

CoNGO 27th General Assembly 2021



SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

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CoNGO 27th General Assembly 2021

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING / NY



Leadership of NGO CoA/NY (2021-2023) - Elections held June 2021

Chair: Cynthia Stuen, International Federation on Ageing

Vice Chair: Frances Zainoeddin, Soroptimist International

Corresponding Secretary: Martha Bial, International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics

Recording Secretary: Maud Bruce-About, International Federation of Associations of the Elderly

Treasurer: Katherine Weiss, International Association of Homes and Services for the Aged

Members-at-Large:

- Ramsey Alwin, National Council on Ageing
- Robin Fenley, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics
- Christopher Hanway, International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers
- Magda Kaczmarek, Generations United
- William T. Smith, International Association of Homes and Services for the Aged

Objectives:

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1. Facilitate OEWG to move forward on drafting a Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons.
 2. Strengthen and engage our global alliances.
 3. Engage membership and reach out to encourage more involvement in our work.
 4. Diversify our financial support through fundraising to support our goals.
 5. Use program meetings, newsletter, and social media to support our work.

Membership:

There has been substantial growth in the membership of the NGO CoA/NY. We currently have 103 members, more than double of two years ago. We have maintained periodic meetings virtually and participation in commissions and meetings of the UN.

Amount of annual membership:

The dues remain at \$35 with a student rate of \$15 per year.

Significant Activities of the Committee and involvement with UN Entities:

October 2020 – September 2021

1 October 2020: Celebration of International Day of Older Persons

The NGO COA-NY, in partnership with the Programme Unit on Ageing, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, organized the annual celebratory event of International Day of Older Persons.

Topic: *Pandemics: do they change how we address age and ageing?*

Welcome remarks: Martha Bial – Co-Chair of UNIDOP 2020

Bette Levy – Co-Chair of UNIDOP 2020

Video message: Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations

Remarks: H.E. Ms. Maria del Carmen Squeff, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the General Assembly

Historical reflection: Cynthia Stuen, Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing, New York

Keynote speaker: Elizabeth Iro, Chief Nursing Officer, World Health Organization

Musical interlude: United Nations Symphony Orchestra of the United Nations Recreation Council (Mr. Predrag Vasić, Music Director)

Panel discussion: What action is needed to achieve healthy ageing?

- Jane Barratt, Secretary-General, International Federation on Ageing;
- Peggy Hicks, Director of Thematic Engagement at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Michael Marmot, Director, Institute of Health Equity (UCL Department of Epidemiology and Public Health);
- John K. Shakpeh, Director of Nursing, Redemption Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia;
- Jean Acciu, Senior Vice-President for Global Thought Leadership, AARP;
- Ritu Sadna, Head, Ageing and Health Unit, World Health Organization

Launch of the World Population Ageing Highlights, 2020 Report – Living arrangements of older persons, including those affected by Covid-19: Karoline Schmid, Chief, Fertility and Population Ageing, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Video message: First Lady of Chile, Cecilia Morél Montes

Closing session: Masumi Ono, Chief, Social Inclusion and Participation Branch, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The key messages were:

- Covid-19 is a wake-up call to action and must be leveraged to demand for the rights of older persons; the prevalence of ageism was noted.
- Major challenge is combating inequalities, which have been exposed and amplified by Covid-19.
- Government policies must take a life-course approach; an effective primary health care system is essential and long-term care reform must take a bold approach. Sustainable health equity must be promoted. Attention was drawn to the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing.
- Greater attention needs to be paid to social protection policies, mental health, social isolation, digital divide.
- Delivery of healthcare must be improved with more attention given to healthcare workers, training, wages; attention must also be given to unpaid care work.
- It must be recognized that older persons are not only recipients of social welfare and medical rehabilitation, but are also active contributors to their families, communities and to the national economy.

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- Older persons must have a choice in how they wish to age; they must be able to live in dignity.
 - Efforts must be intensified to advocate for a new international instrument to protect the rights of older persons.

Video of the event can be accessed on the NGO-COA-NY website:

youtube.com/watch?v=R-u7vxl_fp4

NOTE: Video recording of the 1 October 2021 UNIDOP is on our website also.

1 October 2020

The NGO COA-NY co-sponsored a side event organized by the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics on the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing. Inequalities and disparities faced by older adults at the local, national and global levels were highlighted. Regional strategies for addressing national disasters, public health infrastructure and limited economic circumstances for older persons were discussed.

1 December 2020

The NGO CoA cosponsored a side event organized by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse during the 13th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD. It highlighted the intersection of disability and age. The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 pandemic on older persons and persons with disabilities, exacerbated by existing ageism, ableism, and shortcomings in support systems and residential care were also discussed.

3 December 2020

Topic: Breakthrough in COVID-19 Vaccines: The impact of vaccinations on older persons

Speaker: Jane Barratt, Secretary-General, International Federation on Ageing

It was noted that the Covid-19 pandemic exposed the inadequacy of health systems throughout the world. Ageism continued to be rampant, putting older persons at greater risk of discrimination, poverty and isolation. Misleading information and mixed messages have created a lack of confidence in vaccinations. It should be recognized that if people do not receive vaccinations, other underlying health conditions can be seriously impacted by Covid-19. Consideration should also be given to those who have lost loved ones and are traumatized by grief. The pandemic should be leveraged to fight for an international legal instrument to protect the rights of older persons.

7 December 2020

Topic: Collaboration on intersectional issues: conversation with NGO Committees in New York

Participants: Members of the Executive Committees of the following NGO Committees were invited:

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- Education, Learning and Literacy
 - Financing for Development
 - Human Rights
 - Intergenerational Solidarity
 - Mental Health
 - Migration
 - Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - Social Development
 - Status of Women
 - Sustainable Development

The purpose of the meeting was to gain a better understanding of the goals and specific key issues of each Committee; to share strategy and tactics that can be used to ensure the inclusion of views from different segments of civil society; to determine how best to support each other, on the premise that backing from different groups would lend extra weight to recommendations for government action:

4 February 2021

Topic: Making the case for a convention on the human rights of older persons: What do we say and how do we say it?

Speakers: Bridget Sleap, Senior Rights Policy Adviser, HelpAge International;
 Laura Pares, Communications Adviser, HelpAge International

The speakers stressed the need to communicate effectively when advocating for the rights of older persons; how to present information; what to emphasize; avoiding a “us” versus “them” narrative – e.g. instead of “a world where older people live with dignity”, reframe it to focus on “a world where we live with dignity when we are older”.

14 February 2021

The NGO CoA cosponsored a side event organized by Waseda University, Japan during the Commission on Social Development. The theme was “Lessons Learned from the Usage of Digital Technologies for Healthy Ageing in the COVID-19.” Highlighted were the usages of digital technologies toward the achievement of Agenda 2030 in pursuit of the well being of older persons and how they can contribute to a new normal society. Also discussed were future prospects for the global digital silver society.

4 March 2021

Topic: Celebration of International Women's Day / The impact of Covid-19 on the Economic Security of Older Women

Speakers:

- Melissa Grober-Morrow, Thought Leadership Director, Financial Resilience, AARP;
- Ben Bolton, Director, Global Partner Engagement, AARP;
- Susan Somers, INPEA, NGO Committee on Ageing-NY;
- Sandra Timmermann, IFA, NGO Committee on Ageing-NY;
- Frances Zainoeddin, Soroptimist International, NGO Committee on Ageing-NY.

The program drew attention to:

- Existing inequities exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic
- Majority of jobs lost due to Covid-19 were those held by women
- Older persons are most unlikely to be re-hired
- Healthcare system, where most jobs are held by women, need to be transformed to address low wages and lack of training
- Business must ensure a multi-generational workforce
- Digital literacy is essential
- Preparations for the 11th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, to be held 29 March – 1 April 2021, which had been postponed from 2020.

25 March 2021 – Pre-OEWGA workshop

In addition to being assigned, along with the NGO Committees on Ageing in Geneva and Vienna, and the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons (GAROP), to participate in the selection of speakers during the OEWGA at its 11th session, the NGO COA-NY partnered with GAROP in the organization of a pre-OEWGA workshop for NGOs to discuss:

- Developments since OEWGA 10;
- Preparation of strategy for participation in OEWGA 11; and
- Preparation and coordination of joint statements, shared messages and collective action.

29 March – 1 April 2021 Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, 11th session

The 11th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, postponed from 2020, was held virtually, from 29 March to 1 April 2021, to consider:

- a. Right to work and access to the labour market; and
- b. Access to Justice

Substantive inputs, in the form of normative content for the development of a possible international standard on the protection of the rights of older people to “Education, Training, Life-long Learning and Capacity Building” and “Social Protection and Social Security (including social protection floors)” were also discussed.

The level of participation of Member States in the deliberations of the OEWGA was disappointing. National Human rights Institutions (NHRIs) and NGOs urged Member States to start drafting a convention to protect the rights of older persons. Argentina, at the session to discuss the way forward, proposed an intersessional subgroup to facilitate the OEWGA with its mandate.

It was decided that for the 12th session of the OEWGA the two focus areas for discussion would be: economic security, and contribution of older persons to sustainable development. For all documentation and other information:

social.un.org/ageing-working-group/eleventhsession.shtml

30 March 2021

The NGO COA-NY co-sponsored a side event organized by the International Disability Alliance on “Access to justice at the intersection of disability and older age”.

6 May 2021

Topic: How can younger people and older people work together so no one (regardless of age) is left behind?

Speakers:

- Steve Lee, Organizing Partner of the Children and Youth Major Group;
- Nadine Clopton, Director, Global NGO Executive Committee and NGO Youth Representative to the United Nations;
- Jan Hively, Co-Founder and U.S.Liaison, The Pass It On Network.

The panelists discussed the need for intergenerational collaboration to address the pressing issues of the day; the importance of recognizing those who have spent years fighting for the human rights of all people. Meaningful discourse was essential in order to review what is working and what is not, in order to achieve transformative change by working together. It was agreed that ageism must be combatted and that a life-course approach must be taken by

governments when developing legislation, policies and programmes. Steve Lee indicated he will seek support from the Major Group for Children and Youth for a convention to protect the rights of older persons.

3 June 2021 Annual General Meeting

- Annual General Meeting, for election of members of the Executive Committee
- Reporting on the work of the Subcommittees
- The road ahead – preparations for:
 1. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), 15 June
 2. the High Level Political Forum (6-15 July)
 3. International Day of Older Persons (1 October)
 4. Social Media – Twitter tutorial, presented by Anna Stauber, Project Consultant and Rami Abu Rafea, Intern

15 June 2021, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

The NGO COA-NY co-sponsored the event which was organized by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)

Speakers:

- Susan Somers, President of INPEA;
- H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations in Geneva;
- H.E. Mr. Enrique Austria Manalo, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, New York;
- Claudia Mahler, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons;
- Maria Soledad Cisterna Reyes, Special Envoy of the United Nations on Disability and Accessibility;
- Etienne Krug, Director of the Department of Social Determinants of Health, WHO;
- Tlaleng Mofokeng, Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;
- Natasa Todorovic, Health and Care Program Manager, Red Cross of Serbia and INPEA Europe;

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- Bill Mitchell, Principal Solicitor, Townsville Community Law Inc, Australia;
 - Silvia Perel-Levin, INPEA representative to the United Nations and Chair of the NGO COA-Geneva, was the Moderator.

The panelists noted that older persons who have experienced situations of violence, abuse and neglect face multiple barriers in accessing judicial remedies, such as issues of accessibility, affordability, excessive delays and backlogs in judicial processes, impact of digitalization, gender bias, discrimination, and entrenched ageism in policy, norms and practices. It was pointed out that access to justice is a fundamental right in itself and an essential prerequisite for the protection and promotion of all human rights.

6-15 July 2021 – High Level Political Forum

The NGO COA-NY, as a member of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA), which in turn is a member of the 22 Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, to facilitate the participation of civil society in deliberations on the follow-up and review of the sustainable development goals, contributed to the drafting of the annual SGA position paper.

The NGO COA-NY also took the lead in organizing the SGA's annual side event "Covid-19 pandemic: a stress test of global ageing"

Speakers:

- Erica Dhar, Co-Chair, Stakeholder Group on Ageing
- Jane Barratt, Secretary-General, International Federation on Ageing (Moderator)
- Andrew Scott, Professor of Economics, London Business School
- H.E. Ms. Barbro Westerholm, Member of Parliament, Sweden
- Dr. Ad van Berlo, Chief Executive Officer and R&D Manager, Smart Homes
- Aura Sevilla, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)
- Grace Chan, Business Director, Hong Kong Council of Social Service
- Steve S. J. Lee, Organizing Partner, Major Group for Children and Youth
- Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief, Programme on Ageing Unit, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The panelists noted that older persons have been among the first and hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic; only a whole-of-society, whole-of-government approach can respond effectively to the dynamic challenges during this period of time. The panelists discussed health and long-term care, economic development and work and technology in an ageist environment during the pandemic.

14 September 2021

Topic: NGO COA-NY and the United Nations: update and a look ahead

Newly elected members of the Executive Committee were introduced and Chairs of Subcommittees gave a briefing on their work. Attention was drawn to the activities that had been undertaken by the NGO COA-NY over the past 12 months and to the upcoming activities at the United Nations, at which NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status can participate.

Ms. Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief of the Programme Unit on Ageing, UN/DESA, gave a briefing on the annual report of the Secretary-General on ageing that would be submitted to the General Assembly at its 76th Session which begins in September 2021 (A/76/156)

Greatest Achievement of Committee:

Utilizing the horrific COVID-19 pandemic, our committee has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of insidious ageism and why we must increase our efforts to seek a Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons. We are reaching out to engage a broader range of UN entities and civil society organizations.

The establishment of a periodic newsletter this past year with 3 issues published.

Documents/Statements:

Prepared Talking Points for our members to facilitate their interventions during CSOCD, CSW and Stakeholder Group on Ageing. In addition, preparation of guidelines and material for Mission Visits in New York prior to the Open Ended Working Group on Aging.

In addition, we are members of the following:

1. Member of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing, which is a member of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders involved in sustainable development issues.
2. Ex-officio Member of the Steering Group of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People.
3. Observer at meetings of the Group of Friends of Older Persons.

Social Media:

website: www.ngocoa-ny.org

Twitter: @ngocoa-ny.org

#UNandAgeing

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK NGO COMMITTEE ON DRUGS / (NYNGOC)



Leadership of the Committee:

In June 2020, the NYNGOC Executive Committee adopted a resolution to postpone the Annual General Meeting and elections until October 2020 due to disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The NYNGOC held elections of its Executive Committee in October 2020 at its Annual General Meeting.

In May 2021, members of the NYNGOC unanimously ratified a resolution returning to non-staggered terms for the Executive Committee of the NYNGOC, reflecting a consensus that the conditions that prompted the change to a staggered board are no longer present, annual elections are unduly cumbersome, and it is in the best interest of the Committee to return to non-staggered terms. As a result, elections of the full Executive Committee will take place every two years, with the next election in June 2022, and Executive Committee members' terms which would have expired in June 2021 have been extended by one year.

Tania Ramírez of México Unido Contra la Delincuencia stepped down as Secretary in April 2021 and the Executive Committee subsequently selected Beatrix Vas of International Drug Policy Consortium and Youth RISE to fill the position.

The current Executive Committee members are as follows:

Name	Organization(s) and Country	Position	Term Expires
Nazlee Maghsoudi	Transform Drug Policy Foundation & Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (Canada)	Chair	June 2022
Ernesto Cortés	Washington Office on Latin America & Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (Costa Rica)	Vice Chair	June 2022

Beatrix Vas	International Drug Policy Consortium & Youth RISE (Hungary)	Secretary	June 2022
Benjamin Phillips	DRCNet Foundation (United States)	Treasurer	June 2022
Heather Haase	New York City Bar Association Committee on Drugs & the Law (United States)	Member-at Large	June 2022
Martha Inés Miravete Cicero	Grupo de Mujeres de Argentina - Foro de VIH - Mujeres y Familia (Argentina)	Member-at Large	June 2022
Rafael Torruella	Intercambios & Housing Works (Puerto Rico)	Member-at Large	June 2022
Summer Walker	Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (United States)	Member-at Large	June 2022

Aims and Objectives of the Committee:

The NYNGOC is a global committee that aims to support civil society organizations in engaging with the United Nations (UN) system on international drug policy and practice, as well as to facilitate the exchange of information between civil society organizations and UN agencies, member states, and other relevant UN bodies. Since its formation in 1984, the NYNGOC has provided a platform for discussion of drugs and related matters and served as an interface with the UN for collaborating on solutions to global drug issues.

Membership of the Committee:

As of October 2021, the NYNGOC has 102 members from 30 countries and all UN regions.

Member Country	
A Better Way Foundation (ABWF) USA	
AIDS Service Center (ASCNYC)	USA
Al-Maqdese for Society Development (MSD)	Occupied Palestinian Territories
American Psychological Association (APA)	USA
Americans For Safe Access (ASA)	USA
Amitiel Welfare Society	Pakistan
Asociacion Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervencion en Drogas (ACEID)	Costa Rica
Associação Brasileira de Redução de Danos (ABORDA)	Brazil
Associacao Lua Nova	Brazil
Australian Alcohol and Other Drugs Council (AADC)	Australia
Boom! Health	USA
Brazilian Drug Policy Platform (PBPD)	Brazil
Broken No More (BNM)	USA

Campaign for Compassion	USA
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC)	Canada
Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP)	Canada
Center for Universal Drug Researches, Approaches & Studies (CUDRAS)	Iran
Centre for Harm Reduction Therapy (HRTC)	USA
Centre for Optimal Living (CFOL)	USA
Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (CDPE)	Canada

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)	Argentina
Centro De Investigacion Drogas Y Derechos Humanos (CIDDDH)	Peru
Centroo de Orientacion e Investigacion Integral (COIN)	Dominican Republic
Chanvre & Libertes (NORML - France)	France
Cogitative Freedom Alliance	Italy
Colectiva Ciudad y Genero	Mexico
Colectivo por una Politica Integral Hacia las Drogas (CUPIHD)	Mexico
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH)	Mexico
Concile Mondial (CMOCDAPUNDHJ)	France
Corporación Humanas	Chile
Creative Media Centre for Development (CMCD)	Nigeria
Dianova International	Spain
Drug Policy Alliance	USA
Drug Strategies	USA
Drugs Security and Democracy (DSD) Program	USA
Fields of Green for All	South Africa
Forum Droghe (FD)	Italy
Foundation Against Illicit Drugs & Child Abuse (FADCA)	Liberia
Foundation for Alternative Approaches to Addiction (FAAAT)	France
Fundacion Latinoamerica Reforma	Chile

Member Country	
Fundacja Reduckcji Szkod (FRS)	Poland
Global Exchange	USA
Global Initiative Against Transnational Crime	Switzerland

Grupo de Mujeres de Argentina – Foro de VIH – Mujeres y Familia	Argentina
Harm Reduction International (HRI)	UK
Health Poverty Action (HPA)	UK
Help Not Handcuffs	USA
HIV Legal Network	Canada
Human Rights Watch	USA
The Human Solution International	USA
Igarape Institute	Brazil
Integración Social Verter, A.C (Verter A.C)	Mexico
Intercambios Asociacion Civil	Argentina
Intercambios Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico
International Centre for Ethnobotanical Education Research Service (ICEERS)	Uruguay
International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies (IDHDP)	UK
International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)	UK
International Social Service	USA
Japan Advocacy Network for Drug Policy	Japan
Just Say No	Nepal
Knowmad Institut	Germany
Latin American & Caribbean Network of People Who Use Drugs (LANPUD) Latin America & Caribbean	
Latin American Drug Policy Observatory	Chile
Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP)	USA
Matua Raki, National Addictions Workforce Development	New Zealand
Moms Stop the Harm	Canada
National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW)	USA

Member Country	
National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI)	USA
National Users Network Nepal (NUNN)	Nepal
New York Harm Reduction Educators (NYHRE)	USA
New Zealand Drug Foundation	New Zealand
No Drugs Implication Life (NDIL)	Bangladesh
NYC Bar Association Committee on Drugs and the Law	USA
Open Society Foundations (OSF)	USA
Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing (PROP)	USA
Piaget Agency for Development (APDES)	Portugal
Plantforma para le Defensa de la Ayahuasca (Plantforma)	Spain
Proderechos	Uruguay
REDUC	Brazil
Release	UK
Sociedad Mexicana de Criminologia capitulo Nuevo Leon	Mexico
Society of Collective Interests Orientation (SOCIO)	Pakistan
StoptheDrugWar.org	USA
Students for Sensible Drug Policy – Australia (SSDP)	Australia
Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)	USA
T. Stephen Jones Public Health Consulting	USA
The Beckley Foundation	Scotland (UK)
Transform Drug Policy Foundation (TDPF)	UK
Treatment Action Group (TAG)	USA
Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access	USA
Veterans for Safe Access and Compassionate Care (VSACC)	USA

Virginians Against Drug Violence	USA
Visionistas	USA
VIVA RIO	Brazil
VOCAL-NY	USA

Member Country	
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)	USA
Women and Harm Reduction International Network	UK
World Hepatitis Alliance	UK
Yale Global Health Justice Partnership	USA
Youth Organizations for Drug Action (YODA)	Poland
Youth RISE	Nigeria
Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network	Zimbabwe

Amount of Annual Membership Fee:

The NYNGOC collects a membership fee of 20 USD from members. The fee is waived for members from low-income countries(as defined by the World Bank), organizations that are run by key populations(“peer run” organizations), and members that can demonstrate financial hardship.

