

**REPORTS OF NGO COMMITTEES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE CONFERENCE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE UNITED NATIONS**



**Compilation of reports by NGO substantive committees
submitted to the CoNGO Board Meeting on
October 13-14, 2022**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

New York Substantive Committees

The NGO Committee on Ageing-NY.....3
The NGO Committee on Drugs-NY.....10
The NGO Committee on Financing for Development-NY.....18
The NGO Committee on Intergenerational Solidarity (COIGENS)-NY.....34
The NGO Committee on Language and Languages-NY.....36
The NGO Committee on Status of Women-NY.....38
The NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY.....42

Vienna Substantive Committees

The NGO Committee on Ageing-Vienna.....44
The NGO Committee on Drugs-Vienna.....46
The NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-Vienna.....76

Geneva Substantive Committees

The NGO Committee on Ageing-NY.....80
The NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (ForB)-NY.....84

REPORT: THE NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING / NY



NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING-NY: summary of events October 2021 - September 2022

1 October 2021 Celebration of International Day of Older Persons

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

Topic: Digital Equity for All Ages

Welcome Remarks

Cynthia Stuen, Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing-NY

Video message

Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations

Remarks

Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Officer-in-Charge of the Secretary-General's Envoy of Technology, United Nations

Juan Ramon del la Fuente, Ambassador from the Permanent of Mexico to the United Nations

Moderated conversations

1. Innovation, access and design

Moderator:

Rajesh Mirchandani, Chief Communications Officer at the UN Foundation

Panelists:

J. Alison Bryant, Senior Vice-President of Research & Enterprise Lead for Technology & Digital Equity, AARP

Majd Alwan, Senior Vice-President of Technology & Business Strategy and Executive Director for Aging services and Technologies, Leading Age

2. Working toward Digital Equity for All Ages: Member States, SDGs and Digital Technologies

Moderator:

Ursula Wynhoven, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Representative to the United Nations

Panelists:

Roxanna Widmer-Ilescu, Senior Coordinator for Digital Inclusion at International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Rajendra Partap Gupta, Chair Dynamic Coalition on Internet and Jobs – Internet Governance Forum, United Nations; Chairman, Drafting Committee for Digital Health Standards. NABH, Delhi, India

Claudia Mahler, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, German National Institute on Human Rights

Closing statements:

Cecilia Morel Montes, First Lady of Chile

Masumi Ono, Chief of Social Inclusion and Participation Branch, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

CO-CHAIRS OF THE EVENT

Erica Dhar, UNIDOP Programme Sub-committee, NGO Committee on Ageing, New York

Magda Kaczmarek, Communications Sub-committee, NGO Committee on Ageing, New York

* * * * *

The event:

- Addressed digital availability, connectivity, design, affordability, capacity building, infrastructure, and innovation in the areas of public and private interests;
- Brought awareness of the importance of digital inclusion of older persons, while tackling stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination associated with digitalization, taking into account socio-cultural norms and the right to autonomy;
- Highlighted policies to leverage digital technologies for full achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs);
- Explored the role of policies and legal frameworks to ensure privacy and safety of older persons in the digital world;
- Promoted an intersectional person-centered human rights approach for a society for all ages taking into account existing/non-existing legal instruments in the field of digitalization.

More details of the event, including the official video can be found on the UN Website:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/2021-unidop-digital-equity-for-all-ages.html>

18 November 2021 Collaborative meeting with NGO Committee on the Status of Women

Topic: Violence Against the Earth is Violence Against Women & Girls

Panel Member:

Robin Fenley, Chair of NGO CoA Subcommittee on Older Women spoke on "Violence Against Older Women"

2 December 2021

Topic: Ageing and Migration

Moderator:

Christopher Hanway, Chair, NGO Committee on Migration and Executive Director, Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement, and Executive Committee Member, NGO Committee on Ageing

Speakers:

Sandra Torres, Professor in Sociology and Chair in Social Gerontology, Uppsala University, Sweden

Shyvonne Noboa, Division Director for Senior Services, Sunnyside Community Services, Sunnyside, New York

The meeting discussed the impact of migration on older persons, including those left behind when families are forced to migrate because of conflict situations, natural disasters, poverty.

13 January 2022

Topic: What is "Our Common Agenda" and why NGOs need to pay attention

Speakers:

Daniel Perell, Representative to the United Nations, Baha'i International Community

Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief, Programme on Ageing Section, UN/DESA

Maria Paula Perdomo, Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, which holds the Chairmanship of the Group of Friends of Older Persons

The meeting discussed the report of the Secretary-General "Our Common Agenda" <https://undocs.org/A/75/982>, setting out his vision for the future through strengthening and accelerating global cooperation and multilateral agreements to ensure a tangible difference in peoples' lives. It was noted that there was very scarce information on the concerns of older persons.

16 February 2022

Topic: A future that works: consulting across generations to build prosperity

Moderator:

Liliane Nkuzimana, Representative to the United Nations, Baha'i International Community

Speakers:

Erica Dhar, AARP Director of Global Alliances & Member of the NGO Committee on Ageing-New York

Ashley Yong, Youth Representative to the United Nations, Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation

Stefano Guerra, Attaché, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations
José Soto, Employer and Entrepreneur

This event was held jointly with the Baha'i International Community with breakout rooms to discuss:

-
- Policy frameworks for a future that works
 - Enhancing workplace Intergenerational Cooperation
 - Changing the Business Model for a Sustainable Future
 - Youth adapting to an evolving workplace.

17 March 2022

Topic: Older women and environmental justice

Moderator:

Erica Dhar, AARP Director of Global Alliances & Member of the NGO Committee on Ageing-New York

Speakers:

Rio Hada, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Holly Kaufman, Environment & Enterprises Strategies

Kalyani Raj, All India Women's Conference

Mary Beth Morrissey, Yeshiva University

Frances Zainoeddin, Soroptimist International, Vice-Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing

The event was organized as a side event during the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (15-26 March 2021). The panel addressed the impact of climate risk and disasters on the lives of older persons and examined the role of structural inequities on health, safety, housing, water and sanitation as uniquely experienced by older women. The session discussed the intersectionality of environmental justice, climate change and older women, and the imperative to foster environmental resilience by working individually and collaboratively toward justice for all.

5 April 2022 - pre OEWSGA workshop

The NGO Committee on Ageing-NY partnered with the Global Alliance on the Rights of Older People, in the organization of a pre-Open-ended Working Group on Ageing meeting at its 12th session (11-14 April 2022). The workshop provided:

- An update of the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
- Updates on work of the Human Rights Council with respect to older persons
- Review of the Age With Rights Campaign
- Strategies for participation at the OEWSGA

The OEWSGA 12 discussed two focus areas: contributions of older persons to sustainable development and economic security. Argentina proposed the establishment of a cross-regional core group during the inter-sessional period to prepare a draft decision for the thirteenth session of the OEWSGA, that would contain a proposal for the establishment of an intersessional Working Group to prepare and present a draft text determining the main gaps in the international human rights system for older persons. The two focus areas to be discussed in 2023 will be: right to health and access to health services; and social inclusion.

5 May 2022

Topic: Mental health: the new frontier in global ageing

Moderator:

Erica Dhar, AARP Director of Global Alliances & Member of the NGO Committee on Ageing-New York

Speakers:

Holly Shaw, Chair, NGO Committee on Mental Health

Dr. Kiran Rabheru, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Ottawa, and Co-Leader, Canadian Coalition of Seniors Mental Health.

The speakers addressed the impact of Covid-19 on the many mental health challenges that were under the radar, leading to a new awareness of the adverse effects of social isolation. With the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing, the range of mental health concerns of older persons who are in nursing homes, living alone, or homeless are beginning to receive greater attention.

20 May 2022 Cultural Diversity Day sponsored by Global Network of Executive Committee (GNEC).

The NGO CoA submitted via the International Federation on Ageing presented a 3 minute video created by Adrienne Berg titled " CULTURAL WISDOM: How Older Persons Promote Diverse Cultures to Light up the World" It was introduced by Cynthia Stuen, Chair at this live webcast. (Available on NGO CoA-NY Website) 15 June 2022 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

Moderator:

Robin Fenley, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, NGO- COA Subcommittee on Older Women

Speakers:

Ruth Warick, President of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People and First Vice-President of the International Disability Alliance

Marie Beaulieu, Professor of the School of Social Work, University of Sherbrooke, Canada

The speakers addressed the confluence of two under-reported experiences of many older persons, particularly older women - elder abuse and disability.

17 June 2022 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day during UNECE.

NGO CoA Cosponsored side event during MIPPAA review at UNECE, Rome Opening remarks: Susan Somers, President of INPEA, Co-Chair, NGO CoA Subcommittee on Human Rights of Older Persons

Moderator:

Alexandre Sidorenko, Senior Advisory at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research International Tutor, International Institute on Ageing

Speakers:

Yongujie Yon, Technical Officer, WHO Region Office for Europe

Natasa Todorovic, Health and Care Program Manager, Red Cross of Serbia and INPEA representative

Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief of Programme on Ageing, UN DESA

Christopher Mikton, Technical Office, Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing, WHO

5-15 July 2022 - 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 Coordination Mechanism which facilitates the participation of civil society in deliberations on the following up and review of the sustainable development goals, contribute to the drafting of the annual SGA position paper (<https://www.mgos.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SGA-Position-paper-long-version-27.5.pdf>) The Stakeholder Group on Ageing, in partnership with the Programme on Ageing Section in UN/DESA, organized a side event on "Older Women in Crises: invisible among the most vulnerable".

Opening Remarks:

Erica Dhar, Co-Chair, Stakeholder Group on Ageing

Moderator:

Rosemary Kalapurakal, Deputy Director, UN Development Coordination Office

Speakers:

Lefhoko Kesamang, Senior Social welfare Officer, African Union Commission

Claudia Mahler, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

Papa Seck, Chief of Research and Data Section, UN Women

Galina Poliakovska, Turbota pro Litnih v Ukranii

Dorothy Estrada-Tanck, Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

The event explored the experiences of older women in emergencies, whether due to climate change or conflict, which are often overlooked by humanitarian actors, with negative consequences for the wellbeing of older women, their families and their communities. Discussions drew attention to the fact that older women also face a particular risk of vulnerability to climate impacts, experiencing disproportionate health risks, and have higher rates of mortality from extreme heat events. Furthermore, as a result of higher levels of illiteracy, including digital illiteracy, cultural practices, and gendered expectations on the role they play in communities, older women may encounter additional barriers to accessing information and aid during an emergency.

8 September 2022

Topic: Fall update: what is happening in ageing at the UN? What's ahead for the NGO Committee on Ageing, New York?

The Chair, Cynthia Stuenkel, provided a review of the NGO CoA Strategic objectives for forthcoming year and then asked the chairs of the Subcommittees to review their work and agenda for forthcoming year. Each Subcommittee chair invited members to join the subcommittee(s) of relating to their interest.

A briefing was also given by Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief, Programme on Ageing Section, UN/DESA, on ageing issues at the UN – new developments and new opportunities. She drew attention to the annual report submitted to the General Assembly, which focused on digital technologies and global ageing (<https://undocs.org/A/77/134>)

NGO COA-NY cosponsorship of events

1 October 2021 International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics UNIDOP side event on "Digital Equity for All Ages: A Regional Perspective."

29 October 2021 Group of Friends of Older Persons, event on the Decade of Healthy Ageing and digital inclusion.

12 April 2022 International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, event on "Older persons' contributions to SDG13, action against climate change."

23 August 2022 Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People, a briefing session to prepare for the Multistakeholder Meeting held in Geneva, 29-30 August 2022.

4 October 2022 Event of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights of older persons, on "Having a roof over one's head is not enough: older persons' rights to adequate housing".

NGO Committee on Ageing- NY, Executive Committee (2021-2023)

Chair: Dr. Cynthia Stuen

Vice-Chair: Ms. Frances Zainoeddin

Treasurer: Ms. Katharine Weiss

Recording Secretary: Ms. Martha Bial

Corresponding Secretary: Ms. Maud Bruce-About

Members-at-Large: Ms. Ramsey Alwin, Ms. Robin Fenley, Mr. Christopher Hanway,
Ms. Magda Kazmarska, Mr. William T. Smith

Regular events of the NGO Committee on Ageing are usually held on the first Thursday of the month. Notifications will be sent out to members and subscribers. Check our website for notifications of meetings, including recommended events organized by some of our members. (<https://ngocoa-ny.org/>)

REPORT: THE NGO COMMITTEE ON DRUGS / NY



2021-2022 Annual Report of the New York NGO Committee on Drugs (NYNGOC)

1. Name of NGO Committee

In accordance with the CoNGO Rules on Substantive Committees, below is the annual report of the activities of the New York NGO Committee on Drugs (“NYNGOC” or the “Committee”) covering the period since our last report, specifically November 2021 to September 2022.

2. Leadership of the Committee

The NYNGOC held elections of its Executive Committee for the 2022-2024 term at its Annual Meeting in June 2022. 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 2024
Ernesto Cortés	Washington Office on Latin America & Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (Costa Rica)	Vice Chair	June 2024
Beatrix Vas	Youth RISE (Ireland)	Secretary	June 2024
Benjamin Phillips	DRCNet Foundation & International Drug Law Advocacy and Resource Center (United States)	Treasurer	June 2024

Vera Da Ros	Rede Brasileira de Redução de Danos e Direitos Humanos (Brazil)	Member-at-Large	June 2024
Heather Haase	International Drug Law Advocacy and Resource Center (United States)	Member-at-Large	June 2024
Martha Inés Miravete Cicero	Grupo de Mujeres de Argentina – Foro de VIH – Mujeres y Familia (Argentina)	Member-at-Large	June 2024
Rafael Torruella	Intercambios Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico)	Member-at-Large	June 2024
Iulia Vatau	Students for Sensible Drug Policy (United States)	Member-at-Large	June 2024
Summer Walker	Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (United States)	Member-at-Large	June 2024

3. Aims and Objectives of the Committee

The NYNGOC is a global committee that aims to support civil society organizations in engaging with the 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.

4. Membership of the Committee

As of September 2022, the NYNGOC has 103 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
Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID)	Costa Rica
Associação Brasileira de Redução de Danos (ABORDA)	Brazil
Associação 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

Member	Country
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
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
Fundacja Redukcji Szkod (FRS)	Poland
Global Exchange	USA
Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime	Switzerland
Grupo de Mujeres de Argentina – Foro de VIH – Mujeres y Familia	Argentina
Harm Reduction International (HRI)	UK

Member	Country
Harm Reduction International (HRI)	UK
Health Poverty Action (HPA)	UK
Help Not Handcuffs	USA
HIV Legal Network	Canada
Human Rights Watch	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 Law Advocacy and Resource Center (IDLARC)	USA
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
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

Member	Country
Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing (PROP)	USA
Piaget Agency for Development (APDES)	Portugal
Plantforma para le Defensa de la Ayahuasca (Plantforma)	Spain
Proderechos	Uruguay
Rede Brasileira de Redução de Danos e Direitos Humanos	Brazil
Release	UK
Sociedad Mexicana de Criminologia capitulo Nuevo Leon	Mexico
Society of Collective Interests Orientation (SOCIO)	Pakistan
StoptheDrugWar.org / DRCNet Foundation	USA
Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia (SSDP Australia)	Australia
Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)	USA
T. Stephen Jones Public Health Consulting	USA
The Beckley Foundation	Scotland (UK)
The Human Solution International	USA
Transform Drug Policy Foundation	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
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 Council for Anti Narcotics (YOCFAN)	Pakistan
Youth Organizations for Drug Action (YODA)	Poland
Youth RISE	Nigeria
Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network	Zimbabwe

5. 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.

6. Activities of the Committee

In December 2021, the NYNGOC organized a virtual event for Human Rights Day, titled, “[Human Rights and Drug Policy Across the United Nations: Commemorating International Human Rights Day](#),” and cosponsored by the Permanent Missions of Canada, Luxembourg, and Mexico to the UN, Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), and International Drug Law Advocacy and Resource Center. Chair of the NYNGOC, Nazlee Maghsoudi, moderated the session and speakers from Canada, Mexico, Luxembourg, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Global Drug Policy Observatory, and IDPC took stock of recent key developments and concerns on human rights and drug policy across the UN.

A social for members of the NYNGOC was again held in December to reflect on the past year and priorities for the next year, as well as connect with fellow members to share holiday greetings.

At the 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in March 2022, the NYNGOC cosponsored two side events with UNODC, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), as well as other UN agencies and member states, titled, “#Leaving no one behind: Addressing substance use disorders in humanitarian settings by providing access to services for displaced populations and host communities in acute and protracted emergencies” and “From Coercion to Cohesion: Increased access to health care services for people with drug use disorders and associated mental health disorders in contact with the criminal justice setting.” In collaboration with the VNGOC, the NYNGOC selected a civil society speaker to present at the latter side event.

In collaboration with IDPC, the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the UN in New York, and the European Union (EU), the NYNGOC hosted an informal briefing for New York missions in March 2022, titled, “Presenting New Evidence on the Barriers to Accessing ECOSOC Accreditation for Drug NGOs.” During the informal briefing with like-minded member states, [new research](#) was presented on the dysfunctional dynamics at the Committee on NGOs and increased targeting of NGOs working on drug policy and on the delivery of life-saving services, and two civil society organizations affected by these practices shared their experiences. Ms. Maghsoudi, Chair of the NYNGOC, moderated the briefing, and remarks were made by Luxembourg, the EU, Mexico, Austria, and the United States.

7. 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.

