



**75th Anniversary of the
Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in
Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)**

CoNGO 1948-2023

Theme: *Defining the Present, Shaping the Future, Making the Change, Now*”

- A. As Honorary Co-Chairs of the CoNGO 75th Anniversary Committee, it is with great pride and anticipation that we announce the planning for CoNGO’s 75th Anniversary, commemorated throughout 2023. We make this announcement now to motivate and galvanize the entire CoNGO constituency and the United Nations System to mark this Anniversary as a significant milestone on the road of cooperation and interaction between Civil Society and the United Nations.
- 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 that comprise 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 fulfilling its mandate and work, and CoNGO is a persistent and informed advocate of that cause.

For more information about CoNGO and the 75th anniversary, visit:

www.ngocongo.org

- D. CoNGO's 75th Anniversary will be a year-long occasion to reaffirm and reinforce the above. Among the plans for the year are the following:
- a. Commemorative occasions at UN Centers in Vienna, New York, Geneva and Bangkok, with appropriate cultural and hospitality events.
 - b. Publication of a booklet recounting the 75 years of the history of CoNGO's interactions among its members and with the UN System. The booklet will open a perspective for CoNGO's further development.
 - c. Six global thematic webinars are to be held following up on the themes that emerged from the CoNGO Civil Society Summit of October 2021, namely:
 - Human dignity and human rights: Double celebration of the 75th anniversaries of CoNGO and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - Achieving Global Justice: Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development, and humanitarian action
 - Peace and threats to the security of people and the planet
 - Social justice: Achieving migration justice, racial justice, and health justice e
 - Gender justice, youth, intergenerational solidarity
 - UN-NGO relations: enhancing multilateralism, protecting NGO access, civil space and democratic discourse
 - d. In all of the above, CoNGO's member NGOs and its many Substantive Committees will provide input and leadership throughout the year, bringing their knowledge of local and planetary issues to the fore.
- E. The CoNGO 75th Anniversary Committee seeks your advice and participation as we move forward with this extensive planning for 2023. Please offer moral, material, and financial support through the Office of the CoNGO President: president@ngocongo.org. Thank you for joining in!

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

Ms. Gillian Sorensen

Former UN Assistant Secretary-General
for External Relations

Brig. Gen. Patrick Rea

Grand Master Emeritus, Ordo Supremus
Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani (OSMTH)

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