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لقراءة هذا المستند باللغة العربية ، يرجى استخدام مترجم جوجل

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (hybrid)

Thursday 8 October 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton Tower of London

7 Pepys Street, London EC3N 4AF – Gardens 1 & 2

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1. Introduction

The Annual General Meeting is an **essential component of MSIF governance**.

The meeting will be hybrid.

It will take place on **Thursday 8 October 2026 from 11:00 to 14:30 (UK time) at the DoubleTree by Hilton Tower of London**, Gardens 1 & 2, 7 Pepys Street, London EC3N 4AF, UK) **and online.**

The Annual General Meeting is open to all MSIF Global Networking Hybrid Meetings participants.

Both **meeting registration and delegate appointment** are required and serve different purposes.

All member delegates and trustees have the right to be heard at the General Meeting.

MSIF Associate and Full Member organisations **are required to** appoint **delegate(s)** to **speak and, for** Full Members, to vote on **their** behalf. Full Members can appoint a Proxy if they cannot attend themselves. Appointing delegates or proxies also ensures a quorum is present.

The right to vote at the general meeting is limited by article 44 of the Articles of Association, which states that "No Full Voting Member shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting unless it has paid the prior year's membership dues in full".

The present document provides information on the programme of the meeting, Associate and Full Member delegates and proxies' appointment and the election of MSIF Board of Trustees. It includes the draft 2025 Annual General Meeting minutes submitted for approval.

Please contact patricia@msif.org if you have any questions.

2. Annual General Meeting Agenda (hybrid)

MSIF Annual General Meeting agenda
Thursday 8 October 2026 – From 11:00 to 14:30
DoubleTree by Hilton Tower of London, UK

All times in this agenda are local times in London, United

11:00	**Welcome and introductions** **Apologies** **Confirm quorum and proxies recorded** **Declaration of Interests**	Mario Alberto Battaglia *MSIF President*
11:10	**Vote for approval of previous General Meeting minutes of 18 October 2025**, including matters arising	Mario Alberto Battaglia
11:15	**Board and CEO Report** ▪ Achievements in last 12 months ▪ Presentation of the Membership Charter ▪ Members' engagement ▪ 2027 Operational plan ▪ 2027 Budget	Mario Alberto Battaglia Lydia Makaroff, *CEO* *Zoe Burr, Organisation Development* Vicky Annis, *Treasurer*
12:15	**Nominating Committee's Report and Recommendations** ▪ Committee's Annual Report ▪ Presentation of the Exceptional Circumstances Guidelines ▪ Recommendations for 2026 Board of Trustees candidates, and explanation of the voting system.	Viresh Oberoi, *Chair of the Nominating Committee*
12:30	**Lunch and vote on the Board of Trustees** (voting closes at 13:30)	
14:00	**Board of Trustees Election Results Announcement**	Viresh Oberoi
14:10	**Recognition of any retiring Board members**	Mario Alberto Battaglia
14:20	**President & Board Chair's closing address and thanks**	Mario Alberto Battaglia
14:30	**Close of the Annual General Meeting**	

This version is Friday, 21 August 2026
The items on the agenda may be subject to minor timing changes

3. Proceedings at the Annual General Meeting

3.1. Rules of Procedure

The proceedings at General Meetings are laid out in Articles 20 to 53 of MSIF Articles of Association and Part 13 of the Companies Act 2006.

Here are key elements from the Articles of Association:

3.1.1. Quorum

- No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present. Two fifths (rounding fractions up) of the total number of Full Voting Members as represented by their Voting Delegates or Proxies shall constitute a quorum.
- If a quorum is not present within one hour of the appointed start time, or if the quorum ceases to be present, the meeting will be adjourned to a date and time determined by the MSIF Board.

3.1.2. Chairing the meeting

- In the absence of the President, another Trustee nominated by the Board can chair the meeting. If the Trustee is not present either, the Trustees present elect one of them to proceed.
- At the start of the meeting, the list of delegates is submitted to the Chair of the meeting.

3.1.3. Declaration of Interests

- Trustees, Voting Delegates must declare any conflict of interest at the start of the meeting and before the relevant item.
- Examples of conflicts of interest include:
  - A Voting Delegate whose organisation is under discussion for funding.
  - A Voting Delegate whose employer would benefit financially from a resolution.
- The Chair will decide how the conflict is managed. This may include leaving the room/online session for that item or taking no part in the vote.

3.1.4. Rights of participation

- Trustees are entitled to attend and speak, but not to vote unless appointed delegate by a member organisation.