Activities of the Committee:

Although the COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying lockdowns presented challenges for the NYNGOC for much of 2020, resulting in the postponement of its Annual General Meeting and elections from June to October, the Committee continued to stay active.

On the margins of the 63rd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2020, the NYNGOC held a formal members’ meeting. During this meeting, members continued an ongoing discussion on whether the NGO committee structure, historically comprised of the NYNGOC and Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), should be examined and potentially modernized to become more global in its representation and leadership. While it has emerged that there is no desire to vastly alter the NYNGOC or VNGOC (by merger or otherwise) to create a more global system, this does not resolve the issue that the NGO committee system focused on drugs is generally always ultimately governed from the global north due to the physical location of the UN hubs. Although the memberships of both committees are made up of organizations from all over the world, there is concern that limiting overall governance in this way simply does

not reflect the global nature of drug policy. Moreover, 2020 saw major changes to UN working methods due to the COVID-19 pandemic including an increased reliance on and success of virtual platforms for convenings, meetings, and negotiations.

Against this backdrop, one of the approaches that has garnered enthusiasm with our membership has been the idea of the NYNGOC helping to facilitate the formation of independent regional committees. Regional committees could enable NGOs located outside the main UN hub cities to share in the governance of the overall system, effectively decentralizing its leadership. Regional committees could also provide a mechanism to engage with regional intergovernmental bodies both within and outside of the UN system – which the current system is sorely lacking. These regional committees would be independent from the NYNGOC, and therefore self-governing. This envisaged system is in line with amended Rules of the CoNGO that now allow the formation of regional committees. Moreover, it is consistent with more modern approaches, such as the NGO Major Group, which features a more global governing model, and the systems in place in other issue areas, such as NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO-CSW), which is supported by a group of four independent regional committees (in addition to those located in New York, Geneva, and Vienna).

The NYNGOC announced the election of four members to its Executive Committee at its Annual General Meeting in October 2020. The Committee entered a new era of leadership with the election of Nazlee Maghsoudi as Chair. Heather Haase stepped down as Chair after three consecutive terms yet remained a Member-at-Large. Ernesto Cortés was re-elected as Vice Chair and Martha Inés Miravete Cicero joined as a Member-at-Large. The NYNGOC saw an opportunity to update our working methods given changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic and increased use of virtual platforms. For the first time, the Executive Committee sought candidates for NYNGOC leadership – particularly the Chair and Vice Chair – for the 2020 elections who were not based in New York. This reflects our efforts to address the issue that the NGO committee system focused on drugs is generally always ultimately governed from the global north due to the physical location of the UN hubs. Although the NYNGOC membership has always been international, a more global governance model will allow leadership to be shared with our partners located outside UN hubs including our Chair from Canada and Vice-Chair from Costa Rica.

A social for members of the NYNGOC was held in December 2020 to reflect on the history of the NYNGOC, congratulate new Executive Committee members, and discuss priorities for the forthcoming year. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, a priority for the NYNGOC was to support civil society engagement at the 64th session of the CND in 2021 by advocating for equivalency in civil society access and participation between the usual in-person session and the online format.

At the 64th Session of the CND in April 2021, Jamie Bridge, Chair of the VNGOC, delivered a [joint NYNGOC/VNGOC statement](#) under agenda item 10 highlighting the ways in which virtual formats could continue to be used to increase participation and accessibility. The following concrete asks were made:

- Continue to webcast all plenary sessions in the official languages,
- Continue to allow virtual side events alongside physical or hybrid ones,

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- Continue to facilitate and welcome virtual statements and interventions, and
 - Record all sessions to allow for better participation across different time zones.

As in [years past](#), the NYNGOC issued a press release to commemorate World Drug Day and Support Don't Punish in June 2021.

Partnering Organizations and UN Agencies:

The NYNGOC collaborates frequently with our sister committee, the VNGOC. Perhaps most well-known is our joint formation of the Civil Society Task Force that facilitated global NGO participation at the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS on Drugs) in 2016 and the Ministerial Segment of the 62nd Session of the CND in 2019.

We regularly work with the VNGOC to hold open calls and select civil society experts and speakers for consultations and meetings held by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), including the recent engagement opportunities below:

- Expert Meeting on Drug Use in Humanitarian Settings,
- Expert Consultations on Treatment and Care for People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System,
- Expert Consultations on the Role of Law Enforcement in Drug Prevention in School Settings, • Expert Group Meeting on the Use of Public Private Partnerships to Reduce Drug Demand, and
- Expert Working Group on Treatment of Mental Health Including Drug Use Disorders in Prison Settings.

At the NYNGOC's Quarterly Meeting in May 2021, members were joined by Delphine Schantz, the new Head at UNODC New York Liaison Office, for a meet and greet. Ninan Varughese, Senior Advisor at UNAIDS, also attended and provided an update on the High-level Meeting (HLM) on HIV and AIDS.

The NYNGOC worked with the UNODC New York Liaison Office to ensure civil society participation at the New York virtual launch event of the 2021 World Drug Report in June 2021. At the request of the UNODC New York Liaison Office, the NYNGOC held an open call for three civil society speakers to make two-minute interventions from the floor. Speakers were selected by the Executive Committee of the NYNGOC based on the relevance and quality of the description of their intervention, as well as considering gender and geographic balance.

Despite our track record of engagement, the NYNGOC still faces a longstanding pattern of exclusion by the UNODC – based in Vienna – and ongoing challenges in being recognized by them and held in equivalent standing to the VNGOC. As reported in our previous annual reports and raised at prior board meetings of the CoNGO, we have heard repeatedly from the UNODC that they “only recognize one drugs committee,” and that is the VNGOC. The UNODC has a Memorandum of Understanding with the VNGOC yet does not list the NYNGOC as one of their main civil society partners on their website. Such a position stands in stark contrast to the

system-wide relevance of the drugs issue, as illustrated by the existence of the UNODC New York office, as well as the many ways in which the NYNGOC has partnered and collaborated with the UNODC throughout the years. The NYNGOC Executive Committee is engaged in continued discussions to determine the best approach to this situation and is proactively working to improve its relationship with the UNODC.

In October 2021, Nazlee Maghsoudi, Chair of the NYNGOC, participated in the CoNGO Civil Society Summit on Substantive Issues and acted as rapporteur for thematic panel three, titled, “Peace and Threats to Security of People and the Planet.”

Greatest Achievement:

Preparations for the 2016 UNGASS on Drugs ushered in a period of collaboration between the NYNGOC and VNGOC, with the two committees partnering to form the Civil Society Task Force (CSTF). The CSTF was a global 33-member task force of NGOs representing nine global regions and nine affected populations/global voices.

After the CSTF finalized its activities around the 2016 UNGASS on Drugs, the CSTF conducted a global survey to gather information on the impressions amongst civil society on the effectiveness of the CSTF and potential next steps. Since the survey showed strong support for the CSTF and the desire to continue it in some form, the two committees entered a Memorandum of Understanding and spent several months collaborating to form a new CSTF for the 2019 Ministerial Segment. The new CSTF was formed with three additional Steering Group members (adding officers in charge of communications, fundraising, and outreach), 18 representatives of global regions, and 10 representatives from affected populations and global voices.

The CSTF was an effective vehicle for increasing the inclusion of civil society voices at preparations leading up to and at the 2016 UNGASS on Drugs, as well as at the 2019 Ministerial Segment. Activities of the CSTF included:

- Identifying civil society speakers for preparatory events and at the meetings themselves in accordance with the CSTF Guidelines for Selecting Speakers, which emphasize parity in representation of women and across regions,
- Conducting consultations with civil society, such as through online surveys and civil society hearings held in New York and Vienna, and
- Publishing reports presenting the findings of consultations by the CSTF.

The CSTF successfully delivered this range of actions in both 2016 and 2019. It remains a useful example of cross-committee collaboration to support inclusive civil society participation at high-level UN meetings.

Committee Statements:

Ernesto Cortés, Vice Chair of the NYNGOC, made an intervention at the UNODC New York Liaison Office Presentation of the 2020 World Drug Report in June 2020. He discussed some of the positive responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the field of drugs and drug policy, while sharing calls for decriminalization and decarceration, including from the UN system common

position on supporting the implementation of the international drug control policy through effective inter-agency collaboration.

Heather Haase, former Chair of the NYNGOC, made an intervention at the UNODC New York Liaison Office and Mission of Austria Briefing on the Work of the CND in October 2020. She shared some of the past and current work of the NYNGOC, including in partnership with the VNGOC, and reflected upon the possibility of regional committees and other ways virtual formats could be used to enhance civil society participation.

The NYNGOC participated in the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in April 2021 by making an intervention at a [parallel event](#) hosted by Dianova International. Nazlee Maghsoudi, Chair of the NYNGOC, spoke about the NYNGOC's working methods, opportunities and challenges related to civil society access and participation at the UN, recent developments related to gender in international drug policy, and the need for system-wide coherence on drugs and drug policy.

Ms. Maghsoudi made an [intervention](#) at the UNODC New York Liaison Office Presentation of the 2021 World Drug Report in June 2021. She focused on how sharing and acting upon information from diverse UN entities could enhance system-wide coherence between drug control and the UN pillars of peace and security, development, and human rights, as well as the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Ms. Maghsoudi also made an [intervention](#) at the UNODC New York Liaison Office and Mission of Austria Briefing on the Work of the CND and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in October 2021. She highlighted how virtual formats could continue to be used to increase participation and accessibility at the next session of the CND, drawing on recommendations from the joint statement with the VNGOC at the prior session of the CND, and further suggesting that broadcasting sessions and archiving those videos via UN Web TV would be ideal. Against the backdrop of the Third Committee's negotiations of the annual drugs omnibus resolution, Ms. Maghsoudi also took stock of recent developments relevant to drugs and drug policy across the UN, including the Human Rights Council Resolution 47/21 on systemic racism, UN system common position on incarceration, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's study on drug policies, and Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS.

Relevant Links:

- Website: <http://nyngoc.org/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NewYorkNGOC>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NYNGOC1>

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON THE FAMILY / NY



Leadership of the NGO Committee on the Family:

Co-Chair: Benjamin Freer, *Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU)*

Co-Chair: Ryan Koch, *Latter-day Saint Charities*

Corresponding Secretary: Siobhan Heekin-Canedy, *World Youth Alliance*

Recording Secretary: Lynn Walsh, *Universal Peace Federation*

Treasurer: Vinnie Santoro, *American Family Association of New York*

Members-at-Large:

Marcia Barlow, *United Families International*

Florence Denmark (ex-officio), *PACE University*

Marilyn D. Kinelski, *Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem*
OSMTH – Knights Templar

Aims and Objectives of NGO on the Family/NY:

The family is the “natural and fundamental” building block of society (Universal Declaration of Human Rights Art. 16(3)). As such, stable families are essential for stable communities, stable nations, and a stable world. Therefore, the mission of the NGO Committee on the Family – New York is to promote, preserve, and protect the well-being of the family. To fulfill this mission we:

- Advocate for the inclusion of the family in international resolutions and policies at the United Nations.
- Educate the public on international issues and policies affecting the family.
- Promote the well-being of children, parents, and the extended family.
- Support the community’s role in strengthening the family.

-
- Work to ensure Member States commit to the betterment of families through policy, legislation, and programs, with respect for the sovereignty of nations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (Art.2(1)).
 - Maintain relationships with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the UN Focal Point on the Family, Department of Public Information (DPI), Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO) and its committees, and Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS).

Membership of the NGO Committee on the Family:

We currently have 27 paid members including individuals and organizations. The amount of the annual general membership fee is \$30. The membership fee is waived for youth and students.

Significant Activities of the NGO Committee on the Family:

The NGO Committee on the Family – New York usually meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. In addition to monthly meetings, it sponsors side and/or parallel events at the Commission on the Status of Women. The NGO Committee on the Family – New York also works closely with the UN Focal Point on the Family to develop programs for the [International Day of the Family, held each May](#). The NGO Committee on the Family – New York is committed to fostering relationships and working collaboratively with other NGO Committees and civil organizations to effectively address:

- Climate change
- HIV/AIDS
- Armed conflict
- Natural disasters
- Poverty
- Gender equality
- Education
- Health
- Migration
- Trafficking
- Violence against women and girls

75th General Assembly:

During the 75th General Assembly, the NGO Committee on the Family Sponsored the Following events and panel discussions:

Oct. 22, 2020 – Helping Children and Family Thrive in All Circumstances, in honor of the October 1989 adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Nov. 19, 2020 – Families Coping with COVID: Challenges and Opportunities in Child Welfare

Dec. 17, 2020 – Family Traditions

Jan. 21, 2021 – An Update on Negotiations Regarding the Family with Third Committee Experts

Feb. 25, 2021 – Adverse Childhood Events: Protecting, Preventing, Healing

Mar. 25, 2021 – He For She at Home: Gender Equality and the Family – A Parallel Event of NGOCSW65

April 22, 2021 – Who's in the Family? Various Compositions and the Challenges they Face

May 28, 2021 – Playful Learning Landscapes

UN Entities that the NGO Committee on the Family Consults and Works With:

We work closely with the UN Focal Point on the Family to update each other on latest trends and research and work together to ensure that civil society is meaningfully involved in discussions regarding the family at the United Nations. Various Third Committee Experts often update and provide information to our community during the year as well.

Social Media and Contact Links:

Website: <https://ngofamilyny.org>

Instagram: @ngofamilycommittee_ny

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NGOFAMILYNY>

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT / NY



Leadership of the Committee:

- Chair - Anita Thomas, Virginia Gildersleeve

International Fund (DBA Women First International Fund)

- Vice-Chair -Yvonne O'Neal, Africa Development Interchange Network
- Secretary – Martha Gallahue, United Religions Initiative
- Treasurer – Daniel LeBlanc, Vivat International
- Member-at-large – Graciano Gaillard, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development
- Member-at-large – Quinn Wonderling, General Board of Church and Society- United Methodist Church

Aims and objectives of the Committee:

The NGO Committee aims to “confront the challenges of financing for development” by staying engaged as advocates for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda’s “action areas.” Those actions include: Domestic public resources, Domestic and international private business and finance,

International development cooperation, International trade as an engine for development, Debt, and debt sustainability, Addressing systemic issues, and Science, technology, innovation, and capacity-building.

The NGO Committee works to strengthen consultative relationships with the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations Secretariat. The NGO Committee reviews the work of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and various United Nations Commissions from the perspective of integrating issues related to Financing for Development into the work of these bodies.

Membership of the Committee:

- Bahai International Community
- Business & Professional Women International
- Change Management Solutions
- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
- General Board of Church and Society- United Methodist Church
- Global Distribution Advocates, Inc.
- Global Foundation for Democracy and Development
- Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- International Presentation Association
- Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.
- New Humanity of the Focolare Movement
- PEAC Institute - Peace | Education | Art | Communication
- Proclade International/Claretian Congregation
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- Salesian Missions
- Sisters of Charity Federation
- Social Justice in Global Development
- United Religions Initiative
- Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund
- Vivat International/OMI

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- Red Dot Foundation Global (2020)
 - Startnoo, LLC
 - STUF United Fund
 - Man Up Campaign (Oct 2020)
 - World Vision
 - Africa Development Network
 - Startnoo, LLC
 - ZONTA International

Annual Membership Dues are \$40 covering a membership cycle of the Committee from June 1st to August 31st of the next year.

Annual Meetings:

The annual meeting of the Committee is held every June. So, the annual reports cover the period from June to June of the next year. An annual report and finance report are presented by the Chair and treasurer respectively at every annual meeting of the Committee. Elections take place at the annual meeting every other year.

Monthly Meetings:

Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from 1-3 pm. With the onset of COVID-19, the Committee has been meeting virtually by Zoom since January of 2019.

U.N. entities the Committee consult, work with, and involve in its work:

The Committee engages actively with the UN Financing for Sustainable Development Office, International Labour Organisation New York office, and the UN Member States. At its side events, breakfast consultations and monthly meetings, the Committee makes concerted efforts to include speakers from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the UN Member States and relevant UN agencies. Committee has organized panel discussions at the IMF/WB annual and spring meetings. The Committee is a founding member of the Civil Society FfD Group.

Greatest achievements of the Committee:

- Transitioning effectively into a virtual format of working with the onset of COVID-19, and continuing to meet its goals and objectives efficiently, effectively, and in a robust manner.
- Maintaining a strong relationship with the UN Financing for Sustainable Development Office.

