

2021 WM Board elections

Candidates summary

[Adam Wight](#)

[Ashwin Baidur](#)

[Dariusz Jemielniak](#)

[Douglas Ian Scott](#)

[Yao Eliane Dominique](#)

[Farah Jack Mustaklem](#)

[Gerard Meijssen](#)

[Iván Martínez](#)

[Lionel Scheepmans](#)

[Lorenzo Losa](#)

[Mike Peel](#)

[Pascale CAMUS-WALTER](#)

[Pavan Santhosh Surampudi](#)

[Raavi Mohanty](#)

[Ravishankar Ayyakkannu](#)

[Reda Kerbouche](#)

[Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight](#)

[Victoria Doronina](#)

[Vinicius Siqueira](#)

[Adam Wight](#)

Location: Berlin, Germany

Languages: en-N, es-2

Wikimedian since: 2012

Active wikis: mediawiki, meta

Top 3 Board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Democracy: Elect the full Board, with contributors recognized as the legal owners of the Foundation. 2. Diversity: Phase out some of the roles played by the Foundation, focusing on coordination between chapters, stewardship of trademarks, international law and safety issues. Greatly increase the proportion of funds distributed to local entities. Evaluate splitting out organizations to focus on MediaWiki, and another to provide wiki hosting. 3. Diaspora: Support a non-profit, ad-free wiki farm open to all, with the benefit of a uniform safety framework.
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equity in decision-making 2. Safety and inclusion 3. Innovation for free knowledge

[Ashwin Baidur](#)

- Location: Pune, India
- Languages: Konkani (first language) (kok-5), fluent in Hindi (hi-4) and Marathi (mr-4), English (near professional) (en-4), German (de-1).
- Wikimedian since: 26 March 2006
- Active wikis: Wikipedia (English), Wikimedia Commons

Top 3 Board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give a voice to the emerging communities of the Global South. 2. Capacity building across the entire Wikimedia Movement. 3. Support the successful fulfilment of the Movement Strategy.
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Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<p>While I believe all the recommendations of the Movement Strategy have their unique significance and importance, the following are of top priority to me:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide for Safety and Inclusion (Recommendation 3). (Stakeholders: Users & Community). 2. Ensure Equity in Decision-making (Recommendation 4). (Stakeholders: WMF, Users, and Community). 3. Invest in Skills and Leadership Development (Recommendation 6). (Stakeholders: WMF, Users, and Community).
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Dariusz Jemielniak

- Location: Warsaw, Poland / Cambridge, MA US
- Languages: pl-N, en-4, de-1, ru-1
- Wikimedian since: 2007
- Active wikis: plwiki, enwiki, Commons

Top 3 Board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. finishing the governance reform and onboarding, 2. tackling disinformation and other new tech challenges, 3. solidifying the movement governance and financing, including the Global South.
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. leadership development (especially in less represented regions), 2. listening to wider audiences and less heard and stifled voices, 3. Improving governance and collaboration between the Foundation and the affiliates (and making a clearer division of responsibilities).

Douglas Ian Scott

- Location: Cape Town, South Africa
- Languages: en-N, af-2, cmn-2, python, R
- Wikimedian since: 2006
- Active wikis: English Wikipedia, Commons

Top 3 Board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Expanded engagement between the WMF organisation and the board with the Wikimedia community whilst increasing transparency.2. Hire and onboard the new WMF CEO – who ever occupies this role will have a very large and long lasting impact on the movement. A person with a deep and genuine belief in the free knowledge movement and the collaborative inclusionist non-commercial volunteer culture of the community is very important.3. Re-balancing WMF/Community relations so as to strengthen the role of the community within the WMF
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increased representation and support for emerging communities2. Improved community health and board governance3. Sustainable and innovative development of new technology to support the community