3.1.5. Voting

- A *resolution** put to the vote shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded.
- A poll on any resolution may be demanded by the Chair, by two Full Voting Members, or by a group of Full Voting Members who together hold at least 10% of the total voting rights.
- Unless a poll is duly demanded a declaration by the Chair that the *resolution* has been passed by a particular majority, or not, is conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number of the votes recorded in favour or against the *resolution*.
- In the case of equality of votes, the Chair is entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote they may have.
- Each Full Member is entitled to one vote. If the delegate is incapacitated, a successor can be appointed.
- No Voting Member is entitled to vote unless it has paid the prior year's membership dues in full.
- No Voting Member can debate or vote on any matter in which it is personally interested without the permission of the majority of voting members in attendance.
- Voting Members are entitled to appoint a Proxy to speak and vote on their behalf, but not less than 48 hours before the start of the meeting.

** In the context of a General Meeting, a resolution is a proposal that is put forward for decision. Such a resolution must be sent with the notice of the General Meeting. It is implicit that the document goes through the proper channels beforehand. Resolutions may fall within the remit of the MSIF Board of Trustees and its committees, and/or the Nominating Committee.*

The agenda and papers identify each resolution as ordinary or special.:

- *Ordinary resolutions are required for routine business matters and are approved by a simple majority of votes. This applies to the election of trustees.*
- *Special resolutions, which require at least 75% of votes to pass, are required for more significant decisions. This applies to changes to the Articles of Association.*
- *Written resolutions allow proposals to be submitted without the need for a general meeting. 95% of votes in favour are required. This was the case for the change to the Articles approved in 2021.*

Any motions presented by delegates at the Annual General Meeting will be noted in the meeting's minutes and, in some cases, followed up after the meeting through our governance system, as described above.

3.1.6. Challenges and objections

- Voting Delegates or Proxies can raise an objection to a vote or resolution before the Chair declares the result of a vote. If the objection concerns a counting error discovered after declaration, Voting Delegates or Proxies can raise it immediately and before moving to the next agenda item.
- The Chair may direct a poll if needed. The poll result replaces any show-of-hands indication.

3.1.7. Recording of Decisions and Actions in the minutes of the meeting

- All decisions and resolutions will be formally recorded in the minutes.
- Minutes will be presented for approval at the next Annual General Meeting.

3.2. Delegate Questions, Motions and Resolutions

- Associate and Full Member Delegates' active participation during the meeting is strongly encouraged. To make sure we address all matters, they may submit questions, motions or resolutions in advance to patricia@msif.org **by 17:00, Thursday 24 September 2026** (UK time).
- The Chair may group related questions and set time limits to ensure all agenda items are covered.
- Where a question requires further detail, MSIF will provide a written reply after the meeting.

4. Delegate and Proxy appointment and voting process

4.1. Appointment of Delegates and Proxies

Associate and Full Members are entitled to appoint three delegates and three alternates to attend the meeting.

All delegates have the right to be heard.

Full Members that have paid the previous year's membership dues in full have the right to vote. They may appoint **one delegate to vote on their behalf**. Full Members may also appoint an alternate Voting Delegate from their organisation in case of last-minute incapacity of their Voting Delegate.

If no representative from a Full Member organisation is available to attend, **a Proxy** may be appointed to attend and vote on their behalf. **A Proxy is someone from a different organisation. This person does not have to be an MSIF member**. In accordance with our Articles of Association, the Proxy's must be appointed not less than 48 hours before the start of the meeting.

The list of Voting and non-Voting Delegates will be submitted to the Chair at the start of the meeting.

PLEASE COMPLETE the online delegate(s) or Proxy appointment form as soon as possible, but at the latest by Tuesday 6 October 2026 at 11:00 (local time in London, UK).

4.2. Electing the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees election will be held by **electronic ballot,** but Voting Delegates and Proxies attending the meeting in person can opt for a **paper ballot** (see the online delegate(s) or Proxy appointment form for more details).

Each Full Member has one vote. This vote may be cast by the Voting Delegate, alternate or Proxy.

The election will be decided by simple majority of votes cast[1].

The voting will start on **Thursday 8 October at 12:00** and close at **13:30**. The **results** will be announced at **14:00**. All times are local times in London, UK.

MSIF will process personal data provided for the purpose of administering the Board of Trustees election, including delegate and proxy details and ballots. Election data will be processed under MSIF's legitimate interest in carrying out its governance obligations. Ballots will be counted by designated scrutineers appointed by MSIF. Personal data related to the election will be retained securely for a maximum of 12 months after the meeting, after which it will be deleted or anonymised. Individuals may contact dpo@msif.org to exercise their data protection rights.

