

**Request for Funding and Support for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Programs of  
the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations**

***CoNGO 1948-2023: 75 and Beyond:***

**Defining the Present, Shaping the Future, Making the Change Now**

**PROJECT PROPONENT: Conference of NGOs Foundation, Inc.**

**Implementation Year: 2023**

- A. *CoNGO* seeks partnership through financial and in-kind support with its member organizations and individuals related to these organizations as well as other entities who may find cause with *CoNGO* to continue the legacy of advocacy for the voice and agency of civil society to be presented at multilateral meetings at the United Nations, systemwide. The 75th-anniversary celebration this year, 2023, will be the occasion to highlight this legacy and partnerships.
- B. Since its founding in 1948, *CoNGO* has been a significant interface between NGOs, now the broader civil society, and the United Nations System. *CoNGO* has consistently promoted, defended, and boosted civil society access—both physical and political—to deliberative and decision-making processes throughout the United Nations System. *CoNGO* has encouraged and facilitated competent NGO inputs across the whole spectrum of planetary issues that constitute the daily and yearly agenda of the United Nations.
- C. Moreover, *CoNGO* has often spoken out in defense of the values that the UN and civil society share and has addressed governments with the plea—indeed the demand—that the financial underpinning of the UN is substantially reinforced to enable the Organization to adequately respond to the needs of the planet and its people. The 50+ entities, agencies, commissions, institutes, and other bodies comprising the United Nations System are coping with world, regional, and local aspirations and crises. Civil Society’s engagement with the United Nations is critical to the fulfillment of its mandate and its work, and *CoNGO* is a persistent and informed advocate of that cause. The depth and breadth of *CoNGO*’s knowledge of the United Nations System and NGO access to the system are unique.
- D. This is the background against which *CoNGO* will mark its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023, with a look back, of course, but substantially with an eye to the future. The theme of *CoNGO*, occasioned by its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is “Shaping the Present, Shaping the Future, Making the Change, Now.” *CoNGO* will make the Anniversary a significant milestone on the road of cooperation and

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interaction between Civil Society—international, national, and grassroots—and the United Nations System. By motivating and galvanizing the entire *Co*NGO constituency and the United Nations System, *Co*NGO will build bridges to the future of multilateralism, cutting through the fogs of populism and short-termism. Together, the United Nations and Civil Society can—and must—work to enable future generations to enjoy healthy lives in greater peace, social justice, democracy, and the rule of law.

E. The *Co*NGO 75th Anniversary Committee and the *Co*NGO Board endorse these ambitious but realistic goals. The 75<sup>th</sup> year is a propitious time for *Co*NGO to do these goals, especially as they form part of the vision and direction that the presidency of Liberato Bautista has set to do. They constitute the backdrop to the following activities and events, which will be organized during the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and followed through for consolidation in 2024 and 2025:

- Commemorative Events at UN Centres in Geneva, New York, Vienna, and Bangkok, where possible, with appropriate cultural and hospitality events.
- Production of a book recounting the 75 years of the history of *Co*NGO's interactions among its members and with the UN System. The booklet will honor the giants of *Co*NGO's past and present leaders and open a perspective into *Co*NGO's future work. This shall include profiles of *Co*NGO presidents and vice presidents, the NGO substantive committees, and pages about *Co*NGO member organizations that may want to be featured.
- Six global thematic webinars will follow up on the themes that emerged from a *Co*NGO Civil Society Summit held in October 2021 with over 1,000 participants in person and online. The six clusters of themes are:

1. Human dignity and human rights (recalling that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights also celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023)
2. Agenda 2030, sustainable development, and humanitarian action
3. Peace and threats to the security of people and the planet.
4. Social justice: Migration justice, racial justice, and health justice
5. Gender justice, youth, and intergenerational solidarity
6. UN-NGO relations: enhancing multilateralism, protecting NGO access, civil space and democratic discourse.

In all the above, *Co*NGO's members and Substantive Committees worldwide will provide input and leadership throughout the year, bringing their knowledge of planetary issues to the fore.

F. To achieve *Co*NGO's purposes for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and beyond, *Co*NGO has the structural benefit of a diverse and multidisciplinary membership of some 600 organizations, a solid and committed Board, its Substantive Committees, its Global Officers, and the fiduciary instrument of the *Co*NGO Foundation Inc. A high-level 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee provides advice and guidance.

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- G. Through the involvement of international and national civil society organizations, all of the activities of CoNGO's forward-looking 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year will contribute to the achievement of the UN Agenda 2030, the advancement of the UN Secretary General's "Our Common Agenda," and the success of the UN 2024 Summit of the Future, including its follow up.
- H. The financial need for this fundraising is USD 188,000, involving the following:
- Redesigning and rebranding the website/integrating the social media platforms, writing, and uploading website content (website developer, website content writers, editor)
  - Researching, writing, editing, and consulting for the production of a 150-page 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book
  - Layout, printing, and distribution (including e-book) of the book
  - Organizing the 75th-anniversary commemorative events in Vienna (April), Bangkok (May), New York (October), and Geneva (December)
  - Organizing six global thematic webinars focused on clusters of issues in pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals and the programmatic directions of CoNGO (speakers, organizing, webcasting, print, and video documentation for educational purposes)
  - Travel, implementation, and publicity costs

To fund the 75th-anniversary activities, CoNGO seeks funding from philanthropic organizations and donations from its members, directors, officers, and friends to meet these requirements. All benefactors will be provided an audited report as part of the professionally audited reporting of CoNGO finances for the year ended 2023.

I. Co-Branding between CoNGO and donors

Donors to this 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fundraising can co-brand individual or all events—related to the commemoration. This includes sponsorship of events where organizational or corporate logos may be added as co-sponsors or co-organizers. Inquiries are welcome; address them to the CoNGO President, Liberato Bautista, at [president@ngocongo.org](mailto:president@ngocongo.org). The Conference of NGOs Foundation, Inc.—to which all checks must be paid—is a registered non-profit organization under 501(c)3 provision of the US Internal Revenue Code. All donations received are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by US law.

J. Monetary donations may be sent via any of the payment modalities described [here](#).

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