



Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Adopted by the members of the Committee on 26
June 2013

The **Vienna Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee on Drugs (VNGOC)** is an Austrian registered, Vienna based, global network of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in the field of drug abuse. The membership of VNGOC is actively involved in the entire range of services and programs related to this area including, prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery at the policy and program level.

VNGOC is governed by a Board of Directors that is elected every two years. This Strategic Plan was adopted by the VNGOC membership at its June 2013 meeting and will serve as the guide to its work for the next five years which will encompass a number of important global drug related events including the 2014 High Level Segment review of progress towards the 2009-2019 Political Declaration and Plan of Action in addition to the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs.

It is clear that the role and participation of NGOs in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and member states represents an important and unique contribution to these bodies. NGOs possess extensive expertise, depth of knowledge and practical experience that is invaluable to ensuring that global efforts aimed at addressing drug abuse are effective, relevant and take into consideration the impact of these policies.

NGOs also represent a massive workforce and strategic allies for governments and international organizations. As governments are being called upon to do more with less, now is the opportunity to develop strong, complementary and collaborative partnerships with NGOs.

In keeping with the spirit of shared responsibility and accountability, VNGOC and its members have adopted the attached Strategic Plan to clearly outline our priorities, activities and commitment to working with our partners. Also, our Strategic Plan is intended to provide the clarity and transparency of intent that is important to our members. Specifically, the Strategic Plan focuses on:

- developing NGO capacity and opportunities for NGO engagement with UN member states and relevant UN bodies;
- advocating for NGO inclusion in international drug policy decision making; and
- representing a global NGO voice at key strategic events.

We encourage you to review this Plan with a view to identifying opportunities for collaboration, investment and participation. VNGOC reports regularly on its progress and we welcome your suggestions on how we might strengthen our work together. This Plan is very much our members plan. It represents the active engagement of our members around the globe. Please consider how we can better contribute to national, regional and international drug abuse control activities.

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About VNGOC

Established in 1983, VNGOC is an Austrian registered NGO that links NGOs, UN member states and the key intergovernmental and international bodies involved in drug policy, namely: CND, INCB and UNODC.

VNGOC has adopted and works under the principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence within the rules and procedures of the UN system.

Mission

Enable NGOs to contribute to UN drug policy decision-making

Strategic Objectives

To develop NGO capacity to engage UN member states and relevant UN bodies

A critically important role for VNGOC is to work at helping NGOs develop their own capacity, skills and ability to engage with international bodies. Often, NGOs want to engage and contribute their expertise but the process for doing so is less than clear or difficult for them to access. VNGOC is committed to supporting our members so that they can be effective contributors to international drug policy matters.

To do so, VNGOC will over the next five years:

Develop and disseminate material presenting the VNGOC operating context – *in other words an environmental map for members to understand where they fit and how they can access and contribute to our work.*

Update and disseminate CND Guide for NGOs – *VNGOC's annual guide for NGOs has become a must read document for NGOs and Member States alike. It provides a concise and up to date guide for how to make the most of your CND experience.*

Update and disseminate National Advocacy Guide for NGOs – *VNGOC is increasingly developing tools so as to maximize the effective advocacy of its members before and after the CND. This is an opportunity for our members to develop stronger national level partnerships with governments thereby linking CND decisions with national actions.*

Disseminate NGO Guide to ECOSOC Consultative Status – *An important opportunity available to all NGOs is to apply and secure ECOSOC Consultative Status, which permits greater levels of accessibility and participation by our members at the CND and with other relevant bodies.*

Develop NGO training and professional development strategy – *In order to support VNGOC's capacity development objectives, we will develop a specific training and professional development strategy. Using all available means VNGOC intends to secure funds and support to ensure a full and successful engagement of our members with the CND and its members.*

Create opportunities for NGO engagement with UN member states and relevant UN bodies

In its 30 years of operation, VNGOC has continually sought to create opportunities and events to allow its members to best engage with the UN system. In 2008, VNGOC hosted Beyond 2008 which brought together 900 NGOs from 115 countries and the adoption of a global declaration and resolutions on how to improve international drug policy.

Over the next five years VNGOC will:

Host CND informal Civil Society Hearing – *VNGOC has begun hosting informal Civil Society Hearings to provide a forum whereby NGO, Member States and representatives of international organizations can come together – share and discuss issues of relevance to the CND. These highly popular events offer a unique format to address some of the most challenging global policy issues.*

Host CND Informal Dialogues (Chair CND, President INCB, ED UNODC) – *VNGOC initiated and hosts yearly informal dialogues for NGOs to discuss with senior decision makers issues of common interest.*

Coordinate and/or host CND Side Events – *VNGOC acts as an informal organizer/coordinator of side events run by NGOs. Side events are an important feature of the CND and a forum which permits a more thorough expose of key policy topics. VNGOC will develop guidelines to assist its members to make the best use of these high profile events.*