4.3. Appointment of Scrutineers

- The Chair will appoint scrutineers to collect, and count ballots (electronic and paper).
- Scrutineers may be independent persons together with a member of the MSIF staff, provided they are not serving as Voting Delegates or standing as candidates.
- Scrutineers will keep all ballots and counts confidential and provide the result to the Chair.
- The Chair will announce the result to the meeting and the result will be recorded in the minutes.

[1] A simple majority, which means more "yes" votes than "no" votes, abstentions or blanks are excluded.

5. Draft Minutes – 2025 MSIF Annual General Meeting

Saturday 18 October 2025, Gardens 2-3, DoubleTree by Hilton Tower of London, London (UK)

1.0 Attendance

Mario Alberto Battaglia (President)	Italy
Viresh Oberoi (Chair of the Nominating Committee)	India

1.1 Full member, voting delegates and alternates

Mario Alberto Battaglia (President)	Italy	Klaus Høm	Denmark
Ava Battles	India	Martinus Desmet	Belgium
Charles van der Straten Waillet	Belgium	Pamela Valentine	Canada
Christian Schouten	Netherlands	Miguel Cueva Gonzales	Spain
Dimitra Kalogianni	Greece	Rohan Greenland	Australia
Federica Balzani	Italy	Sandeep Chitnis	India
Hemant Nerurkar	India	Sumaya Afif	Brazil
Herbert Temmes	Germany	Þorsteinn Á. Sürmeli	Iceland
Jarmila Fajnorová	Slovakia	Tim Coetzee	USA
Jean-Frédéric de Leusse	France	Vicky Annis	UK

1.2 Proxies

Herbert Temmes	On behalf of Multiple Sklerose Gesellschaft Österreich and Unie Roska ceská MS společnost
Lydia Makaroff	On behalf of the Japan MS Society and Multipel Sklerose Forbundet I Norge

1.3 Associate members delegates

Ana Torredemer	Spain	Mai Sharawy	Egypt
Georghia Demofanous	Cyprus	Non Smit	South Africa
Dimitra Kalogianni	Greece	Rami Ayach	Lebanon
Magd Zakaria	Egypt		

1.4 Observers

Alie Rothman	USA	Meenakshi Nandakumar	India
Ana Torredemer	Spain	Pascale Rihoux	Belgium
Anne Restan	Ireland	Ram Kumar	India
Benjamin Davis	Canada	Renuka Malaker	India
Christiane Tihon	Belgium	Ryoko Lopez	Japan
Jan van Amstel	Netherlands	Shawna Golden	USA
Ludwig Kappos	Switzerland	Ulf Blohm	Germany
Martin Stevens	UK		

1.5 MSIF Secretariat Staff

Lydia Makaroff (CEO)	Jo Pennell	Rachel King (Minutes taker)
Abdelfatah Ibrahim (Minutes taker)	Kerry Huntington	Sarah Dobson
Anne Helme	Patricia Gaillard-Olokose	Shona Swan
Barnaby Dumbell	Paulina Arce Casillas	Zoe Burr

The Annual General Meeting paper is available here.

Presentations are available here.

2.0 Welcome and introductions (Mario Battaglia, President)

- In accordance with the Articles, the meeting was chaired by Mario Battaglia, President of MSIF.
- The list of Voting Delegates and Proxies appointed by Full Voting Members has been received and recorded by the Chair.
- The meeting was formally convened as the Annual General Meeting.
- The Chair confirmed that a quorum was present, in accordance with Article 47 of the MSIF Articles of Association, with 21 Voting Members in attendance (more than two-fifths of Full Voting Members as required).
- Mario extended a warm welcome from himself and Ana Torredemer to the meeting for both those attending in person and those online.
- No apologies for absence were received
- No conflicts of interest were declared

3.0 Approval of previous General Meeting minutes of Thursday 10 October 2024, including matters arising – Paper 23 (Mario Battaglia)

- A minor correction was raised regarding Des Graham's attendance, which had not been listed despite his participation.
- Subject to this correction, the minutes were approved.

Decision:

- Subject to the correction regarding Des Graham's attendance, the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting were approved.

4.0 Presentation of 2024 Report and Financial Statements Questions and Answers (Vicky Annis, Board Treasurer, and Lydia Makaroff, CEO)

See the [Report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024]

- Lydia Makaroff summarised the highlights from MSIF's work in 2024, expressing her thanks to the staff and to MSIF members for the many accomplishments that had been achieved before she joined in December 2024. She noted that the Board had unanimously approved the budget and operational plan for 2026. She finished by thanking all MSIF's members for their continued collaboration and trust.
- Vicky Annis reaffirmed the Board's responsibility to ensure that MSIF's funds are safeguarded and well-managed with oversight from the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. She reported a clean Independent Audit, which was testament to the hard work of the Finance Team and in particular Jo Pennell, MSIF's Director of Finance and Resources. She noted that MSIF's future plans were ambitious, with projected expenditure exceeding income. The Board recognised that this is not sustainable and will need to consider how to increase income or operate within available resources.