- Conducting an NGO Consultation at the invitation of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) concerning the Financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond (FfDI) (ILO served as the lead on Cluster 2 related work of the FfD initiative)

- Conducting a grant-funded grassroots project to assess how effectively the commitments made under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda transition to the ground, from the lens of the Committee's three priority areas, Social Protection, Financial Inclusion, and Climate Finance

Continuing to strengthen the Committee's joint efforts with the NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (composed of four CoNGO Committees - NGO Committee on FfD, NGO Committee on CSW (NY), NGO Committee on Migration, and NGO Committee on Social Development in partnership with the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons). Anita Thomas, Chair of the NGO Committee serves as the Convener of the Coalition. This coalition is a good example of the Committee's interest and intent to collaborate across aisles and outside silos to advocate on common priorities. 12. Links for key documents, statements, and reports

2021 Documents

a) Special Project Report - Grassroots Around the Globe Examining community access to Social Protection Financial and Digital Inclusion and Climate Finance - Pre and Post Pandemic can be accessed [here](#).

b) Report from the Strategy and Consultation session organized by the NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment can be accessed [here](#).

c) A strategy document built off the recommendations from the above report (item b) can be accessed [here](#).

d) Report of the Financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond: Consultation with NGOs and Civil Society organizations organized at the invitation of the International Labour Organization can be accessed [here](#).

e) The NGO Committee on FfD's submission to the 2021 Financing for Development – Inter-Agency Taskforce Report can be accessed [here](#).

f) Report of the virtual working breakfast briefing and interactive discussion in preparation for the 2021 FfD Forum can be accessed [here](#).

g) Statements presented by the members of the NGO Committee on FfD at the 2021 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum follow-up and Development Cooperation Forum can be accessed [here](#).

Summary of the NGO Committee's activities from June 15, 2021- November 1, 2021

Elections:

-
- The Committee held its elections on June 15, 2021, when a new executive committee was elected. The list of the executive committee members is included under background details on the first page of this report

Executive Committee's work:

- An annual survey was disseminated to all members in the first week of August.
- Annual Retreat of the EC was held on August 19-20 virtually. With the intent to develop a road map for the Committee' work in the upcoming year, the Executive Committee:

Met with:

- Working Group Co-leads - Social Protection (Daniel LeBlanc, Thomas Pallithanam), Financial and Digital Inclusion (Anita Thomas and Teresa Kotturan), and Climate Finance (Quinn Wonderling and Fred Sullivan) and Barry Herman.

- Mariangela Parra-Lancourt, Chief, Strategic Engagement and Policy Integration Branch, United Nations Financing for Sustainable Development Office and Sarah Decuire, Economic Affairs Officer, UN FSDO

- o Reviewed Committee-wide survey feedback and assessed the activities of the previous year.

- o Developed Objectives and Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time based (SMART) Goals for the 2021-2022 cycle of the Committee.

Monthly Committee Meetings

The Committee took a summer recess for July and August and reconvened in September. A few key updates are included below:

➤ September 8, 2021

- The executive committee provided an update on the key discussions at the annual executive committee retreat, recommendations from the annual membership survey, and proposed objectives and SMART Goals for the upcoming year.
- Philipp Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, UN FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters. Topics of discussion included priorities outlined by the President of ECOSOC H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile, Permanent Representative of Botswana – ongoing debt issues, Official Development Assistance, private investment, Climate Finance, global tax issues, and urgency to increase resources for developing countries.
- There were twenty-seven attendees at the meeting.

➤ October 3, 2021

- The executive committee updates included:

o the NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work's advocacy's consultation that was held at 8 am on September 8.

o Planning an orientation session on FfD issues for the wider NGO Community.

o 2022 FfD Inter-Agency Taskforce Report outline and plan for submitting written feedback as in the previous years

o Annual strategic plan which includes the Committee's scope of work, timelines and deliverables.

o Advocacy priorities and steps to actualize them.

• Shari Spiegel, Chief, Ms. Shari Spiegel, Chief, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, DESA and Mariangela Para-Lancourt, Chief, Strategic Engagement and Policy Integration Branch, Financing for Sustainable for Development Office, United Nations presented at the meeting. Shari Spiegel provided an overview of the IATF outline and preparatory work for the report and Mariangela Parra-Lancourt provided an overview of the follow-up to the FfDI initiative and implementation of the Secretary General's Common Agenda.

• There were twenty-eight attendees at the meeting.

Additional activities:

• Anita Thomas, Chair of the Committee served as a speaker and rapporteur for Panel 1 of the CoNGO Summit held on October 25, 2021.

Annual Report of the NGO Committee for membership period - June 3, 2020- June 14, 2021

• The Annual Report was presented at the Committee's Annual Meeting held on June 3, 2021 and approved at its meeting held on September 8, 2021.

Executive Committee:

• Chair - Anita Thomas, Virginia Gildersleeve

International Fund (VGIF)

• Vice-Chair -Thomas Pallithanam, Salesian Missions Inc.

• Secretary - Joseph Klock, New Humanity of the Focolare Movement

• Treasurer - Marvelous Lomerio Misolas, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.

• Member-at-large – Graciano Gaillard, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development

• Member-at-large – Cynthia Mathew. Institute of Blessed Virgin Mary

Key action items of the EC from June 4, 2020 – June 15, 2021

- The annual survey was disseminated to all members on August 17 with a deadline for feedback by August 28.
- Annual Retreat of the EC was held on August 14, 18, and September 4, respectively. The meetings were held over three days to accommodate those executive committee members who could not return to the United States from their travels due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions and were located in different time zones. With the intent to develop a road map for the Committee's work in the upcoming year, the Executive Committee:

Met with:

- Working Group leads (see list below) and Martha Gallahue, who coordinated the efforts to develop a consolidated advocacy statement
 - Alberto Padova and Philipp Erfurth from the Financing for Sustainable Development Office
 - Stefano Pratto and Pooja Rangaprasad from the CSO FfD Group
- o Reviewed Committee-wide survey feedback and assessed the activities of the previous year
 - o Developed Objectives and Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-based (SMART) Goals for the 2020-2021 cycle of the Committee
 - o Objectives and SMART Goals: The EC developed objectives and SMART Goals for the 2020-2021 cycle. While cognizant of the challenges to accomplish objectives and SMART Goals as envisaged, the EC developed these measures to ensure the Committee had a roadmap for its work and with the view to tracking its performance. While some goals had to be adjusted midway, the approach was helpful to plan ahead.

Objectives

1. Influence the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda with focused priority statements.
2. Ensure all activities of the Committee are informed by the post-COVID -19 perspective.
3. Educate and empower members to participate effectively in FfD substantive sessions and hearings.
4. Prepare for the 2020 ECOSOC FfD Follow-up
5. Organize parallel events/side events on FfD-related topics during CSocD, IMF/WB Spring Meetings, FfD Forum, and the HLPPF
6. Collaborate with other NGO Committees
7. Invite NGOs outside the FfD realm to get engaged in the work of the Committee.

8. Robust and effective Working Groups

9. Raise awareness and build action around Committee's priority areas.

10. Participate effectively in the coordinating group of CSO FfD Group to advance the Committee's advocacy agenda.

11. Strengthen collaboration with the FfD office SMART Goals Status Notes

1. Hold two breakfast sessions in preparing for the 2020 FfD Forum: One of two accomplished. A second breakfast meeting consultation with CSOs was held at the invitation of the ILO.
2. Have a Member State speaker at (at least) 5 monthly meetings of the Committee: One of five accomplished. A representative from Nepal presented.
3. Organize at least four side events: Accomplished; held a side event during the July 2020 HLPF and three side events during the 2021 FfD Forum
4. Hold at least 2 side events in co-sponsorship with Permanent Missions: One of two accomplished. Permanent Missions of Jamaica and Costa Rica co-sponsored the Committee's side event organized during the FfD Forum at the initiative of the Climate Finance Working Group
5. Each working group to hold at least 8 meetings during the year: Accomplished
6. Each working group to develop its thematic statement: Accomplished
7. Develop a joint advocacy statement pulling in from the above thematic statement
Accomplished
8. Update the by-laws of the Committee and develop working rules: Accomplished
9. Add six new members: Accomplished 4 out of 6 - Man Up Campaign, World Vision, Startnoo and Listen Give Initiative
10. Develop a newsletter: To be completed / Initiated discussion but decided to put on hold
11. Finalize website, create a new Facebook account and LinkedIn account: Accomplished
12. Provide input to the 2021 Inter-Agency Task Force Report outline: Accomplished
13. Develop an advocacy strategy: In progress/to be developed further
14. Make at least one intervention at the UN (FfD related meetings): Accomplished Six interventions during the FfD Forum and two during the Development Cooperation Forum

15. Nominate a speaker/s for an official UN FfD UN-related meeting: Accomplished
Nominated a speaker for the CSO DSG consultation held as part of the FfDI initiative and proposed the opening video shown at the session.

The Monthly meetings of the EC were held monthly two to three weeks in advance of the Monthly meeting. These meetings generally lasted at a minimum of one hour and fifteen minutes. The Chair set up and maintained meeting folders for the executive committee in a Google folder with editing privileges given to all executive committee members. The executive committee also conducted its work in between meetings over email. In addition, the Chair met with executive committee members on an individual basis to discuss action items pertaining to their work areas and address any concerns.

The EC made the following key decisions (see details below) that helped advance the work of the Committee:

- Continue to participate in the CSO FfD Group
- Continue to lead on the ILO C-190 initiative
- Continue the substantive work of the Committee through its three working groups.
- Working Group meetings to be held outside regular monthly meeting times.
- Collaborate on a special project survey in partnership with Salesian Missions Inc. and with interested members of the Committee to assess the impact of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement
- Update the Committee's by-laws and develop working rules for the effective functioning of the Committee

As in the past, Monthly meetings will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of the month, but at the request of the membership, the duration of the meeting was scaled down from two and a half hours to two hours.

Working Groups

The scope of the Financial Inclusion Working Group was expanded to include Digital Inclusion. The Working Group was renamed as Financial and Digital Inclusion Working Group. The leads for the working groups are as follows:

- Social Protection- Barry Herman, Thomas Pallithanam
- Financial and Digital Inclusion (co-leads – Anita Thomas and Teresa Kotturan)
- Climate Finance – (Lead - Marvie Misolas) (Note: Quinn Wonderling stepped down from her role as co-lead in November of 2020, but continued as a member of the Working Group)

All three working groups conducted their meetings over Zoom. The first two working groups used the Committee's Zoom account for these meetings. During the course of the year, working groups met and developed their respective inputs to the 2021 Inter-Agency Taskforce Report outline. While some members of the Group were inactive, most members actively contributed to developing their respective working group's advocacy position statements, provide substantive support to concept notes of Committee organized events, and helped organize side events.

Addis Ababa Coordinating Group

- A. Thomas continues to participate in the ACG meetings on behalf of the NGO Committee.

Monthly Committee Meetings

The Committee held a meeting in July 2020, took a summer break for August and reconvened in September, and held monthly meetings till June 2021. All Committee meetings were held over Zoom. The Committee maintains detailed minutes of all its meetings. A few key updates are included below:

➤ July 1, 2020

- Dr. Lester Salamon, Emeritus Professor and Director of the Center for Civil Society Studies, Johns Hopkins University presented to the committee on the topic "Philanthropication thru Privatization: Tapping Non-Traditional Assets for People-Oriented Local Development Finance."
- Philipp Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters.
- The meeting had twenty-seven attendees.

➤ September 9, 2020

- The executive committee provided updates on the key recommendations from the membership survey and proposed action plan (based on discussions at the executive committee retreat) for the upcoming year.
- Attendees agreed by Zoom polling to continue with the three working groups and to conduct the working group meetings over Zoom outside regular monthly meetings.
- Philipp Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters.
- Elsa Barron from the University of Notre Dame joined as the new intern to support the implementation of stages 2, 3, and 4 of the special project. Stage 1 was completed by the first intern, Godsee Joy also from the University of Notre Dame.
- The meeting had twenty-two attendees.

➤ October 7, 2020

- The Financial Inclusion Working Group proposed to expand the focus of the working group to include digital inclusion and to rename the working group as Financial and Digital Inclusion Working Group. This change was approved by a poll at the meeting.
- Philipp Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters. A report on the special project was provided.
- The meeting had twenty-one attendees.

➤ November 4, 2020 –

- Suvanga Parajuli, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations provided a briefing on the work of the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly.
- Philipp Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters.
- Thomas Pallithanam provided an update on the Special Project.
- Levi Bautista, President of CoNGO provided an update on CoNGO activities.
- A. Thomas was invited by the UN Secretariat (at the recommendation of Alberto Padova from UNFSDO) to a planning committee to plan for a civil society dialogue as a follow up to the High-Level Event on Financing for Development. See more information in the section titled “Engagement in UN Processes.”
- NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work – The Coalition has drafted an advocacy letter endorsed by 1155 NGOs which was submitted to the UN Member States.
- There were twenty-one attendees at the meeting.

➤ December 2, 2020

- Sarah Decuire, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters.
- All three Working Group started work on their respective inputs to the Inter Agency Taskforce Report Outline.
- It was decided that any call for endorsement by the CSOFfD Group as much as possible by the Committee as a whole. On a case-by-case basis, especially when there is a quick turnaround time, the executive committee may decide to endorse or not endorse the letter.
- Ann Vaughan, Mercy Corps, Head, Influence and Advocacy Workstream, Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, a consortium of nine organizations, e.g., Red Cross, Concern Worldwide, Plan International, etc., and Zurich insurance provided a briefing on the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance.
- There were thirty attendees at the meeting.

➤ January 6, 2021 –

- Philip Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters, and Resina Katofono, Economic Affairs Officer, Policy Analysis and Development provided a briefing on the Financing for Sustainable Development Report focusing specifically on social protection with particular reference to the priorities and inputs of the NGO Committee on FfD’ submission to the IATF report outline.

- Breakout discussions were held to plan for the annual breakfast meeting to discuss the roadmap to the 2021 FfD Forum. There were twenty-eight attendees at the meeting.

- There were twenty-four attendees at the meeting.

➤ February 3, 2021 –

- Philip Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters.

- Martina Dorigo, Programme Analyst, Adaptation Fund provided a briefing on the work of the Adaptation Fund.

- The special project survey received over one thousand responses. • The annual breakfast consultation organized by the Committee as a preparatory meeting for the 2021 FfD Forum was held on January 15 from 8:30 am – 10 am. There were eighty-four participants at the meeting including representatives of the Member States, UN agencies, NGOs, and CSOs) The report of the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

- There were seventeen attendees at the February monthly meeting.

➤ March 6, 2021 –

- A. Thomas provided an update on the consultation that is being organized at the invitation of the ILO for which the Committee will serve as the lead organizer. Background and additional information on the consultation are included in the section below titled "Engagement in UN Processes."

- Philip Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters.

- Anneleen Vos, Senior Policy Officer – Economic Programmes, International Rescue Committee and Prof Dr. Hans-Martin Zademach, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in Germany provided a briefing on the International Rescue Committee report "COVID-19 and Refugees' Economic Opportunities, Financial Services and Digital Inclusion."

- Elsa Barron provided a briefing on the progress of the special project survey. • Joe Klock and A Thomas provided an update on the revisions to the various sections of the Committee's by-laws.

- Graciano Gaillard has created a LinkedIn account for the Committee. • There were twenty-eight attendees at the meeting.

➤ April 7, 2021

- Philip Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters.

- Anjali Rangaswami, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO and Greg Barret, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO briefing on the Development Cooperation Forum

-
- A three-member nominating committee composed of Gillian D'Souza (Chair), Teresa Kotturan, and Veronica Branda was appointed.
 - There were twenty-eight attendees at the meeting.
 - The Committee decided to hold three side events during the 2021 FfD Forum.
 - A. Thomas is following up on opportunities for NGO interventions during the FfD Forum and the Development Cooperation Forum that were raised at the meeting.

➤ May 5, 2021

- Philip Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters.
- NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment is in conversation with the ILO Office in New York to organize a joint event.
- The report for the ILO CSO consultation is being finalized.
- The UN Financing for Sustainable Development Office invited the Committee to propose names of ECOSOC or FfD Forum accredited NGOs to make interventions during the 2021 FfD Forum. Five NGO representatives from the Committee made interventions.
- The Committee was invited by the UN DCF office to propose the names of ECOSOC accredited NGO representatives to make interventions during the 2021 DCF Forum.
- A. Thomas served as focal point /resource person for the online platform access (as guided by UNFSDO) and provided substantive input and guidance for drafting interventions.
- The amended by-laws were posted to the meeting folder. It was decided to approve the by-laws through a Doodle poll once the 14-day criteria for notice were met.

Special Project Survey

- The Committee initiated a special project focusing on a grassroots level survey in 2019 in partnership with the Salesian Missions of Ireland (through Salesian Missions Inc) and funded by Misean Cara.
- The purpose of the project was to assess how effectively the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement are translating to the ground through the lens of the Committee's priority areas – Social Protection, Financial, and Digital Inclusion, and Climate Finance
- A. Thomas served as the Project Manager on behalf of the NGO Committee and Thomas Pallithanam served as the liaison on behalf of the Salesian Missions Inc.
- Two students from Notre Dame University were recruited as interns to conduct the survey. Godsee Joy joined in June 2020 and stayed on till September 2020 to manage initial research

for the project. Elsa Barron joined in September 2020 and managed the second half of the project. Each student also had worked with a professor from Notre Dame as a guide.

- Five members of the NGO Committee participated in this Project (More detail on this will be included in the Project survey report that is being finalized.
- Nine organizations participated in the survey in collaboration with their partner organization in the field in eight countries.
- Two information sessions, a consultation, and a side event were organized as part of the Project.
- A. Thomas and T. Pallithanam met with the interns for an hour every week from June 2020 to June 2021. All meetings were conducted on the Committee's Zoom account. The total number of hours spent by Elsa on the project as of June 14, 2021, is 130.25 hours which included preparatory work for organizing side events, meeting with her professor, and meeting with A. Thomas and T. Pallithanam.
- A detailed report is being finalized.

Engagements in UN processes

➤ Civil Society Meeting, Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 AND Beyond

- The meeting convened by the United Nations was held on Monday, 2 November 2020 from 9:00 am – 11:30 am Stefano Pratto from the CSO FfD Group and Ingo Ritz from the Global Coalition Against Poverty, and A. Thomas from the NGO Committee on FfD were invited to participate on the planning committee along with staff members from the UN Secretariat.
- To strategize on the program for the meeting, A. Thomas convened a Zoom discussion with interested Committee members, and with the intent of collaborating across isles with like-minded NGO Committees, a few NGO Committee Chairs were also invited. In addition to around 10 Committee members, the President of CoNGO, Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration, Chair of NGOCSW New York, and Co-Chair of NGO Committee on Social Development attended the meeting.
- A key recommendation from the group was to ensure testimonials from the ground are included.
- Key accomplishments out of this effort for the Committee included:
 - An intervention on behalf of the NGO Committee delivered by Helen Saldanha, Vivat International.
 - A testimonial video from Peru (by New School) as the opening video for the event, a second video on social protection developed by Frederick Ebert Stiftung, a speaker for the topic of Social Protection as recommended by A. Thomas on behalf of the NGO Committee were included in the program.

➤ Breakfast briefing on the roadmap to the FfD Forum

• On January 15, 2021, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am, the Committee organized a virtual breakfast briefing and interactive discussion in preparation for the 2021 FfD Forum. The event was titled “The Recovery We Want: For People and Planet A virtual working breakfast briefing and interactive discussion in preparation for the 2021 FfD Forum.”