Yao Eliane Dominique

Location: Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire

Languages: French

Wikimedian since: 2013

Active wikis: Wikipedia

Top 3 Board priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Re-establishment of the governing bodies: It is important for the Movement to re-establish its governing bodies as soon as possible in order to evolve the actions and continue the development of our community. ● Improve the communication of the Foundation: Improve the communication system of the movement to decentralize information. ● Strengthen the system of good governance of the movement by diversifying the skills and expertise within the Board of Directors for an even more inclusive movement.
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Capacity building: It is advisable to help build the capacities of the communities according to their strengths and weaknesses in the movement. ● Decentralization: It is necessary to bring the foundation closer to the communities in order to facilitate certain administrative procedures. ● Equity in decision making: For me, all major decisions related to the life of the movement must take into account the opinion of all communities and affiliates who are great forces of proposals.

[Farah Jack Mustaklem](#)

- Location: Palestine
- Languages: ar-N, en-N, fr-3, he-3, es-2, nl-1
- Wikimedian since: 2005
- Active wikis: arwiki, enwiki, commons, meta

Top 3 Board priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase diversity on the Board and represent marginalized communities. - Promote more transparency in the governance and decision-making of the WMF.
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	- Align WMF with digital rights and other human rights movements, as free knowledge is a right for all.
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<p>Ensure Equity in Decision-making</p> <p>Innovate in Free Knowledge</p> <p>Invest in Skills and Leadership Development</p>

[Gerard Meijssen](#)

- Location:
- Languages: English, Dutch
- Wikimedian since: March 2008
- Active wikis: Wikidata, Wikipedia, Commons

Top 3 Board priorities	
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	

[Iván Martínez](#)

- Location: Mexico City, Mexico
- Languages: es-N, en-3, nah-0
- Wikimedian since: March 2006
- Active wikis: Spanish Wikipedia, Spanish Wikinews, Wikidata, Commons

Top 3 Board priorities	<p>Onboarding process of the next CEO.</p> <p>Support of the implementation of Movement Strategy Wikimedia 2030.</p>
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	Community leadership development, especially in the Global South. I also want to review mechanisms to ensure that all voices in the movement can be heard.
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<p>Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement</p> <p>Ensure Equity in Decision-making</p> <p>Provide for Safety and Inclusion</p>

Lionel Scheepmans

- Location: Walcourt, Belgium
- Languages: French as native, English and Portuguese as good level and all textual world languages through my computer or smartphone ;o)
- Wikimedian since: June 2008 and very active since early 2011
- Active wikis: fr.Wikiversity - fr.Wikipedia - Commons - ect

Top 3 Board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that the mission of the movement and the foundation is respected 2. Ensure transparency within the movement and the foundation 3. Ensure that the good governance of the movement and the foundation is respected
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance 2. Cosmopolitanism 3. Awareness

Lorenzo Losa

- Location: Milano, Italy

- Languages: it-N, en-3, es-2
- Wikimedian since: April 2004
- Active wikis: Italian Wikipedia, Wikidata

<p>Top 3 Board priorities</p>	<p>Transparency in the board's processes. Although I have been a highly involved wikimedian for more than a decade, I have always found it difficult to understand what the Wikimedia Foundation board is doing. Even worse, it is frustrating to see suggestions and concerns from the community that seem not to be taken into account.</p> <p>Having been on multiple boards myself for many years, I fully understand that many of the board's discussions are confidential – but not all of them. I also know from experience that when you get into a board, it is easy to overlook these problems. It is not due to bad will, it's just that when you have the information, it's difficult to consider the perspective of those who don't have it. But this is one more reason to strive for real two-way communication.</p> <p>Transition to a less central role. The Wikimedia Foundation Board has always been seen a bit like a board of the movement – although we know that it is not. Now, with the Movement Strategy, the new Global Council is expected to finally give a body that is truly representative of our movement. We don't know yet how it will be shaped, but in order to achieve its potential the Wikimedia Foundation Board, and the Wikimedia Foundation itself, will have to learn a new way.</p> <p>Hiring and onboarding a new CEO. One may like it or not, but having a good CEO is more important than having good board members – and a bad CEO can do much more damage than a bad board member. Selection, support and oversight of the CEO is one of the most critical roles for the board.</p>
<p>Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities</p>	<p>Whatever happens, keep the focus on Wikimedia values. We are a movement based on values – free access to knowledge, participation, equity. Keep the values in the spotlight. Let them guide our actions.</p> <p>Strategy implementation, in a fair way. There have been years of work on the Movement Strategy, and we are slowly moving to implementation. This strategy talks about decentralization, equity in decision-making, empowering communities. This is a great opportunity to change our movement for the better. At the same time, there is the risk that a time of changes will end favouring the old power structures. We need to make sure this does not happen.</p>