Comments/questions:

- Regarding MSIF membership fee calculations, Jo Pennell, MSIF Director of Finance, explained that MSIF has two membership tiers: Full and Associate. Full members' fees are based on the average income over three years, grouped into several income categories. Associate members pay 50% of the full fee, also based on their three-year average income.
- To the suggestion to form a task group to look at income generation, Vicky Annis clarified that the Finance, Risk, and Audit Committee, open to other Trustees, is primarily responsible for this. They are likely to consult with the Fundraising Expert Group and after that, it may be appropriate to set up a task force to take forward specific actions.
- Mario Battaglia emphasised that resourcing of the operational plan, is a shared responsibility across all members. He encouraged members to provide additional financial support, beyond membership fees, for specific projects, and to contact Lydia directly to discuss.
- Congratulations were offered to Mario, Lydia and the MSIF team for raising the profile of MS on the global agenda, collaborating with partners such as the WHO and the UN.

Actions:

- Jo Pennell will review and confirm the membership fee calculations document, ensuring accurate tier classifications for Full and Associate Members, by 28 February 2026.
- The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee will review options for increasing income or reducing expenditure and report to the Board by October 2026.
- Lydia will invite member organisations to share income generation ideas and hold at least two one-to-one discussions with interested members by March 2026.

5.0 Nominating Committee's recommendations for 2025 Officers, and Board of Trustees Candidates, and explanation of the voting system (Viresh Oberoi)

- Mario Battaglia thanked the Nominating Committee for their tireless efforts in implementing the new rotating system for the Board elections and invited Viresh Oberoi, Chair of the Committee, to present the recommendations and explain the voting process.
- Viresh expressed appreciation to Committee members and specifically thanked Patricia Gaillard-Olokose, the staff lead supporting the Committee, for her guidance and coordination.
- For the purpose of voting, Martin Stevens, Chair of the Governance and Membership Committee, clarified that Dimitra Kalogianni was the only candidate with a different term length, as her Board position is linked to her role as Chair of the People with and affected by MS Expert Group which has two years remaining.
- There were no further comments or questions.
- Delegates of Full Member organisations were invited to cast their votes for the Board of Trustees.
- Viresh volunteered to be a scrutineer of the vote count on behalf of the Nominating Committee and Lydia appointed two staff members (Zoe Burr and Jo Pennell) to also serve as scrutineers.

6.0 Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee Election Results Announcement (Viresh Oberoi)

- Viresh confirmed that the following 7 candidates had been elected as the new Board of Trustees:

Name	Country	Officers	Length of term (Number of years)
1. Mario Battaglia	Italy	President & Chair	3
2. Vicky Annis	UK	Treasurer	3
3. Ana Torredemer	Spain		3
4. Dana Foote	USA		3
5. Dimitra Kalogianni	Greece		2
6. Martin Stevens	UK		3
7. Tim Coetzee	USA		3

- The results were certified by the scrutineers and confirmed by the Chair.
- The Chair congratulated all newly elected Trustees.

7.0 Acceptance Speech by the new President / Board Chair (Mario Battaglia)

- Mario delivered his acceptance speech emphasising:
  - His thanks to the Board and Committees for the work done and his warm welcome to Tim Coetzee as a new Trustee.
  - MSIF's global advocacy role ensuring that MS is on the agenda. Continued work with WHO and UN on neurological diseases.
  - The importance of research, diagnosis and prevention, including attention on those yet to be diagnosed or those living with other allied conditions such as NMOSD or MOGAD.
  - We are a global movement and unity, and collaboration is important to achieve our purpose.

8.0 Recognition of retiring Trustees (Mario Battaglia)

- Mario acknowledged and thanked Klaus Høm (Denmark) for his contribution to MSIF's work as a Trustee since 2016. He valued his wisdom, clarity and calm voice and his ability to focus on shared purpose and unity.
- Klaus expressed that it had been a privilege to be on the Board but although he is stepping down from that role. He will not be leaving the movement and looks forward to still contributing at the CEO expert group meetings.