• Speakers for the opening discussion included Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, UNFSDO, Ms. Shari Spiegel, Chief, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Ms. Beate Andrees, Special Representative and Director of the ILO Office for the UN, Mr. Robert Powell, Special Representative to the UN, IMF, and Mr. Audrey Liounis, Senior External Affairs Officer, The World Bank.

• Ambassador Munir Akram (ECOSOC President), Ambassador Robert Keith Rae (Canada), Ambassador Courtenay E. Rattrey (Jamaica), Ambassador Rodrigo A. Carazo (Costa Rica), and Ambassador Magnus Lenartsson (Sweden) provided remarks. In addition, Member State and UN agency staff members, NGOs, and CSOs participated in the meeting.

• The concept note of the briefing and interactive discussion can be accessed [here](#).

• The summary notes from the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

• There were eighty-four attendees at the meeting.

➤ Consultation with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations held under the auspices of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

• The NY office of the International Labour Organization approached A. Thomas with an invitation for the NGO Committee to convene a consultation with NGOs and CSOs to propose policy measures concerning Cluster 2: socio economic response: social protection, gender, youth, health, education, and human rights, for Financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and beyond. ILO serves as the lead for Cluster 3.

• A. Thomas convened a planning team for this meeting composed of Committee members which included Barry Herman, Winifred Doherty, Gillian D’Souza, Thomas Pallithanam. In addition, Ingo Ritz, GCAP had approached the ILO indicating interest to collaborate on this effort and also joined this planning group.

• The concept note for the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

• The consultation, held on March 11 from 8:00 am – 10:15 am, was very successful with 100 participants including NGOs, CSO, and UN agency staff members as speakers and breakout room resource persons.

• The final report has been submitted to the ILO. The report will also be posted to the Committee’s website.

➤ NGO Coalition to Stop Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (ILO C-190)

-
- At the initiative of the NGO Committee on FfD Chair, A Thomas, an NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment to advocate for ratification of ILO C-190 was established in 2019.
 - The initial conversation to establish this coalition took place following the 2019 breakfast meeting organized by the Committee to discuss the roadmap to the 2020 FfD Forum at which an ILO staff person was a speaker.
 - The Coalition is a joint initiative of four CoNGO substantive Committee NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NGO Committee on Social Development, NGO Committee on Migration, and in partnership with the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons. The group is composed of ten people representing the NGO Committee Chairs, their designees, and two individual NGO representatives who had attended the first briefing (convened the ILO, the French Mission, the NGO Committee on FfD) and whose organizations have a strong focus on the topic of C- 190. More detail on the background of the coalition can be accessed on the Committee's website [here](#).
 - The group is currently collaborating with the Group of Friends to combat Violence Against Women and Girls and the ILO to organize an Ambassadorial level event on June 29 as part of the ILO Action Week.
 - The Coalition is also planning a follow-up consultation with NGOs that endorsed the advocacy letter (signed by 1155 NGO and submitted to the Member States) to advance advocacy for ratification at the country level.

➤ Contribution to the 2021 Financing for Sustainable Development Report

- The Committee submitted a stakeholder contribution to the preparation of the 2021 Financing for Sustainable Development Report (Also referred to as the Inter-Agency Taskforce Report). This contribution was prepared in response to the draft outline of the IATF Report dated October 14, 2020.
- This submission was crafted with extensive consultation within the three working groups of the Committee. The submission has been posted to the UN Financing for Sustainable Development Report website and can be accessed [here](#).

➤ 2021 FfD Forum

- Five NGO representatives from the NGO Committee made interventions during the 2021 ECOSO FfD Follow-up Forum. These included AThomas (Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund), Thomas Pallithanam (Salesian Missions Inc), Eva Hanfstaengl (Social Justice Global Development), Fred Sullivan (Man up Campaign), and Martha Gallahue (United Religions Initiative) made interventions on behalf of the Committee at the FfD Forum.
- The Committee also organized three side events during the FfD Forum (see more detail under the section titled Side Events organized)

➤ 2021 Development Cooperation Forum

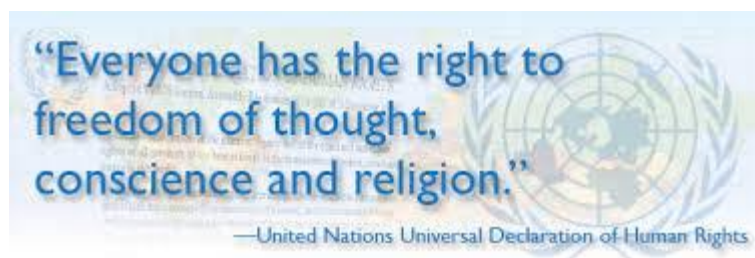
- Two NGO representatives from the Committee made interventions during the 2021 DCF. This is the first time the Committee has facilitated NGO interventions at the DCF.

- The interventions were made by Daniel LeBlanc (Vivat International) and Gail M. Carter (Man up Campaign) made interventions on behalf of the Committee during the Development Cooperation Forum held on May 6th and 7. Daniel made his intervention on the 6th in the session "Strengthening Health Systems in Vulnerable Countries" held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Gail made her intervention on the 7th in the session from 9.00 am to 11.00 am. Side events organized by the Committee during the 2020-2021 cycle.

Social Media

- LinkedIn handle: The NGO Committee on Financing for Development
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NGOsonFfD/> is kept reasonably active. As of 6/15/2021, the specifics are: Following: 316, Followers: 390
- Instagram: @ngosonffd
- Facebook handle: NGOsonFfD
- Website: ngosonffd.org *A. Thomas maintains the website as an alternate executive committee member with website management skills is not available.

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF / NY (NGOFoRB)



Overview of Committee

The NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief was formed in 1991 to promote and defend international agreements protecting freedom of religion or belief from within the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

The Committee, which consists of civil society leaders, advances freedom of religion or belief by coordinating NGO activities in New York City that reinforce UN efficacy in protecting the rights of freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; communicating with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, other relevant UN Offices, and UN member states; and working with concerned NGOs in Geneva.

Officers (elected in June 2020)

- President - *Kelsey Zorzi* - ADF International, kzorzi@adfinternational.org
- Vice-President - *Christen Broecker* - Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, broeckerc@ajc.org
- Secretary - *John Wagner*, Humanists International, jawagne@med.cornell.edu
- Treasurer - *Jon Ammons*, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, jonathan.ammons@churchofjesuschrist.org

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- Member-at-Large - *Alan Gold*, The Free Thought Society, agold122248@yahoo.com
 - Member-at-Large - *Scott Stearman*, Baptist World Alliance, sstearman@mbcnyc.org
 - Member-at-Large - *Daniel Hoffman*, Humanists International, rp518dan@gmail.com

Financial Report

NGO FORB has a small amount of funds set aside to support programs of the committee, which have accumulated over time. That said, our income flow and expenses are pretty equitable. In 2021, we had an income of \$495.60 USD collected in dues. For our expenditures, we spent \$584.01 in 2019, \$0 in 2020, and \$100.00 in 2021 (YTD). We currently have \$3,867.20 in reserve.

Sources of income: Membership dues

Items of expense: Prior to 2020, our items of expense included event fees, room booking fees, speaker travel expenses, and food for events. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, all of our events were held in a virtual setting, reducing our expenditures significantly.

Activities from April 2019 to October 2021

International Religious Freedom: A New Advocacy in Response to a New Age of Challenges and Threats 1 March 2019, 11:00am – 12:30pm (EST), UN Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber

Sponsors: The Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations and the Non Governmental Organizations Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief

The goal of this event was to promote a better understanding with the United Nations of the current state of international religious freedom, with a focus on some of the most pressing issues such as restrictions on religious freedom, blasphemy, apostasy, and anti-conversion laws. The event also sought to raise awareness of efforts underway to increase religious freedom globally and to provide both governmental and non-government representatives with an opportunity to discuss plans for collaboration and best practices. Speakers included:

- H.E. Sam Brownback, US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom
- Archbishop Ignatius Ayau Kaigama
- Archbishop of Jos, Nigeria, Dr. Hajnalka Juhasz
- Ministerial Commissioner and Member of the National Assembly of Hungary, H.E. Bernadito Auza
- Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations

Empowering Women Through the Advancement of the Freedom of Religion or Belief 14 March 2019, 1:15pm – 2:45pm (EST), Baha'i International Center

On the 63rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the NGO Committee on FoRB brought together three experts to discuss the ways in which the freedom of religion or belief empowers women. The speakers included:

- Anurima Bhargava, Commissioner, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
- Katayoun Kishi, Ph.D., Research Associated, Pew Research Center, Religion and Public Life Division
- Helene Fisher, Global Gender Persecution Specialist, Open Doors International

NGO Committee on FoRB's Annual General Meeting

30 May 2019, 1:15pm – 2:45pm (EST), Baha'i International Center

This meeting featured diplomats from Poland and Egypt who facilitated the negotiations to create an “International Day on Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence based on Religion or Belief.”

Safeguarding the Rights to Freedom of Religion or Belief and Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age

23 October 2019, 3:00pm – 4:00pm (EST), Baha'i International Center

Sponsors: The Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Article 19, and APC

Both Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ahmed Shaheed, and Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, David Kaya, have repeatedly expressed concern to governments about these trends, and in October 2019, they presented reports to the Third Committee of the General Assembly reiterating concerns about persistently rising religious intolerance and the impact that varying policies online content moderation are having on right-holders on the ground. We hosted the Special Rapporteurs to discuss those trends, and best practices in addressing the root causes of discrimination and violence while protecting human rights.

Meeting with the United States Mission to the UN

21 February 2020, 1:15pm – 2:45pm (EST), Virtual Forum

This event featured an informal discussion with Henrietta Levin, Advisor to the United States Mission to the UN. Henrietta provided us with an overview of religious freedom initiatives that the US Mission has been involved with over the past year. In addition, she discussed their future plans for the year of 2020. She also spoke of ways in which civil society organizations could get involved and support these initiatives.

NGO Committee on FoRB's Annual General Meeting

3 June 2020, 2:30pm – 4:00pm (EDT), Virtual Forum

This meeting featured a panel discussion from several USCIRF Commissioners, who discussed the recently released 2020 annual report and shared roadmaps for countries that have been designated as Countries of Particular Concern (CPC). The panelists included:

- Commissioner Tony Perkins, USCIRF Chair
- Commissioner Gayle Manchin, USCIRF Vice Chair
- Elizabeth Cassidy, Director of Research and Policy for USCIRF

Safeguarding the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief and Cultural Rights at a Time of Crisis
22 October 2020, 12:00pm – 1:15pm (EST), Virtual Forum

The event heard from UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Dr. Ahmed Shaheed and Karima Bennouna, Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights. They discussed their recent reports to the UN General Assembly as well as several areas in which they have both engaged in their work as UN Special Procedures mandate holders.

The Power of Freedom of Religion or Belief to Elevate Women and Girls

16 March 2021, 12:30pm – 2:00pm (EST), Virtual Forum

The event brought together several distinguished panelists from different religions to discuss what shaped their views and prepared them for leadership around the world, in addition to speaking on the importance of how freedom of religion or belief is critical to empowering women and girls. The panelists included:

- Bani Dugal, Principal Representative of the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office
- Blu Greenberg, Founding President of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance • Carole McConkie, Latter-day Saint Charities Representative at the United Nations in Geneva • Margaret Downey, Founder of the Freethought Society

2021 FoRB Priorities at the United Nations

7 May 2021, 1:15pm – 2:45pm (EST), Virtual Forum

The event highlighted various missions' recent past and present efforts to promote religious freedom and related rights in 2021 at the United Nations. The event featured a panel of UN diplomats including:

- Madeeha Ashraf, Advisor, U.S. Mission to the UN
- Timothy Sylvester, Second Secretary, U.K. Mission to the UN
- Klas Nyman, Counsellor, EU Delegation to the UN

Future Events

We are currently planning for a series of events over the next few months. In October, the Committee is hosting an event with Mr. Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. In November, we are hosting a virtual event on the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, and in December, we will highlight the situation for the Uyghur ethnic group. Each event will have a number of expert speakers, who will lead the discussion and provide their expertise on the right to freedom of religion or belief in the given context.

U.N. Entities the Committee Engages with:

- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN Human Rights Council
- Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief
- Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights
- Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Greatest Achievement of the Committee

The greatest achievement of the Committee was our event titled *International Religious Freedom: A New Advocacy in Response to a New Age of Challenges and Threats*. Among an expert panel of speakers were a large number of event attendees, amounting to over 200 individuals. The event was held at the UN Headquarters and proved to be a great success at achieving our goal of promoting a better understanding of the current state of international religious freedom at the United Nations. The speakers highlighted some of the most pressing issues, such as blasphemy, apostasy, and anti-conversion laws, as well as provided event attendees with an opportunity to discuss plans for collaboration and best practices for future engagement.

Documents and Statements Produced by the Committee

[Letter on the Continuation of the Mandate of the Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion Outside the EU](#)

Social Media and Contact Links

The UN Committee on FoRB handles all communications via our website (www.unforb.org) and through our email list serv, which has approximately 150 subscribers.

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS / NY



Leadership of the Committee: (Elections planned for February/March 2022)

- Mr. Bruce Knotts - Co-Chair (Unitarian Universalist Association)
- Dr. Bobbi Nassar - Co-Chair (International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers)
- Dr. Scott Stearman - Executive Committee (Baptist World Alliance)
- Adem Carroll - Executive Committee (Justice for All)

Aims and objectives of the Committee:

The purpose of the NGO Committee on Human Rights is to encourage the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the United Nations Charter. This is accomplished by a. encouraging UN bodies and agencies to include human rights frameworks in their planning and social policy considerations, b. acting as a forum which receives and shares information on human rights norms and standards, and c. cooperating with the UN departments, bodies, organizations and agencies to raise public awareness in order to promote, protect and defend human rights.

Membership of the Committee:

In 2019 we had 39 paying members, and the dues amount for Annual Membership is \$25.00

Significant activities of the Committee:

NGO Committee on Human Rights during 2020:

1. Informal meeting between the Third Committee and Civil Society: February 3, 2020 - United Nations Headquarters NGO Committee on Human Rights (Bobbi Nassar) presented oral intervention regarding the importance of NGO participation.

2. Roundtable on reprisals against human rights defenders, including for cooperation with the UN. February 10, 2020 - U. N. Headquarters; members of our committee presented on two examples of reprisals against our members (confidential)

3. NGO Committee on Human Rights meeting; focus on increasing access for all within and with the United Nations, February 26, 2020, Church Center. (This was the last in person meeting)

4. CSW 65 Parallel Event: Violence at Home and Beyond. March 17, 2020 (virtual)

5. Our Goal of World Community: The UN at 75. October 22, 2020 (virtual)

6. "The Rights to Joy: Women of African Descent Ascending" Panelists included Professor Pia Raymond, Rev/ Traci Blackmon, Dr. Iva Carruthers, and Rev. Alicia R. Forde. Panelists shared what joy means to them; its positive effects on mental health, and self-preservation as a tool for social justice. December 8, 2020 (virtual).

Concept: Against this year's challenges, women and girls of African descent have magnificently persevered, despite constant threats to their human rights. This event seeks to affirm their acts of resistance and strength amid adversity and celebrate Black women and girls globally. Through Audre Lorde's acclaimed concept of radical self-care, we look at the significance of claiming joy within this community and healthy spiritual well being for resilience-building and healing during this time. the NGO Committee on Human Rights was a co-sponsor along with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, 2021 Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, NYU Silver Graduate Student Association, and Justice for all.

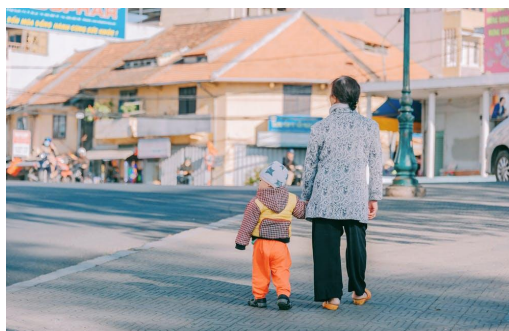
NGO Committee on Human Rights during 2021 (there were more events that followed this event)

1. NGO Committee on Human Rights "Upholding and Undermining White Supremacy -how contemporary religious identity does both." Speakers: Robert Jones, author of "White Too Long; The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity" and Alan H. Green, Broadway Actor, Anti-Racism activist, and Baptist Deacon. January 14, 2021 (virtual)

Concept: Robert Jones has recently published a well evidenced demonstration that White Supremacy and White Christianity share not only common roots but also contemporary synergies. This is counter-intuitive to many people of faith who share a conviction that faith (their religion) is anti-racist. This event highlighted and explored this commonplace misunderstanding and provided points of light, where religion plays a positive role in dismantling racism and upholding the dignity of all humans

U.N. Entities the Committee consult, work with, and involve in its work: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY (COIGENS)



Leadership of the Committee:

- Chair - Rosa Perla Resnick, NGO affiliation in progress
- Vice Chair – Susanne Seperson, GU, Generations United
- Treasurer - Kevin Brabazon, GU, Generations United
- Secretary - Tiana Smilow, AIWA, Armenian International Women's Association

Members-at-Large:

- Maria Grazia Zagami, New Humanity, Rome
- Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, Former International Civil Servants for Development (Greycells), Geneva

Aims and Objectives of the Committee:

The mission of the NGO Committee on Intergenerational Solidarity is to enjoin NGOs to promote solidarity between generations in families, communities and nations for the achievement of a society for all ages through education and advocacy of policies affecting economic, social, and political participation and well-being in accordance with the principles of

the UN by working with UN member states, the UN Secretariat and the wider civil society. The Committee will seek *consultation, collaboration and cooperation* with other NGO Substantive Committees and like-minded organizations.

The Committee will:

- a. Act as a forum to raise awareness and increase understanding and visibility of the interdependence of values and interests among generations and the opportunities and benefits of Intergenerational Solidarity in families, communities and nations through education and advocacy of policies affecting economic, social, and political participation and well-being
- b. Facilitate cooperation among its member organizations for the exchange of information, education and awareness, and for substantive discussions on the issues and policies related to all facets of Intergenerational Solidarity under United Nations consideration
- c. Advocate, recommend, and cooperate systemwide at the UN for the inclusion of Intergenerational Solidarity policies and issues to achieve a society for all ages.

Membership:

Full membership, supporting membership, student membership development is in progress. The annual fee is \$35.00 full membership. Paid 2020-21 membership will be extended through 2021-22 due to the pandemic.

Significant Activities of the Committee:

COIGENS Inaugural programme, United Nations, New York, NY, Oct. 4, 2019

Speakers and topics: H.E. Ambassador Martín García Moritán, *Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations*, “Intergenerational Solidarity and Human Rights”

Dr. Rosa Perla Resnick, *COIGENS Chair*, “The Theory and Practice of Intergenerational Solidarity”

Mr. Edward Ryan, *former AARP Representative to the UN*, “Grandparents in Action”

Ms. Jennifer Wright, *Student, New York University*, Intergenerational Learning through Technology”

Activities Co-sponsored or Co-organized:

United Nations 57th Symposium of the Commission for Social Development - Sustainable, Social Inclusive and Economically Positive Social Security Systems: Towards Eliminating Extreme Poverty by 2030, (CSocD57 Side Event), United Nations, New York, NY, Feb. 19, 2019.