Along with the VNGOC, the NYNGOC has invited civil society colleagues to join a new ad-hoc working group for NGOs in Latin America. Both committees are seeking volunteers from civil society organizations in the region to join this working group and engage in initial teleconferences to discuss barriers to engagement and identify new opportunities – including, possibly, a new regional civil society common position. The working group will be expected to develop and implement a work plan for the coming months, with the necessary logistical and other support coming from the committees themselves. Membership to the working group is not limited to members of the NYNGOC or VNGOC.

We regularly work with the VNGOC to hold open calls and select civil society experts and speakers for consultations and meetings held by UNODC, including the engagement opportunities since our last report below:

- Side event at the 65th session of the CND, titled, “From Coercion to Cohesion: Increased access to health care services for people with drug use disorders and associated mental health disorders in contact with the criminal justice setting,” and

-
- Meeting on neonatal abstinence syndrome related to prenatal exposure to synthetic opioids.

At the NYNGOC's Quarterly Meeting in March 2022, members were joined by Delphine Schantz, Head of the UNODC New York Liaison Office, to discuss the 65th session of the CND, share updates from UNODC, as well as answer questions from members.

The NYNGOC worked with the UNODC New York Liaison Office to ensure civil society participation at the New York virtual launch event of the 2022 World Drug Report in June 2022. 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 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 UNODC that they "only recognize one drugs committee," and that is the VNGOC. UNODC has a Memorandum of Understanding with the VNGOC yet has not moved ahead with the NYNGOC's request to establish a Memorandum of Understanding that reflects our current working relationship. 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 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 UNODC.

8. 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.

9. Committee Statements

In December 2021, Ms. Maghsoudi, Chair of the NYNGOC, attended the 27th CoNGO General Assembly and made a [joint statement](#) on behalf of the NYNGOC and VNGOC. She highlighted the decades of collaboration across committees, shared joint recommendations on how virtual formats could continue to be

used to increase participation and accessibility at the next session of the CND, and noted with sadness the [passing of Ms. Rosalind Harris](#), an early leader in the NYNGOC who was instrumental to its governance and organizing its key international meetings dating to the 1980s.

At the 65th session of the CND in March 2022, Jamie Bridge, Chair of the VNGOC, delivered a joint statement ([video](#) and [transcript](#)) under agenda item 11 on behalf of the VNGOC, NYNGOC, Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and UNCAC Coalition. This joint statement called on member states to act in the upcoming elections for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Committee on NGOs to improve the functioning of the Committee so that it will support, rather than hinder, civil society participation at the UN.

In June 2022, the NYNGOC was invited to participate in a special event by the Chair of the CND in New York, titled, "Scaling Up the Implementation of International Drug Policy Commitments on Improving Availability of and Access to Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes – Building Back Better from the COVID-19 Pandemic." Benjamin Phillips, Treasurer of the NYNGOC, made remarks as a panelist.

Later in June 2022, Ernesto Cortés, Vice Chair of the NYNGOC, was invited by UNODC to make an [intervention](#) from the floor at the New York virtual launch event of the 2022 World Drug Report.

10. Relevant Links

Website: <http://nyngoc.org/>

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NYNGOC1>

REPORT: **THE NGO COMMITTEE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT **For the period: June 16, 2021 - June 8, 2022** <https://www.ngosonffd.org/>

Executive Summary

The NGO Committee on Financing for Development, created in 2004 as a substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN, facilitates NGO advocacy on Financing for Development at the United Nations in New York.

Mission and Purpose of the NGO Committee:

The NGO Committee supports the goal to “end poverty and hunger and to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions through promoting inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment, and promoting social inclusion,” as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Monterrey Consensus. It offers a venue for both new and established non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to advocate to further the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as well as to learn, discuss, and contribute to the plans, activities, and initiatives pertaining to financing for development discussions at the United Nations in partnership with different stakeholders within the UN system. This year, as in the previous three years, the executive committee developed a strategic plan with Objectives and SMART Goals to track the work committed to being done at the beginning of the year. The Committee accomplished 10 out of the 17 SMART Goals, is making good progress on 7 out of the remaining 8 goals and needs more focused effort on one of the goals. The challenges we faced were purely on account of the extent to which NGO representatives are committed to multiple advocacy priorities and financing for development is just one of those priorities. FfD being a technical topic also means a steep learning curve for representatives not familiar with FfD discussions. Still, the Committee made great strides this year as in the previous years.

The Committee held 10 monthly meetings, a virtual breakfast briefing on financing for development with the UN Member States, and 4 side events. To summarize a few key accomplishments this year:

- Submitted a written response to the Inter-Agency Taskforce Report outline fourth year in a row
- Held a breakfast discussion with the UN Member States for the fifth year in a row
- Provided direct input to the FfD Forum outcome document in the drafting stages
- Drafted a consolidated advocacy statement and reflected those points in interventions made at the UN
- Continued our strong collaboration with other NGO Committees
- Strengthened membership participation at monthly meetings where in they managed the educational component of the agenda
- Conducted an annual orientation session on Financing for Development
- The Committee continues to be effective in a virtual working format honing its focus, efforts, and ability to organize targeted events.
- Working Groups held regular meetings, and made substantive contributions to the action items in front of the Committee specifically in the following areas:
 - Drafting input to the 2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report
 - Organizing side events
 - Drafting a consolidated Advocacy Statement
 - Staff member(s) from FSDO provided briefings at 7 out of the 10 monthly meetings.

Background details on the NGO Committee

1. The leadership of the NGO 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 - Position vacant since April 18, 2022. Graciano Gaillard, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development served in this role from June 2021-April 2022.
- Member-at-large - Quinn Wonderling, General Board of Church, and Society- United Methodist Church

2. 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.

3. Membership period:

The membership cycle of the Committee is from September 1 to August 31 of the next year. Annual Membership due is \$40 payable by Zelle or by check.

4. Annual Meetings:

The annual meeting of the Committee is held every June. So, the annual reports cover the period from the annual meeting of the previous year to the annual meeting of the current year. The chairperson and treasurer present an annual report and finance report respectively at every annual meeting of the Committee. Elections take place at the annual meeting every other year.

5. 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.

6. United Nations entities the Committee consults, works with, and involves in its work:

The Committee engages actively with the UN Financing for Sustainable Development Office, the 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 UNFSDO, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the UN Member States, and relevant UN agencies. The Committee is a founding member of the Addis Ababa Coordinating Group, the coordinating body of the Civil Society Financing for Development Group.

7. Major achievements of the committee for this cycle:

- 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.
- Publishing the report of the grant-funded grassroots project in partnership with Misesan Cara, Salesians of Ireland, and the Salesian Missions Inc 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.
- The above project received an innovation project award from Misesan Cara. The award included a citation and 1000 Euros. This came about as the project was entered, by our project partner, the Salesians of Ireland, for an Innovation Project Award competition conducted by Misesan Cara.
- Continuing to strengthen the Committee's joint advocacy 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). AThomas 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 common priorities.
- Organized 4 excellent panel discussions (3 side events and 1 parallel event), annual orientation on FfD, and a breakfast session with the UN Member States to prepare for the FfD Forum
- Submitted a written response to the draft outline of the 2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report, through the joint efforts of the three working groups.
- Reformatted the education segment of the monthly meetings to encourage the direct contribution of members to the monthly meeting, wherein members took turns to summarize articles of significance to the Committee's work. This also offered the members an opportunity to speak about the work of her/his organization and to generate an interactive discussion among the attendees.
- Adopted the Committee's consolidated advocacy statement, drafted collaboratively by the three working groups. The Committee has not developed such a statement in the past.
- Provided direct input to the 2022 FfD outcome document's zero draft, first draft, and second draft based on consultations in the Working Groups and with input from the membership.

Summary of the NGO Committee’s activities from June 15, 2021- June 8, 2022

1. 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

2. Executive Committee’s work

- The Chair held one-on-one meetings with each of the executive committee members, soon after the election, to discuss the scope of their respective roles and to respond to questions.
- 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’s work in the upcoming year, the Executive Committee:
 - o Met with
 - Working Group Co-leads - Social Protection (Daniel LeBlanc, Thomas Pallithanam), Financial and Digital Inclusion (Anita Thomas and Teresa Kotturan), 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.

3. 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	Ensure the voices of those from the grassroots and marginalized communities are heard at substantive sessions and hearings at the UN.
2	Educate membership on the substantive aspects of the Financing for Development Agenda so that they are well equipped to participate in and report on FfD substantive sessions and hearings and monitor the implementation of AAAA.
3	Influence the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda with focused priority statements. Build the capacity of members to develop and deliver these statements at FfD-specific substantive sessions and hearings.
4	Prepare for the 2022 ECOSOC FfD Follow-up.
5	Organize parallel events/side events on FfD-related topics during CSocD, IMF/WB Spring Meetings, FfD Forum, and the CSW or HLPF.
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	Robust social media presence
10	Raise awareness and build action around the Committee's priority areas.
11	Participate effectively in the Addis Ababa Coordinating Group of CSOFFD Group.
12	Conduct Mission Visits
13	Continue to strengthen collaboration with the Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO)

	SMART Goals	Status	Notes
1	Organize new members' briefing (as needed) and an annual orientation webinar	Accomplished	
2	Hold a breakfast session in preparation for the 2022 FFD Forum.	Accomplished	
3	Have a Member State speaker at (at least) 5 monthly meetings of the Committee.	Accomplished	Deputy PR from Haiti presented at a committee meeting. Member States joined at the annual breakfast meeting and on 3 out of 4 of the side events.
4	Organize at least four side events	Accomplished	Held a side event during the 2022 Commission on Social Development, a parallel event in partnership with the NGO Committee on Migration during the 67th Commission on the Status of Women, and two side events during the 2022 FFD Forum.
5	Hold at least 2 side events in co-sponsorship with Permanent Missions	1 of 2 accomplished	A CSO strategy session/consultation on ILO C-190 was held in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Fiji and the NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.
6	Each working group to hold at least 8 meetings during the year	Accomplished	
7	Each working to organize a side event	Accomplished	SPWG and FDIWG held side events during the FFD Forum. CFWG will hold its event during the Ocean Conference.
8	Each working to conduct an education session for the monthly meeting	Good progress	While Working Groups had not conducted any educational sessions, 10 Committee members provided educational sessions which included summarizing articles, advocacy training, and an overview of their respective organizations' work on the ground

9	Adopt the Committee's advocacy statement drafted with input from all three working groups	Accomplished	
10	Develop and implement the advocacy strategy building on the advocacy statement	In Progress	Key recommendations from the advocacy statement were included in all the written input by the Committee, interventions made on behalf of the Committee by members, and as part of the input to the 2022 FfD Forum outcome document. The intent is to develop a strategy for Mission visits and advocacy to begin in October. Yvonne O'Neal has agreed to coordinate this effort.
11	Add six new members	3 out of 6 accomplished	Zonta International, STUF United, and Temple of Understanding
12	Develop an internal blog	In progress	Anita Thomas and Rick O'Sullivan had initial discussions on this matter.
13	Provide input to the 2022 Inter-Agency Task Force Report outline	Accomplished	
14	Develop and implement a social media strategy to ensure current website, active Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn account	In progress	A social media strategy was developed by Quinn Wonderling and Graciano Gaillard. The website is kept current, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are active, but the engagement on LinkedIn was not strong
15	Make six interventions at the UN (FfD related meetings)	3 out 6 accomplished	2 during the FfD Forum and 1 for the ILO event on
16	Set up a Google Group for the Committee	Accomplished	
17	Nominate a speaker (grassroots preferably) to an official UN/FfD meeting	0 out of 1	FfD Forum process for nomination for speakers and those for making interventions was different this year compared to last year which made it difficult to make nominations. The Committee made every attempt to include a grassroots speaker at its side events organized during the FfD Forum and other major UN Conferences we participated in.

4. The Monthly meetings of the EC

The meetings were held two to three weeks in advance of the Monthly meeting. These meetings generally lasted 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 conducted its work in between meetings over email and a WhatsApp Group was also created for ease of communication and quick decision-making.

4. The Monthly meetings of the EC

The meetings were held two to three weeks in advance of the Monthly meeting. These meetings generally lasted 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 conducted its work in between meetings over email and a WhatsApp Group was also created for ease of communication and quick decision-making.

5. Working Groups

- The Co-leads for the working groups are:
 - o Social Protection -Daniel Le Blanc, Thomas Pallithanam
 - o Financial and Digital Inclusion - Anita Thomas and Teresa Kotturan
 - o Climate Finance - Quinn Wonderling and Fred Sullivan
- All three working groups conducted their meetings over the Committee's Zoom account.
- During the course of the year, working groups met and developed their respective inputs to the 2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report (FSDR) outline. Not all members who signed up to be part of a Group attended meetings or participated actively in the work of the group bringing added work to the working group co-leads with follow-up.

6. Social Media

- The Committee has a Twitter account, Instagram account, Facebook account, and LinkedIn account.
 - o The Twitter account <https://twitter.com/NGOsonFfD/> is kept reasonably active. As of 6/8/2021, the specifics are: Following: 482 followers and follows 387 Twitter account holders.
 - o The Instagram handle is @tther1ch. The specifics are: 57 followers and follows 205 Instagram accounts. Since its creation on 10/29/21, 12 posts have been made.
 - o Currently, there are two existing Facebook accounts for the Committee, and they need to be combined into one page. Formatting updates also need to be made to ensure the account functions effectively as a page. Updates are being posted periodically.
 - o The LinkedIn account is the least effective with 17 followers.

7. Addis Ababa Coordinating Group

AThomas continues to participate in the ACG meetings on behalf of the NGO Committee. However, the lack of clarity in the decision-making processes (ACG vs. a core group referred to frequently by the group leader in meetings) of the Group makes it difficult to meaningfully/impactfully contribute to the work of the Group.

8. Monthly Committee Meetings

The Committee took a summer recess for July and August and reconvened in September. Key updates from the monthly meetings are included below:

June 15, 2021

- This was the annual meeting of the Committee where a new executive committee was elected. AThomas thanked the nominating committee, Gillian D'Souza, Teresa Kotturan (TKotturan), and Veronica Branda for their efforts to convene a strong executive committee.
- AThomas presented the Annual Report and Marvie Misolas presented the Treasurer's report. The Annual Report received positive feedback. Levi Bautista, President of CoNGO shared his appreciation "for a very comprehensive report" and shared that he has made it known to Anita to other members of the Committee that he praises the work of the Committee. Barry Herman shared "Bravo! Wonderful report and a very successful year" and commended Anita for the thorough overview and report. Teresa Kotturan "Thank you Anita thank you Exec and thank you, everyone, for making it a wonderful year despite being in a lockdown. Kudos to everyone!

- Martha Gallahue (Gallahue) who is leading the efforts to develop a consolidated advocacy statement for the Committee, taking into consideration the priorities of the three working groups, presented the latest version and requested feedback. Based on feedback, Gallahue will work with AThomas to present an updated statement at the next meeting.
- Philipp Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, UN FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters. He thanked the Committee for its full participation at the FfD Forum with many interventions - good collaboration, mutually beneficial. He shared that the President of ECOSOC has called for the SDG Action Fair as part of the FfD process and to be made year long and not just one week. AThomas thanked him for all the support he has extended to the committee over the year and for the opportunities he facilitated for the Committee for making interventions and holding side events during the FfD Forum

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. There was an extensive discussion on the proposed objective and SMART Goals for the Committee. One of the key recommendations was to gather and train grassroots speakers well ahead of time.
- 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.
- AThomas shared the Committee's aspirations for the FfD Forum participation in the upcoming year to repeat slots for 12 interventions - more from the ground, prepare for a breakfast session, contribute to the IATF Report, and conduct Mission visits.
- The advocacy statement was adopted (see statement under the section on documents).
- 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 consultation was held at 8 am on September 8.
 - o Planning an orientation session on FfD issues for the wider NGO Community. Yvonne O' Neal is taking a lead on organizing this session.
 - o 2022 FfD Inter-Agency Taskforce Report outline and plan for submitting written feedback as in the previous years
 - o The annual strategic plan which includes the Committee's scope of work, timelines, and deliverables.
 - o Advocacy priorities and steps to actualize them.
- Ms. Shari Spiegel, Chief, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, DESA, and Dr. 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.
- At the recommendation of the Chair, the executive committee approved a regular agenda item (time permitting) for monthly meetings where a committee member would provide a summary of an article. The article can be proposed by a member or can be picked from one of the articles that the Chair compiles for the monthly meeting resource folder
 - o The purpose of this exercise is for members to have opportunities to contribute to the monthly

meetings, for attendees to learn about the member organization's work, and to stay updated on issues of importance for the Committee's work and the FfD agenda. The summarization is followed by an interactive discussion among the attendees.

- o Rick O'Sullivan summarized the article [How much will vaccine inequity cost?](#) from the Economist Intelligence Unit.

- o Daniel LeBlanc summarized the article [What We Owe Each Other](#) by Manouchehr Shafik

- o Yvonne O' Neal summarized the article [Poverty Fighters](#) by Esther Duplo and Abhijit Banerjee, MIT

- There were twenty-eight attendees at the meeting.

November 3, 2021

- The executive committee updates included:

- o AThomas shared the link for the report and strategy document of the NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment' consultation on September 8 about advancing ratification of ILO-C-190. The links for these documents are included on page 16 of this report.

- o Quinn Wonderling and Graciano Gaillard developed a social media strategy at the request of the executive committee.

- o Working Groups were requested to develop the scope of work, deliverables, and timelines for their work ahead.

- o Dr. Guy Metayer, Deputy Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Haiti to the United Nations joined and shared his insights about the \$75 million grant from the International Development Association of the World Bank for the private sector jobs and economic transformation project in aid. An abridged version of Ambassador Metayer's presentation can be [accessed here](#).

- TKotturan summarized the article "[The Deal We Always Wanted: A Feminist Action Framework to Reshape Our Digital Destiny](#)" by Anita Guru-Murthy, Nandini Chami, from Friederich Ebert Stiftung Research. Teresa's summary can be [accessed here](#).