9.0 President and Chair's closing address and thanks (Mario Battaglia)

- Mario Battaglia closed the meeting by expressing his and Lydia's appreciation of the MSIF movement, the Board, the Committees, the MSIF staff, and of all MSIF members and especially to those in attendance. They gave thanks to Patricia Gaillard-Olokose and Barnaby Dumbell for their support in ensuring the global meetings were a success.
- Ana spoke about Mario's leadership and praised the smooth transition into his new role over the last year including working with Lydia as new CEO. She noted the strong team spirit he had fostered.
- Mario Battaglia mentioned that 2027 would be MSIF's anniversary and invited members to think about how to celebrate. He also proposed potentially hosting a future Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Italy (pending Board approval) and invited other national societies to consider hosting future AGMs, with advance planning.
- He invited last comments and questions from the audience which included:
  - Expression of thanks for implementing Wordly.ai and for designing hybrid sessions – these initiatives had really improved integration and a sense of connection.
  - Positive comments about the meetings, positive energy, inclusive, connected for the work we do together and the learning and sharing will bear fruit.
  - Keen for those in countries where research is limited to be invited to get involved at the global level.

Action:

- Lydia will circulate a call to members by June 2026 inviting proposals for future AGM host countries in the future.

10.0 Close of the Annual General Meeting

- The Annual General Meeting was officially closed.
- The next Annual General Meeting will be held in October 2026

These draft minutes will be submitted for approval at the next Annual General Meeting.

Signed: Date:

Mario Alberto Battaglia

President

6. Trustees’ Nomination and Election Exceptional Circumstances Guideline

From Viresh Oberoi (Chair of the Nominating Committee)

Consultation (The following have been involved in the preparation of this paper)
MSIF Board of Trustees, Governance and Membership Committee, Nominating Committee, Lydia Makaroff (Chief Executive), Patricia Gaillard Olokose (Board, International Meetings and Governance Senior Manager)

Proposed action(s) and decision(s):
For information, questions, comments on the guideline to be applied in Trustees’ nomination and election process.

Executive summary

The Nominating Committee presents the Exceptional Circumstances Guideline to the Board for information, questions and comments.

This guideline aims to provide clarity on when exceptional circumstances may apply in the process of the Trustees’ nomination and election.

The Governance and Membership Committee considered that the guideline has been carefully developed and complements the relevant provisions of the Articles of Association, helping to ensure that the appropriate skills, experience and diversity are represented on the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees expressed support, praising the due diligence shown in preparing the framework. The guideline provides a framework for the Nominating Committee to consider extending a trustee's term beyond the standard three terms of three years (nine years total) in exceptional situations. It is a governance tool to support flexibility in exceptional circumstances.

Background and context

In October 2024, the Annual General Meeting approved the change of Articles on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees after their endorsement of the Governance Review final report.

The changes concern the appointment of Trustees, introducing a limit on the number of terms a Trustee may serve, with the proviso that, in exceptional circumstances, a Trustee may serve a longer term (Article 62.1).

At the 2024 Annual General Meeting, clarification was sought regarding how exceptional circumstances are determined, as well as the respective roles of the Nominating Committee and the Board of Trustees in this process. It was recommended that a guidance document be developed to address these points.

For reference:

- MSIF Articles of Association: 2024-MSIF-Articles-of-Association-Amended-on-10-October-2024.pdf
- Page 8 of the 2025 Annual General Meeting paper (draft minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting)

Follow up action(s)

- Add the guideline to the set of Board nomination process tools used by the Nominating Committee.

Trustees' Nomination and Election Exceptional Circumstances Guideline

Definition

There is no precise definition of what may constitute *exceptional circumstances*. The term refers to a situation that forms an exception – one that is out of the ordinary, unusual, special, or uncommon. To be considered exceptional, a circumstance does not need to be unique, unprecedented, or very rare; however, it must not be one that is regularly, routinely, or normally encountered.

Typically, exceptional circumstances are situations that could not reasonably have been foreseen and where there is insufficient time to take the necessary action to resolve the resulting situation.

Framework

As per Article 61 of MSIF Articles of Association, '*Trustees shall only be appointed at a general meeting of the Company on the recommendation of the Nominating Committee*'.

The Terms of Reference of the Board Governance and Membership Committee and the Nominating Committee set out in the MSIF Governance Compilation[2] describe their collaboration in assessing the performance of the Board: '*the Governance and Membership Committee Chair, in conjunction with the Board Chair and the Chair of the Nominating Committee shall perform an annual assessment of the Board in its entirety as well as an assessment of each Board member and submit their report to the MSIF Nominating Committee for their review and consideration when considering the annual Board appointments/elections*'. This assessment may influence the review of Board nominations by the Nominating Committee.

Ultimately, as outlined in Article 62.1-d, *"exceptional circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Nominating Committee and explained to the members prior to any vote."* The final decision rests with the Full Voting Members at a general meeting of the Company, in accordance with Articles 61 and 68 of the MSIF Articles of Association.