SPONSORS: The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations; NGO Committee on Intergenerational Solidarity; and Generations United

Co-sponsors: NGO Committee on Ageing; and NGO Committee on the Family

The symposium sought to address the following Sustainable Development Goals:

GOAL 1: No Poverty; GOAL 2: Zero Hunger; GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being; and GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality by elucidating the social and economic aspects of social security systems and reviewing their profound impacts in ameliorating poverty and helping to achieve these goals in countries where they have been implemented. It is also important to note that social security programmes can contribute to social integration within societies as a result of their inherently intergenerational structures and policies. For example, poverty rates are highest globally amongst older persons and children – the two primary demographics addressed by social security. The positive impact of social security programmes on economic growth within a country has not been recognized until more recent years, e.g., the UN 2018 “Report on the World Social Situation.” This point is an important one for countries seeking to grow their economies since social protection programmes may be incorrectly viewed as a drag on the economy.

This symposium was moderated by Rosa Perla Resnick, Ph.D., *Chair, Transitional Leadership, NGO Committee on Intergenerational Solidarity*.

Speakers included: Alejandro Guillermo Verdier, *Deputy Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations*, who noted that economic policies are not enough to generate profound and long-term change if they do not consider “inclusion” as an essential component. In this sense, it is crucial to conceive social development as a process of transformation, which guarantees the full realization of the economic, political, social, civil and cultural rights of all people.

Susanne Bleiberg Seperson, Ph.D., *United Nations Representative, Generations United*, spoke about important social aspects of a social security system, such as shared values and commitments across generations, which should be built into social security programmes to improve social integration and inclusion, going beyond economic benefits alone. For example, enhanced pensions in return for volunteering with sectors of society which have unmet needs, revisions to the tax code, and job-sharing are other strategies to be considered.

Kevin Brabazon, *United Nations Representative, Generations United and Associate Professor, Stern School of Business, New York University*, addressed economic aspects of social security. He recommended the model of mandated savings developed in Chile by Jose Pinera be used since it is sustainable and is unaffected by demographic changes, such as population ageing; adding a Value Added Tax and a small payroll tax to include those who would otherwise be left out of the system; and asking workers to invest a percentage of their pension savings domestically to help ensure sustainability of economic growth.

Actively participated in the discussions of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing during its meetings at the United Nations, New York, NY 2018 and 2019.

UN Entities the Committee Consults & Involves in its Work

The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations; Generations United, NGO Committee on Ageing; NGO Committee on the Family

Greatest Achievement:

The fact that the Committee on Intergenerational Solidarity established March 3, 2018 in Geneva was able to elect officers, hold an inaugural meeting, co-sponsor a symposium, and numerous Board meetings, and remains in existence as a new NGO Committee with great ambitions despite the extreme limitations and stress brought on by the COVID pandemic. Specifically, members of the Board and supporters integral to its founding were faced with unexpected illness, grave family matters and loss; bureaucratic, financial and technological difficulties. COIGENS looks forward to being able to advance the mission of the Committee.

Relevant social media links currently in progress.

NB: We are extremely grateful to H.E. Ambassador Martín García Moritán, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Argentina to the United Nations, and the Mission for their strong support of COIGENS since its inception as a Standing Committee and earlier when we were a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Ageing.

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON LANGUAGE & LANGUAGES



A Report to the CoNGO General Assembly on Initial Activity of the Committee

Co-coordinators: Humphrey Tonkin & Francis M. Hult

The NGO Committee on Language and Languages was first proposed some three years ago and finally constituted in a virtual meeting on Thursday, September 9. The organizations listed below were registered as founding members.

Assisted by the First Vice President of CoNGO, Cyril Ritchie, the CoNGO President, Levi Bautista, explained the duties, obligations, and opportunities associated with CoNGO's Substantive NGO Committees. Ten of the CoNGO Rules relate directly to these committees: see <http://ngocongo.org/ngo-committees/substantive-committees>. A small working group was set up to review the draft by-laws and plan the initial activities of the committee. It seemed likely that the Committee would begin work virtually and perhaps at a later date shift to a combination of virtual and in-person meetings. Given that this is the only NGO Committee to take as its charge issues of language at the UN, it seemed sensible to include NGOs in all parts of the world, and particularly those active in Geneva and Vienna as well as New York.

1. AIIC (International Association of Conference Interpreters)
2. CGFNS International, Inc.
3. Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry
4. FAWCO (Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas)

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5. International Progress Organization
 6. Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
 7. Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH)
 8. Teresian Association
 9. United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
 10. Universal Esperanto Association
 11. Universal Peace Federation
 12. WUZDA Ghan
 13. VIVAT International
 14. Armenian Assembly of America
 15. International Association of Schools of Social Work
 16. International Presentation Association
 17. Appui Solidaire pour le Renforcement de l'aide au développement
 18. The United Kingdom Grand Priory of the International Knightly Order Valiant of St. George (KVOSG)
 19. FIT (International Federation of Translators)
 20. Legion of Good Will
 21. International Council of Nurses
 22. Nonviolence International

DGC NGOs:

23. American Medical Women's Association
24. Italian Diplomatic Academy

Non-Affiliates:

25. Red T

The draft by-laws of the committee emphasize the general area of activity to be undertaken:

Multilingualism is a founding principle of the UN. With the six official and working languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the six official and three working languages (English, French, and Spanish) of the Economic and Social Council, the two working languages (English and French) of the Secretariat, the range of languages used for information dissemination by the Department of Global Communications, and the work of linguists such as translators and interpreters, matters of language and relationships between different languages and their users touch all aspects of the work of the UN, both internally and externally. Moreover, both the United Nations Charter (Article 1) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 2) affirm the right to non-discrimination based on language.

More specifically, the by-laws lay out the purpose and role of the committee

The purpose of the committee is to promote understanding of the importance of language, linguistic justice, and linguistic non-discrimination through enhanced NGO relations with, inter alia, the Office of the Coordinator for Multilingualism, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of Global Communications, UNESCO, the International Telecommunication Union, and other relevant UN Offices, and UN member states; and through improved communications among concerned NGOs in New York, Geneva, and Vienna.

The role of the Committee is to coordinate NGO activities so as to reinforce the efficacy of the United Nations system in the areas of language rights, language policies, and language practices, and to stress the importance of the linguistic dimension of all UN activities and programmes.

A first meeting of the Committee has been tentatively scheduled for December 7, at which the Coordinator for Multilingualism, Mr. Movses Abelian, Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management will brief the committee on the state of multilingualism at the UN. Additional speakers from UN entities and civil society will also be invited to represent a variety of perspectives.

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE FOR RARE DISEASES



Aims and Objectives:

The NGO Committee for Rare Diseases aims to bring greater political recognition of the challenges of persons living with a rare disease (PLWRD) at the global level.

Main objectives:

- To increase visibility of PLWRD within the United Nations System.
- To extend and share knowledge about PLWRD and their unmet needs.
- To connect NGOs interested in rare diseases and their partners within a global platform.
- To promote multi-stakeholder collaboration and actions for PLWRD at the global level.
- To align rare diseases as a global priority in public health, research, and medical and social care policies.

The goals of the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases are fully aligned with many of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and support the UN's vision to create a world where every single human can lead a dignified life and "no one is left behind".

Leadership & Governance:

The NGO Committee for Rare Diseases was initiated by the Ågrenska Foundation and EURORDIS – Rare Diseases Europe and its inception as a Substantive Committee within CoNGO took place in October 2015 in New York. The formal inauguration of the Committee took place on the 11 November 2016 at the UN headquarters in New York, in cooperation with Rare Diseases International.

The governance of the Committee is now led by the current members of the Executive Board: Ågrenska, EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe, International Alliance of Patients' Organizations,

International Alliance of Women, International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, World Federation of Hemophilia, and Rare Diseases International (RDI), which represent all of their members within the Committee and are the expression of civil society speaking on behalf of PLWRD within ECOSOC and the UN system.

Officers

- Anders Olauson (Ågrenska) – Chair
- Yann Le Cam (EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe) – Vice-Chair
- Robert Hejdenberg (Ågrenska) – Secretary
- Durhane Wong-Rieger (Rare Diseases International) – Treasurer

Activities of the Committee:

A selection of notable activities and outcomes from the period 2018 to 2021: • 13 June 2018 – Delivery of an oral statement at the United Nations Conference on Disability

The representative from the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases was among the few civil society representatives allowed to make a statement during the General Debate of the Conference. The statement called for the UN to ‘pay attention to the diversity within the community of people living with disability and ensure that PLWRD across all regions of the world are not in fact left behind’ in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- 25 June 2018 – Official Statement at Human Rights Council highlighting the Human Rights of PLWRD

A statement was submitted to the 38th Session of the Human Rights Council endorsing the messages laid out in the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases publication ‘The ‘Right to Health’ in Rare Diseases’ (input to the OHCHR Report on the contributions of the right to health framework to the effective implementation and achievement of the health-related SDGs).

The Official Written Statement reinstated how several of the challenges faced by PLWRD intersect the main pillars of the “right to health” framework including Accessibility, Availability, Participation and Good Quality, meaning that rare diseases must be addressed as both a human rights and public health issue.

- 15 October 2018 – Report to UN General Assembly by UN Special Rapporteur on Rights of Persons with Disabilities calls for support of rare disease community

The report, presented to the Third Committee of the UNGA by Catalina Devandas, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (PWD), highlighted that a “lack of accurate diagnosis and effective treatments for the majority of rare diseases represents a challenge worldwide” and called on states to “consider developing and implementing policies and practices targeting the most marginalized groups of persons with disabilities”, including PLWRD.

This was the outcome of advocacy efforts from the NGO Committee of Rare Diseases and its members including a contribution made to the report ahead of its publication, and attendance at the Expert Group Meeting on the right of PWD to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in Geneva, and the COSP on the CRPD in New York.

- 21 February 2019 – Rare Disease Day Policy Event at the United Nations (Second High-Level event of the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases)

The Second High-Level event of the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases was organised by Ågrenska, EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe and Rare Diseases International, and took place in the UN Headquarters in New York to mark the occasion of Rare Disease Day 2019.

The event was held under the patronage of HRH The Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations and co-hosted by 14 Permanent Missions from: Belgium, Brazil, Cyprus, France, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malta, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates.

During the event, which hosted a long list of prominent speakers from the global rare disease community and the UN system, the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases launched a call for:

- The integration of rare diseases into the 2019 UN Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage (UHC),
- A UN General Assembly Resolution on addressing the challenges of PLWRD. Full report on the event
- 15 May 2019 – OHCHR refers to rare diseases in report to ECOSOC on Universal Health Coverage

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) made reference to PLWRD within its [annual report](#) to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The 2019 report focused on the topic of UHC and looked at how the human rights framework can contribute to the conceptualization and implementation of UHC.

The NGO Committee for Rare Diseases has established an ongoing dialogue with the OHCHR since 2017 and contributed input to this report, which ensued in establishing PLWRD as one of the ‘groups in focus’ within the ‘Key human rights challenges to extending health coverage’. The report concluded that *“the principle of non-discrimination applies to universal health coverage, and its protection is available for [...] groups and populations that are usually excluded, such as [...] persons living with rare diseases”* and that *“States should ensure, in particular, that the legal and policy framework addresses discrimination in access to health care and services, ensures effective access to medicines, therapies and technologies for all persons without discrimination, and protects the rights of persons living with rare diseases, [...] including through the use of special measures where appropriate”*.

- 23 May 2019 – Rare diseases are featured for the first time on the agenda of the World Health Assembly

Rare Diseases International (RDI), together with the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases, contributed towards formal and informal events which focused on the importance of including PLWRD to leave no one behind in Universal Health Coverage.

The formal side event, part of the official WHA agenda and sponsored by the Permanent Missions from the European Union, Romania and Kuwait, used rare diseases case-studies as an example to highlight the potential of digital health to achieve UHC. The event was co-sponsored by an additional nine Member States which demonstrated high level of interest and support.

The informal side event held at the Red Cross Museum served to present the rare disease community's position on UHC, following the publication of RDI's position paper published in April 2019, endorsed by the NGO Committee.

More information on events.

- 8 July 2019– Rare diseases mentioned in the Human Rights Council Resolution on Access to medicines and vaccines

The NGO Committee for Rare Diseases worked with the OHCHR to include a mention of rare diseases in [A/HRC/41/L.13](#) Human Rights Council Resolution on Access to medicines and vaccines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

The Resolution recognises *"the need to appropriately address challenges, gaps, market failures and opportunities regarding the research and development of health technologies, availability and affordability to treat, inter alia, rare and neglected diseases"*.

- 23 September 2019 – UN Member States include rare diseases in Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage

At a High-Level Meeting at the United Nations headquarters, UN Member States adopted a political declaration on UHC that included a mention of rare diseases. This marked a hugely significant milestone for the rare disease community, with rare diseases being included for the first time within a UN declaration adopted by all 193 Member States.

This inclusion is the result of years of coordinated advocacy work from a number of organisations and led by the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases and its members. At a political level, the inclusion of rare diseases alongside communicable and non-communicable diseases, impairments and disabilities, means PLWRD are no longer invisible to the international health policy agenda. At a practical level, the text also provides leverage for local stakeholders to call for national action to provide health services for PLWRD.

- 14 & 15 May 2020 – NGO Committee contributes to successful online European Conference on Rare Diseases (ECRD)

The 10th edition of the [European Conference on Rare Diseases & Orphan Products 2020](#) took place exclusively online for the first time with an unprecedented record 1,500 participants from 57 countries and 100+ expert speakers.

The NGO Committee for Rare Diseases supported the conference as a full partner. Members of the NGO Committee board participated in the conference as session chairs and speakers, including Chair Mr. Anders Olauson, Vice-Chair Mr. Yann Le Cam, Secretary Mr. Robert Hejdenberg, and Treasurer Ms. Durhane Wong-Rieger.

An entire theme of the ECRD 2020 focused on international policy and looked at the human rights of PLWRD. It was a chance to discuss the paradigm shifts needed to ensure inclusion in society and make the UN principle to 'leave no one behind' a reality.

- 6 July 2020 – NGO Committee endorses statement on equity and protection of PLWRD in COVID-19 response and recovery

The [statement](#), published by NGO Committee member Rare Diseases International (RDI), launched a call to Member States and other relevant stakeholders to eliminate the risk of exacerbating pre-existing inequalities, and protect PLWRD from being discriminated and becoming even more vulnerable in COVID-19 response and recovery strategies, as well as long-term health system restructuring plans.

In the statement, RDI highlighted the impacts of the pandemic on the rare disease community, the role that organisations representing PLWRD took on during the crisis, and a series of recommendations to ensure the protection of this vulnerable population.

- 4 March 2021 – Third High-Level Event of the NGO Committee to mark Rare Disease Day: Call for a UN Resolution on addressing the challenges of PLWRD and their families

The NGO Committee for Rare Diseases held its [third High-Level Event](#), organised online by RDI and EURORDIS, to mark Rare Disease Day 2021 and launch a global call for the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a Resolution addressing the challenges of PLWRD and their families at its 76th Session.

Civil society partners presented their [Key Asks](#) for this resolution and presented a [video of support](#) to the cause of PLWRD at the UN. The High-Level Event counted with the interventions from UN Member States representatives from Brazil, Qatar, Spain, France, Thailand, and Japan. In addition, Nata Menabde, Executive Director at the WHO Office at the UN, and Todd Howland, Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch at the OHCHR, issued statement of support.

- 7 July 2021 – Official Side-Event to the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) co sponsored by the Core Group of Member States tabling the UN Resolution on PLWRD

The event was entitled 'On the road towards COVID-19 recovery and delivery of the SDGs: Addressing the challenges of persons living with a rare disease as a sustainable development, human rights, and equity priority'. It was officially co-sponsored by Permanent Missions of

Spain, Brazil, and the State of Qatar to the UN – the Core Group of Member States promoting the UN Resolution – together with the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases, RDI and EURORDIS.

The online event was attended by over 300 participants from 61 countries across the globe and was opened by high-level representatives from the Core Group with a keynote address by Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Director of the New York Office of the OHCHR. Discussions revolved around how addressing the challenges faced by PLWRD advances the UN 2030 Agenda and the commitment to “Leave No One Behind.”

• 7 to 9 September 2021 – Organization of UN Regional Group Meetings on the UN Resolution on PLWRD and their families

Together with EURORDIS and RDI, the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases co-organized with the Core Group of Member States, six UN Regional Group meetings as well as one with the EU Delegation to the UN. These closed meetings were the opportunity for other Member States to hear the testimonies of the community of PLWRD on the value of a UN Resolution. It was also the opportunity for the Core Group to provide details on the informal negotiations that they were launching ahead of discussions at the Third Committee of the UNGA. These informal negotiations planned for the end of September and beginning of October, aimed at engaging positively other Member States and reach consensus on the UN Resolution.

Concluding 2021 and looking forward

The NGO Committee is working steadily towards its objectives for the rare disease community: Extending knowledge and visibility at the global level, as well as promoting collaborative initiatives and the prioritisation of rare diseases in research and policy.

Looking back on 2018-2021 we are pleased to conclude that our activities, including the two high-level events at the UN and online, and the events at the WHA, together with our contributions to different reports, in cooperation with the rare disease community at large, are making a difference to bringing the challenges of PLWRD into the global agenda.

In 2021, the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases is hopeful that the draft proposal for a UN Resolution on addressing the challenges of PLWRD and their families will be adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly by December of this year.

The NGO Committee for Rare Diseases is also in the midst of preparations towards its Fourth High Level Event which will be organized at the World Expo in Dubai (United Arab Emirates) on the 28th February 2022, with the support of the Swedish government and its co-founders Ågrenska, Rare Diseases International and EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe. This event will be the opportunity to discuss how key global intergovernmental commitments, like the UN Political Declaration on UHC and the draft UN Resolution, are key achievements to raise awareness and visibility, and must trickle down to the regional and national levels. The all-day meeting will include multi-stakeholder panels exploring ways to increase international collaboration and synergies needed to make rare diseases a policy priority at all levels. In particular, it will focus on the African region, as it is increasingly emerging to the issue and fostering a favourable environment for the creation of pan-African networks in the field of rare diseases.

Moving forward the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases is therefore energized and motivated to continue building momentum, with events and policy contributions, extending our function as a platform for the global rare disease community, and contributing to giving voice to the 300 million people worldwide living with a rare disease.

Social Media:

website: ngocommitteearediseases.org

CoNGO 27th General Assembly 2021

REPORT OF

THE NGO COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES / NY



Leadership / Executive Committee:

- Chair - Roberto Múkaró Borrero, Taíno, United Confederation of Taino People
- Treasurer- Sandra Sheridan, Sunray Meditation Society
- Corresponding Secretary – Daniel Leblanc, OMI and VIVAT International
- Recording Secretary – Elaine Congress, IFSW
- Member-at-Large- Rick Chavolla, Kumeyaay
- Member-at-Large- Joseph Wronka, IASSW

The NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples includes Indigenous Peoples representative organizations and institutions, international NGOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), University faculty and students, as well as others interested in indigenous issues and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples.