- Cynthia Mathew to share about her organization's recent work, through the Loreto Rainbow Homes, continue to keep in touch with the disadvantaged girl children from the street whom they have educated and have moved on to pursue higher education or career. A summary of Cynthia's sharing can be [accessed here](#).

- AThomas proposed that the working groups begin the work to draft written feedback to the draft outline of the 2022 Financing for Development published in October 2020.

- There were twenty-seven attendees at the meeting.

December 8, 2021

- Executive Committee updates

- o The Committee's annual virtual breakfast meeting, as a preparatory meeting for the 2022 FfD forum will take place on February 3, 2022, from 8:30 am - 10:00 am. A planning team is being convened.

- o ILO New York invited AThomas, in her capacity as the convener of the coalition, to share a video message to be included along with video messages by Ambassadors of the Member States that have ratified the

Convention. The message was posted to Coalition's Twitter account at @ngo_ilo to the Twitter account of ILO New York and the other NGO Committee members of the Coalition.

- o Thomas Pallithanam shared that the Committee's special project won a cash award of 1000 Euros from Misesan Cara. This came about as the project was entered, by our project partner, the Salesians of Ireland, for an

Innovation Project Award competition conducted by Misesan Cara. Hard copies of the report are in production and are expected to be shipped in March.

-
- Veronica Brand, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary had participated in COP 26 in Glasgow and provided an insightful and very informative report. Her PowerPoint presentation can be accessed [here](#)
 - There were eighteen attendees at the meeting.

January 12, 2022

- Executive Committee updates
 - o The planning team for Breakfast Meeting has been assigned [AT, Teresa K, Barry Herman, Winifred Doherty, and QW.
 - o The Committee's feedback on the IATF Report was submitted on time and received a positive response from Shari Spiegel.
- Elsa Barron, the Committee's Special Project intern from the previous year provided a youth perspective from her experience attending COP26 and in the Blue Zone. Three episodes of her podcast can be [accessed here](#). Photos from the session can be [accessed here](#)
- FSDO office briefing - Nelly Rita Muriuki and Kirill Saltanov, UNFSDO joined the session to receive queries from the Committee to prepare for future FSDO briefings.
 - o In addition to queries on the logistics and organization of the FfD Forum, members also requested feedback on the follow-up to the SG's Common Agenda; Canada/Jamaica Initiative; the Debt Group (headed by Pakistan), and more clarity on the alignment between climate finance and FfD (as it was highlighted in the Financing for Sustainable Development Report draft outline).
- Quinn Wonderling summarized the article by the Stanford Social Innovation Review titled: "[What 'Cash Plus' Programs Teach Us About Fighting Extreme Poverty](#)" - Her summary can be accessed [here](#).
- There were twenty-four attendees at the meeting.

February 2, 2022

- Executive Committee updates
 - o AThomas provided an update on the progress of preparation for a side event during the 60th session of the Commission on Social Development. She invited members to co-sponsor the event (only organizations available to help with organizing the event can be co-sponsors). The final flyer and concept note can be accessed under the event section of this report.
 - o The Committee will be partnering with the NGO Committee on Migration to hold a parallel event during the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
 - o Paul Babu, Masters' level student based in India joined the Committee as a short-term intern.
- Briefing on FfD matters - Dr. Mariangela Para Lanacourt, Chief, Strategic Engagement and Policy Integration Branch, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN
 - o Dr. Lanacourt provided a briefing on the preparations for the FfD Forum and responses to the queries that the members had shared with Nelly Muriuki at the January meeting.
 - o She acknowledged AThomas's support and submission of questions through Nelly Muriuki and Kirill Saltanov, FSDO staff members who had attended the January meeting
- Nadja Kvasnicka-Fleischer (Zonta International) provided an overview of Zonta Intl.'s work and summarized an article titled, "Who cares for the future: Finance gender-responsive public services." (TK had forwarded this article to AT). The summary can be accessed [here](#)
- There were twenty-four attendees at the meeting.

March 2, 2022

- Members provided feedback on the breakfast session. They found the discussions to be valuable and insightful and appreciated the opportunity to engage directly with Member States.
- Kirill Saltanov and Nelly Rita Muriuki, FSDO provided a briefing on the preparations for the FfD Forum, the side event application process, and the drafting of the outcome documents. - Executive Committee updates

- Teresa Kotturan (TK), Sisters of Charity Federation provided a presentation on “Effective advocacy and strategies for Mission” based advocacy work pertaining to Haiti, through a working group initiated by faith-based communities. Teresa was invited to share her insights from this experience to provide clarity on advocacy processes at the UN, especially to those members who are new to the Committee.

- Arely Bellorini, World Vision International summarized the article “[Rethinking Multilateralism for a Pandemic Era](#)”. Her summary can be accessed [here](#).

- Christina Hu shared her personal experience in Ukraine during her work in the Peace Corps in Ukraine during the Orange Revolution in 2004 and about the situation of her host family who lives 2 hours outside of Kyiv. Attendees also discussed the outcome of the UNG GA Resolution on Ukraine. A Thomas will share a Google sheet where members can add the name of organizations providing support on the ground.

- There were twenty-four attendees at the meeting.

April 6, 2022

- Executive Committee updates

- o Graciano Gaillard, Member-at-Large, will step down from the role on April 18 due to family commitments. The executive committee will consult to identify a committee member to step into the role.

- o Paul Babu, the Committee intern, will be developing a primer on Climate Finance. He will also develop a landscape analysis on Blue Bonds.

- Aldo Caliarì, Senior Director of Policy and Strategy, Jubilee USA Network provided an overview of the current debt discussions and Jubilee USA’s work in this area. A transcript of Aldo’s presentation can be accessed [here](#)

- Nelly Rita Muriki, FSDO provided a briefing on the status of FfD Forum, modalities for civil society engagement, and the process for providing input to the outcome document. AT expressed gratitude for facilitating the opportunity for the Committee to provide input to the outcome document. Nelly shared that the committee’s recommendations pertaining to digital financial inclusion and social protection have made it into the outcome document. However, with regard to the climate finance input, not much could be done to include the proposed recommendations as there is strong intent to keep the language close to the Glasgow document. The three side event proposals by the NGO Committee have been approved.

- Liliane Nkunzimana, Bahai’ International Community summarized an article titled “Taxing for a New Social Contract” by Alex Cobham. The article and summary can be accessed [here](#).

May 4, 2022

- Executive Committee updates

- o The Committee held two side events (put forth by the Social Protection Working Group and by the Financial and Digital Inclusion Working Group) (56 in attendance for both events), actively promoted these events and involvement at the FfD Forum through the Committee’s social media platforms through our social media channels, and nominated three people for making interventions, (Teresa Kotturan, Thomas Pallithanam, and Rebecca Irby (RI)). Teresa and Thomas were able to deliver their oral intervention. All three interventions can be

- o The side event proposed by the Climate Finance Working Group had to be withdrawn as the Group was not able to confirm speakers at least a week in advance of the event date. AT advised Quinn and FSullivan to put it forth either for the Ocean Conference or the HLPF. QWonderling submitted the proposal to the Ocean Conference and was approved to be held.

- Advocacy efforts by the NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (ILO C-190) will be reconvening on 12 May (after a few month’s gaps due to commitments the Chairs of each of the Committees had to their respective areas of work pertaining to UN meetings -CSW, CSocD, and FfD). Currently, 12 countries have ratified the Convention.

- Anneleen Vos | Senior Policy Officer –Economic Programmes, International Rescue Committee pre-

sented the findings from recent studies (focusing on Financing in Displacement, women's economic empowerment, and gender-based violence). She summarized the findings from 3 IRC recent reports on the impact of violence, economic empowerment, and financing (interviewed 280 refugees in 3 different countries - Kenya, Uganda, and Jordan) on displaced women. The three reports can be accessed [here](#)

- Swami Venkataraman, CFA, Associate Managing Director, presented an overview of Moody's ESG (Environmental and Social Governance). He spoke of Moody's rating process - the impact of climate change on sovereign ratings. He presented a slide of credit impacts on 144 countries. SV shared a quantitative analysis of governance, social and other issues. Some countries have clear guidelines as to budget management. The spreadsheet with sovereign ESG scores and the accompanying report can be accessed [here](#). Special appreciation to Cristina Hu for inviting Swami Venkataraman.

- There were thirty attendees at the meeting.

9. Engagements in UN processes

Orientation on Financing for Development

- The executive committee organized an orientation session on Financing for Development titled "Revisiting Financing for Development" which was held on November 5, 2021, from 1-2:30 pm. The flyer and concept note can be accessed [here](#).

- The session was moderated by Dr. Barry Herman. AThomas provided the opening remarks and Yvonne O' Neal provided the closing remarks.

Speakers were:

- o Dr. Mariangela Parra-Lancourt, Chief, Strategic Engagement and Policy Integration Branch, United Nations Financing for Sustainable Development Office

- o Hon. Irene Ovonji-Odida, Member, FACTI Panel & AU/ECA High-Level Panel on IFFs from Africa (Mbeki Panel)

- o Mr. Roberto Bissio, Executive Director, Instituto del Tercer Mundo

- o Aldo Caliari, Senior Director of Policy and Strategy Jubilee USA Network

- YO'Neal took the lead in organizing the event. AThomas, Daniel LeBlanc, QWonderling, and MGallahue managed various aspects of the event organization and management.

Side event during the 60th Session of the Commission on Social Development

- The Committee organized a panel event titled, "Investing in Youth Capital: A Key Driver for Inclusive Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from Poverty and Hunger." in partnership with the Salesian Mission Inc. Additional co-sponsors included the United Women First International Fund, Religions Initiative, Africa Development Interchange Network, Sisters of Charity Federation, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, General Board of Church and Society -United Methodist Church and Vivat International.

- The event was held virtually on February 15, 10:00 am-11:15 am. The flyer and the concept note can be accessed [here](#). Speakers represented the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN, the ILO, World Food Programme, NGO, and grassroots speakers. The event had 120 registrants and around 80 attendees o AThomas moderated the panel at the invitation of Salesian Missions Inc, initiator of the side event.

- AThomas and TPallithanam took the lead in organizing the event. TKotturan, YO'Neal, QWonderling, JPalafax supported with event organization.

Parallel event during the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

- The event was held in partnership with the NGO Committee on Migration on March 16. The topic was "Feminist and Decolonial Approaches to Climate-Induced Migration, Loss and Damage." The flyer and the concept note can be accessed [here](#) H.E. Ambassador Satyendra Prasad, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations joined the session as a speaker. AThomas had invited the Ambassador. NGO Committee on Migration invited the other five speakers. AThomas moderated the panel at the request of NGOCOM, as the person originally invited could not participate and others were not willing to step into the role due to the complicated topic. There were 108 registrants and around 70 attended the session.

-
- AThomas took the lead on behalf of the Committee to help organize the event. QWonderling also attended the planning meetings.

Breakfast briefing on the roadmap to the FfD Forum

- On February 22, 2022, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am, the Committee organized a virtual breakfast briefing and interactive discussion in preparation for the 2022 FfD Forum. The event was titled “Act Now: Financing for a People and Planet Centered Recovery, A virtual working breakfast briefing and interactive discussion in preparation for the 2022 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 Robert Keith Rae (Canada), Ambassador (DPR) Philip Ochen Andrew Odida, (Uganda), Ambassador (DPR) Guy Metayer, and Ambassador Charlotta Schlyter, CdA, (Sweden) provided remarks. In addition, Member State representatives, 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 planning team comprised AThomas, TKotturan, Winifred Doherty, BHerman, TPallithanam, and QWonderling
- There were eighty-four attendees at the meeting.

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

- The NGO coalition conducted a multistakeholder consultation and strategy session titled “STRATEGIES TO END VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN THE WORLD OF WORK - PROMOTING RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION’S CONVENTION 190 A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE AND STRATEGY SESSION” on September 8, 2021. AThomas moderated this session. The concept note of the session can be accessed [here](#)
- Speakers included:
 - o Vice President of Liberia H. E. Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor
 - o H.E. Dr. Satyendra Prasad, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the UN
 - o H.E. Ms. María del Carmen Squeff, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Argentina to the UN
 - o H.E. Ms. Joan Cedano Ambassador, DPR, Permanent Mission of Dominican Republic to the UN
 - o Manuela Tomei, Director, WorkQuality Department, International Labour Organization.
- The report from the session can be accessed [here](#)
- The strategy document from the session can be accessed [here](#)

Contribution to the 2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report

- The Committee submitted a stakeholder contribution to the preparation of the 2022 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 21, 2022.
- 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](#)

2022 FfD Forum

- Two NGO representatives from the NGO Committee made interventions during the 2022 ECOSOC FfD Follow-up Forum. These included Teresa Kotturan (Sisters of Charity Federation). Thomas Pallithanam (Salesian Missions Inc) made interventions on behalf of the Committee at the FfD Forum.
- The Committee also organized two side events during the FfD Forum

Side event during the 2022 Financing for Development Forum

- The Committee organized two side events during the 2022 FfD Forum. Both events had around sixty participants.

1. Financing for Universal and Crisis-Responsive Social Protection and Decent Jobs: Proposals of 2021 UN Inter-Agency Working Group on April 26 from 8:00 am- 9:30 am. The event flyer and concept note can be accessed [here](#).

o ATHomas served as the lead organizer, Special appreciation to Amber Barth (ILO), Barry Herman, Arelys Bellorini Jason Manrique, TKotturan, QWonderling, TPallithanam, and DLeBlanc for co-sponsorship and support with organizing the event.

o ATHomas provided welcome remarks. Dr. Barry Herman moderated the session. Speakers were:

- H.E. Mr. Philippe Kridelka Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN
- Mr. Helmut Schwarzer, Senior Social Security Specialist for the Americas, Social Protection Department, ILO Geneva
- Mr. David Stewart, Chief of Child Poverty and Social Protection, UNICEF
- Dr. Santosh Mehrotra, Research Fellow, IZA Institute of Labour Economics, Bonn, Germany
- Ms. Tikhala Itaye, Director, Global Movement Building, Women in Global Health
- Mr. Yilbel José Acosta Parra, Red Salesinana de Casas, Don Bosco Network

2. Exploring Digital Finance's Real Promises and Challenges for Development April 27 from 8 am -9:30 am. The concept note and event flyer can be accessed [here](#).

o ATHomas serves as the lead organizer and moderator of the session. Special appreciation to Rick O' Sullivan, Janet Palafox, Lilianne Nkuzimana, TKotturan, YO' Neal, and Fred Sullivan for co-sponsorship and support in organizing the event.

o Speakers were:

- Dr. Purva Khera, Economist, International Monetary Fund
- Mr. Johannes Ehrentraud, Senior Advisor, Financial Stability Institute, Bank for International Settlements
- Ms. Sofie Blakstad, CEO of hiveonline and author of Fintech Revolution: Universal Inclusion in the New Financial Ecosystem
- Ms. AnneleenVos, Senior Economic Policy Officer, International Rescue Committee
- Mr. Prabhat Labh, CEO, Grameen Foundation India
- Ms. Mercy Buku, Program Leader, Toronto Center

The Chair represented the Committee in the following venues:

- Delivered a statement at the World Day of Social interactive discussion organized by ILO New York on February 21. The video recording and statement can be accessed [here](#).
- Speaker at the Zonta International advocacy series on February 25
- During the 16 days of activism, ILO released a composite of individual videos where Ambassadors of some of the countries that have ratified the ILO C-190 and AT on behalf of the ILO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work had contributed. The consolidated video can be accessed [here](#)
- Presented to the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons on the linkage between trafficking and Financing for Development
- Speaker and rapporteur for Panel 1 of the CoNGO Summit held on October 25, 2021.
- Speaker at the World Information Transfer September 15, 2021, education session on Financing for Development. Her PowerPoint slides can be accessed [here](#)
- Speaker (on behalf of the NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work) at

the Meeting on Ending Violence and Harassment at Work held under the auspices of the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, held on June 29, 2022. Her presentation, PowerPoint slides and the concept note of the event can be accessed [here](#).

10. The Executive Committee extends its deep appreciation and thanks to Committee members who will not be rejoining us next year and to those who have made valuable contributions to advance the work of the Committee:

- a) Martha Gallahue for her long-term support of the Committee's efforts through her work as Chair of the Nominating Committee in 2019, taking lead on developing a consolidated advocacy statement with input from the Working Groups, and for serving as the Secretary of the Committee for the 2021-2022 cycle.
- b) Marvie Misolas, who moved back to the Philippines in February. We are grateful to her for establishing the Climate Finance Working Group, serving as its lead for two and serving as treasurer of the Committee for two years
- c) Graciano Gaillard for his contributions as Member-at-Large on two consecutive executive committees and for the support GFDD extended to the Committee by offering its conference room for some of the executive committee meetings.
- d) Misesan Cara for the innovation award for the Special Project and for the 1000 Euros given as part of the award.
- e) Mariangela Para-Lancourt and Nelly Muiriki for their support of the Committee's efforts and for facilitating opportunities for the Committee to engage on FfD matters
- f) Philipp Erfurth, FSDO for his support of the Committee's work in early 2021
- g) Beate Andres, Amber Barth, and Mathieu Cognac at the ILO Office in New York for the partnership and opportunities extended to the Committee.

11. Links for key documents, statements, and reports

- 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 was posted to the ILO website and can be accessed [here](#)
- e) The NGO Committee on FfD's submission to the 2022 Financing for Development - Inter-Agency Taskforce Report can be accessed [here](#).
- f) Statements presented by the members of the NGO Committee on FfD at the 2022 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum follow-up can be accessed [here](#)

Respectfully submitted by Anita Thomas, Chair, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Financing for Development

A treasurer's report was submitted by Daniel Le Blanc, Treasurer, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Financing for Development

Timeline of submissions:

The Annual Report, including the treasurer's report, was presented at the Committee's Annual Meeting held on June 8, 2022

Membership approved the Annual Report, including the treasurer's report, at the Committee's monthly meeting held on September 16, 2022.