Examples

The following situations could arise, leading the Nominating Committee to recommend the election of Trustees who would otherwise have reached the limit of their terms. This list is not exhaustive:

- During **the recruitment process for a Treasurer**, the individual intended to be recommended for the role becomes unable to take it on. In such cases, the existing Treasurer may be asked to remain in post for an additional year.
- While the Nominating Committee seeks to maintain a staggered rotation of Trustees, there may be **occasions when, in addition to those rotating off, several Trustees step down for other reasons**, such as health issues or other commitments. In these situations, the Nominating Committee may, in accordance with Article 62 of the MSIF Articles of Association, determine that exceptional circumstances apply and recommend the re-election of one or more Trustees for an additional year to maintain continuity, Board effectiveness, and an appropriate staggered rotation of Trustees.
- If, for any reason, the **pool of nominees does not allow the Board of Trustees to achieve the appropriate composition** as described in the Terms of Reference in MSIF Governance Compilation[3]: '*MSIF recognises the value of a diverse board that reflects a mix of skills, backgrounds and perspectives to support its effectiveness, leadership and decision-making. The overriding aim is for the Board as a whole to have the right balance of skills, experience and diverse perspectives to make the best decisions in the interests of MSIF and people with MS globally. Therefore, the ambition is to have diversity of gender, language, and geographical region, as well as a balance of members from national societies of all sizes. At least 25% of the Board should be people with MS, so the lived experience is at the heart of our decision making*'.

[2] See page 42.
[3] See section 2.2, page 34.

7. MSIF Board of Trustees election

At the Annual General Meeting, Full Members elect Trustees.

Earlier this year, members across the Federation were invited to nominate candidates for election to the Board of Trustees.

As provided by the articles and relevant terms of reference, the Nominating Committee also had the opportunity to reach out to other prospective candidates.

All Board Nominees completed an application form and a supporting statement indicating what contribution they could make. The Nominating Committee assessed the applicants against criteria based on the Board Terms of Reference (available in MSIF Governance Compilation).

The Board Terms of Reference set out its duties and responsibilities, such as providing overall strategic direction and monitoring MSIF's progress. Trustees also approve the annual budget, monitor financial performance, ensure effective planning and resource management, and oversee the work of the Chief Executive.

The Board Member Person Specification sets out the skills, abilities and personal qualities required, for example strategic vision, an understanding of the role of Trustees, and the ability to serve MSIF as a whole and not any special interest group or constituency.

Given that we now have a system of rotation and annual elections, this year Full Members are called upon to vote for a limited number of candidates rather than for the entire Board.

7.1. Nominating Committee's Recommendation

7.1.1. Composition of the Nominating Committee, elected in 2024

The committee is composed of 9 members:

- 7 voting members, of which 43% are people with MS, and there is a good gender balance
- The President and Chair of the Board, and the MSIF Chief Executive Officer are entitled to attend and speak at the Nominating Committee

List of members:

- Viresh Oberoi (Chair) – India
- Ava Battles – Ireland
- Charles van der Straten Waillet – Belgium
- Dimitra Kalogianni – Greece
- Mai Sharawy – Egypt
- Mads Bjørnsen – Denmark
- Martin Stevens – UK

7.1.2. Message from Viresh Oberoi, Chair of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee proceeded in accordance with Article 62 of the Articles of Association approved on 10 October 2024.

The call for nomination was sent to all member organisations, as well as Board members who were elected for two years in 2024 in accordance with Article 62 of the Articles of Association or appointed by the Board in accordance with Article 66(1).

All nominations were considered in the light of the committee guidelines, recommendations of the Governance Review carried out in 2023 and the overall composition of the Board.

The Board of Trustees should be composed of:

- A minimum of 25% of Trustees should be living with MS.
- An aspirational goal of between 40% and 60% of Trustees of each gender.
- Trustees should come from a wide range of geographical and linguistic backgrounds.

The Board elected at the General Meeting of 2025 comprised 18 members.

