |
| Deferred income                                                       | 11.548            | 0                 |
| Contribution received in advance                                      | 12.565            | 12.664            |
| Audit and consultancy costs                                           | 7.472             | 7.170             |
| Holiday pay obligation                                                | 2.862             | 0                 |
| Accrued liabilities                                                   | 1.874             | 157               |
| Net Salary                                                            | 0                 | 352               |
|                                                                       | <u>36.321</u>     | <u>20.343</u>     |

The other debts and accrued liabilities have a term of less than one year.

## Notes to the statement of activities

|                              | <u>2022</u>    | <u>Budget</u><br><u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u>    |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
|                              | €              | €                            | €              |
| <b>8 Income</b>              |                |                              |                |
| Income from project benefits | 137.274        | 152.853                      | 0              |
| Income from contributions    | 61.748         | 57.332                       | 55.238         |
| Income from donations        | 51.514         | 139.028                      | 51.438         |
|                              | <u>250.536</u> | <u>261.585</u>               | <u>106.721</u> |

### Income from donations

The Chocolonely Foundation's donation for a total of 51.400€ comes from a foundation with an independent board that is not accountable to a company, including its main funder Tony's Chocolonely. Moreover, the donation is completely unrestricted – there are no conditions for this funding in addition to the obligation to publish an annual report and an annual audit – and it does not prevent the network from critically monitoring the company's actions.

|                                     | <u>2022</u>    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
|                                     | €              |
| <b>Income from project benefits</b> |                |
| Barometer                           | 77.234         |
| ISCO project                        | 38.328         |
| Consultation southern partners      | 19.782         |
| US advocacy – Climate Advisers      | 1.930          |
|                                     | <u>137.274</u> |

|                  | <u>2022</u>   |
|------------------|---------------|
|                  | €             |
| <b>Barometer</b> |               |
| Solidaridad      | 25.000        |
| WWF France       | 15.000        |
| Oxfam Novib      | 12.000        |
| Public Eye       | 7.000         |
| Oxfam US         | 6.416         |
| Oxfam Belgium    | 5.000         |
| Tropenbos        | 5.000         |
| Mighty Earth     | 1.360         |
| Green America    | 458           |
|                  | <u>77.234</u> |

|                                  | <u>2022</u><br>€ |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>ISCO project</b>              |                  |
| IDH                              | 25.000           |
| Fairtrade Germany/Belgium/France | 3.000            |
| Rainforest Alliance              | 2.453            |
| GIZ                              | 5.875            |
| Trias                            | 1.000            |
| Bos +                            | 1.000            |
|                                  | <u>38.328</u>    |

|                                       | <u>2022</u><br>€ |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Consultation southern partners</b> |                  |
| Oxfam Novib                           | 17.782           |
| Fern                                  | 2.000            |
|                                       | <u>19.782</u>    |

|                                           | 2022<br>€     | Budget<br>2022<br>€ | 2021<br>€     |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>Expenses of employee benefits</b>      |               |                     |               |
| Wages and salaries                        | 69.301        | 57.065              | 56.960        |
| Social security charges and pensions cost | 16.066        | 14.346              | 14.722        |
| Other expenses of employee benefits       | 3.150         | 3.150               | 3.150         |
|                                           | <u>88.517</u> | <u>74.561</u>       | <u>74.832</u> |

### Remuneration of supervisory board

No loans, advances or guarantees have been granted to the directors, nor have they received any remuneration for the work they perform.

### Average number of employees

2022

|                             | <u>Number</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Average number of employees | 1,20          |

2021

|                             | <u>Number</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Average number of employees | 1,00          |

|                                                  | <u>2022</u>   | <u>Budget</u><br><u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u>   |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
|                                                  | €             | €                            | €             |
| <b>Social security charges and pensions cost</b> |               |                              |               |
| Social security charges                          | 9.695         | 8.214                        | 8.626         |
| Pension charges                                  | 3.672         | 3.672                        | 3.672         |
| Social security charges Belgium                  | 2.699         | 2.459                        | 2.424         |
|                                                  | <u>16.066</u> | <u>14.345</u>                | <u>14.722</u> |

|                                            | <u>2022</u>  | <u>Budget</u><br><u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u>  |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|
|                                            | €            | €                            | €            |
| <b>Other expenses of employee benefits</b> |              |                              |              |
| Commuting expenses                         | 2.254        | 2.254                        | 2.254        |
| Other allowances                           | 416          | 416                          | 416          |
| Other allowances Belgium                   | 480          | 480                          | 480          |
|                                            | <u>3.150</u> | <u>3.150</u>                 | <u>2.790</u> |

All personnel cost are allocated to the projects.

|                                     | <u>2022</u>   | <u>Budget</u><br><u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u>  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------|
|                                     | €             | €                            | €            |
| <b>9 Barometer</b>                  |               |                              |              |
| Salary costs                        | 25.857        | 22.114                       | 2.586        |
| Consultant research (Barometer)     | 14.690        | 26.000                       | 0            |
| Website costs                       | 9.305         | 10.000                       | 0            |
| Translation costs                   | 8.782         | 5.961                        | 0            |
| Conference cost                     | 7.205         | 2.500                        | 0            |
| Consultant Latin American Barometer | 6.955         | 6.500                        | 0            |
| Design and publication costs        | 6.564         | 7.000                        | 1.219        |
| Travel expenses                     | 245           | 900                          | 0            |
| Consultant copy edit                | 0             | 2.250                        | 0            |
| Meeting costs                       | 0             | 0                            | 0            |
|                                     | <u>79.603</u> | <u>83.225</u>                | <u>3.787</u> |