The Annual Report was submitted to the Conference of NGOs on October 14, 2022.

Addendum

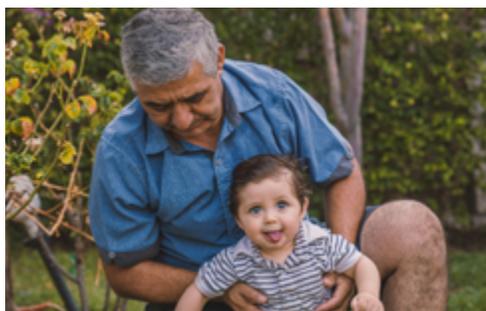
Links to annual reports from the previous years

- The annual report of the Committee for the period - June 3, 2020 - June 15, 2021, can be [accessed here](#)
- The annual report of the Committee for the period - June 5, 2019 - June 3, 2020 can be [accessed here](#).
- The annual report of the Committee for the period June 6, 2018 - May 31, 2019 can be [accessed here](#).
- All prior reports can be accessed on the Committee's website at [this link](#)

Membership of the Committee

- The Committee's membership list can be accessed on its website at [this link](#) .

REPORT: **THE NGO COMMITTEE ON INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY (COIGENS)**



REPORT TO CoNGO From: NGO COMMITTEE ON INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY (COIGENS) Submitted by: Dr. Susanne Seperson, Acting Chairperson of COIGENS Date: October 7, 2022

Introduction

There was only one ongoing activity of COIGENS for the first half of this reporting period since the founding Chairperson was reluctant to hold online meetings. She informed the Executive Committee in February, 2022 that she would not be able to continue in her position because of an unfortunate accident. Dr. Seperson, as the Vice Chair of the Committee, assumed the role of Acting Chairperson until the next election. With the support of other Executive Committee members the first online meeting was sponsored and significant assistance was provided in setting up the meeting. Subsequently, efforts to re-engage members were taken and are ongoing. A meeting was held with CoNGO President, Dr. Bautista who recommended postponing elections and focus first on a series of meetings. We have taken that advice and are working on a series of 5 online meetings that will begin in November and will be under the general theme of "Social Trauma that can be addressed through Intergenerational Programmes". The tentative date for the first meeting is November 11 and will highlight extreme poverty and hunger. It will include live coverage of older persons interviewed by the Mayor of Lalibela, Ethiopia, the city where the intergenerational project initiated by COIGENS is located.

Sponsored Events/Activities

Lalibela Project:

This project, which operates in the City of Lalibela in Northern Ethiopia, was initiated in April, 2020 by COIGENS as a DEMONSTRATION PROJECT for several intergenerational policies and programmes it is promoting. The primary ones to date are Social Security Systems and related Social Protection Programmes to address several SDGs. The committee has been working on these from before its formal acceptance and

recognition as an NGO Committee in good standing with CoNGO. Earlier conversations with Alberto Padova - the former director of the Intergenerational unit at DESA - indicated the need for evidence-based materials to make the case for what is being proposed. The project is still sponsored by COIGENS and presentations will be made by participants, key stakeholders and experts from time to time.

Symposia, seminars and endorsements:

COIGENS was a sponsor for an approved PARALLEL EVENT during the 66th meetings of the COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN in March, 2022 and made substantial contributions to it. The event was:

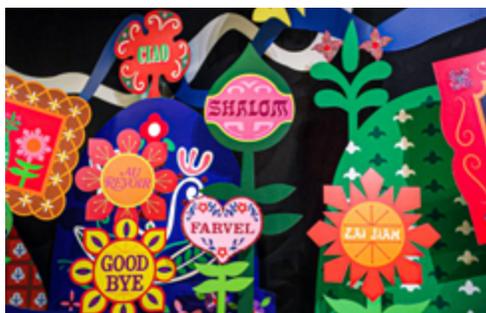
Sustainable, Socially Inclusive and Economically Positive Social Security Systems:

Towards Eliminating Extreme Poverty Among Older Women by 2030

There were 42 people in attendance and the event was recorded and edited for future use.

A follow up submission to CSW was made stating that governments may neglect the critical situation of extreme poverty and hunger amongst older women because they are not aware that they could afford the cost of the proposed intergenerational model in the symposium (a 1% income tax) which should yield a growth in GDP of 1.5 to 2% i.e. a net gain for the economy as well as the social system. The submission basically petitioned the UN to set up an office to help nations. COIGENS did much of the work on the submission for Generations United, an NGO in consultative status to ECOSOC, and then added its endorsement to the submission. CoNGO President Levi Bautista very graciously circulated the document to his list of committees and NGOs and picked up an additional 33 endorsements.

REPORT: THE NGO COMMITTEE ON LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES



A Report to the CoNGO Board on the Activities of the Committee October 2022

The NGO Committee on Language and Languages has continued to be active during the period since the last report. Since September 2021, the Committee has to date conducted four major meetings as well as other outreach activities in addition to approving its bylaws and electing a slate of founding officers.

In December 2021, the Committee held its inaugural public event on the theme of **Multilingualism and the United Nations: Policy, Practices, and Prospects** featuring briefings by H.E. Mr. Movses Abelian (Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and Coordinator for Multilingualism), H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima (Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations), and Ms. Mita Hosali (Deputy Director of the News and Media Division of the Department of Global Communications) as well as civil society representatives from the International Association of Conference Interpreters, the International Federation of Translators, and the Universal Esperanto Association.

In May 2022, the Committee hosted a dialogue session on multilingual initiatives by UNESCO, with a particular focus on the forthcoming World Atlas of Languages, the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, and language-in-education featuring the respective leads in these areas from UNESCO Headquarters: Bhanu Neupane, Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, and Noro Andriamiseza Ingaro.

Also in May 2022, the Committee collaborated with the **Study Group on Language and the United Nations** to host its annual spring symposium. With an overarching theme of Multilingualism and COVID-19, the two-day event addressed linguistic challenges and solutions for achieving progress on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 4 (Quality Education), with briefings by seventeen experts from multiple scholarly disciplines and areas of professional practice. Featured speakers included Maher Nasser (Department of Global Communication) on the United Nations "Verified" initiative to disseminate trusted public health information, and Noro Andriamiseza Ingaro (UNESCO) on the topic of multilingual education initiatives that foster inclusivity.

In July 2022, the Committee convened a side event of the **High-Level Political Forum** in collaboration with the Universal Esperanto Association and the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations with a focus on the importance of language and multilingualism for SDG 4 (Quality Education). The event featured expert briefings by Professor Jasone Cenoz (University of the Basque Country, Spain), Professor Mark Fettes (Simon Fraser University, Canada), and Dr. Xolisa Guzula (University of Capetown, South Africa), with welcoming remarks by Guillermo Escribano (Director General for the Spanish Language around the World at the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Spain).

In addition, in April 2022, Francis Hult gave a briefing on the aims and purposes of the Committee to the **Group of Friends of Spanish at the United Nations**, a working group of Member States who seek to advance the position of Spanish in the work and policy initiatives of the United Nations, and, in May 2022, Humphrey Tonkin presented on the topic of multilingualism for information and communication technology (ICT) at the **Forum of the World Summit on the Information Society**, an annual meeting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as part of a panel organized by CoNGO President Liberato Bautista.

Humphrey Tonkin and Francis Hult have also held **informal meetings** with the Member States of Argentina, Costa Rica, and Spain as well as the Office of the UN Coordinator for Multilingualism, L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York (NYO), and various civil society stakeholders.

The Committee held its first **Annual General Meeting** on 18 May 2022. At this meeting, the Committee formally approved and adopted its bylaws and elected its first cadre of officers. The nomination and election process for the founding officers was led by CoNGO President Liberato Bautista. The following officers were elected to serve two-year terms (2022 to 2024):

- Chair: Francis M. Hult, Universal Esperanto Association (UEA)
- Vice-Chair: Humphrey Tonkin, Universal Esperanto Association (UEA)
- Secretary: Linda Fitchett, International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC)
- Treasurer: Hans E. Becklin, Tutmonda Esperantista Junulara Organizo (TEJO)
- Member-at-Large: Daniel LeBlanc, VIVAT International
- Member-at-Large: Allison Rodriguez, International Federation of Translators (FIT)

Respectfully submitted,
Francis M. Hult, Chair
Humphrey Tonkin, Vice-Chair

REPORT: THE NGO COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF WOMEN



Leadership of NGO CSW/NY

Chair: Houry Geudelekian, Unchained At Last

Vice Chair: Ivy Koek, Soka Gakkai International

Treasurer: Rosa Lizarde, Feminist Task Force

Communications Secretary: Gillian D'Souza Nazareth, Red Dot Foundation

Recording Secretary: Saphira Rameshfar, Baha'i International Community

Members-at-Large:

Terry Dale Ince, African Views

Margaretha Jones, International Humanist and Ethical Union

Ani Karapetyan, Armenian International Women's Association;

Luisa Kislinger, Fos Feminista

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.

In 2021, our NGO CSW66 Forum was virtual for the second year. The theme focused on the intersection of climate change and women's rights. For more information about the NGO CSW66 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.

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 digital technology and women's rights in some way to align with the CSW67 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 close to 3,000 people in our global YLYP community! Some notable YLYP activities include a monthly newsletter, mentorship program, networking sessions, community-building, and an 8-week Youth Preparation Series for CSW. Read more about the YLYPs and what they do [here](#).

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. We also partner with UN Women for some sessions during the NGO CSW Forum, such as civil society briefings.

During the NGO CSW66 Forum, we also partnered with Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to provide two training sessions on the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence Against Women (EDVAW Platform). Watch the recordings of the [first session](#) and the [second session](#).

Greatest Achievements of NGO CSW/NY

The greatest achievements of NGO CSW/NY this past year was our work for the NGO CSW66 Forum, namely our advocacy work, youth engagement, and community-building.

Advocacy: This year, our advocacy with Member States was a particularly strong point of ours. A big part of this was our Advocacy & Research Group who developed and disseminated their Zero Draft Recommendations earlier than usual in December. This allowed more of our recommendations to be included in the initial Zero Draft of the CSW66 Agreed Conclusions.

Member States, especially those of the CSW Bureau, heard and considered our inputs, and gave us helpful advice for our advocacy efforts. We formed more effective relationships with Member States than ever before. We engaged them in our virtual Vienna Cafe sessions, during the Civil Society Briefings, Consultation Day, and other events and processes during the Forum to allow our community access to Member State engagement as well.

Youth engagement: While we've always recognized the importance of youth voices and activism within the gender equality and CSW spaces, the NGO CSW66 Forum saw more youth engagement than ever! We ensured that there were youth involved in all of our events. Besides our Youth Preparation Series hosted by the YLYPs, we also had youth leaders in the Consultation Day program, participating in Vienna Cafe sessions and at least one youth facilitator for each Conversation Circle, to name a few examples.

Community-building: Before the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most fulfilling aspects of the NGO CSW Forum was gathering at the UN and meeting new people, connecting with old friends and colleagues, and networking with other feminists from around the globe. While it's impossible to perfectly emulate these informal, in-person interactions online, we are very proud of the virtual spaces we've been able to create for participants to network and connect during our virtual Forum. Our events on the Remo platform were particularly successful: the virtual Vienna Cafe sessions and the YLYP's Global Mentorship Networking Session where participants could sit around a virtual table and chat. While virtual platforms such as Remo and the Forum Portal were instrumental in allowing for successful and safe networking spaces, the open, accepting, and inclusive environment we provide also helps foster participant connections. All of NGO CSW/NY's events allowed for participant interaction via the chat, breakout rooms, or open discussion (such as in our Conversation Circles). Based on participant feedback and our own experience, we found that the ability to fully interact in virtual spaces and events makes a huge difference in regard to participant networking and connections.

Documents Produced by NGO CSW/NY

[NGO CSW66 Forum Report:](#) This report outlines the planning, implementation, and outcomes of the NGO CSW66 Virtual Forum, as well as how we plan to improve future Forums.

[Civil Society CSW66 Recommendations:](#) Prepared by our [Advocacy Research Group \(ARG\)](#), this site includes the six recommendations for the CSW66 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. Additionally, the ARG prepared briefs for each of the six recommendations, as well as a brief on youth perspectives.

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.

NGO CSW/NY Recommendations from Civil Society for the CSW Methods of Work: In September 2021, an ad hoc group was created consisting of gender experts, academics, former UN staff and NGO representatives to gather recommendations for the CSW Methods of Work for consideration by the Commission. The group, through their CSW Methods of Work Recommendations, hoped to provide actionable, creative and innovative solutions to enable the Commission to work even more effectively and inclusively, with accountability to civil society and member states. NGO CSW/NY conducted a survey to inform the recommendations and collected input from consultations which were shared with member states. Read more about our CSW Methods of Work advocacy [here](#).

NGO CSW/NY Herstory: 2022 was NGO CSW/NY's 50th anniversary. Throughout the year, we held various events and campaigns for the occasion. This document shows a short overview of the history of NGO CSW/NY.

REPORT: **THE NGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



REPORT OF THE NGO COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, NEW YORK 4 October 2022

Dear Levi,

We hope you and your family are well.

We thank you for all of your outstanding leadership and support of CSOs throughout the pandemic at the UN and of our continued work on the SDGs. Here is our NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY 2022 report regarding our work within the UN Community and globally especially during and following the pandemic for the UN We Need. We are a Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need and we are Members of the UN Friends of World Ocean Day and longtime members of the NGO Major Group and we helped lead the initiation of the NGO Major Group Urban Cluster about 5 years ago.

We continue to be passionate and 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 to "Leave no One Behind." The UN Secretary-General's, "Our Common Agenda," 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 look forward to the 2024 "Summit for the Future" having CSO participation including CoNGO's engagement.

We have continued to collaborate with our civil society partners to develop meetings and webinars with topics and activities that focus current issues while building back with the SDGs which are our best road map to overcome the recent global challenges for all communities. We have continued to hold monthly webinars and sometimes twice-monthly sessions on important topics related to the SDGs.

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

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 new initiatives including covering the costs for our meetings and webinars.

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, UNDPI and UNODA. We promote and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and the dissemination of information on sustainable development issues within the NGO & CSO community including to the general public to raise awareness toward an impactful 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.

The NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY is officially associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications and has Special Consultative Status with the UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs. We are a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Our Motto is: “Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change”

We look forward to supporting and collaborating with you and our CoNGO colleagues throughout 2023 and beyond to create more opportunities for CSO partnerships with all stakeholders both at the United Nations and globally.

Take care and keep up the good work supporting CSO engagement with the UN Agenda.

Please kindly confirm receiving this information, we thank you.

Best regards,
Margo
Margo LaZaro
President and Chair
NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY

REPORT: **THE NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING / VIENNA**



Brief Report of the Activities of the Committee on Ageing, Vienna 7 October 2022 for CONGO

by Shantu Watt, Chair CoA
for Liberato Bautista and Martina Gredler

The NGO Committee on Ageing, Vienna, continued with its monthly meetings on Zoom.

Since this year it has become our practice to invite for each meeting an external speaker to talk on a topic related to ageing. These presentations included contributions from the USA by a representative of 'CourAgeUs', one from Austria, by a representative from the Jewish Community Vienna, and one from the UK by a representative of GAROP, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People.

One major recent achievement was to agree on a Mission Statement for the Committee on Ageing, Vienna. It emphasizes, inter alia, the need for a closer cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs.

The website of the CoA was updated and expanded and is now fully operational

See: ngoageingvie.org. One of the items on this website is, for instance, the chair's report on the UN-ECE-MIPPA Ministerial Meeting, held in Rome from 15 to 17 June 2022.

On August 22nd, 2022, a hybrid meeting was held to discuss the preparations for the annual commemoration of the UN International Day of Older Persons. The theme of this year's event was 'The Resilience and Contribution of Older Women'. The members suggested a number of subtopics to the general theme; three of these were accepted.

Our next meeting was held online on September 20th, with 22 members participating. The programme for the 3rd of October commemoration was agreed upon. The chair had also invited the speakers of the 3rd October event to be present online in order to acquaint them with the Committee members.

On May 2nd 2022, the chair of CoA, Vienna, was a panellist at the World Summit on the Information Society's [WSIS] 2022 Forum, the topic of discussion being "Opening of the ICTs and Older Persons special track".

From our Committee, the second vice-chair person, took part in the discussion on the uses of information technology by older persons. On the 30th of September the WSIS invited the chair of CoA again as a panelist, the topic being "Violence and abuse of older women."

On August 29-30 2022, the CoA co-chair, Hava Bugajer, made an intervention on the occasion of the meeting "Multi stake holders on Human Rights of Older Persons" which was held at the UN in Geneva.

The UN-IDOP Commemoration event in Vienna was held on October 3rd at the ÖJAB-Haus. The event, which was co-sponsored by INPEA [International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse], was held in hybrid form, with the number of online participants even larger than those present at the Vienna venue. The opening speech was made by Johannes Rauch, Austria's Minister of Social Affairs. He was followed by Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko [Senior Advisor at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research]. His keynote speech focused on the topic "Mainstreaming Getting Older". Dr. Monika Zavis [Associate Professor at the Comenius University in Bratislava] spoke about "Older Persons: Strengthening Resilience to Mental Health Issues". She was followed by Mr. Stecy Yghemonos [Executive Director Eurocarers, Brussels] who made a presentation on the topic "Care and Caring in Europe: Common Challenges - Common Solutions?" Dr. Andrea Schmidt [Head of Department, Austrian National Public Health Institute] presented a paper on "The Impact of Climate Change on Older Persons". Finally, Dr. Monika Vana sent a pre-recorded message from Brussels where she is a Member of the European Parliament for the Green Party. The UN-IDOP event was concluded by a musical contribution from the trio TRI Colore. Afterwards, the audience was able to follow the parallel commemoration at UN Headquarters in New York via zoom.