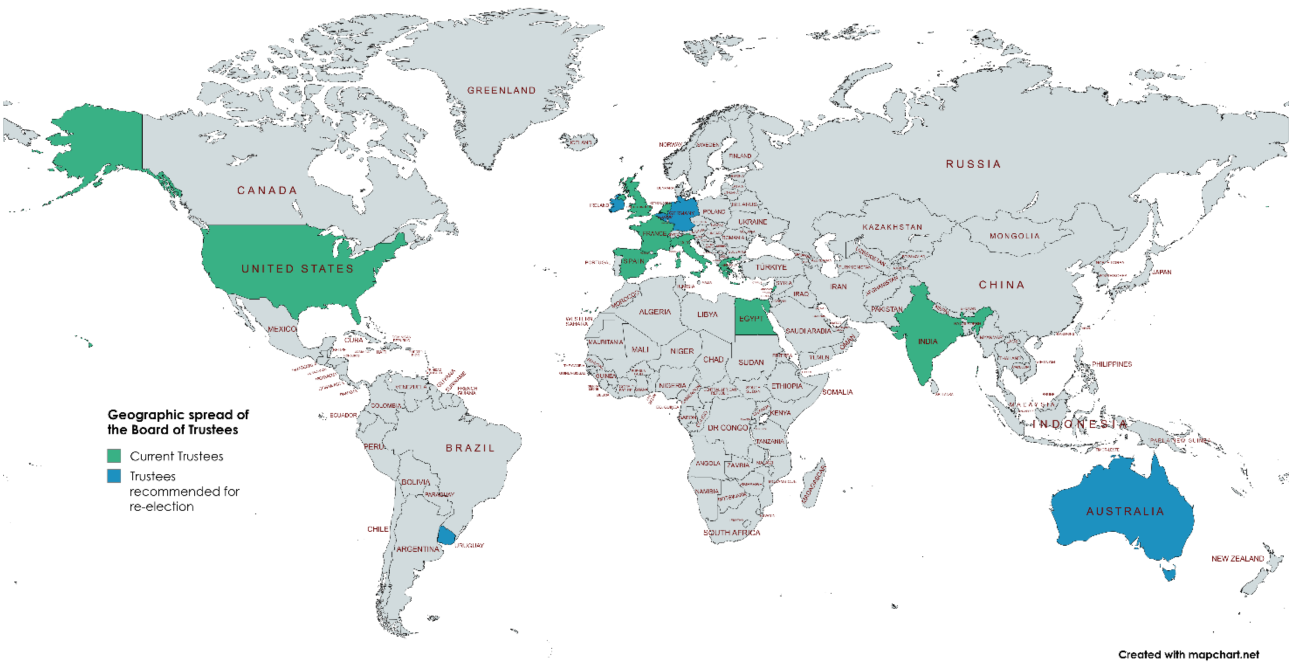
This year, after going through a rigorous process, the Nominating Committee unanimously recommends the re-appointment for a three-year term of the following Trustees: Andrea Prato; Ava Battles; Herbert Temmes; Martinus Desmet, Rohan Greenland.

They all bring a strong set of skills and commitment to the MS movement.

Pamela Valentine has not submitted her candidacy for re-appointment. The Nominating Committee thanks her for her contribution as Trustee, and continued commitment to MS and the global MS movement.

If the recommended candidates are elected, the Board will comprise 17 members in total, 28% of whom will be people living with MS. The target in terms of the representation of people with MS and geographic spread will be met. However, women will represent 35% of the Board, which is below our aspirational range of 40% to 60%. The Nomination Committee remains committed to following its guidelines, and to improving gender balance through future nomination processes.

Geographic spread of the Board of Trustees, including the candidates for re-election



We appreciate the commitment of all of those who have been willing to be considered for election and encourage all Full Voting Members to complete the [online delegate(s) or Proxy appointment form] to ensure their voice is heard on Thursday 8 October 2026.

7.2. MSIF Board of Trustees List of Candidates

Candidates	Country	Years of service by October 2026	Length of terms if elected (N° of years)
1. Andrea Prato	Uruguay	7	3
2. Ava Battles	Ireland	5	3
3. Herbert Temmes	Germany	7	3
4. Martinus Desmet	Belgium	5	3
5. Rohan Greenland	Australia	1.6	3

7.3. Biographies of Board of Trustees

In this section you will find the biographies of the candidates for Board officers and the Board of Trustees.

Andrea Prato – Uruguay

Andrea Prato has served on the Board of Trustees of the MSIF since 2019, when she became the youngest person ever elected to the Board. She currently serves as Deputy Chair of the People with and affected by MS Expert Group (PMSEG) and is a member of the Governance & Membership Committee, contributing a Latin American perspective and the voice of lived experience to MSIF's global governance.

Drawing on her lived experience, Andrea works to ensure that people living with MS are not only represented but meaningfully involved in shaping the decisions that affect their lives. She is particularly interested in developing the next generation of leaders and helping the global MS movement adapt to the changing needs of people living with MS.

Andrea is also Vice President of Esclerosis Múltiple Uruguay (EMUR), the national MS organisation. Since her diagnosis, she has been actively involved in MS advocacy through EMUR, the MS Polyclinic of the Uruguayan University Hospital and the Latin American Network of MS Associations (LATEM).

