

**RSM Netherlands Accountants N.V.**

Mallesingel 26  
Postbus 14046  
3508 SB Utrecht

T 030 231 73 44

[www.rsmnl.com](http://www.rsmnl.com)

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To: The board of directors of Stichting Ashoka Nederland

### **Report on the audit of the financial statements 2020/2021 included in the annual report**

#### **Our opinion**

We have audited the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021 of Stichting Ashoka Nederland based in Amsterdam. In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Ashoka as at 31 August 2021 and of its result for 2020/2021 in accordance with the 'Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising organisations' of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements comprise:

1. the balance sheet as at 31 August 2021;
2. the profit and loss account for 2020/2021; and
3. the notes comprising of 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 of 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 Stichting Ashoka Nederland 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.

### **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:

- directors report;
- other information

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 within the Guideline of annual report 650 'Fundraising organizations' of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements. By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of 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.

## **THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD**

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### **Emphasis of matter paragraph**

We draw the attention to the notes of the financial statements, which set out the impact of the corona pandemic on the sustainable continuation of the business activities. Our opinion has not been modified as a result of this matter.

## **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 the 'Guideline for annual reporting 650 'Fundraising organisations' of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board. 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 company'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 company 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 company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

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

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion. 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 scepticism 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 entity'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.

Utrecht, January 20, 2022

RSM Netherlands Accountants N.V.

**WAS SIGNED**

A.M. Hofman MSc RA