REPORT: **THE NGO COMMITTEE ON DRUGS / VIENNA**



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by the Executive Board of the
Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs

February 2022



Message from the Chair

I have always known that NGOs in our sector are resilient, flexible and strong. But never has this been more apparent, and more necessary, than during these past years. Reflecting on another year side-tracked by the global COVID-19 pandemic, I want to thank you all for the invaluable, hard and tireless work that you continue to do.

The 64th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs was a new experience for all of us – an (almost) entirely online session, with civil society engagement secured on the main platform itself as well as through the webcasts and the 100+ online side events. We had to adapt fast, we had to coordinate and communicate rapidly, and we found innovative ways to be heard.

We asked all VNGOC members what they thought of this experience – and two-thirds of the respondents told us that the online CND facilitated, rather than impeded, engagement. The clear majority agreed that some of the online elements should continue beyond 2021 (as we called for in our joint closing statement). Yet there is no escaping the fact that nothing truly replicates the value of meeting face-to-face with civil society, government and UN colleagues from around the world. I hope it is not too long until we can all do that together again. But until then, we will need to continue our efforts to promote and protect civil society spaces.

As always, I want to thank our allies in Vienna as well – especially the UNODC Civil Society Unit, the CND Secretariat and our member state partners and donors. Throughout 2021, we have been able to secure civil society speaking opportunities, deliver informative webinars and online events for our members and other civil society partners, and further expand and improve the NGO Marketplace. These events and initiatives have provided much-needed platforms for civil society representatives from all over the world to discuss a range of different issues related to drugs and drug policy. It is this diversity that continues to make our Committee such a vital partner in the UN drug policy debates here in Vienna.

Drugs issues, from whatever angle you may view them, remain as important to address as ever before, even if the world's gaze may be directed elsewhere. Perhaps even more so, as we slowly learn the true human rights, public health and mental health costs of these historic last 24 months.

Yours faithfully,

Jamie Bridge

Chair, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC)





About the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC)

Working together to address global drug issues

The VNGOC is a coordinating body for 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.



As members of civil society, through our committed work, we seek to bring about meaningful and lasting change in our communities affected by the many facets of the world drug situation.

VNGOC Exeutive Board

The work of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs is guided a board of six. Each officer is elected for a term of two years by the General Assembly.



Jamie Bridge

Chairperson

Internatioanl Drug Policy Consortium
(United Kingdom)

jbridge@vngoc.org



Matej Kosir

Deputy Chairperson

Utrip
(Slovenia)

mkosir@vngoc.org



Hellen Lukumbe

Treasurer

World Federation Against Drugs
(Uganda)

hlukumbe@vngoc.org



Heloísa Broggiato

Deputy Treasurer

International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (Brazil/ Switzerland)

hbroggiato@vngoc.org



Ergin Beceren

Secretary

Turkish Green Crescent
(Turkey)

ebeceren@vngoc.org



Penelope Hill

Deputy Secretary

Harm Reduction Australia
(Australia)

phill@vngoc.org

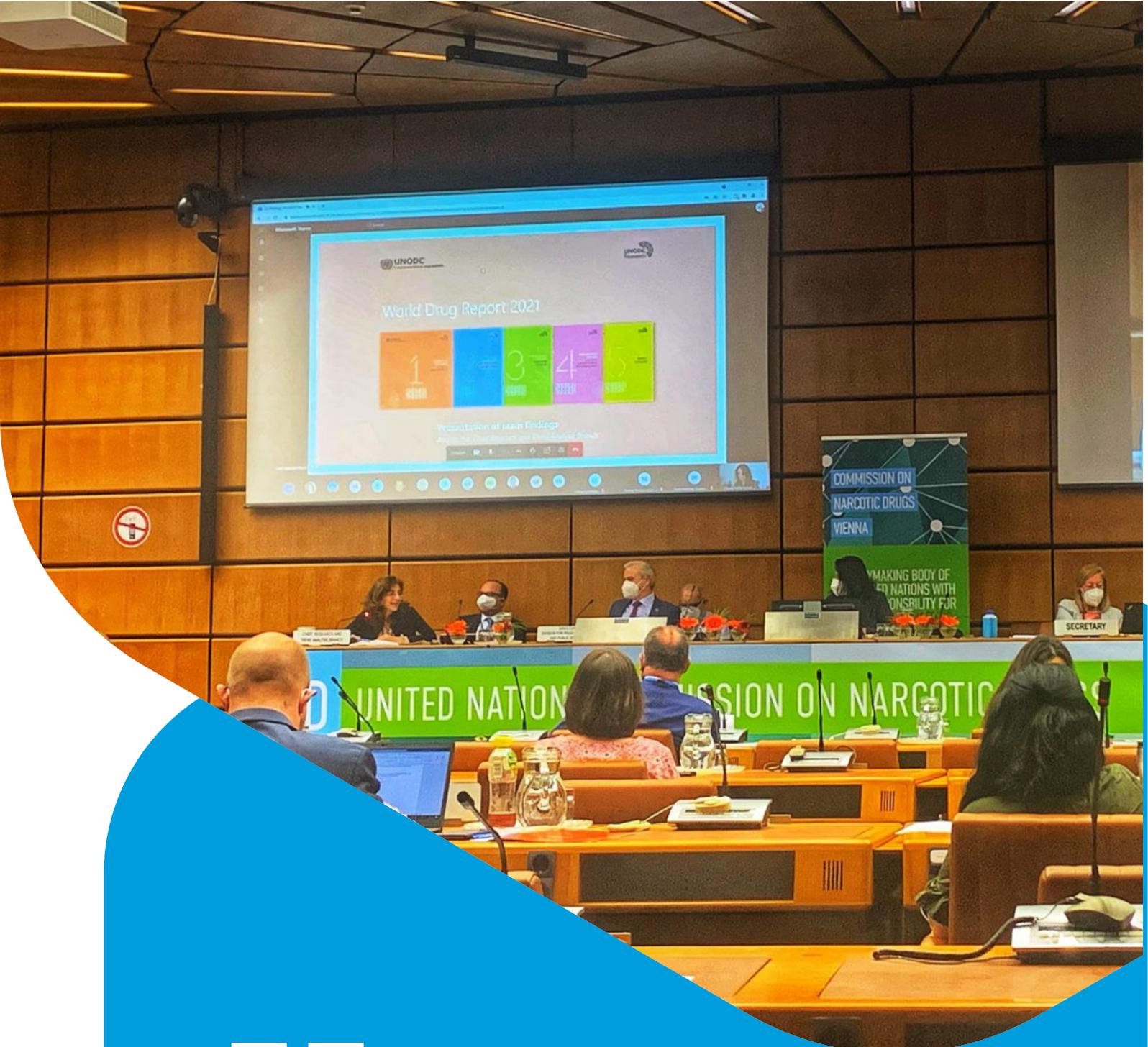


Sarah Pirker

Project Manager

paid staff, attends board meetings

spirker@vngoc.org



”

**As the Vienna NGO
Committee on Drugs,
we look forward to
being part of the
solution.**

Jamie Bridge, June 25th 2021 on the occasion of the launch of the World Drug Report 2021

Highlights

Throughout 2021 VNGOC continued to expand its activities.



Eight Webinars on drug policy issues

VNGOC, together with UNODC organised webinars on the Drug Control Conventions, the normative guidelines of UNODC regarding Prevention, Treatment and Prevention, the World Drug Report 2021 and the UNODC data strategy.



Three Regional Consultations

The VNGOC Asia-Pacific Ad-Hoc Working Group held three online regional consultation meetings to discuss an Asia-Pacific Civil Society Common Position on Drugs. More than 100 organisations from 33 Asian-Pacific countries contributed.



49 Speakers selected

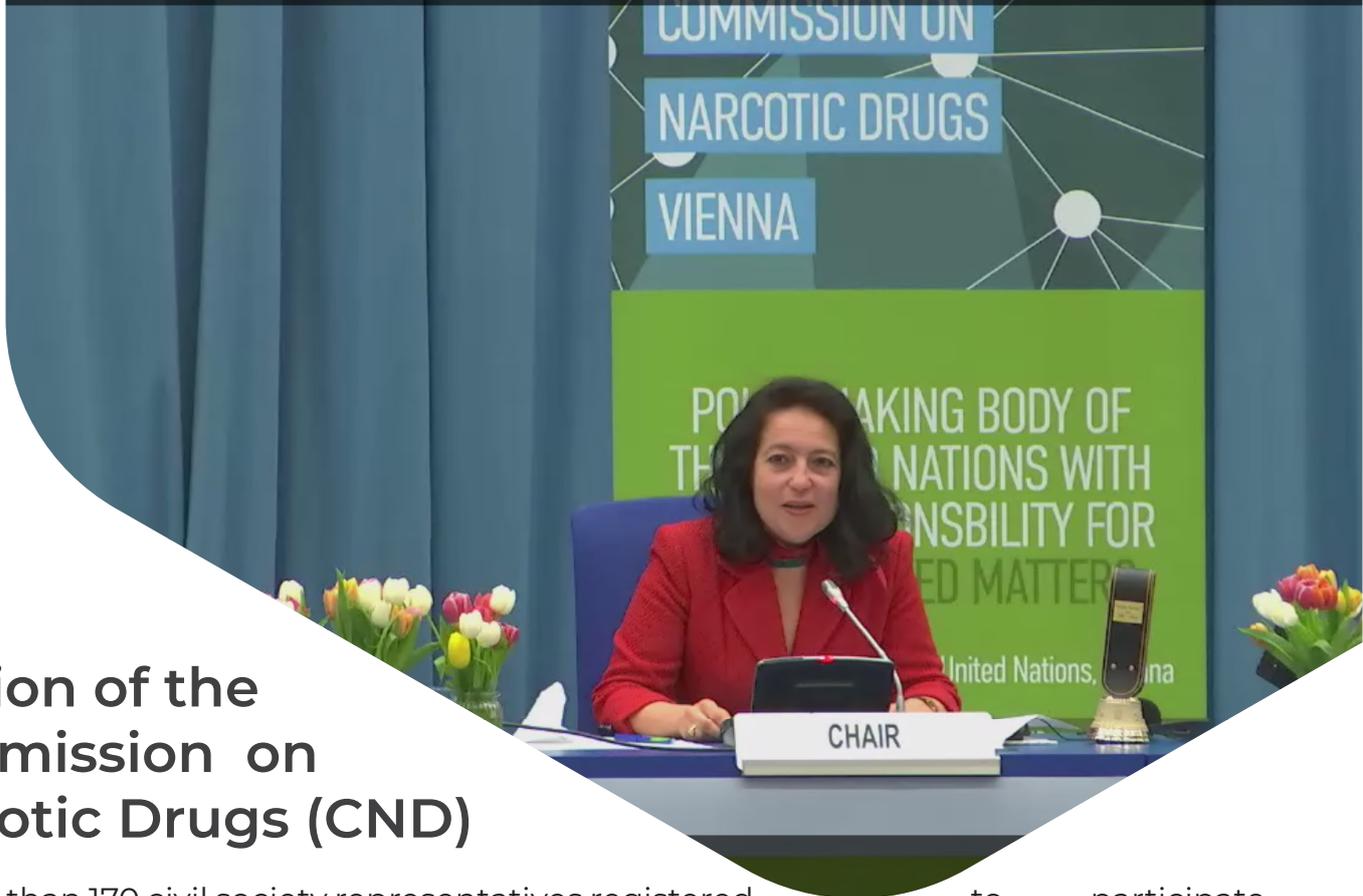
VNGOC selected a record number of speakers for various CND and UNODC events including CND intersessionals and special events, and UNODC expert group meetings.



50 new member organisations

50 new organisations from 37 different countries joined the VNGOC membership in 2021, more than ever before. The Membership now comprises 338 organisations from 93 countries.

64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)



More than 170 civil society representatives registered to participate online in the 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) that took place from 12-16 April 2021, and many more followed the public webcast and the online side events. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic the meeting of the Commission was held mostly online for the first time. Nearly 100 side events were organised, 58 of them sponsored or co-sponsored by NGOs.

VNGOC worked hard to facilitate their attendance and engagement in the build-up to, and throughout, the week. This support included the release of the [annual VNGOC Guide to CND](#), selection of civil society speakers for various side events, the provision of logistical support and advice, and the coordination of civil society statements.



The chair of the VNGOC, Jamie Bridge made an oral intervention in the plenary of the Commission, on behalf of both the Vienna and the New York NGO Committees highlighting the continued need for hybrid formats in order to further improve the reach, inclusivity and impact of the CND.

Together with the UNODC Civil Society Unit the VNGOC co-hosted a side event titled „Civil Society & COVID-19 – responses during the pandemic“ showcasing the resilience and versatility of civil society during the ongoing pandemic. The VNGOC on behalf of the Ad-Hoc Asia-Pacific Working Group also hosted a side-event that focused on “NGOs from Asia uniting to create a consensus and a calling for attention to the challenges in Asia regarding drug matters”.

The VNGOC co-sponsored a number of other side events organised by UNODC and selected ten speakers in total, seven for the VNGOC led side events and three for side

events organised by UNODC:

01

Family a key social institution for addressing substance use, violence, mental health and promote sustainable development: Lessons learned from parenting under stress, in humanitarian settings and in the context of COVID19

- Meaghan Tumath, Centre for gender and sexual health equity (Canada)

02

VNGOC Ad Hoc Working Group, NGOs from Asia unite to create a consensus and a call for attention to the challenges in Asia regarding drug matters

- Cheung Lik Hang, ARTM - Associacao Reabilitacao de Toxicodependentes de Macau
- Ramli Samad, Association of PENGASIH Malaysia

03

No one left behind: UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care

- Beatrix Vas, Students for Sensible Drug Policy (Hungary)

04

Insights into Treatment and Care for People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment

- Philippe Jose Garcia, Fondazione Villa Maraini (Italy)

05

Civil Society & COVID-19 – responses during the pandemic

- Alberto Hart, Centro de Información y Educación para la Prevención del Abuso de Drogas, CEDRO (Colombia)
- Rita Musa, AUTAMAIMASA HEALTH FOUNDATION [AHF] (Nigeria)
- Mutaawe Rogers, Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)
- Omar EL GHIATI, Moroccan Green Crescent

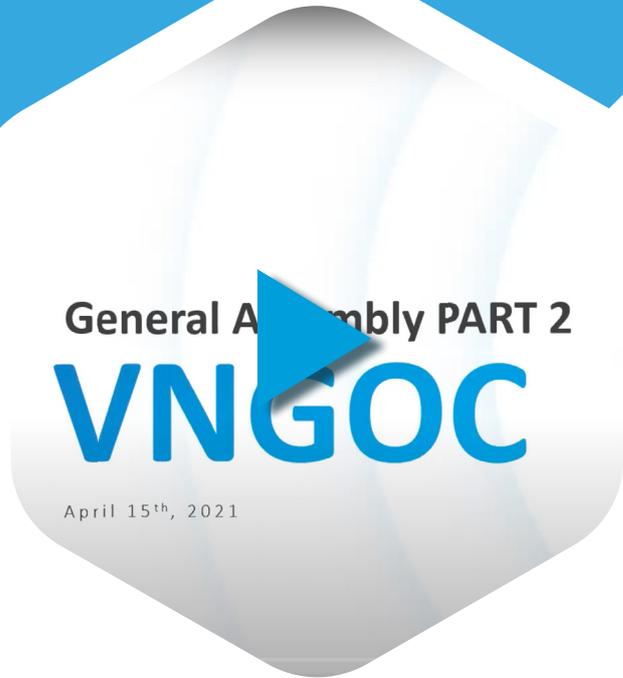
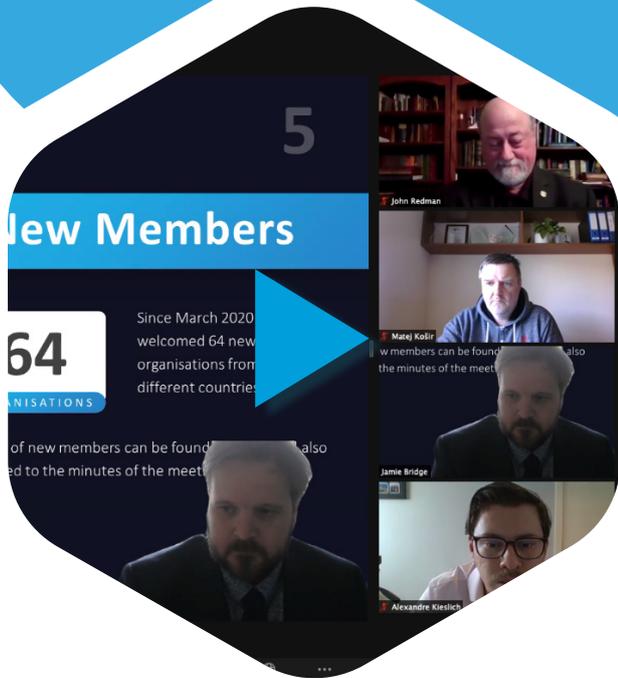
As has become tradition the VNGOC organised informal dialogues for civil society with the [CND Chair](#), the [UNODC Executive Director](#) and her senior management team, the [President of the International Narcotic Control Board \(INCB\)](#), and [representatives from the World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#). More than 40 organisations submitted questions for one ore more dialogue.