Professionally, Andrea is a psychologist with postgraduate training in Psychoanalytic Psychosomatics and Psycho-Neuro-Endocrine-Immunology, complemented by studies in human resources, administration and sexuality. She is a senior civil servant at Uruguay's Ministry of Social Development, where she has held roles in family support services, occupational health and currently heads the Human Resources Learning & Development Department.

Andrea brings together lived experience, public sector leadership and international governance to help build a stronger, more inclusive and future-focused global MS movement.

Ava Battles – Ireland

Following completion of a Degree in Psychology and a Masters in Health Psychology in the National University of Ireland Galway, Ava began her career in the Community & Voluntary sector.

She has worked with the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC), Brainwave, The Irish Epilepsy Association, the Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups and, since October 2011, as Chief Executive with the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland.

Ava is also involved with the Neurological Alliance of Ireland, the Disability Federation of Ireland and the Irish Platform for Patients' Science and Industry.

During her time working in the community and voluntary sector she has gained an understanding of the issues facing community and voluntary organisations, and the members those organisations seek to serve.

As a Health Psychologist, she has a keen interest in both illness and health, making real and significant practical benefits thereby increasing the quality of life.

Ava is currently on the Board of the MSIF, on the Nominating Committee, on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, and she is Chair of the Member CEO Expert group.

Herbert Temmes – Germany

At the age of 20, Herbert Temmes came into contact with people with MS, their relatives and families, and the work of the DMSG. He learned very early on about the needs and wishes of people affected by MS.

Herbert brings nearly 20 years of experience in the NGO sector. He has a Master of Arts degree in modern history and German literature. While CEO of the DMSG chapter in Saarland, he began studying health economics and completed an MBA in health economics.

As CEO of the DMSG chapter in Saarland, in southwest Germany, he supported the implementation of a specialised housing scheme for people with MS or similar neurological diseases, allowing them to live independently with a self-determined, individual support plan.

At the beginning of 2019, Herbert was appointed CEO of the National MS Society (DMSG, Bundesverband e.V.). He oversees overall management, financial planning and human resources.

His work also focuses on the development and implementation of advocacy and campaigning activities at national and international levels.

In 2021, he joined the German Federal Joint Sub-Committee on Medical Products and early benefit assessments.

He served as President of the European MS Platform (EMSP) until 2026.

Herbert chairs the MSIF Fundraising Expert Group.

Martinus Desmet – Belgium

Martinus is an administrator on the Board of both the Flemish MS Society and the Belgian MS Society. He is a trustee of the MS International Federation/MSIF since 2021.

He is member of the MSIF Governance & Membership Committee. He is particularly interested in the epidemiology and socioeconomics of People with MS, the broad clinical research area on MS, and the expansion of MSIF around the globe.

He is trained in medicine and in tropical medicine and hygiene and holds an MSc in International public health, and a PhD in social medicine. He has over 40 years of experience in national and international health and diplomacy, including as a medical doctor and researcher in Belgium, Zaïre/Democratic Republic of Congo and Bangladesh, as a WHO-advisor in health policy, planning and financing to the Uganda Ministry of Health, as the coordinator of the Health donor harmonization and alignment Group in DRCongo, as Belgium's Delegate on the OECD/Development Assistance Committee in Paris, and as the Deputy Head of Mission/Chargé d'affaires a.i. at Belgium's embassy in Bujumbura, Burundi.

He provided health and development expertise in bilateral consultations of Belgium with the UN and other multilateral partners of the Belgian Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brussels. He worked with a variety of partners, including state and non-state actors, other (donor) countries around the globe, and multilateral institutions, such as UN agencies and the World Bank. He also provided consultancy services to WHO, ILO, private foundations, and Belgian institutions and entities.

Rohan Greenland – Australia

A journalist by profession, Rohan Greenland was appointed CEO of MS Australia in 2020.

He is a member of the managing committee of the International Progressive MS Alliance and Chair of the Neurological Alliance Australia, an umbrella group for more than 50 neurological organisations in Australia.

He also lives with an autoimmune condition.

He previously served as CEO of Palliative Care Australia and General Manager, Advocacy, at the National Heart Foundation. He was a long-serving Director of Public Affairs at the Australian Medical Association and formerly a vice president of the Public Health Association of Australia. He spent seven years working with politicians including federal ministers, the ACT chief minister and the ACT health minister.

His interests include research, consumer-centred health care, equitable access to disability services, preventive health, tobacco control, health policy reform and public health advocacy.

Rohan is a co-presenter of The Raw Nerve podcast. He delivered the Basil Hetzel Oration at the Australian Public Health Conference in 2019 and is a Fellow of the National Heart Foundation of Australia.

We look forward to welcoming you at our Global Networking Hybrid Meetings, including the Annual General Meeting.

TOGETHER WE'RE STRONGER THAN MS