Mission:

Support activities related to Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations; Promote the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the work of the three indigenous-focused UN mechanisms including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also seeks to educate the international community about the concerns and issues facing Indigenous Peoples.

Membership:

United Confederation of Taino People, Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, Ramapough Lenape Nation, Sandhill Band of Lenape and Cherokee, The Grail, IPA, Sunray Meditation Society, IASSW, General Board of Church and Society United Methodist Church, TLRDCMF, Proclade International, Encompass- Paradigm Shifts, National Space Society, The Salvation Army, Temple of Understanding, World Christian Life Community, OMI and VIVAT International, Oklahoma State University, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc, Yale University- Masters Program, UFER, The Grail, Sabita Mother and Children Foundation, Inc., Solidarity For Developing Communities, Solar One, Franciscans International, Inc., International Public Policy Institute, Yachay Wasi, Tribal Link Foundation, Fordham University, Indigenous Armenian.

The amount of the annual contribution fee is \$25.00 per NGO/CBO with a Regular Member and an Associate Member category. These fees provide support for Indigenous peoples for transportation, special projects, honorariums, events.

Significant activities of the Committee:

The Committee has held regular monthly meetings including during the pandemic. Our meetings are focused on and raising visibility of Indigenous issues. Throughout 2018- 2021 either at the regularly- held business meetings or on other dates, the Committee organized special events/programs on its own or in collaboration with other organizations or CoNGO Committee. Here are some of the highlights:

2021

1. April 2021 - Guest Speaker - Dr. Alfred de Zayas - “The right to self-determination and Indigenous Peoples Within the Context of a Socially Just Democratic and Equitable International Order.” Dr. De Zayas is a lawyer, writer, historian in the field of human rights and international law and retired high-ranking United Nations official.
2. June 2021 - Guest Speaker – Chief Dwaine C. Perry, Ramapo Lenape Nation. The Ramapough Lenape people are local to New York/New Jersey areas. He spoke about the Ramapough-Mohawk Alliance & Museum Reception.
3. February 2021 - Renee Hunter- Shinnecock Nation elder -the Shinnecock Nation is the oldest self-governing tribe in NY State located in eastern Long Island, the town of Southampton. She spoke about the continual conflicts with encroaching development, land and water rights.

2020

1. October 2020 - Keynote Speaker: Professor Darlando Khathing- Vice-Chancellor at North East Christian University (NECU), Nagaland, India. The first University in the country (India) to be recognized by the Quality Council of India (QCI) as a PrCB provider for Traditional Community Health Providers (TCHPs) as of October 2018. The purpose of the program: To recognize, promote, research, and conserve traditional healing practices while encouraging the

development of human resources to facilitate knowledge and creation. He spoke on traditional, indigenous healing practices of the region of Northeast India.

2. November 2020 - Guest Speaker -Elsa Stamatopoulou, Director, Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program, Columbia University, was the first Chief of Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Former Chief of the New York Office, OHCHR.

3. April 2020 - Update on Coronavirus in Indigenous Communities - Indigenous Community in NYC and Beyond - Rick Chavolla, American Indian Community House, NYC.

Activities Initiated, sponsored/cosponsored: The NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples continually sponsors/cosponsors numerous side events at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. For example, in 2019 we sponsored/co-sponsored seven side events. We were also sponsor/cosponsor of events with other CoNGO Committees.

Indigenous Health Subcommittee - The NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has established the Indigenous Health Subcommittee which meets regularly focusing on Indigenous Health practices around the world and has sponsored/cosponsored various Indigenous Health events.

U.N. Entities: Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch – Secretariat of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, DISD, DESA. We meet regularly with the staff to learn more about plans for the Forum, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and other programs focusing on or of relevance to Indigenous Peoples and how we can contribute. The staff attends our meetings to provide updates as well as have conversation and discussion with Committee members.

2018 – 2021 – The NGO Committee has worked for many years to support the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Mechanisms and Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We continue to focus and shine a light on Indigenous Issues educating the international system as well as the local and national systems. The Committee has sent various letters of concern on Indigenous Issues nationally and internationally. For example, to the government of Columbia, the government of the U.S.

The Executive Committee meets regularly once a month to follow-up on Committee actions, administration, and business.

Social Media: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NGOCorIP/>

CoNGO 27th General Assembly 2021

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN / NY



Leadership of the Committee:

Chair: Houry Geudelekian, *Unchained At Last*

Vice Chair: Ivy Koek, *Soka Gakkai International*

Treasurer: Rosa Lizarde, *Feminist Task Force*

Communications Secretary: Saphira Rameshfar, *Baha'i International Community*

Recording Secretary: Azadeh Khalili, *International Alliance of Women*

Members-at-Large:

- Gillian D'Souza Nazareth, *Red Dot Foundation*
- Terry Dale Ince, *African Views*
- Margaretha Jones, *International Humanist and Ethical Union*
- Pamela Morgan, *Zonta International*

Ex-Officio: Susan O'Malley, *International Federation of Business and Professional Women*

Aims and Objectives of NGO CSW/NY:

Mission: NGO CSW/NY facilitates a platform for the voices and leadership of feminists and women's rights organizations globally who lobby for their inclusion in the UN deliberations in pursuit of gender equality.

Vision: We envision a world without sexism, sexual violence, or discrimination against women and girls, where economic, political, and social policies encourage their empowerment and wellbeing.

NGO CSW/NY is a coalition of civil society organizations (CSOs) and individuals concerned with gender equality. Our main purpose is convening the global feminist and women's movement and ensuring their engagement at the United Nations, especially during the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Our primary project is organizing and hosting the annual NGO CSW Forum, which runs parallel to the CSW. This provides civil society the opportunity to engage in the CSW processes and sessions without ECOSOC-accreditation or a UN grounds pass.

Membership of NGO CSW/NY:

We currently have over 350 paid members including individuals and organizations. The amount of the annual general membership fee is \$50. We also have an annual Youth Leaders & Young Professionals membership available for a fee of \$25.

Significant Activities of NGO CSW/NY:

NGO CSW Forum: NGO CSW/NY's main project is the annual [NGO CSW Forum](#). The NGO CSW Forum is the civil society side of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The Forum runs parallel to the official CSW session taking place at the UN Headquarters. This provides civil society the opportunity to engage in the processes and CSW sessions without ECOSOC-accreditation or a UN grounds pass.

Over the two weeks of the UN CSW, NGO CSW/NY organizes hundreds of events that inform, engage and inspire grassroots efforts and advocacy needed to empower women and girls. Some of the events that we host are Consultation Day, Orientation & Advocacy Training, Regional Caucuses, Conversation Circles, and Parallel Events organized by CSOs and NGOs around the globe.

Last year was our first 100% virtual NGO CSW Forum, given the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Over 27,000 advocates joined the 700+ events during the Forum, making it one of the largest gatherings of the women's movement and feminist civil society! To be able to virtually gather those who would be unable to attend in-person and produce these large numbers is an accomplishment in itself. The Forum provided a space for individuals and global organizations to share their work, network, and have their voices heard within the global, UN context. As a result, participants were also able to discuss the most pressing gender equality issues faced by civil society, learn about hundreds of organizations around the world, as well as participate in and learn about advocacy within the UN system.

For more information on the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum, read the report [here](#).

Advocacy:

Throughout the year, as well as during the NGO CSW Forum, we do advocacy work for feminist civil society and women's rights movements' inclusion at the UN and within the CSW processes. We host an Orientation & Advocacy Training session during CSW and have [advocacy resources](#) available to our community. We also have an [Advocacy Research Group \(ARG\)](#) who provides solicited and researched recommendations leading up to and during the CSW Outcome Document negotiations. The ARG researches issues raised in the CSW Priority Theme with input from NGO CSWs in the Regions and global civil society.

This year, we are especially concerned with advocacy for ensuring that CSW is effective, productive, and inclusive of civil society through the review of the CSW Methods of Work.

Information Sharing and Education:

Each month, we host a Monthly Meeting with a panel discussion about a topic related to gender equality to educate and engage our community about existent and emerging issues within the global feminist and women's rights movement. This year, all of our Monthly Meetings will address climate change in some way to align with the CSW priority theme. For the time being, all Monthly Meetings are held virtually via Zoom.

We also have a mailing list of around 40,000 subscribers. We often send out information about relevant events, sign-on statements, and updates to our listserv via Mailchimp. We also send out monthly newsletters that provide updates on everything NGO CSW/NY is working on, as well as select information from other organizations/groups.

Youth Leaders & Young Professionals (YLYPs):

The mission of our [Youth Leaders & Young Professionals program \(YLYPs\)](#) is to amplify the voices of youth leaders and young professionals, providing a platform for their perspectives on gender equality and channels for their advocacy at the United Nations. We convene young people to consult and contribute to the advancement of the international feminist movement.

There are currently over 2,400 people in our global YLYP community! Some of the notable YLYP activities are a mentorship program, the NGO CSW65 Young Feminist Awards, and a Youth Preparation Series for NGO CSW65. Read more about the YLYPs and what they do [here](#).

Civil Society Convener for the Generation Equality Forum (GEF):

To convene, mobilize, and consult with civil society, UN Women tasked NGO CSW/NY as convener of global civil society for the [Generation Equality Forum](#). Our first action as convener was to form the Advisory Working Group (AWG), a group of over 600 global civil society members who were instrumental in ensuring that all voices were heard and represented in the GEF process. The AWG consulted the Civil Society Advisory Group to the Core Group (CSAG) to make sure that they were representing the needs and priorities of global civil society. AWG members were encouraged to provide input into GEF and Beijing+25 processes.

We were also happy to help facilitate the work of the [Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan \(fwMAP\)](#) which engaged around 6,000 members of global civil society.

Out of the AWG, 5 volunteers formed a selection committee to choose 21 members of the CSAG through a civil society-led process. Throughout the two years of the GEF preparation process, NGO CSW/NY, represented by our Chair, played an important role in the involvement and engagement of global civil society in the GEF.

UN Entities that NGO CSW/NY Consults and Works With:

We work closely with UN Women to update each other on the CSW and NGO CSW Forum and work together to ensure that civil society is meaningfully involved in the CSW processes. UN Women representatives often update and provide information to our community during Monthly Meetings and the NGO CSW Forum.

Greatest Achievements of NGO CSW/NY:

The greatest achievement of NGO CSW/NY was the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum. We were able to convene over 27,000 participants, host 700+ events, and create a sense of community that has been largely lost since having to work virtually during the COVID-19 global pandemic. [Read all about the virtual Forum to learn about its planning, outcomes, and aspects.](#)

Another significant achievement of NGO CSW/NY was our role as civil society convener for the Generation Equality Forum. As the host of the NGO CSW Forum, convening thousands of global activists annually, we are proud that UN Women tasked us with convening civil society organizations and activists around the world to come together for a transformative, multi-stakeholder campaign and the culminating events. While the GEF process was of course not perfect and had its challenges, it was ultimately a huge success that resulted in \$40 billion in commitments for gender equality. NGO CSW/NY is proud and grateful to have played a part in this success and the exciting outcomes.

Documents Produced by NGO CSW/NY:

[NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum Report:](#) This report outlines the planning, implementation, and outcomes of the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum, as well as how we plan to improve future Forums.

[Civil Society Zero Draft Recommendations:](#) Prepared by our [Advocacy Research Group](#) (ARG), this document has recommendations for the CSW65 Agreed Conclusions document. These recommendations are based on several months of collaborative research and outreach by members of all the NGO CSWs in the Regions.

[Key Critical Issues One-Pagers:](#) The ARG also compiled one-pagers on the critical issues identified in the UN Women Report of the Expert Group on the CSW65 priority theme. Six key critical issues and actions for advocacy were identified, with input from all regions, and researched in the hope that advocates participating in CSW65 might use these one-pagers as tools for their own interactions.

- [Transformational change](#)
- [Decision making](#)
- [Informal spaces](#)

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- [Representative institutions](#)
 - [Social norms](#)
 - [Violence](#)

[Youth Perspectives on Key Issues Affecting Women:](#) The document is a summary of the results of a Youth Survey on the six critical issues above.

[Virtual Safety Guidelines:](#) This document lists the set of virtual safety guidelines that we follow and uphold throughout all of our virtual events, meetings, and spaces.

[Advocacy Training Guide:](#) Our Advocacy Training guide for women's human rights and feminist activists at the UN helps build the capacity of NGOs and women's human rights activists to advocate for the rights and empowerment of women and girls. The guide is available in 5 languages.

Social Media and Contact Links:

- website: ngocsw.org
- Twitter: @NGO_CSW_NY
- Instagram: @NGO_CSW_NY
- Facebook: facebook.com/NGOCSWNY
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/ngocsw-ny
- YLYPs LinkedIn: linkedin.com/showcase/youth-leaders-and-young-professionals/

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/ NY



Here is our 2021 report of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY regarding our work within the UN Community especially during the pandemic and in connection with the UN75th Anniversary for the UN We Need. We are Coalition Partners of the Coalition for the UN We Need and we are Partners of the official UN Friends of World Ocean Day website.

Our Motto is: "Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change" & Awareness, Advocacy & Action: for Sustainable Results

Membership

Our Annual membership dues are \$50 for all members and donations are always welcome. We are still averaging about \$2,500 with \$3,500 per year to cover our costs related to our webinars.

Significant activities of the Committee:

We continue to be passionately dedicated to working in partnership with stakeholders from all sectors to support the success of UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The UN Secretary-General released his recent "Our Common Agenda" report for the UN76th General Assembly sharing the importance following the global impact of the pandemic for the UN to make an effort to become more inclusive of CSOs and other stakeholders.

We continue to collaborate with our civil society partners to develop meetings and this year webinars with topics and activities that focus on building back better and how the SDGs are our best road map to overcome this crisis for all communities. We have continued to hold monthly

webinars and sometimes twice-monthly sessions on important topics related to the pandemic and the SDGs.

We have been a Co-Sponsor with other groups supporting their webinars. Please kindly check under our website: www.ngocsd-ny.org for more information and details under our NGOCS-D-NY TEAM, plus our meetings and events to see our Executive Board members and the lists of our monthly agendas and activities.

The purpose of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY is to monitor and influence the implementation of the commitments and agreements adopted by the United Nations that pertain to sustainable development as defined by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the MDGs, the SDGs, Rio+20 and Post-2015 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Agenda. We seek to be knowledgeable about sustainable development issues under discussion or expected to be discussed by the United Nations for the High Level Political Forum. We focus attention and promote the programs of the United Nations on 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the success of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, working closely with relevant UN commissions and agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the Centre for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), UNDP, UNDESA, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDPPI and UNODA. We promote and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and the dissemination of information on sustainable development issues within the NGO community and to the general public to raise awareness toward an action agenda. We work with Ambassadors and Permanent Missions to the United Nations, members of civil society, academia, women, youth, people with disabilities, indigenous leaders, members of the private sector and sustainable development experts in energy, water, climate change, and infrastructure to bring about partnerships and collaborations that foster innovative solutions for sustainable development, social impact initiatives and gender equality issues.

UN Entities:

The NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY is officially associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications. We are a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

We look forward to supporting and collaborating with our CoNGO colleagues throughout 2022 and beyond to create more opportunities for CSO partnerships with all stakeholders both at the United Nations and globally.

Social Media:

website: ngocsd-ny.org

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING / VIENNA



Committee Leadership:

- Chair - Jacqueline Stark (IFA)
- Vice-Chair - Shantu Watt (INPEA)
- Vice-Chair – Dirk Jarré (EURAG)
- Secretary – Rita Assogna (IFBPW)
- Vice-Secretary – Christine Peer (SI)
- Treasurer - Ceja Gregor-Hu (IIW)
- Vice-Treasurer – Dr. Gertraud Ribitsch (ZONTA)

The NGO CoA in Vienna resumed its work at a first meeting on February 1, 2021. Due to the lockdown it was not possible to meet in the UN in Vienna. This and the following meetings on a monthly basis through June and then again starting in September and October were held online. The agendas and the minutes of the meetings accompany this summary. At each meeting recurrent topics including the following:

- a. Discussion of ways to move forward regarding the three SDGs previously selected by the committee to follow up on;
- b. Discussion of the plans for the UNIDOP event 2021 and the Decade of Healthy Ageing;

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- c. Decision on topics/issues for smaller groups of members of the committee to work on;
 - d. Actualization of our website
 - e. Report on relevant events members of the committee participated in (e.g., UNECE Workshop and other webinars)

The topics selected for group participation include:

1. Digitalization
2. Human Rights
3. Intergenerational perspectives
4. Cultural perspectives

It was proposed that the groups meet separately and each would give a report on their discussions. To date not much has been undertaken by each group.

Preparations were made on the topics and possible speakers for the UN IDOP event to be held on October 1, 2021. Two topics were decided on: Issues related to ethics and crime, i.e. cybercrime with regard to older persons. Dr. Thomas Frühwald and Dr. Inge Geyer were asked to recruit speakers for those topics. Up until October 1st much time was spent taking care of the preparations in cooperation with the International Federation on Ageing, which had agreed to host the event.

For the meeting on March 1st Dr. Thomas Frühwald gave a talk on: 'Frailty- a multidimensional geriatric syndrome: Normal ageing or disease?'

At the May 3rd meeting Mag. Karin Eder (Leitung des Österreichischen Instituts für Validation,

Advanced Practice Nurse (Management & Education) gave a talk on: '#demenzraum - An Easy-Access Online Initiative to Inform Carers and People with Dementia'.

Univ.Prof. Dr. Stefanie Auer (Danube University Krems, Faculty of Health and Medicine) gave a talk on dementia at the meeting on: "Can dementia be prevented?" at the June 7th meeting. Dirk Jaärré gave a report on the EC Green Paper on Ageing: "Fostering solidarity and responsibility between generations" at the same meeting.

At the April 12th 2021 meeting two colleagues from the Social Ministry attended the meeting. Mag. Verena Schriebl (Social Ministry...) who will be taking over the position of Dr. Erika Winkler (who retired in May 2021) introduced herself and gave a report on the 4th UNECE-Implementation-Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action. She expressed her interest in working with our committee as her colleague Dr. Winkler had done over the years.

Mag. Christoph Angster (Social Ministry...) followed with a report on the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing Meeting (March 29-April1, 2021) and discussed issues on how we could work together in the future.

The online UN IDOP Vienna event on October 1st from 13:30 (CET) to 15:15 (CET) was very interesting. The speakers and titles included (enclosed is the program):

Prof. Barbara Prainsack (University of Vienna): *Ageing in the digital world - what is the role of solidarity?*

Prof. Ulrich Körtner (University of Vienna): *Ethical Issues of Digitalization and New Technologies*

Marie-Line Billaudaz (UNODC Cybercrime and Anti-Money-Laundering Section): *How can older people protect themselves from cybercriminals while enjoying the most of digital technologies?*

Prof. Nancy Helm-Estabrooks (Brewer-Smith Distinguished Professor Emerita in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western Carolina University) *Challenges for people with Acquired language Disorder in an increasingly digitized social world.*

The event was successful. For the rest of 2021 other talks are planned and preparations for the election of new board members.