Informal Dialogue with the UNODC Executive Director



Informal Dialogue with the INCB President



VNGOC’s Annual General Assembly

Due to COVID-19 the Annual General Assembly including the Board Elections was held entirely online for the first time in the margins of the 64th CND.

To ensure the elections were conducted in accordance with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure the meeting was split into two to allow online voting over the course of three days. The meeting was also a prime opportunity for members to hear from the [VNGOC Executive Board](#), ask questions and make suggestions.

An online, [informal meeting](#) was held on 18th March 2021 to brief the Membership about the 64th CND and the board elections.

Following the decision taken at the Annual General Assembly on 14th April 2021 a working group was formed to review proposed changes to the nominations committee for the board elections. After three [informal consultations](#) held in September 2021 the membership approved new Terms of Reference for the nominations committee during the [Extraordinary General Meeting](#) held on 12th December 2021.

CND Intersessional meetings and special events

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all CND events and intersessionals were held online or in a hybrid format in 2021.

The CND held a special event commemorating the United Nations International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 25. The event was held online via Microsoft Teams, with some 50 member state representatives joining in person at the Vienna International Centre. Under the theme #ShareFactsonDrugs #SaveLives, the CND launched the 2021 World Drug Report.

The [VNGOC were represented on the panel](#) during the discussion on the main findings of the World Drug Report 2021, and selected three other NGO participants through the usual open call and process who made interventions “from the floor” following the panel discussion:

01

[Odette Spruijt](#), Australasian Palliative Link International (Australia)

02

[Oriol Esculies](#), Association Proyecto Hombre (Spain)

03

[Ailish Brennan](#), Youth RISE (International)

”

We have to do better.
We have to create environments where people can be informed, supported and protected. As always, civil society is able and willing to work with all of you, in both sharing facts and saving lives.



Topics

Topics discussed during the thematic intersessional in 2021 included:

- Increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime are observed;
- The value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering arising from drug trafficking at the global level remains low;
- The criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities is increasing;

In October 2021 the [third series of thematic intersessional meetings](#) of the CND multiyear work plan took place,

and with the VNGOC explicitly mandated to support civil society participation and engagement. An open call was launched to select one civil society panelist for each topic discussed, while other civil society interventions were delivered virtually or via video messages “from the floor”.

13 civil society speakers had the opportunity to present their perspectives during the three day intersessional meeting. As with other CND meetings in 2021, the selection followed the Speaker Selection Guidelines established in 2018. The selected interventions were:



19th October

Links between drug trafficking and organised crime

- [Tariq Khosa](#), Centre for Governance Research (CGR) (Pakistan)
- [Nukila Evanty](#), Women Working Group (WWG) (Indonesia)
- [Gustavo Orozco Lince](#), Fundación Objetivo Cero (Colombia)
- [Alex Chung](#), University College London (UK)
- [Kelly Becker](#), Cannabis Education Guild (Canada)

20th October

Links between drug trafficking and organised crime

- [Dr. John Collins](#), Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
- [Peggy Chukwuemeka](#), Parent-Child Intervention Centre (Nigeria)
- [Milutin Milošević](#), Drug Policy Network South East Europe (Serbia)

21st October

Cybercrime

- [Kawal Deep Kour, Ph.D.](#), South Asian Drugs and Addictions Research Council (India)
- [Dr Martin Horton-Eddison](#), Global Drug Policy Observatory (UK)
- [Dr Uche Igwe](#), Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (Nigeria)
- [Dr. Tomori Mareglen](#), International Police Organization (IPO) (Italy)
- [Martin Diaz](#), Knowmad Instiut (Germany)



INCB Civil Society Hearing

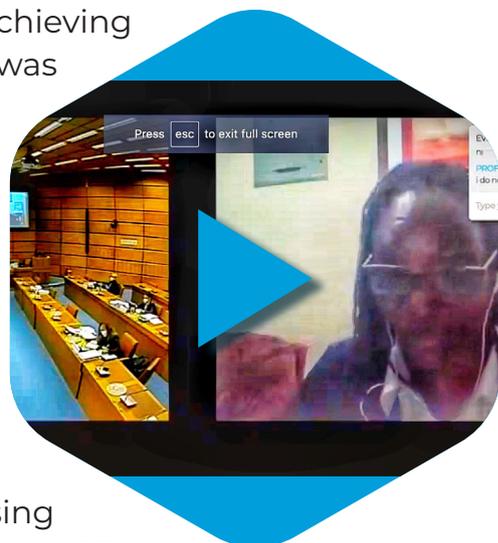


The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) invited civil society organisations to discuss illicit financial flows through drug trafficking and the impact on development and security.

The meeting was held online on 19th May 2021 and was hosted by the INCB in the margins of their 131st session. Five NGO representatives, selected through an open call earlier this month, had the opportunity to present their views on the topic of “illicit financial flows through drug trafficking: impact on development and security.

INCB President Cornelis de Joncheere, in his opening remarks, highlighted the role of civil society organisations towards achieving the aims of the three drug control conventions. This was echoed by the chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) Jamie Bridge who stressed that these civil society hearings, which were held for the fourth time this year, are a great opportunity for NGOs to have a dialogue with the Board, particular around the topics of focus of the coming INCB reports.

The five civil society representatives covered various aspects of the topic that ranged from the challenges in researching Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) and a study on the Western Balkans’ drug routes to the cannabis licensing regimes in the Caribbeans, and the close links between IFFs banditry and kidnappings in Nigeria.



01

[Ahmad Musa Umar](#), Society for Drug Abuse Enlightenment and Control (Nigeria)

02

[Dr John Collins](#), Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (Austria)

03

[Vicki Hanson](#), Interdisciplinary Centre for Cannabis Research (Jamaica)

04

[Katherine Pettus](#), International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (USA)

05

[Jorge Herrera](#), Instituto RIA (Mexico)

Other events and opportunities

During 2021 the VNGOC held several webinars in cooperation with the UNODC Civil Society Unit and UNODC substantive offices. The events were held in English with interpretation in French, Russian and Spanish available and routinely gathered more than 100 civil society representatives.



International Drug Control Conventions February 2021

The webinar featured an introduction to the Drug Control Conventions by Celso Coracini, UNODC and a presentation by Stefano Berterame, acting INCB Secretary on the role of INCB. The two presentations were followed by an open Q&A session giving the participants an opportunity to address questions concerning national legislation, pain regulation and gender issues to name a few. To conclude the webinar, Alicia van den Boom, CND Secretariat introduced the free, interactive e-learning tool on the scheduling of controlled substances.



UNODC's normative Guidance March 2021

The series featured one webinar focusing on the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and one webinar on the International Standards on the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders, and the Technical Guide for Countries to set targets for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users. Each webinar comprised welcome remarks from VNGOC and UNODC, a formal presentation by UNODC experts, one civil society panellist, and an open question and answer session.



World Drug Report 2021 July 2021

The VNGOC hosted two webinars for civil society presenting and discussing the World Drug Report 2021. The first webinar provided a spotlight on the latest trends in Asia/Pacific and Europe, the second focused on the data available for Africa and the Americas. Each webinar featured a presentation on the global trends showcased in the World Drug Report 2021 by the Chief of the UNODC Drugs Research Section, Chloe Carpentier, and regional presentations by UNODC Expert and Senior Drugs Researcher Thomas Pietschmann. Civil society representatives from Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Argentina provided insights on how the data published in the World Drug Report influences their work.





Global developments on HIV/AIDS September 2021

The event featured a presentation on global commitments regarding HIV/AIDS, including the Global AIDS Strategy 2021-2026 and the work of the UNODC/HIV Section headed by Fariba Soltani. Matt Southwell (IDPC) and Edith Riegler (Penal Reform International) provided information on UNODC's partnership with civil society on HIV/AIDS and prisons, and were followed by a presentation from Doan Than Tung (Lighthouse Vietnam) that gave insight on the cooperation between UNODC and Community Based Organisations (CBO).



UNODC's Family First Program November 2021

Together with the UNODC Civil Society Unit (UNODC CSU) and the UNODC Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Section (UNODC PTRS) the VNGOC hosted a webinar for civil society, presenting "Listen First", "Stronger Families" & "Families UNited", UNODC's main family skills programs. The two civil society experts Amir Shaju (Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bangladesh) and Dr. Carmen Fernández (Centro Integración Juvenil Mexico) showed how the programs can be effectively used by civil society organisations, adapting them to different regional situations and needs.



UNODC Data Explained December 2021

The webinar discussed how UNODC works to collect and analyze data on drug related issues and was organized in cooperation with the UNODC Civil Society Unit (CSU) and the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch (RAB). It aimed to further strengthen meaningful engagement of civil society organizations in the work of UNODC by showing the approach and the principles governing data production in UNODC, as implemented by the Research Branch.

28
JULY

in English
with interpretation in



REGI
JOIN
bit.ly

Asia-Pacific Ad-hoc Working Group

Following the VNGOC's 2019 member consultation, in which members from Asia and Africa highlighted the need for better regional representation and participation, the VNGOC Board has prioritised working to strengthen regional engagement from these regions. In 2020, the VNGOC Asia-Pacific Ad-hoc Working Group formed, aiming to strengthen participation and engagement between the VNGOC members from Asia.

Activities continued in 2021, focusing on drafting an Asia-Pacific Civil Society Common Position on Drugs, which seeks to incorporate the perspectives and guide the work of a wide range of NGOs from across the Asia-Pacific Region.

The document was first drafted in late 2020 by the Working Group whose members sought to build a broad consensus in the region and broaden civil society engagement on drug related matters. Since then the document has been through three rounds of consultation. A first open consultation meeting was held in February 2021 online, to collect feedback on and topics for the Common Position. A draft was then shared with a broad range of Asia-Pacific NGOs and a second online consultation was held in July 2021 and inputs were solicited via email in August 2021. A final draft was circulated among civil society partners across the Asia-Pacific between November and December 2021, with a third online consultation meeting taking place mid-December 2021.

The current active members of the working group are:

- Asia Ashraf, World Federation Against Drugs, Pakistan
- Augusto Nogueira, Associacao de Rehabilitacao de Toxicodependentes de Macau (ARTM), Macau
- Dayna Vincent, Fourth Wave Foundation, India
- Gloria Lai, International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), Thailand
- Marianne Phillips, APLI, Australia
- Neneng Arti, Indonesia Group Spirit Anti Narkotiks (IG SEMATIK), Indonesia
- Ramli Samad, PENGASIH, Malaysia
- Samir Kumar Das, International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development (IMAECSED), India
- Sana Ullah Rathore, Pakistan Youth Organization (PYO), Pakistan
- Penny Hill, VNGOC Board Representative

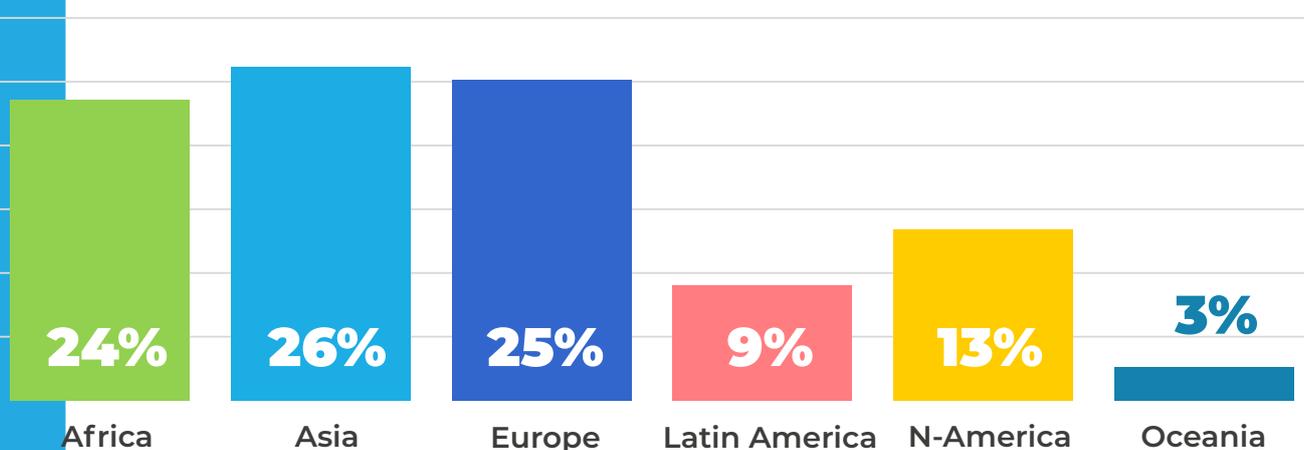
Speaker Selection 2021

VNGOC was able to select 49 civil society representatives in 2021, who took part across ten different meetings.



For each speaking opportunity an open call was launched and disseminated via email and social media. The selection processes followed the speaker selection guidelines developed by the Civil Society Taskforce (CSTF) in 2018 that aim to ensure the broadest possible representation.

In the course of 2021 the VNGOC solicited 187 applications from 57 different countries. 61 of the applications received were from women. Not least because of the work of the regional working groups the received from Africa and Asia increased compared to previous years and surpassed those received from Europe and North America.



SPEAKERS 49

IN PERSON 6



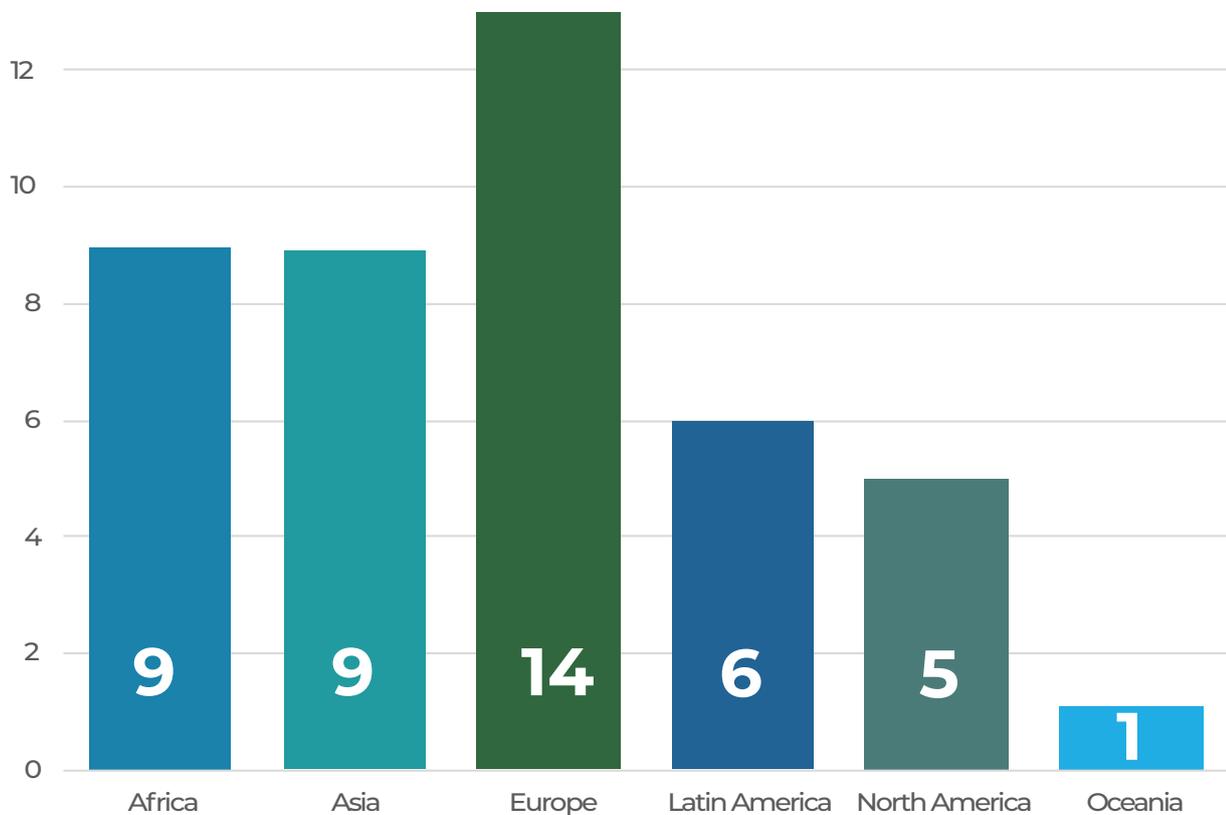
37%
Female
Speakers



57%
Male
Speakers



Speakers
from
32 countries



Financial Summary

January to December 2021

For 2021, the VNGOC's independent auditors were Mousa Daoud (Jordan Green Crescent) and John Redman (CADFY). An independently verified version of this financial summary will be presented at the VNGOC Annual General Meeting in March 2022.

