
Minutes of the 27th General Assembly¹ Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)

New York | Hybrid | November 29, 30 and December 1, 2021

1. The 27th General Assembly of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) opened with a High-Level Opening Plenary² that heard addresses from the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres; the President of the UN General Assembly 76th Session, Ambassador Abdulla Shahid; the President of the UN Economic and Social Council, Ambassador Collen Vixen Kolepile; and the President of CoNGO, Liberato C. Bautista. Mezzo-soprano Cecelia Stearman performed in a musical interlude.³
2. The Assembly conducted its first Business Session that included the Roll Call; approving the Minutes of the 26th General assembly; adopting two amendments to the [CoNGO Rules](#); appointing members of the Assembly organizational Committees; and receiving the Reports of the President, the First Vice President, and the Second Vice President. During the Assembly, greetings and messages were received from former officers of CoNGO, including Robert Harris, Renate Bloom, Victor Hsu, Marlena Parenzan, Jacqueline Shapiro, and Leslie Wright.
3. The Assembly conducted its second Business Session: receiving the first report of the Nominations Committee (and subsequently a second and final, leading to the elections at the Assembly final Business Session); approving the Finance Report; receiving the proposed *Compendium of Principles for NGO Good Practice* (Appendix 1A), and

¹ Unless already hyperlinked in these minutes, other documents and video recordings referred to here will be uploaded to the CoNGO website, under the dropdown button “27th General Assembly”:
<https://ngocongo.org>

² Link to the video recording of the Opening Plenary, including the keynote addresses and the musical interlude: https://bit.ly/CoNGO_Assembly_Opening_Plenary

³ The musical interlude was made possible courtesy of Baptist World Alliance, a CoNGO full member.

subsequently adopting an approbatory Resolution on the Compendium (See Appendix 1B).

4. The Assembly held a further Plenary to hear an address from the Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya;⁴ an interview with Edith Ballantyne (WILPF), former President of CoNGO;⁵ and paying tribute to NGO leaders deceased within the period 2018-2021: Rosalind Harris (ISS and former President of CoNGO), Robert Bateman (OSMTH), Virginia Maynard (AAUW, VGIF, and former Treasurer of CoNGO), Krishna Ahooja-Patel (WILPF), Clarissa Starey (PPSEAWA), Kathleen Fraleigh (IAW), Simone Ovar (Zonta), and Maria Jonas (SIW). The New Asia Chamber Music Society performed in a musical interlude.⁶

5. The Assembly held a third Business Session, receiving the *Synthesis Report of the Civil Society Summit on Substantive Issues* held on October 25, 2021 (See Appendix 2A) and subsequently adopting an approbatory resolution (See Appendix 2B).

6. The Assembly held a further Plenary as a *Roundtable Conversation on UN-NGO Relations*,⁷ with the participation of Marc-André Dorel (UNDESA, New York), Lidiya Grigoreva (UNOG), Mirella Dummar Frahi (UNODC, Vienna), and Corentin Gaud (WSIS-ITU). A video presentation by Gitanjali Sah (WSIS-ITU) was played.⁸

7. The Assembly conducted a further Business Session to receive and adopt a Resolution entitled “*Towards the CoNGO 75th Anniversary*” (See Appendix 3).

8. The Assembly conducted a final Business Session. Liberato C. Bautista was re-elected unopposed as President of CoNGO for the new period 2021-2025. For the new CoNGO Board, 19 valid candidatures for the 20 Board seats were received and subsequently elected. They include: Agrenska Foundation, Asociación Latinoamericana para los Derechos Humanos (ALDHU), The Brazzaville Foundation, CGFNS International, Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute

⁴ Link to the video recording of the address of the Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya: https://bit.ly/CoNGO_Assembly_TatianaValovaya

⁵ Link to the video recording of the conversations between Edith Ballantyne (CoNGO President, 1976-1982) and Liberato Bautista (CoNGO President, 2007-2011 and 2021-2025), Cyril Ritchie (CoNGO President, 2011-2018), Jan Lonn (ISMUN), and Manjit Dosanjh (ICEC):

https://bit.ly/CoNGO_Assembly_Edith_Ballantyne

⁶ The musical interlude was made possible courtesy of STUF United Fund, a full member of CoNGO.

⁷ Link to the video recording of the https://bit.ly/CoNGO_Assembly_UN_Roundtable

⁸ Link to the video reporting of a presentation on WSIS and CoNGO relations by Gitanjali Sah (WSIS-ITU): https://bit.ly/CoNGO_WSIS_Gitanjali_Sah

(CBCI), International Association of Applied Psychology, International Cancer Expert Corps (ICEC), International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW), International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS), International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN), National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA), Soka Gakkai International (SGI), Soroptimist International (SI), Union of International Associations (UIA), Universal Esperanto Association (UEA), Universal Peace Federation (UPF), and the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF).⁹

9. At the closing session, the President delivered an acceptance speech. The Assembly was then declared closed with great appreciation from the President for the cooperative spirit and collective goodwill shown by fellow officers, assembly delegates, participants and guests, and with thanks to coopted staff and all those who had made the management and logistical arrangements possible and the assembly a success.¹⁰

⁹ The CoNGO President (Liberato Bautista) and the organizations that make up the membership of the CoNGO Board (2021-2025) were elected by the General Assembly. Other CoNGO Officers were elected at a meeting of the CoNGO Board convened on December 1, 2021 shortly after the adjournment of the General Assembly for the singular purpose of electing these other officers. These Officers who come from organizations elected to the CoNGO Board include the following: Cyril Ritchie (First Vice President, Union of International Associations), Martina Gredler (Second Vice President, Soroptimist International), Asociacion Latinoamericana para los Derechos Humanos and Pan Pacific South East Asia Women's Association as Vice Presidents-at-Large, Brazzaville Foundation as Treasurer, and CGFNS International as Secretary. The President, First Vice President and Second Vice President all serve in their personal capacities.

¹⁰ Special mention of thanks to OSMTH (Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem) who underwrote and arranged for an electronic voting system for use at the Assembly. The assembly elections eventually did not have need for the system.

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