Social Media:

website: <https://www.ngoageingvie.org/>

REPORT OF VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON DRUGS / VIENNA



📄 Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.pdf

The VNGOC is a coordinating body for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) around the world concerned with problems related to substances controlled under the three international drug control treaties. The purposes of the Committee include, inter alia:

- a. Supporting the activities of NGOs, and promoting contacts and collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and other relevant UN agencies, offices and fora.
- b. Promoting activities that lead to enhanced communication, cooperation and scientific, cultural and social exchanges between NGOs, UN agencies and member states.
- c. Promoting increased awareness about issues relating to controlled substances through the dissemination of news and information.
- d. Facilitating the representation of NGOs reflecting the broadest possible range of perspectives and groups involved, including affected populations.

The VNGOC was established in 1983, and is a legally registered not-for-profit corporation under Austrian law. The VNGOC office is registered in Vienna, although the Committee operates globally.

Membership:

The following organisations were VNGOC members as of December 2020:

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1. Acción Técnica Social
 2. Action Jeunesse pour le Développement
 3. ACTIS - Rusfeltets samarbeidsorgan / Norwegian Policy Network on Alcohol and Drugs
 4. Active - sobriety, friendship and peace
 5. Afghanistan Green Crescent Organization
 6. Afghanistan Relief & Sustainable Development Organization (ARSDO)
 7. African Action on AIDS
 8. African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development
 9. African Council on Narcotics
 10. African Development Assistance Consult
 11. Against bad habits public union
 12. Agencia Piaget para o Desenvolvimento
 13. AIDES
 14. AIDS Foundation East-West
 15. Al Hidn
 16. Alcohol and Drug Foundation
 17. Alcohol and drug Information Centre Sri Lanka
 18. Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies
 19. Americans for Safe Access
 20. Ana Liffey Drug Project
 21. Andean Information Network
 22. Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice (ARF)
 23. ANORW Police and Emergency Services of the Ottawa Watershed
 24. Anti-Corruption Association of NGO
 25. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas
 26. Asociacion Nacional de Investigación Criminológica y Formación Forense de España
 27. Asociacion Proyecto Hombre
 28. Associacao de Reabilitacao de Toxicodependentes de Macau
 29. Associação Pró Coalizões Comunitárias Antidrogas do Brasil
 30. Association des relais communautaires d'Oshwe
 31. Associazione Papa Giovanni XXIII
 32. Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Council
 33. Autamaimasa Health Foundation
 34. Auto-Support des Usagers de Drogues
 35. Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme
 36. Canadian Center on Substance Abuse
 37. Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids
 38. Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
 39. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network - Réseau juridique canadien VIH/sida
 40. Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy
 41. Celebrate Recovery / Proslavi Oporavak
 42. Center for Innovative and Pragmatic Development Initiative
 43. Center Point Inc.
 44. Centre For Drug Universal Researches, Approaches & Studies
 45. Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad
 46. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales
 47. Centro de Informacion y Education para la Prevencion del Abuso de Drogas
 48. Centro de Integracion Juvenil AC
 49. Centro Italiano di Solidarieta Don Mario Picchi di Roma
 50. CIAAG
 51. Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign
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| 52. Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth | Reform (ACT) Incorporated |
| 53. Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America | 84. Federação Brasileira de Comunidades Terapeuticas |
| 54. Community Development & Entrepreneurship Foundation | 85. European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies |
| 55. Community Restoration Initiative project | 86. Federation Addiction |
| 56. Comunità di Venezia Società Cooperativa Sociale | 87. Fédération bruxelloise francophone des institutions pour toxicomanes |
| 57. Concepts Foundation | 88. Federation of Austrian Professionals Working in the Field of Drugs (Österreichischer Verein für Drogenfachleute) |
| 58. Coordinating Network for Drug Abuse Control in Ethnic Communities | 89. Fields of Green for ALL NPC |
| 59. Correlation Network (De Regenboog Groep) | 90. Finnish Association for Humane Drug Policy (Humaania päihdepolitiikka ry) |
| 60. Croissant Vert Nigerien (CVN) | 91. Focus life rehabilitation and psychological treatment center |
| 61. Dalgarno Institute | 92. Fondacioni Yesilay (Green Crescent Albania Foundation) |
| 62. Daniel Nwankwo Foundation | 93. Foreningen for human narkotikapolitikk (the Association for Humane Drug Policies) |
| 63. Deutscher Jugendschutz Verband | 94. Föreningen Tryggare Ruspolitik |
| 64. Dhaka Ahsania Mission | 95. Forum Droghe |
| 65. Dianova International | 96. FORUT – Campaign for Development and Solidarity |
| 66. Dianova Portugal | 97. Foundation for a Drug Free Europe |
| 67. Diogenis | 98. Foundation for Alternative Approaches to Addiction – Think & do tank |
| 68. Drug Abuse Prevention Centre | 99. Foundation for Innovative Social Development |
| 69. Drug Free America Foundation | 100. Foundation of Polish Drug Policy Network |
| 70. Drug Free Australia | 101. Frontline AIDS (formerly International HIV/AIDS Alliance) |
| 71. Drug Free Pakistan Foundation (DFPF) | 102. Fundacion Atenea Grupo GID |
| 72. Drug Policy Alliance | 103. Fundacion Nocka Munayki |
| 73. Drug Policy Australia Limited | 104. Fundamental Human Rights & Rural Development Association |
| 74. Drug Reform Coordination Network | 105. Global Initiative on Substance Abuse |
| 75. ECHO | 106. Graduate Women International |
| 76. Elternkreis Wien | 107. Green |
| 77. EQUIS: Justicia para las Mujeres, AC | |
| 78. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association | |
| 79. Europe Against Drugs | |
| 80. European Cities Against Drugs | |
| 81. European Federation of Therapeutic Communities | |
| 82. European TC Foundation | |
| 83. Family and Friends for Drug Law | |
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| Crescent Australia | 135. International Centre for Science in Drug Policy |
| 108. Green Crescent Health Development Initiative | 136. International Council of AIDS Service Organisations |
| 109. Green Crescent Indonesia Foundation | 137. International Council of Women |
| 110. Green Crescent Kyrgyzstan | 138. International Council on Alcohol and Addictions |
| 111. Green Crescent of Congo DR | 139. International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies |
| 112. Green Crescent South Africa | 140. International Drug Policy Consortium |
| 113. Green Moon | 141. International Drug Policy Unit |
| 114. Groupement romand d'études des addictions | 142. International Federation of Non Governmental Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse |
| 115. Harm Reduction Australia | 143. International Federation of Social Workers |
| 116. Harm Reduction Coalition | 144. International Inner Wheel |
| 117. Harm Reduction International (International Harm Reduction Association) | 145. International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development |
| 118. Health Poverty Action | 146. International Network of People who Use Drugs |
| 119. Help not Handcuffs, Inc. | 147. International Police Association |
| 120. HPLGBT | 148. international police organization (internacionalna policijska organizacija) |
| 121. Human Rights Cell | 149. International Society of Addiction Medicine |
| 122. Human Rights Watch | 150. International Society of Substance Use Professionals |
| 123. Iglesia Evangélica Protestante de El Salvador | 151. International Society of Substance Use Professionals Pakistan |
| 124. Independent Narcological Guild | 152. IOGT - NTO |
| 125. Indonesia Gugus Semangat Anti Narkoba | 153. IOGT Norway |
| 126. Institute for Research and Development (UTRIP) | 154. IOGT-NTD Junior Association |
| 127. Instituto Internacional de Criminalística Aplicada | 155. Junior- og barneorganisasjonen |
| 128. Instituto RIA | 156. Just Say No Nepal |
| 129. Intercambios Asociacion Civil | 157. Juvente Norway |
| 130. International Agency for Crime Prevention, Criminal Law and Jurisdiction | 158. Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation |
| 131. International AIDS Society | 159. Kenya Economic Youth Network |
| 132. International Association for Applied Psychology | |
| 133. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care | |
| 134. International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research and Service | |
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| 160. Kethea | Zealand |
| 161. Kibris Yesilay Danismanlik Merkezi | 186. Nepal HIV/AIDS Alliance |
| 162. Knowledge Foundation | 187. Nepal NGO Society |
| 163. Knowmad Institut gemeinnützige UG
(haftungsbeschränkt)
Europäisches Institut für
multidisziplinäre Studien zu
Menschenrechten und
Wissenschaften | 188. New Line Social Organisation 189.
New Zealand Drug Foundation |
| 164. Kosova Yeşilay Cemiyeti/ Shoqëria
Hana e Gjellbërt e Kosovës | 190. Nierika A.C. Multidisciplinary
Association for the Preservation of
Indigenous Traditions of Sacred
Plants |
| 165. Kuchlak Welfare Society | 191. NoBox Transitions Foundation, Inc. |
| 166. Latin American and Caribbean
Network of People Who Use Drugs | 192. Observatorio Europeo del Consumo y
Cultivo de Cannabis |
| 167. Latinoamerica Reforma | 193. Odyssey House Louisiana, Inc. |
| 168. Lions Club International | 194. Open Society Institute |
| 169. M A Jinnah Foundation (regd, Sialkot | 195. Organizacao das Familias da Asia e do
Pacífico |
| 170. Mainline Foundation | 196. Organization for Addiction
Prevention Treatment and
Rehabilitation |
| 171. Malaysian AIDS Council | 197. Pakistan Youth Organisation |
| 172. Matua Raki, National Addiction
Workforce Development | 198. Pariwartan Sanchar Samuha |
| 173. Mentor International | 199. Parvarish Welfare Organisation |
| 174. Mexican Commission for the
Defense and Promotion of Human
Rights (Comisión Mexicana de
Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos
Humanos, A.C.) | 200. Penal Reform International |
| 175. México Unido contra la Delincuencia A.C | 201. Penington Institute |
| 176. Middle East and North Africa Harm
Reduction Association | 202. People Against Drug Dependence and
Ignorance |
| 177. Milo Shaheed Trust For The Control Of
Drug Abuse | 203. Persatuan PENGASIH Malaysia |
| 178. Moroccan Green Crescent | 204. Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau
Malaysia (Green Crescent) |
| 179. Movendi International (formerly
IOGT International) | 205. Prevention Information Lutte contre le
Sida |
| 180. Multidisciplinary Association for
Psychedelic Studies | 206. Rafia Bashir Trust |
| 181. Narconon Nigeria initiative | 207. Ray of Hope |
| 182. National Anti Drug Union | 208. Rebirth Charity Organisation |
| 183. National Association of Drug Court
Professionals | 209. Red Iberoamericana de ONG que
trabajan en Drogas y Adicciones |
| 184. National Drug Prevention Office | 210. Rede Brasileira de Reducao de
Danos e Direitos Humanos |
| 185. Needle Exchange Services New | 211. Release |
| | 212. Riksförbundet Narkotikafritt Samhälle
(National Association for a Drug-Free
Society) |
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| 213. San Patrignano Foundation | 241. Swedish Drug Users Union
(Svenska Brukarforeningen) |
| 214. Scottish Drugs Forum | 242. Swedish Youth Temperance
Organisation (Ungdomens
Nykterhetsförbund) |
| 215. Sdruzhenie Yeshilay - Balgaria | 243. Tanzania Green Crescent
Community |
| 216. Shine Africa Foundation | 244. TB/HIV Care Association |
| 217. Shola Mese Foundation | 245. The green crescent society-Palestine |
| 218. Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association | 246. The Interest Organization for
Substance Misusers |
| 219. Slum Child Foundation | 247. The Jordan Anti Drugs Society |
| 220. Smart Apporaches to Marijuana
(SAM) | 248. The Legends Society |
| 221. SMART Recovery International | 249. The National Organization for the
Reform of Marijuana Laws France |
| 222. Social Transformation Action
Defined | 250. The Salvation Army International
Social Justice Commission |
| 223. Sociedad Mexicana de Criminología
capítulo Nuevo León (SOMECRIMNL) | 251. Transform Drug Policy Foundation |
| 224. Society For Recovery Support | 252. Transnational Institute |
| 225. Society for the Advancement of Global
Understanding (Verein zur Förderung der
Völkerverständigung) | 253. Treatment Alternatives for Safe
Communities |
| 226. Society for the Promotion of Youth and
Masses | 254. tunisian green crescent |
| 227. Society of Cannabis Clinicians | 255. Turkish Green Crescent Society |
| 228. South Asian Drugs and Addictions
Research Council | 256. Udruzenje gradjana Zeleni
polumjesec u Bosni i Hercegovini |
| 229. South Caucasus Office on Drugs and
Crime | 257. Uganda Green Crescent Society |
| 230. Sovereign Military Order of the
Temple of Jerusalem | 258. Uganda Harm Reduction Network |
| 231. Spero | 259. Ugandan Youth Development Link |
| 232. Sri Lanka Federation of Non
Governmental Organizations Against Drug
Abuse (SLFONGOADA) | 260. Unified Initiative for a drug free
Nigeria |
| 233. Stardom Association | 261. Verein Neubeginn |
| 234. STIJENA RESOC | 262. Villa Maraini Foundation |
| 235. Students Community Against Drugs 236.
Students for Sensible Drug Policy | 263. Virginians Against Drug Violence |
| 237. Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Australia | 264. Washington Office on Latin America |
| 238. Sudanese Green Crescent Society | 265. Wellbeing Foundation |
| 239. Sunny Trust International | 266. Women and Harm Reduction
International Network |
| 240. Svetska Organizacija Sigurnosti | 267. Women's Federation for World
Peace International |
| | 268. Women's Organization Committee on
Alcohol and Drugs (Kvinnoorg) |
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| Samarbetsråd i Alkohol & Narkotikafrågor) | 274. Youth Organisation for Drug Action |
| 269. World Federation Against Drugs | 275. Youth RISE (Resource, Information, Support, Education) Limited |
| 270. World Federation of Therapeutic Communities | 276. Zeleni krst - Zeleni polumjesec |
| 271. World Hepatitis Alliance | 277. Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network |
| 272. Youth Initiative for Drug Research Information Support and Education in Nigeria (YouthRISE Nigeria) | 278. Zonta International |
| 273. Youth Net and Counselling | |

Work Plan and Budget 2021

In line with the Strategic Plan 2019-2021, approved by the VNGOC General Assembly on 19th of March 2019, the VNGOC Board will strive to:

- ▶ **Provide resources and support to develop NGO capacity to engage the relevant UN bodies on drug policy and related matters.**
- ▶ **Foster new, and utilise existing, opportunities for NGO engagement with relevant UN bodies on drug policy and related matters.**
- ▶ **Advocate for NGO inclusion in international debates concerning the implementation, impact and development of drug policies.**
- ▶ **Present a global, balanced NGO voice and/or position on drug policy at strategic national, regional and international events.**
- ▶ **Effective and efficient management and promotion of the Committee**

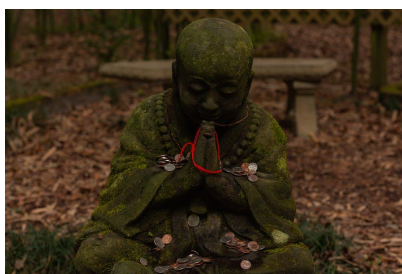
In 2021, the VNGOC Board will continue work to ensure a better regional representation and participation through ad-hoc working groups on regional engagement in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

VNGOC will continue to support and facilitate civil society inputs and engagement at the CND, the INCB Civil Society Hearing and other relevant UN meetings and fora. Finally it will work to further promote the NGO Marketplace platform as a valuable tool for all NGOs.

Social Media

In order to effectively disseminate updates and information about CND meetings, UNODC & VNGOC activities, speaking opportunities and other calls for inputs the VNGOC maintains a website, social media presence on Facebook and Twitter, and sends out regular emails to the membership and a broader audience.

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON PEACE / VIENNA



Leadership of CoP:

- Chair: Helga Kerschbaum, *Pax Romana*
- Co-Vice Chair: MariaRiehl, *WFWP*
- Co-Vice Chair: Pete Hämmerle, *IFOR*
- Treasurer: Gebhard Fidler, *VFV*
- Secretary: Christian Pavlowsky, *Soka Gakkai International*
- Alternate Secretary: Alfred Heiligenbrunner, *UEA*

Aims and Objectives of the UN NGO Committee on Peace:

For the period of this board 2018/2020 and 2020/2022 we have decided to focus on:

- Disarmament and esp. nuclear disarmament, but acknowledging the fact, that this is not enough to support peace in the world, we also put our focus on
- Global peace education and its promotion.

Global peace education seems to be an urgent need, if not a necessity in our time. We wanted to hear experts speak about it, but also supported its implementation.

The CoP wanted Global Peace Education to be part of the normal schooling system. We heard Experts at our meetings and wrote letters to the department of education. Our efforts were not in vain: We got the rewarding news from the ministry for education, that Peace Education will be part of the normal schooling system for all children from 2023/24 onwards.

Membership of the Committee:

The UN NGO Committee on Peace Vienna has 35 NGO members, all in good standing.

The annual membership fee of the CoP is € 27.—per year per NGO.

Significant Activities of the Committee:

Conform with the Standing rules of the Cop we had the following activities:

- Our regular programming ran from September to September in the UN City Vienna, but during Covid times per zoom meetings. Meetings attracted between 20-40 representatives of our member NGOs.
- We offer a platform for our members of the CoP for contact and networking and latest information from experts about the issues we focus on.

We held contact with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Education. We also wanted information, how the ministries of Austria implement the Resolutions of the UN. Both ministries answered our questions and gave information.

Monthly Meetings & Future Programming

Meetings in 2019:

23. January 2019 Ursula Gamauf: “Global Peace Education”

6. February 2019 Excursion to the Museum of Natural History, Austria’s big and most important museum in this field to view the exhibition : “The History of War”

27. March 2019 Valère Mantels: “Disarmament – state of affairs and the future of disarmament education”

24. April 2019 Mag.a.iur Sabine Bauer, LL.M: “Actual progress of CTBT and contribution of CTBTO to nuclear security and disarmament”

29. May 2019 Mr. Hans Peter Graß: “WhyWar.at” - a peace educational approach to “war and peace”

26. June 2019 Mr. Charles Lonsdale: “The present status and the outlook of conflict prevention done at the OSCE”

18. September 2019 Excursion to the Esperanto Museum, one of the world’s oldest language museums and one of the most important institutions of its kind

30. September 2019 Event for International Day for the total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

23. October 2019 Susanne Wiesinger “Global Peace education and the Clash of Cultures”

27. November 2019 Christine Muttonen “Abolishing Nuclear Weapons: is a Common Security approach needed?”

11. December 2019 CoNGO Meeting with a presentation of the CoP Vienna.

Meetings in 2020:

13. January 2020 Dr.K.J. Suryanarayanan: “An innovative approach to Peace Education”, followed by a presentation of the “Theatre of the Oppressed”.