Description	2020 Budget (EUR)	EUR Actual Expenditure	USD Actual Expenditure
Opening Balance, 1 Jan 2021		€ 26.317,05	\$ 14.750,55
INCOME			
Membership Fees	€ 12.000,00	€ 10.269,82	\$ 2.070,36
UNODC Grants	€ 8.000,00		\$ 18.392,00
Travel Grants (from reserve)	€ 4.000,00		
TOTAL INCOME	€ 22.000,00	€ 10.269,82	\$ 20.462,36
EXPENDITURE			
Salary costs	€ 8.000,00	€ 9.725,00	\$ -
Grants for Members	€ 4.000,00	€ 1.169,26	\$ 3.390,00
Working Groups	€ 3.500,00	€ 872,90	\$ -
Events/ Webinars	€ 1.000,00	€ 4.790,04	\$ 1.810,00
Board Meeting	€ 3.500,00	€ -	\$ -
Bank Fees	€ 1.500,00	€ 844,05	\$ 1.147,29
Off ice Expenditures/Website	€ 2.000,00	€ 3.240,80	\$ -
Other		€ 120,00	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	€ 16.000,00	€ 20.762,05	\$ 6.947,29
Surplus/ (Deficit)		€ - 10.492,23	\$ 13.515,07
BALANCE, 31 Dec 2021		€ 11.677,10	\$ 37.759,90

Work Plan and Budget 2021

The new VNGOC Strategic Plan 2022-2024 focuses the work of the VNGOC Board on four strategic objectives:

- 01** Continue to support civil society engagement at meetings of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)
- 02** Continue to call for full, meaningful civil society participation across all international debates and processes concerning drug policies and related matters
- 03** Continue to encourage a global, balanced and strategic NGO voice in the debates on drug policies and related issues.
- 04** Effective and efficient management and promotion of the Committee

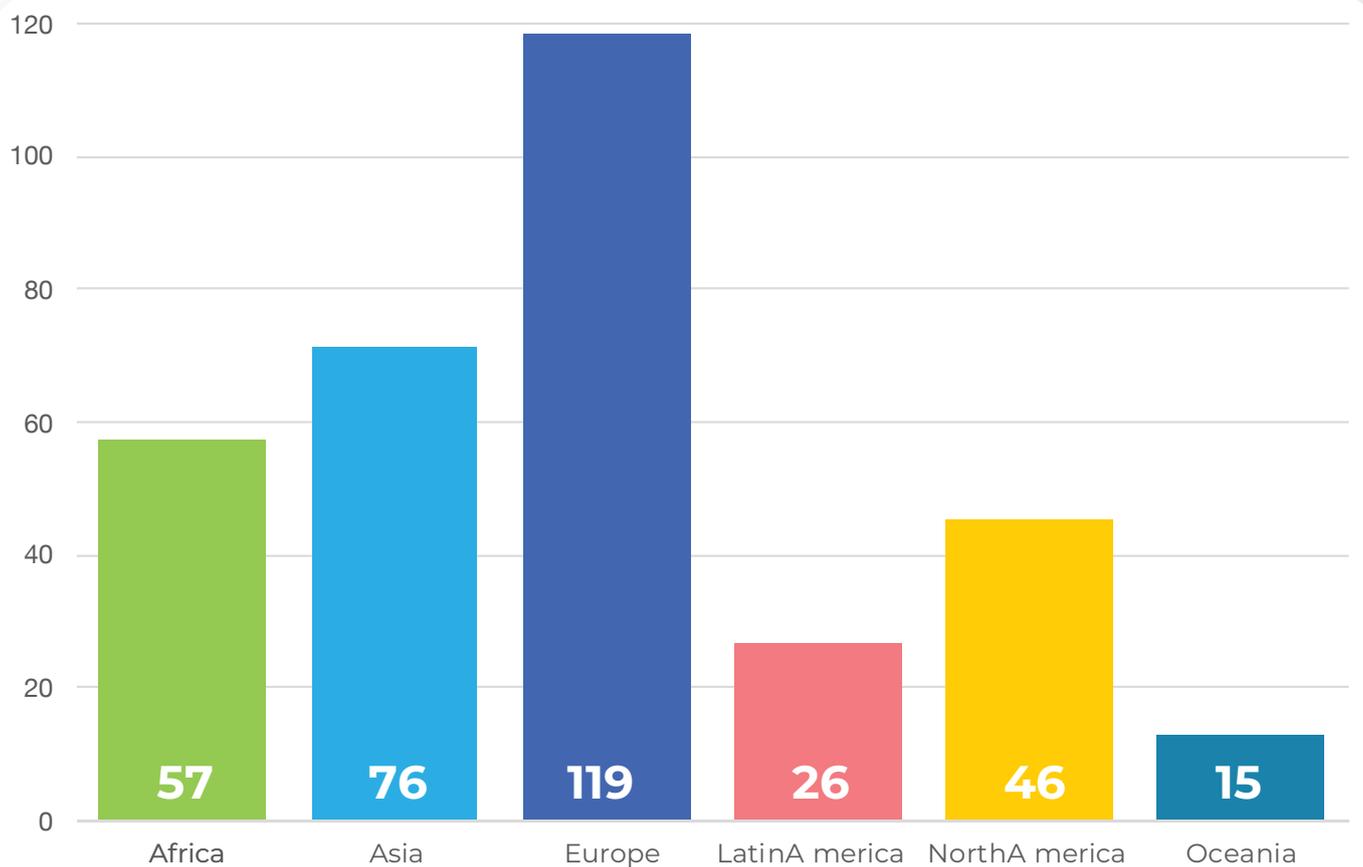
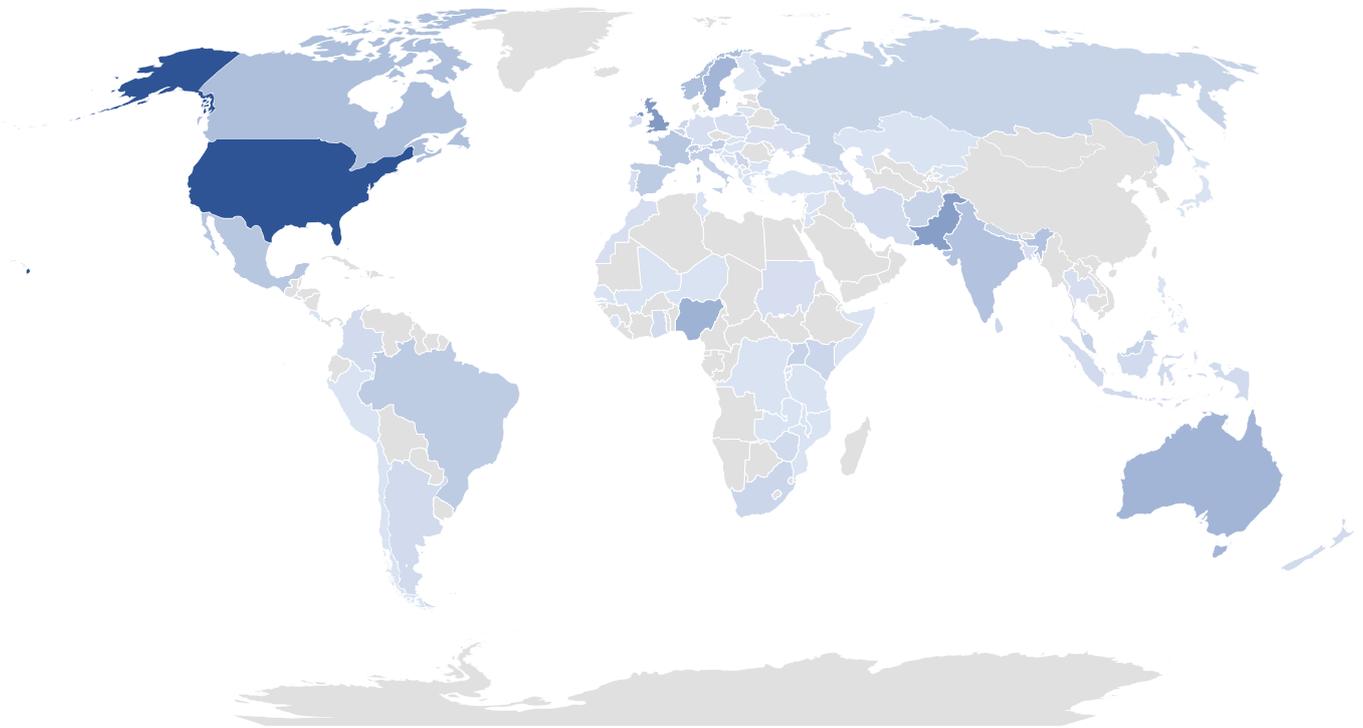
In 2022, the Board will continue to support our members to navigate the hybrid formats of UN meetings – but will also reinstate a budget for travel as we hope things continue to open up in terms of the ability of NGOs around the world to directly engage in Vienna. The Board will also continue to promote membership, including through support for the regional ad-hoc working groups. Preparations will also begin for how the Committee celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2023!

Income		Expenditure	
Membership Fees	€ 11,000	Salary Costs	€ 8,000
Travel Grants (from reserves)	€ 4,000	Travel Grants for NGO Speakers	€ 4,000
UNODC Grant (for salary costs)	€ 8,000	Regional Working Groups	€ 2,000
		Events/ Webinars	€ 2,000
		Board Meeting	€ 3,500
		Bank Fees	€ 1,500
		Office Expenditure/ Website	€ 2,000
Total	€ 22,000	Total	€ 23,000

VNGOC Membership 2021

As of December 2021 the VNGOC has 338 member organisations from 93 countries across the world.

In the course of 2021 the board welcomed 50 new member organisations and the VNGOC now has members from 17 new countries, compared to 2020.



The following organisations were VNGOC members as of December 2020:

1. Acción Técnica Social Services of the Ottawa Watershed
2. Action Jeunesse pour le Développement 26. Anti-Corruption Association of NGO
3. ACTIS - Rusfeltets samarbeidsorgan / Norwegian Policy Network on Alcohol and Drugs 27. Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Network
4. Active - sobriety, friendship and peace 28. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas
5. Afghanistan Green Crescent Organization 29. Asociacion Nacional de Investigación Criminológica y Formación Forense de España
6. Afghanistan Relief & Sustainable Development Organization (ARSDO) 30. Asociacion Proyecto Hombre
7. African Action on AIDS 31. Associacao de Reabilitacao de Toxicodependentes de Macau
8. African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development 32. Associação Pró Coalizões Comunitárias Antidrogas do Brasil
9. African Council on Narcotics 33. Association des relais communautaires d'Oshwe
10. African Development Assistance Consult 34. Association of Non-for-Profit Organizations to Facilitate the Drug Prevention and Socially Dangerous Behavior «National Anti-Drug Union»
11. African Youth Initiative on Crime Prevention 35. Associazione Papa Giovanni XXIII
12. Against bad habits public union 36. Australasian Palliative Link International
13. Agencia Piaget para o Desenvolvimento 37. Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Council
14. Aid Organization 38. Autamaimasa Health Foundation
15. AIDES 39. Auto-Support des Usagers de Drogues
16. AIDS Foundation East-West 40. Autonomous Non-Profit Organization «SMART SOLUTIONS INTEGRATION AGENCY»
17. Al Hidn 41. Badan Kerjasama Sosial Usaha Pembinaan Warga Tama
18. Alcohol and Drug Foundation 42. Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme
19. Alcohol and drug Information Centre Sri Lanka 43. Bitmakaly National Organization
20. Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies 44. Burundi Association of people who Use Drugs
21. Americans for Safe Access 45. Canadian Center on Substance Use
22. Ana Liffey Drug Project
23. Andean Information Network
24. Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice (ARF)
25. ANORW Police and Emergency

46. Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids
47. Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
48. Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy
49. Celebrate Recovery / Proslavi Oporavak
50. Center for Innovative and Pragmatic Development Initiative
51. Center Point Inc.
52. Centre for Drug Policy Evaluation (formerly: International Centre for Science in Drug Policy)
53. Centre For Drug Universal Researches, Approaches & Studies
54. Centro de Convivência É de Lei
55. Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad
56. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales
57. Centro de Informacion y Education para la Prevencion del Abuso de Drogas
58. Centro de Integracion Juvenil AC
59. Centro Italiano di Solidarieta Don Mario Picchi di Roma
60. Child Space Organisation
61. Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group dba
62. Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign
63. Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth
64. Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America
65. Community Development & Entrepreneurship Foundation
66. Community Restoration Initiative project
67. Comunità di Venezia Società Cooperativa Sociale
68. Concepts Foundation
69. Conectados Pela Vida - Brazil
70. Coordinating Network for Drug Abuse Control in Ethnic Communities
71. CORPORACIÓN HUMANAS- Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género
72. Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network (De Regenboog Groep)
73. CROISSANT VERT NIGERIEN (CVN)
74. Crossant Vert Sénégal
75. Dalgarno Institute
76. Daniel Nwankwo Foundation
77. Deutscher Jugendschutz Verband
78. Dhaka Ahsania Mission
79. Dianova International
80. Dianova Portugal
81. Drug Abuse Prevention Centre
82. Drug Free America Foundation
83. Drug Free Australia
84. Drug Free Pakistan Foundation (DFPF)
85. Drug Policy Alliance
86. Drug Policy Australia Limited
87. Drug Policy Network South East Europe
88. Drug Reform Coordination Network
89. Društvo AREAL
90. Druzenie Jesilaj Na Rsm (Green Crescent Macedonia)
91. ECHO
92. Elternkreis Wien
93. Empower India
94. EQUIS: Justicia para las Mujeres, AC
95. Eurasian Harm Reduction Association
96. Europe Against Drugs
97. European Cities Against Drugs
98. European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies

99. European Federation of Therapeutic Communities
100. European TC Foundation
101. Family and Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT) Incorporated
102. FEDERAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE COMUNIDADES TERAPÊUTICAS
103. FEDERAÇÃO DE COMUNIDADES TERAPÊUTICAS EVANGÉLICAS DO BRASIL
104. Federation Addiction
105. Fédération bruxelloise francophone des institutions pour toxicomanes
106. Federation of Austrian Professionals Working in the Field of Drugs (Österreichischer Verein der Drogenfachleute)
107. Fields of Green for ALL NPC
108. Finnish Association for Humane Drug Policy (Humaania päihdepolitiikka ry)
109. Focus life rehabilitation and psychological treatment center
110. FONDACIONI YESILAY (Green Crescent Albania Foundation)
111. Foreningen for human narkotikapolitikk (the Association for Humane Drug Policies)
112. Föreningen Tryggare Ruspolitik (Association For Safer Drug Policies Sweden)
113. Foreningen Tryggere Ruspolitik (Norway)
114. Forum Droghe
115. FORUT – Campaign for Development and Solidarity
116. Foundation for a Drug Free Europe
117. Foundation for Alternative Approaches to Addiction – Think & do tank
118. Foundation for Innovative Social Development
119. Foundation for Rural and Urban Transformation Sierra Leone
120. Foundation of Polish Drug Policy Network
121. Fourth Wave Foundation
122. Frontline AIDS (formerly International HIV/AIDS Alliance)
123. Fundacion Atenea Grupo GID
124. Fundacion Nocka Munayki
125. Fundamental Human Rights & Rural Development Association
126. Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
127. Global Initiative on Substance Abuse
128. Graduate Women International
129. Green Crescent Australia
130. Green Crescent Foundation (Maldives)
131. Green Crescent Foundation (Sri Lanka)
132. Green Crescent Ghana
133. Green Crescent Indonesia Foundation (Yayasan Green Crescent Indoneia)
134. Green Crescent Kyrgyzstan - “Public Association” Green Crescent Society
135. Green Crescent of Congo DR
136. Green Crescent of Montenegro
137. Green Crescent South Africa
138. Green Crescent the Gambia
139. Green Crescent USA inc.
140. Green Crescent Zambia
141. Green Crescent Zimbabwe
142. Green Moon - Green Crescent Georgia
143. Groupement romand d’études des addictions
144. Harm Reduction Australia
145. Harm Reduction Coalition
146. Harm Reduction International (International Harm Reduction Association)
147. Health Poverty Action
148. Help not Handcuffs, Inc.