|                                             | <b>2022</b>   | <b>Budget</b> | <b>2021</b>   |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                             | <u>€</u>      | <u>€</u>      | <u>€</u>      |
| <b>10 Coordination and network building</b> |               |               |               |
| Salary costs                                | 17.205        | 23.628        | 18.223        |
| Consultant - finance                        | 1.600         | 5.000         | 0             |
| Translation costs                           | 947           | 0             | 0             |
| Meeting costs                               | 148           | 100           | 46            |
| Website costs                               | 200           | 600           | 157           |
| Travel expenses for personnel               | 96            | 2.000         | 0             |
| Teambuilding                                | 86            | 400           | 51            |
| Staff training                              | 0             | 750           | 0             |
|                                             | <u>20.282</u> | <u>32.478</u> | <u>18.477</u> |

|                                             | <b>2022</b>   | <b>Budget</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
|                                             | <u>€</u>      | <u>€</u>      | <u>€</u>    |
| <b>11 Consultation of southern partners</b> |               |               |             |
| Subgrants consultation Ghana and Ivory      | 17.083        | 17.083        | 0           |
| Salary costs                                | 2.942         | 4.937         | 0           |
| Travel expenses for personnel               | 1.966         | 1.966         | 0           |
| Office cost                                 | 25            | 25            | 0           |
|                                             | <u>22.016</u> | <u>24.011</u> | <u>0</u>    |

|                                 | <b>2022</b>   | <b>Budget</b> | <b>2021</b>   |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                 | <u>€</u>      | <u>€</u>      | <u>€</u>      |
| <b>12 Advocacy</b>              |               |               |               |
| Salary costs                    | 34.183        | 43.244        | 54.003        |
| Conference cost                 | 6.007         | 600           | 0             |
| Travel expenses for personnel   | 5.379         | 8.500         | 1.100         |
| Translation costs               | 2.810         | 1.950         | 0             |
| Meeting costs                   | 12            | 1.000         | 46            |
| Design and distribution reports | 0             | 600           | 0             |
|                                 | <u>48.391</u> | <u>55.894</u> | <u>55.149</u> |

|                               | <u>2022</u>   | <u>Budget</u><br><u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------|
|                               | €             | €                            | €           |
| <b>13 ISCO Coordination</b>   |               |                              |             |
| Consultant                    | 33.193        | 40.800                       | 0           |
| Salary costs                  | 8.330         | 5.926                        | 0           |
| Conference cost               | 4.129         | 5.200                        | 0           |
| Travel expenses for personnel | 1.817         | 2.984                        | 0           |
| Office costs                  | 325           | 2.940                        | 0           |
|                               | <u>47.794</u> | <u>57.850</u>                | <u>0</u>    |

|                                                    | <u>2022</u>   | <u>Budget</u><br><u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u>   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
|                                                    | €             | €                            | €             |
| <b>14 General expenses</b>                         |               |                              |               |
| Auditor's fees - audit of the financial statements | 5.143         | 5.143                        | 5.143         |
| Accounting costs                                   | 4.094         | 2.897                        | 3.051         |
| Insurance premium                                  | 2.040         | 2.000                        | 1.505         |
| Other general expenses                             | 5.339         | 2.000                        | 1.438         |
|                                                    | <u>16.616</u> | <u>12.040</u>                | <u>11.137</u> |

**Based on the aforementioned specifications, the following percentages may apply be calculated:**

Spending rate of expenditure: Total expenditure on the objective / total expenses

Spending rate of benefits: Total expenditure on the objective / total benefits

|                              | <u>Realised</u><br><u>2022</u> | <u>Budget</u><br><u>2022</u> | <u>Realised</u><br><u>2021</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                              | %                              | %                            | %                              |
| Spending rate of expenditure | 92.92                          | 95,45                        | 87,42                          |
| Spending rate of benefits    | 87.05                          | 96,60                        | 72,54                          |

## **Other information**

### **Statutory regulations concerning the appropriation of the result**

According to article 13, paragraph 2 of the articles of association, the annual statements are determined by the general meeting. By taking a board decision in a board meeting such as recorded in article 12 paragraph 3 of the articles of association, the allocation of the result is determined.

### **Signing of the annual statement**

Ede, 17 April 2023

Vereniging Voice Network

J.A. Christian

B.R.E.K. van Besien

K.J. Goossenaerts

A. Aliyu

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Member





## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: the General Assembly of members of VOICE Network registered at Amsterdam

### A. Report on the audit of the financial statements 2022 included in the annual report

#### Our opinion

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements 2022 of VOICE Network, based in Amsterdam.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of VOICE Network as at December 31, 2022 and of its result for 2022 in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and Dutch Accounting Standard 650 Fundraising institutions.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at December 31, 2022;
2. the statement of activities for the year 2022; and
3. the notes to the financial statements comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of VOICE Network in accordance with the 'Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten' (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore we have complied with the 'Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants' (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### B. Report on the other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of:

- Management Board's report;
- Other information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information:

- is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements;
- contains the information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

We were engaged to read the other information and, based on our knowledge and understanding to be obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, to consider whether the other information contains material misstatements. By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the Management Board's report in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and other information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

### **C. Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements**

#### **Responsibilities of management for the financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and Dutch Accounting Standard 650 Fund-raising institutions. Furthermore, management is responsible for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, management should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Management should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

#### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements.

Our audit included among others:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control;
- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- Concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern;
- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- Evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Arnhem, April 17, 2023

CROP registeraccountants

P. van Roenburg MSc. RA