Draft and deliver CND Oral & Written Statements – *VNGOC delivers statements at each CND and is working at developing the capacity of other NGOs to do the same. NGOs in ECOSOC Consultative status have the opportunity to present their views on matters and VNGOC will be developing guidelines to help its members make more regular use of this privilege.*

Draft and deliver CND Conference Room Papers – *VNGOC submits conference room papers on a regular basis to the CND. These form an important part of the literature available at these events. VNGOC will be developing guidelines to assist its members in drafting and submitting their own papers.*

Facilitate CND Networking (Lounge/Briefings/Grounds Pass/Sponsorship under ECOSOC Approved Organisations) – *Working in close collaboration with the UNODC Civil Affairs Team, VNGOC assists its members in making the most of the CND. VNGOC hosts daily briefing sessions for NGOs, works with UNODC to ensure they have appropriate access to the venue and where required, are sponsored by NGOs in ECOSOC Consultative status with the UN.*

Develop strategy to link NGOs to UNODC Regional Offices – *VNGOC will develop a concerted strategy to better connect its members with the people and priorities of the UNODC regional offices. This is a particularly important opportunity to create longer term, productive projects between NGO and Member state priorities funded through UNODC regional offices.*

Advocate for NGO inclusion in international drug policy decision-making

One of VNGOC's primary objectives is to advocate for its members to effectively participate, influence and contribute to decision making. VNGOC does so by striving to make its members' experience interacting with the 'UN system' as productive as possible. To do so VNGOC proactively engages with key bodies to optimally include NGOs in their work.

Over the next five years VNGOC will:

Hold annual meeting with UNODC Senior Management Team (SMT) – *The VNGOC Board meets with senior UNODC officials to identify and strengthen opportunities for its members to contribute to their work.*

Hold annual meeting with CND Secretariat to arrange logistics and review experience – *VNGOC works closely with the CND Secretariat to ensure that all rights and privileges allowed to NGOs in ECOSOC consultative status are afforded to our members.*

Hold annual meeting with INCB President to review experience and plan – *Further to the relevant Beyond 2008 recommendation, VNGOC meets annually with the Executive of the INCB to review practices and experiences related to NGOs working with their team and especially during country mission visits.*

Facilitate identification of NGOs for INCB missions – *Further to the Beyond 2008 recommendation that was accepted by INCB, VNGOC works with its members to recommend a list of NGOs the INCB can consider meeting with while on mission. This has proven to be an extremely valuable connection for VNGOC members.*

Liaise with other NGO coordinators - *New York NGO Committee (NYNGOC), Committee of NGOs (CoNGO) and the Vienna Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (VANGOCPCJ) – The VNGOC Chair and its Board meet regularly with other NGO lead coordinators – to exchange information and experiences and to broaden the connectivity of VNGOC members into these other networks.*

Present a global NGO voice at key strategic events

Building on its long-standing tradition of bringing together NGOs from around the globe and on the most recent success of the Beyond 2008 initiative; VNGOC will work with its partners to bring a comprehensive, expert and informed voice to key international events.

Over the next five years VNGOC will:

Coordinate NGO input and participation during preparations and at 2014 High Level Segment (HLS) – *VNGOC will coordinate its member input into the mid-term review and political declaration to be adopted in 2014. It will also represent its members at the inter-sessional meetings held in preparation for 2014 and host a third informal Civil Society Hearing during the HLS composed of high level dignitaries attending and the session..*

Identify and coordinate opportunities for VNGOC input into the 2015 MDG review process – VNGOC will work with its partner NGO coordinating committees, the UNODC and others to determine the most efficient and productive contribution its members can make/offer to the MDG review.

Lead development and delivery of NGO contributions during preparations and at 2016 UNGASS – VNGOC will provide a global NGO voice and input into 2016 UNGASS.

The VNGOC also adopted the following **operational objectives** as part of its strategic plan. To better serve its members VNGOC will provide:

Effective and efficient management of the VNGOC

- Maintain financial policies and procedures in accordance with Austrian law
- Maintain a membership database – input data
- Review and revise membership structure, dues and processes
- Create membership development strategy
- Secure funds (Business case/members, EU, member states, UN, corporates, trusts & foundations)
- Develop annual timeline of activities and events
- Explore means to allow for distance participation in VNGOC meetings
- Develop Performance Evaluation Strategy
- Achieve ECOSOC Consultative Status within two years - *under review by VNGOC members*

Transparent and accountable governance

- Comply with relevant Austrian legal regulations and requirements
- Implement an approved Strategic Plan
- Consolidate historical documents in digital format
- Develop regional committees – *including exploration of a NY based committee in addition to other regions which are able/interested to contribute to VNGOC work in this manner.*

Tools to Market and communicate VNGOC

- social media accounts

VNGOC Board of Directors

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