149. Hepatitis Australia
150. HIV Legal Network
151. Housing Works, Inc.
152. HPLGBT
153. Human Rights Cell
154. Human Rights Watch
155. Iglesia Evangélica Protestante de El Salvador
156. Independent Narcological Guild
157. Indonesia Gugus Semangat Anti Narkoba
158. Institute for Research and Development "Utrip"
159. Institute of Leadership and Development
160. Instituto Internacional de Criminalística Aplicada
161. Instituto RIA
162. Inter-Actions ONG
163. Intercambios Asociacion Civil
164. International Agency for Crime Prevention, Criminal Law and Jurisdiction
165. International AIDS Society
166. International Association for Applied Psychology
167. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care
168. International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research and Service
169. International Council of AIDS Service Organisations
170. International Council of Women
171. International Council on Alcohol and Addictions
172. International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies
173. International Drug Policy Consortium
174. International Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse
175. International Federation of Social Workers
176. International Inner Wheel
177. International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development
178. International Network of People who Use Drugs
179. International Police Association
180. international police organization (internacionalna policijska organizacija)
181. International Society of Addiction Medicine
182. International Society of Substance Use Professionals
183. International Society of Substance Use Professionals Pakistan
184. International Consortium of Universities for Drug Demand Reduction
185. IOGT - NTO
186. IOGT Norway
187. IOGT-NTO Junior Association
188. Jadir Taekwondo Association
189. Japan Advocacy Network for Drug Policy
190. Junior- og barneorganisasjonen
191. Just Say No Nepal
192. Juvente Norway
193. Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation
194. Kenya Economic Youth Network
195. KETHEA
196. Khatiz Organization for Rehabilitation
197. KIBRIS YEŞİLAY DANIŞMANLIK MERKEZİ (Green Crescent Cyprus)
198. Knowledge Foundation
199. Knowmad Institut gemeinnützige

- UG (haftungsbeschränkt) Europäisches Institut für multidisziplinäre Studien zu Menschenrechten und Wissenschaften
- 200.Kosova Yeşilay Cemiyeti/ Shoqëria Hana e Gjelbërt e Kosovës (Green Crescent Kosovo)
201. Kuchlak Welfare Society
- 202.Latin American and Caribbean Network of People Who Use Drugs
- 203.Latinoamerica Reforma
204. Law Enforcement Action Partnership UK?Europe
- 205.Lions Club International
- 206.M A Jinnah Foundation (regd, Sialkot
- 207.Mainline Foundation
- 208.Malaysian AIDS Council
- 209.Mali Green Crescent
210. Matua Raki, National Addiction Workforce Development
211. Menorah Foundation
212. Mentor International
213. Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C.)
214. México Unido contra la Delincuencia A.C
215. Mian Afzal Trust Hospital
216. Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association
217. Milo Shaheed Trust For The Control Of Drug Abuse
218. Moroccan Green Crescent
219. Movendi International (formerly IOGT International)
- 220.Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies
221. Narconon Nigeria initiative
222. Narkotikapolitiskt Center (Drug Policy Centre in Sweden)
- 223.National Association of Drug Court Professionals
- 224.National Drug Prevention Office
225. National Needle Exchange Forum
226. Needle Exchange Services Trust NEST
227. Nepal HIV/AIDS Alliance - Recovering Nepal
- 228.Nepal NGO Society
229. New Line Social Organisation
- 230.New Zealand Drug Foundation
231. Nierika A.C. Multidisciplinary Association for the Preservation of Indigenous Traditions of Sacred Plants
232. Nigeria Green Crescent Health Development Initiative
233. NoBox Transitions Foundation, Inc.
- 234.NORTHERN CITIZEN COMMUNITY BOARD
235. Observatorio Europeo del Consumo y Cultivo de Cannabis
- 236.Odyssey House Louisiana, Inc.
237. Open Society Institute
- 238.Option2world Initiative Against Drug Abuse
- 239.Organizacao das Familias da Asia e do Pacifico
- 240.Organization for Addiction Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation
241. Pakistan Youth Organisation
- 242.Pariwartan Sanchar Samuha
- 243.Parvarish Welfare Organisation
- 244.Penal Reform International
- 245.PENGASIH Malaysia
- 246.Penington Institute
247. People Against Drug Dependence and Ignorance
- 248.Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia (Green Crescent)

249. Prevention Information Lutte contre le Sida
250. Public Association "Zhasylai"
251. Rafia Bashir Trust
252. Ray of Hope
253. Rebirth Charity Organisation
254. Recovering Nepal - National Federation of People who use drugs and drug service organizations
255. Red Iberoamericana de ONG que trabajan en Drogas y Adicciones
256. Rede Brasileira de Reducao de Danos e Direitos Humanos
257. Release
258. Rights Reporter Foundation
259. Riksförbundet Narkotikafritt Samhälle (National Association for a Drug-Free Society)
260. RIO – a Norwegian users' association in the field of alcohol and drugs
261. Rotary Action Group For Addiction Prevention
262. Rwanda Youth Impact
263. San Patrignano Foundation
264. Scottish Drugs Forum
265. SDRUZHENIE YESHILAY - BALGARIA (Yeshilay Bulgaria - YSLBG)
266. Security bureau
267. SHINE AFRICA FOUNDATION
268. Shola Mese Foundation
269. Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association
270. Slum Child Foundation
271. Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)
272. SMART Recovery International
273. Social Transformation Action Defined
274. Sociedad Mexicana de Criminología capítulo Nuevo León (SOMECRIMNL)
275. Society For Recovery Support
276. Society for the Advancement of Global Understanding (Verein zur Förderung der Völkerverständigung)
277. Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses
278. Society of Cannabis Clinicians
279. Somali Green Crescent Society
280. South Asian Drugs and Addictions Research Council
281. South Caucasus Office on Drugs and Crime
282. Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem
283. Spero
284. Sri Lanka Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations Against Drug Abuse (SLFONGOADA)
285. Stardom Association
286. STIJENA RESOC
287. Students Community Against Drugs
288. Students for Sensible Drug Policy
289. Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia
290. SUBAIR KUNJU FOUNDATION
291. Sudanese Green Crescent Society
292. Sunny Trust International
293. Suriye Yeşilay Derneği (Green Crescent Syria)
294. Svetska Organizacija Sigurnosti/World Organization Safety
295. Swedish Drug Users Union (Svenska Brukarforeningen)
296. Swedish Youth Temperance Organisation (Ungdomens Nykterhetsförbund)
297. TANZANIA GREEN CRESCENT COMMUNITY
298. TB/HIV Care Association
299. Thai Green Crescent

300. The green crescent society-Palestine
301. The Jordan Anti Drugs Society
302. The Legends Society
303. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws France
304. The Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission
305. Transform Drug Policy Foundation
306. Transnational Institute
307. Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities
308. Tunisian Green Crescent
309. Turkish Green Crescent Society
310. Udruzenje gradjana Zelene polumjesec u Bosni i Hercegovini (Green Crescent Bosnia and Herzegovina)
311. UGANDA GREEN CRESCENT SOCIETY
312. Uganda Harm Reduction Network
313. Ugandan Youth Development Link
314. UNIDOS - Rede Nacional De Reducao de Danos
315. Unified Initiative for a drug free Nigeria
316. Verein Neubeginn
317. Villa Maraini Foundation
318. Virginians Against Drug Violence
319. WADAN AFGHANISTAN
320. Walther Center in Global Palliative Care & Supportive Oncology
321. Washington Office on Latin America
322. Wellbeing Foundation
323. Women and Harm Reduction International Network
324. Women's Federation for World Peace International
325. Women's Organization Committee on Alcohol and Drugs (Kvinnoorg Samarbetsråd i Alkohol & Narkotikafrågor)
326. World Federation Against Drugs
327. World Federation of Therapeutic Communities
328. World Hepatitis Alliance
329. Youth Council for Anti Narcotics
330. Youth Initiative for Drug Research Information Support and Education in Nigeria (YouthRISE Nigeria)
331. Youth Net and Counselling
332. Youth Organisation for Drug Action
333. Youth RISE (Resource, Information, Support, Education) Limited
334. Zeleni krst - Zeleni polumjesec (Green Crescent Serbia)
335. Zelenyy Pivmisyats Ukrayiny (Green Crescent Ukraine)
336. Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network
337. Zoe Counselling and Training Centre Trust
338. Zonta International

REPORT: THE NGO COMMITTEE ON Sustainable Development / VIENNA

A healthy planet



For future generations

Report to the CoNGO General Assembly 2022

<https://ngocsdvienna.org/>

Leadership of the Committee

Chair Ingeborg Geyer, Zonta International

Treasurer Marion Prechtl, Soroptimist International

Secretary Claudia Exenberger, Zonta International

Vice Secretary John Clark, World Union of Progressive Judaism

The Committee lost its past chair and current vice-chair Ilona Graenitz on July 17th, 2022. She was a mainstay in the Vienna NGO community. Her strategic, international and articulate thinking, as well as her relentless and profound commitment to women's affairs and environmental justice, inspired and encouraged many members of the NGO community. We will long remember her sincerity and resolve. A commemoration is attached.

Aims and objectives of the Committee

About 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. Actions set in 2021 and 2022

- Follow up of the initiatives of 2020: address root causes of environmental disasters, of climate change etc. by promoting the relevant conventions through
 - Side event during CCPCJ (combining thematic themes and environment)
 - Public lectures to build awareness within NGO community
 - Campaigning for signing and ratification of the Aarhus Convention
 - Identifying missing links in the Conventions and try to get in dialogue with memberstates (France, Finland)
- Draft statements and interventions for profiling/supporting/campaigning for resolutions concerning transnational environmental crime during CCPCJ, UNTOC sessions
 - 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)
 - Oral Statement at CCPCJ 30th session, TOP 5: Environmental crime - a trigger for forced migration (delivered by Ilona Graenitz SI)
 - 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/awarenessraising 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

- 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.
- Joint meeting with NGO CSW celebrating International Women's Day by highlighting CSW66 priority theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. Live Interviews and actual reports from Madagascar, March 8th, 2022
- Briefing on Resolutions combatting crimes that affect the environment H.E. Mr. Xavier STICKER, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna (France), May 10th, 2022
- In person Excursion to Zentralanstalt für Metereologie und Geodynamik (ZAMG) with lecture about their research activities (October 6th, 2022)
- Preparations for statement at Thematic Discussion CCPCJ (December 2022) are ongoing

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
- Side event: CRIMINALIZING ECOCIDE – A NEW DETERRENT TO CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT, organized by SIW, NGO SDC, Stop Ecocide
- Side event: Civil Society Contribution to Combat Transnational Organized Crime COP11 (October 2022)

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
- Draft of written Statement for COP26: Challenges of Climate Change (submitted by CoNGO)
- Oral statement at 2022 CCPCJ Expert Discussions on Crimes that Affect the Environment in February 2022: Strengthening international cooperation to address crimes that affect the environment (16 February 2022) https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_31/expert_discussions/statements/day3/Ilona_Graenitz.pdf
- Written statement at CCPCJ 31st, May 2022: Strengthening the international legal framework and international cooperation in the context of crimes that affect the environment: https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_31/NGO_papers/ECN152022_NGO5_V2202671.pdf
- Side event: CRIMINALIZING ECOCIDE - A NEW DETERRENT TO CRIMES THAT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT, organized by SIW, NGO SDC, Stop Ecocide et al. at CCPCJ 31st, May 2022 The Earth is experiencing massive environmental damage which is exacerbating the climate crisis and threatening lives, livelihoods and biodiversity. Some of this destruction falls under existing environmental crimes, but much is “collateral damage” on a large scale caused by corporations in pursuit of profit. Legal sanctions are under-enforced and usually lead to fines or damages; these are treated as a cost of doing business. An international crime of ecocide could criminalise “unlawful or wanton” acts threatening the most severe environmental harms, thus strengthening and underpinning existing regulatory measures being undertaken globally to protect the environment. A legal definition of ecocide has been drafted by an international team of legal experts and is a subject of discussion in 19 ICC member states at parliamentary and/or government level; we anticipate that it will be tabled for discussion at the ICC in the near future. This session will look at the progress of this legal initiative and how it can deter reckless destruction, acting as a guide rail to foster healthier and more sustainable practices.

https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_31/CCPCJ_Side_Event_Report_2022_final.pdf (Page 24)

Relevant social media links

Website: www.ngocsdvienna.org

REPORT: THE NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING / GENEVA



Report of Activities Nov 2021 - Oct 2022 NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva

Executive Committee officers

- Chair: Kelly G. Fitzgerald, the International Federation on Ageing (IFA)
- Vice Chair and Representative to GAROP: Ann Lindsay, World Federation of Mental Health (WFMH)
- Past Chair: Silvia Perel-Levin, the International Longevity Centre Global Alliance (ILC GA) and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)
- Treasurer: Valerie Bichelmeier, Make Mothers Matter (MMM)
- Co-Secretaries: Liat Ayalon, Bar Ilan University, and Kimberly Stoeckel, University of Maryland Baltimore County
- Member-at-Large: Ina Voelcker, BAGSO - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Seniorenorganisationen

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 members have been members of the Committee. Some represent NGOs and some on a personal basis (such as researchers, educators, advocates, etc.). Since the 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

Website and Social Media

Website: www.ageingcommitteegeneva.org.

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

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

The Committee in other websites

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

List of Committee activities

We have to-date met five times this year on 4 January, 8 February, 3 May (General Assembly), 7 June and 6 September. 15 November is our next scheduled meeting.

We had a leadership change following the General Assembly in May (current leadership listed above). The Committee wants to especially recognize and thank Silvia Perel-Levin for the extensive work that she did over the many years as Chair to build and promote the Committee's work and the rights of older persons. She will continue on in the role of Past Chair and as lead for the new sub-committee that will focus specifically on rights of older persons. We appointed two co-secretaries and a Member at Large, a new position on our Executive Committee. A few other sub-committees are currently being developed to expand our work.

Members of the Committee organised or actively participated in several 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. Following are some examples of activities by members of the Committee (this list is not exhaustive):

- Participated at Steering Group meeting of GAROP
- Attended HRC Intersessional Meeting on Human Rights and Agenda 2030
- Participated in Stakeholder Group on Ageing meeting
- Silvia Perel-Levin (SPL) gave a talk at GANHRI Global Consultation: Towards a new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons - NHRIs' Engagement Opportunities and Why It Matters
- Assisted in preparations and made statement at Rights of Older Persons Tomorrow, event organised by the Mission of Slovenia at the Palais des Nations
- Invited participant at the Consultation of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (Independent Expert) with stakeholders on her report on older persons deprived of liberty
- Invited speaker for Rights Based Approach Towards Older People- webinar organised by Development, Welfare & Research Foundation (DWRWF) in collaboration with Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) and Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, India
- Delivered statements at HRC 48 sessions: Panel discussion on the importance of robust public policies and services for the protection of economic, social and cultural rights in contributing to the COVID-19 pandemic recovery, Meeting on enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in promoting and protecting the human rights of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations in recovery efforts during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, and ID with High Commissioner. Helped Bridget Penhale prepare a video statement for a high-level segment of HRC.
- Participated in 2nd Open Brainstorming session of the Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons, ITU

- SPL was a Speaker at the CSW (NY) side event on older women organised by ILC GA
- SPL was an Invited Speaker at the IFA Directors meeting
- Participated in the Meeting of Joint Programme on Ageing (JPA) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia with UNFPA, UNECE, OHCHR, HelpAge, WHO, UNDP
- Participated in meeting of CSOs and WHO
- Participated in the WHO Consortium on Metrics
- Participated representing CSOs at the meeting with GRULAC MS in NY in preparation for OEWSGA
- SPL spoke at the NGO/NHRIs preparatory meeting for OEWSGA
- SPL moderated official panel on social security and delivered statements at OEWSGA -NY
- Invited participant at the elder abuse within the Decade of Healthy Ageing
- SPL was a panellist at the WSIS Forum: High-level Dialogue - ICTs and Digital technologies for healthy ageing
- Invited participant at OHCHR informal consultation on 'Towards support and care systems for community life inclusive of persons with disabilities'
- SPL delivered wrap-up message at UNITAR 'The Human Rights of Older Persons and Frontier Issues: Building Capacities for effective protection from Multilateral Scenarios' first webinar in series on mainstreaming knowledge on ageing
- Several members attended and presented at the MIPAA +20 UNECE Ministerial Conference in Rome. Also provided comments and edits to the Ministerial Declaration and NGO Declaration for MIPAA Rome.
- SPL was a panellist for UNITAR 'Two worlds, same goal: Ongoing efforts at the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council for the rights of older persons', second webinar in series
- Contributed to the WHO civil society mapping and engagement project with IFA and other NGOs. A few members served as a Breakout Group Ambassador for the 'Colloquium towards Mobilizing Action and Driving Engagement' which was a product of the mapping project. We continue in the role as a representative on the new Steering Committee for the proposed Decade of Healthy Ageing Alliance.
- SPL spoke at the GAROP briefing towards Multistakeholder Meeting
- SPL moderated a panel on 'Strengthening coordinated actions for the protection of the human rights of older persons', delivered statements and actively participated in the preparations of the Multistakeholder Meeting on the Human Rights of Older Persons at the UN Geneva. Also coordinated meetings of CSOs with OHCHR and with Member States. Other members attended the event.
- UNIDOP Sub-Committee organized and presented UN International Day of Older Persons 2022: Older Persons as Active Agents in a Changing Climate. The event was organized with UNECE, UNFPA and co-sponsored by the Missions of Argentina, Slovenia, and Portugal. Several NGOs co-sponsored the event.
- Marched on a glacier with Klimaseniorinnen senior women awareness action in a changing climate
- Participated at meeting of Member States cosponsors of HRC resolution to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert
- SPL delivered a joint statement at Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert at HRC 51. Other Committee members attended.
- Contributed to a statement submitted to the Independent Expert for the IPA-WPA statement on deprivation of liberty of older persons with mental health conditions

-
- Contributed to a statement submitted to WPA-SOAP and IPA input for the WHO/OHCHR Guidance on mental health, human rights and legislation
 - SPL was an invited speaker at GANHRI Debriefing for NHRIs after OEWGA12
 - Held many meetings with Missions in Geneva as well as with UN agencies i.e. ITU, WHO, UNECE, UNFPA

REPORT: **THE NGO COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF (FoRB) / GENEVA**



Report of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) (Geneva) October 2022

About

The NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in Geneva acts as a sub-committee of the CoNGO Special Committee on Human Rights. It aims to promote the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, and ensure these fundamental freedoms are upheld according to international standards at the UN.

The Committee provides a forum for collaboration and joint-initiatives for NGOs in Geneva and elsewhere. It is particularly engaged during the sessions of the Human Rights Council, and seeks to follow and support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief. It also communicates with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, other relevant UN Offices, and UN member states; and works with concerned NGOs in Geneva where the right to FoRB intersects with other rights.

According to the Bylaws of the Committee, Membership is open to NGOs having consultative status with United Nations through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Other NGOs may be welcomed to join the Committee as observers and can participate in the discussions. There are no membership fees.

Bureau (elected 23 June 2022)

Chair: Elizabeth O'Casey, Humanists International

Vice-Chair: Wissam al-Saliby, World Evangelical Alliance

Secretary: Michelle Mack Fiore, Jus Cogens Committee email address: forbcommitteegva@gmail.com

Website: www.ngoforbgeneva.org

Activities

The Committee meets at least three times a year, in parallel with HRC sessions, in order to take advantage of the presence of NGOs in Geneva and to facilitate collaboration, and to help raise awareness of organizations' activities and side events, etc. In 2022, meeting dates were as follows: 24 March (zoom), 23 June (zoom), 22 September (hybrid in person / zoom). In addition, each year during the Spring session of the HRC, the Committee organizes a side event meeting between the Special Rapporteur on FoRB and Civil Society. This is always a valuable opportunity for the SR to have informal conversations with civil society organizations, to present his / her reports, thoughts, priorities upcoming, as well as for civil society to share and engage with the SR in a meaningful dialogue. The most recent meeting of SR FoRB and Civil Society organized by the Committee was with the then-SR Dr Ahmed Shaheed during HRC49 on 10 March 2022. The Committee facilitates collaboration among NGOs. It does not act in its own name. Thus any activities, co-statements, events, etc. are always sponsored by or organized in the name of one or more of the NGO member / observer committees.