The community is a governing body. The community is not just a bunch of people providing free work to support the projects. The community is the Wikimedia movement itself. It is our ultimate decision-making body.

Mike Peel

- Location: Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain
- Languages: en-N, es-1, pt-BR-1, fr-1, python, C
- Wikimedian since: 2005
- Active wikis: English Wikipedia, Commons, Wikidata

Top 3 Board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New ED hiring, onboarding, and overall transition process2. Increase transparency and engagement of the WMF board and organisation with the Wikimedia community3. Provide guidance to rebalance the work done by the WMF vs. affiliates vs. community
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increasing engagement with emerging communities, while making the best use of the strengths of more privileged communities2. Sustainable and innovative technical development3. Increase engage with fellow-traveller organisations (e.g., GLAM)

Pascale CAMUS-WALTER

- Location: Strasbourg, France
- Languages: fr-N, en-3 , de-3
- Wikimedian since: 2011
- Active wikis: French Wikipedia

<p>Top 3 Board priorities</p>	<p>New CEO</p> <p>Keep the interests of the WMF aligned with the philosophy of the movement</p> <p>Make successful implementation of strategies</p>
<p>Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities</p>	<p>Reshape movement's relationships in a postpandemic era</p> <p>Protect contributors, communities and projects in hostile context</p> <p>Be creative to make the projects accessible for more diverse contributors</p>

[Pavan Santhosh Surampudi](#)

- Location: Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India.
- Languages: Telugu (Te-N), English (Fluent) (en-4) and Hindi (hi-1)
- Wikimedian since: December 2013
- Active wikis: Telugu Wikipedia, Telugu Wikisource, Commons

<p>Top 3 Board priorities</p>	<p>1. Hiring and onboarding CEO: Hiring the right candidate as CEO is a priority issue to build on major initiatives and steps taken by Katherine Maher and to ensure the progress made in the last few years won't be reverted to earlier phases of uncertainty.</p> <p>2. Empowering stakeholders across the movement: Empowering Wikimedia movement entities and reducing the excessive centralisation of power all over the world is key to make leaps in the strategic direction we are committed to.</p> <p>3. Improving board relations with the community: Building trust and belongingness is an important aspect of collaboration with the community. Community is the main and highly crucial stakeholder in movement and it should have more skin in the game when it comes to key decision making. The board should be easily accessible to community members through various channels.</p>
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Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest in Skills and Leadership Development: Without a sustainable skill and leadership development programme in place, there will be little difference in what is already happening in the movement. Additionally, As Foundation and movement are built from the earnest contribution from volunteers this should also help in giving back. 2. Establish a movement-wide knowledge base: Building a movement-wide knowledge base that is well-structured and multilingual will help leadership and governance across the world. Being a major source of knowledge in the world, it is a disadvantage for us not to have such a meta-level knowledge bank. 3. Improve User Experience: Wikimedia projects should catch up with current technological advancements which can solve several issues we are facing in participation and retention.
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Raavi Mohanty

- Location: New Delhi, India
- Languages: English, Hindi, Oriya, Punjabi
- Wikimedian since: 2015
- Active wikis: en.Wikipedia, Commons, hi.wikivoyage.org, en.wikiversity.org, en.wikivoyage.org, pa.wikipedia.org, hi.wikipedia.org, Wikidata, Mediawiki, Meta.Wikimedia, (13 Projects)

Top 3 Board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Topic related to Skill enhancement should be given more focus. 2. Videos or illustrations should also be given, so that people with less education can understand better. 3. Focus on topics related to local demands, e.g. easier access to information on Coconut (that includes, history, nutritional value, verities, market demand, etc.) should be mentioned.
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I believe that everyone should have access to free knowledge. 2. More women-centric topics should be added to Wikipedia.