26. February 2020 Clemens Wasner “Life in Times of Artificial Intelligence: how to avoid ethical pitfalls in AI Development” and Peter Haider: “Towards a Culture of Peace- Interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values”

28. April 2020 Statement of the CoP Vienna to Covid 19

6. May 2020 zoom General meeting: Election of the new board

20. May 2020 zoom Elena Sokova “Nuclear Weapons –status, support and chances for abolition and the role of NGOs”

24. June 2020 zoom Marit Alex “The case against killer robots – how every voice counts in the struggle to stop the loss of humanity”

21. October 2020 zoom Susanne Jalka “Commemorative Culture”

6. December 2020 zoom Barbara Stelzl-Marx “Children born of war: an invisible Generation”

Meetings in 2021:

17. February 2021 zoom Stephane Vazelle "Informal conversation of UN Peace and Security issues, including the role of civil society"

17. March 2021 zoom Klaus Renolder "Nuclear Weapons, what now? – The situation after the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons"

12. May 2020 zoom Angela Kane “The Biological Weapons Convention and its problems: Better coordination between the states and their exchange of information. The NGOs are called to set actions to raise awareness for this issue!”

23. June 2021 zoom Board Meeting to discuss ideas for the TPNW Conference in Vienna 2022

23. June 2021 zoom Ursula Gamauf-Eberhardt "ASPR's Peace education efforts during the pandemic"

27. October 2021 zoom Rotraud A. Perner “Why we urgently need peace education- and why as soon as possible”

1. December 2021 zoom planned: Hans-Karl Peterlini “UNESCO Chair Global Citizenship Education at the University of Klagenfurt– Culture of Diversity and Peace”

Planned Meetings in 2022:

26. January 2022 planned visit of our members to the Heeresgeschichtliche Museum (museum for the history of armies), where we want space provided to present peace and its importance.

UN Entities the Committee consult, work with and involve in its work:

- With UNODA we have meetings and common events like the “International Day for the total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons”
- UN Information Service Vienna, like for
- The interview for the ORF, the National TV station, of the Chair of the CoP on the premises of the Vienna International Center about UN Resolutions on Peace Education
- Efforts to have the film “Wars don’t end” shown at the UN Vienna
- Establish contacts with the UN Liaison Office for Peace and Security.
- The desired contact and cooperation with UNESCO Paris unfortunately did not work out. The CoP wanted to know what to expect from the planned future developments of UNESCO, as the Agenda 2030 was published already in 2015, 6 years ago, to inform member NGOs about, but got no valid information.

And we are in contact with UN Protocol, they organize rooms for the meetings of the CoP at the UN premises VIC.

Greatest achievement of the UN NGO Committee on Peace Vienna:

- To receive the news that the efforts of the CoP member NGOs working for the implementation of Peace and Citizenship Education in all schools for all children were successful, and also the efforts of the Committee as such, to have these educations in Austrian schools from 2023/24 onwards.
- Planned are side events organized by the CoP and its NGOs at the coming TPNW Conference in Vienna in 2022.

The CoP Vienna has contributed to the Oral statement CSW63 2019.

The CoP Vienna is not present in social media.

May I present my personal experience as chair of the CoP Vienna in supporting the implantation of Global Peace Education for all pupils in Austria:

It seems to me that the UN Resolutions are much more advanced than the situation in the country, f.e. Austria and that there is at the moment a gap between the work of the UN and the people, f.e. of Austria.

- 2001 to 2010 was the “Decade for Peace” proclaimed by the UN. This decade and its message for Global peace education went by almost completely unnoticed by the public in Austria. (It could be checked by the UN, if the situation is the same in other countries, or not.)
- 2013 to 2022, and we are still in it, is the “Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures.” This decade and its message was also not in the public consciousness. (Also this could be checked in other countries by the UN.)

Both these “Decades” are very important and helpful for the implementation of the Agenda 2030: The UN have proclaimed first Global Peace education, so that the children learn f.e. to solve conflicts peacefully. Then the UN proclaimed that the different cultures should meet and get to know each other. For Europe this means Christians and Muslims should get acquainted. So they could be steps to better realize the goals of the Agenda 2030.

- For 2030 is the Agenda 2030 with its pictograms. They are well designed and very easy to remember. Some schools and Public offices or administrations have them already pinned up. So there is a certain awareness already now for Agenda 2030 and its goals.

Departments have been asked to inform on how they want to realize the Agenda 2030 and have produced their statements. The Austrian government has taken steps to implement the Agenda 2030 in due time. Now the UN asks for “Global citizenship education” and the implementation of the idea that the world belongs to all of us. But can and do the people (of Austria and other European countries) carry this jointly, without the training of the two “Decades”?

What else was done to create and raise awareness for peace?

- A contact was established between the Heeresgeschichtliche Museum (HGM, Museum of History of Armies) Wien and the CoP: that a room or (permanent) exhibition will also remind of the importance of peace.
- The CoP wrote a letter reminding the 21.9.2020, International Peace Day, to the departments for Foreign Affairs BMEA and got responses from the BMEA, explaining what Austria does to fulfill the aims of the UN – impressingly much!
- Members of NGOs of the CoP formed together an Initiative “Dialogue.Empathy.Action. – Contributions to Peace” to promote the UNESCO Goal of Global Citizenship Education and the SDG 16, Peace, to emphasize the message: if we want to achieve durable Peace we also have to use a non-violent, peaceful language, in public as well as private areas. An Article of the chair of the CoP was printed in the governmental newspaper “Wiener Zeitung.”

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN VIENNA



LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE:

Chair: Laurie Richardson, FAWCO

1st Vice Chair: Lara Guttman (WIZO)

2nd Vice Chair: Christine Peer-Valenta (Soroptimist International)

Secretary: John Clark (World Union of Progressive Judaism)

Deputy Secretary: Elisabeth Francis (Graduate Women International)

Treasurer: Ceja Gregor-Hu (International Inner Wheel)

Deputy Treasurer: Annemarie Weinzettl (Pax Romana)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE:

- To facilitate the activities of non-governmental organisations represented at the United Nations in Vienna, which are interested in questions relating to the Status of Women;
- To convene meetings and to act as a forum for the exchange of information and views on matters of common interest;
- To facilitate liaison with UN Women.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE:

NGO CSW Vienna has 23 member organizations in 2021.

AMOUNT OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE: 35 Euros

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE:

a. Activities initiated in 2021:

Written Statements to CSW65 and CSW66

Collaboration on NGO CSW65 Forum Global Planning Committee with all 7 NGO CSWs

COVID-19 Recovery: Build Back Better Statement

Monthly meetings online

Toni Morrison event online for US Black History Month

b. Activities co-sponsored or co-organized in 2021:

Oral Statement delivered to CCPCJ in May

NGO CSW65 Forum Consultation Day with NGO CSW Geneva

U.N. ENTITIES THE COMMITTEE CONSULT, WORK WITH, AND INVOLVE IN ITS WORK:

UN Women, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT:

Participation in organization and planning for the first virtual NGO CSW Forum for CSW65, March 2021

Parallel Event for NGO CSW65 Forum: “Beijing, COVID, What’s Next?”

DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING STATEMENTS, PRODUCED AS A COMMITTEE:

See Activities above. Also initiated and drafted a Statement “COVID-19 Recovery: Build Back Better” that was disseminated by CoNGO and had 130+ signatures.

RELEVANT SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:

website: www.ngocswvienna.org

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT / VIENNA

A healthy planet



For future generations

Leadership of the Committee:

Chair Ingeborg Geyer, Zonta International

1st Vice Chair Ilona Graenitz, Socialist Women International

2nd Vice Chair Uwe Schubert, Society for International Development

Treasurer Mation Prechtel, Soroptimist International

Secretary Claudia Exenberger, Zonta International

Vice Secretary John Clark, World Union of Progressive Judaism

Aims and objectives of the Committee:

The focus of the committee is on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. It provides a forum for NGOs interested in discussing and analysing the work of the UN intergovernmental bodies in the field of sustainable development, as well as the related activities of the Vienna-based UN organizations. It encourages new initiatives and seeks inputs into civil society's contribution to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in September 2015.

The work we do:

The Committee interacts with the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the successor body to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, the Vienna-based UN organizations (UNOV, UNIDO, UNODC, IAEA and CTBTO) and the Vienna-based NGO Committees, as well as with other international organizations in Austria, such as IIASA. The

Committee focuses on the potential for practical cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations in areas it deems especially relevant, such as:

- Sustainability in the context of global economic expansion, with particular attention to
- Sustainability in the early stages of economic development
- Sustainable technology at various stages of economic development
- Food security: provision of the necessary quantity and quality of food for all
- Provision of sustainable energy for all
 - Education for sustainability

Membership of the Committee and amount of annual membership fee

Currently the Committee on Sustainable Development has 30 member organisations with each organisation having at least one representative. The amount of the annual general membership fee is 30,-- EUR.

Significant activities of the Committee:

a. Activities initiated

Membership prioritised in 2018 the SDGs, which to follow up in Committee sessions. Goal 11 and 13 were highest ranking. The Committee started following up with Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; followed by Climate change and environmental crime lectures and side events, related to the topic of the sessions.

The pandemic shaped the UN survey on long term priorities – the first results of March 2020 were ranking *climate change – poverty – government corruption – conflict/violence*, by end of 2020 by prioritising *Health – access to basic services – global solidarity – inclusive economy*.

So the Committee combined the survey and the recent initiatives to an activity profile addressing emerging issues and initiatives towards a safe, secure and sustainable environment (through the lens of Vienna based UN agencies) by linking Criminal Justice and the SDGs in a new way.

Actions set in 2021:

- follow up of the initiatives of 2020: address root causes of environmental disasters, of climate change etc. by promoting the relevant conventions through
 - o Side event during CCPCJ (combining thematic themes and environment)
 - o Public lectures to build awareness within NGO community

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- o Campaigning for signing and ratification of the Aarhus Convention o Identifying missing links in the Conventions and try to get in dialogue with member states (France, Finland)
 - Draft statements and interventions for profiling/supporting/campaigning for resolutions concerning transnational environmental crime during CCPCJ, UNTOC sessions
 - o Written statement Crime Congress March 2021 (submitted through SI): Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda)
 - o Oral Statement at CCPCJ 30th session, TOP 5: Environmental crime - a trigger for forced migration (delivered by Ilona Graenitz SI)
 - o Draft of written Statement for COP26: *Challenges of Climate Change* (submitted by CoNGO)

Due to Corona pandemic restrictions the following actions were organized online:

- public lecture about environmental legacies and corruption – campaigning/awareness raising for a legal framework:
Some are Hazardous Environmental Legacy Sites, some are Monsters: Why sustainable development needs to include environmental crime (Ms Verena Winiwarter BOKU Vienna)
- Criteria for sustainable cities were continued to be discussed by participating in a series of webinars *Change the World*, organized by the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice:
<http://crimealliance.org/what-we-do/change-the-world>
- Side event at CCPCJ May 2021: *Environmental Crimes as root causes of (forced) migration*:
https://www.unodc.org/res/commissions/CCPCJ/session/30_Session_2021/side_event_program_tue_18-05_html/Invitation_Side_Event_NGO_CSD_May_18_2021_final.pdf
- lecture on *How can Finland make a just transition to a carbon neutral society by 2035* co-organized by the Finish Embassy Vienna (Mr. Muurman, Senior Ministerial Adviser Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Protection Department, Climate)
- lecture about *climate change and climate justice* by Ms Tricia Callendar (Head of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Thinx Inc.) November 2021
- lecture about *consumer behaviour* (Ms Sigrid Stagl, Institute for Ecological Economics, Vienna) December 2021

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- Follow up of the statement at Crime Congress: to be shared widely with international institutions and missions, who supported the resolution, addressed in the statement.

There is regular information about events and/or publications on sustainable development for the member organisations. In every meeting there are reports by the chair and the member organization. New member organisations have the chance for formal presentation of their goals.

b. Activities co-sponsored or co-organized, and with whom

- Side event at CCPCJ May 2021 (IIASA, Socialist Women International, Soroptimist, ZONTA International):
https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND_CCPCJ_joint/Side_Events/2021/CCPCJ_Side_Event_Report_2021.pdf, page 14
- Lecture about carbon neutral society, coorganized by the Finish Embassy
- Statement for COP26, drafted by the committee, finalized and delivered by CoNGO
- Joint meetings with NGO CSW Vienna

UN Entities the Committee consult, work with, and involve in its work Contacts with staff of Civil Society Unit, CCPCJ, CND, UNIDO, UNODC Research, inviting them for briefings and lectures

Name what you consider as the greatest achievement of your committee Monthly online meetings and SDC Talks could increase the number of participants at meetings and raise awareness of the linkages between climate change, environment, (transnational) crime, health, wellbeing, security and safety to a wider range of NGOs.

Documents, including statements, you have produced as a Committee (give title and a short description)

- Statement for 14th Crime Congress in Kyoto, Japan, March 2021 *Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda*
https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/Congress/documents/written_statements/NGO_statements/ACONF_234_NGO4_V2100948.pdf
- Side event at CCPCJ 30th session:
Environmental factors as an important trigger for migration
Reconsidering the definition of smuggling migrants in the context of (transnational)

environmental disasters and hazardous legacies

Environmental factors influence migration in important ways, shaped by local economic, sociopolitical and cultural conditions. The root causes of environmental migration are often deeply intertwined and closely connected to sustainable development issues. Experts will present actual research data and share experience at the grass roots level, followed by a discussion on understanding the links between environmental change and migration, which disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, in particular women and girls.

https://www.unodc.org/res/commissions/CCPCJ/session/30_Session_2021/side_event_program_tue_18-05_html/Invitation_Side_Event_NGO_CSD_May_18_2021_final.pdf

- Oral Statement at CCPCJ 30th session, TOP 5

Environmental crime - a trigger for forced migration, attached

- Draft of written Statement for COP26:

Challenges of Climate Change (submitted by CoNGO), attached

Relevant social media links

Website: www.ngocsdvienna.org

REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING / GENEVA



Executive Committee officers:

- Chair: Silvia Perel-Levin, the International Longevity Centre Global Alliance (ILC GA) - as of 2020 representing the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, INPEA)
- Vice-Chair: Kelly G. Fitzgerald, the International Federation on Ageing (IFA)
- Treasurer: Valerie Bichelmeier, Make Mothers Matter (MMM)
- Representative to GAROP: Ann Lindsay, World Federation of Mental Health (WFMH)

The overall goals and objectives of the Committee are:

- To further the United Nations' mission of building a society for all ages;
- To raise awareness of ageing and intergenerational issues and ensure that they are adequately addressed by the UN System;
- To advocate for a new convention on the rights of older persons; and
- To influence global policy and monitor the implementation of existing commitments.

Membership:

A range of 15- 30 people have been members of the Committee, some representing NGOs and some on a personal basis. Since COVID-19 pandemic started, all meetings have been through Zoom with participation from members from around the world. The Committee meets at least four times a year.

Membership fee: 50 CHF per year

List of Committee activities:

Members of the NGO Committee organised or actively participated in several, mainly online since 2020, activities and events and also delivered statements at the sessions of the Human Rights Council, The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), WHO events, UNECE Working Group on Ageing, IFA Townhalls and Global Cafes and other events organized by NGOs, UN agencies, etc. We mention below only those who were either organized or co-sponsored by the Committee:

List of Committee activities in 2021:

We have to-date met four times this year on 26 January, 20 April (General Assembly), 1 June and 31 August.

- We have been members of a core group of NGOs leading the Dialogues with the Director-General of WHO around the increasing the participation and collaboration of civil society in the work of WHO around ageing. A first dialogue with the DG took place on 27 January. Second one, on 16 June. We are now following up with WHO teams to engage on a mapping exercise of CSOs
- 10-12 Feb: Chair invited to an expert meeting on the human rights of older persons organised by OHCHR.
- 22 February, Our Chair delivered a statement at the High-Level Segment of the Human Rights Council, being one of the only-four selected NGOs to speak. The topic was *Inequalities and discrimination, addressing the roots causes to recover better*.
- Participated at the Virtual 11th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in NY 29 March-1 April. Participated in all sessions and side events in close cooperation with the NGO Committee on Ageing, NY and the Global Alliance for the rights of older people (GAROP)
- Together with the NGO Committees on Ageing in NY and Geneva, we sent a letter to UNFPA requesting that ageing be included in their strategic plan.
- 21 April: Co-organised with the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing a webinar on “Making participation meaningful: bringing governments and civil society together”
- 15 June: Co-organised with INPEA, WHO and UNDESA a webinar to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Recording of the event can be watched [here](#)
- 21 September: Co-organised with Human Rights Watch, HelpAge International and UN DESA a side event of the 48th session of the HRC and pre-event marking the International Day of Older Persons. The event entitled *Human Rights in older age: Towards the elimination of ageism and age discrimination* was attended by over 300 persons on zoom but watched by thousands on the [UN media webTV](#) and on HRW Facebook page. Recording here
- Participated at the informal negotiations on the first substantive resolution on the rights of older persons at the HRC. The resolution (48/3) was adopted by consensus without a vote on 7 October
- Participated at meetings of the Group of Friends of the human rights of older persons.
- Our Chairperson was invited to be a panellist at the [Social Forum of the HRC](#) in October
- We have sent together with the NGO Committees on Ageing in NY and Vienna, [a letter expressing our concern](#) to the new Executive Director of UNWOMEN

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- following her message to Civil Society with her priorities of action, omitting to include older women.
 - We have partnered with a consortium including universities, WHO and civil society on a proposal to the European Commission for a PhD programme on climate change and the rights of older persons
 - Several members will participate at the annual meeting of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing last November

List of Committee activities in 2020:

The Committee held four meetings in 2020: on 14 January there was a presential meeting, then Zoom meetings were held on 28 April, 9 June, 8 September and 10 November. Claudia Mahler, the new Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. joined us in our meeting of 9 June for an informal discussion with our members.

- On 12 May we organized a virtual Conversation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. This high-level webinar was cosponsored by the Groups of Friends in New York and Geneva. The recording can be watched [here](#)
- ON 28 May, we co-organised and co-moderated with UNFPA a Universal Rights Group session of their series Right ON entitled: *Protecting the rights of older persons during the COVID-19 pandemic*. The report and recording of the event can be seen [here](#)
- On 16 June we marked World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with another high-level webinar entitled *Impact of Covid-19 on violence, abuse & neglect of older persons*. The event was co-sponsored by the Groups of Friends in NY and Geneva as well as UNDESA, OHCHR, UNFPA, WHO and the NGO Committees in NY and Vienna, INOE and AARP. The recording of the event can be watched [here](#)
- On 1 October we co-organised and co-sponsored a virtual interagency event to mark International Day of Older Persons with the participation, among others, of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, The Director-General of WHO, the Executive Director of UNFPA. The recording can be watched [here](#)
- On 1 December we organised with INPEA and Human Rights Watch a side event during the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD *Our rights are under threat as we age* with the participation of the Independent Expert on the rights of older persons, Claudia Mahler and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Gerard Quinn. The recording of the event can be watched [here](#).

Website and Social Media:

Website: www.ageingcommitteegeneva.org.

Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ageinggeneva>

Twitter account: [@NgoAgeing](https://twitter.com/NgoAgeing).

*The NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva is also included in [GVA data](#) (a UNOG database).