	3. More wiki writers writing in regional languages should be inducted.
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Ravishankar Ayyakkannu

- Location: India
- Languages: Tamil, English
- Wikimedian since: 2005
- Active wikis: Tamil Wikipedia, Wikisource, Wiktionary, Wikidata, Commons

Top 3 Board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure the board reflects the spirit of the community and the movement in all its activities.2. Ensure the board oversees the implementation of the movement strategy successfully.3. Ensure the board is aware of the aspirations and needs of the Global South.
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improve User Experience2. Innovate in Free Knowledge3. Ensure Equity in Decision-making

Reda Kerbouche

- Location: Batna, Algeria / St Petersburg, Russia
- Languages: arq-N, shy-N, ar-4, fr-4, ru-4, en-3 , de-1
- Wikimedian since: 2010
- Active wikis: French Wikipedia, arabic Wikipedia, Tacawit wiktionary (Sysop), Commons.

<p>Top 3 Board priorities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guarantee equal treatment for all Wikimedia movement without exception. Initiate new activities that aim to reduce and eliminate inequalities in the movement 2. Finding a solution to the problems that have arisen with the financing of certain affiliations recognized by the Foundation 3. Create new partnerships where none exist and accompany people from the movement to work with them.
<p>Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More diversity of skills and knowledge in the governance of the foundation. to solve problems that are paused or ignored. 2. Spreading the movement where it does not exist, to attract new competencies, and help those who exist to grow and develop. 3. Provide for Safety and Inclusion for all who need this.

[Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight](#)

- Location: Nevada City, California, United States
- Languages: sr-2 (it is my first language but I speak it poorly now), en-N, es-2, fr-2
- Wikimedian since: June 2007
- Active wikis: English Wikipedia, Commons, Wikidata

<p>Top 3 Board priorities</p>	<p>Hire and onboard a new CEO</p> <p>Improve Board governance + community relations</p> <p>Continue to support Movement Strategy</p>
<p>Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities</p>	<p>Ensure equity in decision making</p> <p>Provide for safety and inclusion</p> <p>Invest in skills and leadership development</p>

Victoria Doronina

- Location: Manchester, UK
- Languages: Russian, English, Belarusian, Ukrainian
- Wikimedian since: 2007
- Active wikis: Russian Wikipedia, English Wikipedia, Commons, Russian Wiktionary

Top 3 Board priorities	<p>Provide independent oversight of the existing activities.</p> <p>Develop a long-term evolution and regeneration movement strategy.</p> <p>Promote Wikimedia Movement in Global South and among the minority groups.</p>
Top 3 Movement Strategy priorities	<p>Maintain high quality of the existing content and expand it.</p> <p>Find new ways of retaining the existing editors and attracting new ones.</p> <p>Think of the future such as expanding the movement into the new media.</p>

Vinicius Siqueira

- Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Languages: pt-BR-N, pt-5, en-4, es-4
- Wikimedian since: 2007
- Active wikis: ptwiki, Commons

Top 3 Board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure Equity in Decision-making.2. Invest in Skills and Leadership Development.3. Increase the Sustainability of Our Movement.
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**Top 3 Movement
Strategy priorities**

1. Ensure empowered participatory governance.
2. Ensure diversity and equity in decision making processes.
3. Defend an internet for and from all, in which we invest in democratizing the access to and production of knowledge, empowering Global South communities and marginalized communities in the Global North.