

Meeting of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs

Thursday, 1 December 2016
3:00 – 6:00 p.m. CET, Room C0237, C-Building, VIC, Vienna, Austria

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

After a round of introductions, the Chair opened the meeting.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2016 were approved.

3. Attendance and apologies for absence

Member organizations in attendance:

- Organization of Families of Asia and the Pacific
- Int. Federation of NGOs against Drug and Substance Abuse
- Dianoa International
- Women's Federation for World Peace International
- Lions Clubs International
- Foundation for a Drug Free Europe
- Zona International
- International Council of Women
- International Inner Wheel
- Int. Alliance for Hospice and Palliative Care
- Centro Studios Legales y Sociales
- International Drug Policy Consortium
- Transnational Institute
- Society for the Advancement of Global Understanding
- African Action on AIDS
- New Line Social Organisation
- IOGT International
- ACUNS
- Alliance of NGOs on CCPCJ

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Apologies received by secretary prior to the meeting:

- Diogenis Association
- Washington Office on Latin America
- SHOLA MESE FOUNDATION
- StoptheDrugWar.org.
- Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities
- International Federation of Social Workers
- San Patrignano Foundation
- Proyecto Hombre
- Elternkreis
- Graduate Women International
- TB/HIV Care Association
- ICASO
- ZILICDRU
- HRI

4. Financial Report

The financial report of December 2016 was presented to the committee. See annex 1 for details.

5. Membership report

Membership review:

Following the membership survey in summer 2015, a total of 46 organisations were identified as being non-active. They had neither responded to several requests for information nor had they paid their membership fee.

It was agreed to send one final communication to them, warning them that they would be dismissed from the membership unless they replied. The names of the 46 organisation in question are added to the minutes in annex 2.

New member organisations approved by the board:

- Samaj Kalyan Ka Lagi Yuwa Nepal Youth for Social Welfare Nepal-YSWN

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- Middle East and North African Harm Reduction Network (MENHARA)
- Major Alliance Education Centre (MAEC)
- Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation, Afghanistan
- Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Hungary
- Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID), Costa Rica
- Rights Reporter Foundation, Hungary
- Humaania päihdepolitiikka ry/Finnish Association for Humane Drug Policy, Finland
- 9.International Centre for Science in Drug Policy, Canada
- Correlation Network, Netherlands
- IOGT-NTO Juniorförbund (JUNI), Sweden
- Mainline, Netherlands
- Pain and Polices Studies Group University of Wisconsin, USA (Registered in DESA, Research Program)
- Drug Policy Australia Limited, Australia
- Andean Information Network (AIN), Bolivia
- Penal Reform International, UK

In answering a question about the membership fee compliance, it was agreed to increase the awareness of the VNGOC membership fee system by adding it more prominently to the membership application forms.

A systematic review process for payment compliance was discussed. It was suggested that non-payment of the membership fee for 1 year should lead to the loss of the right to vote, and two years of non-payment should lead to exclusion from the membership. The board will further discuss the proposals and come up with a formalised suggestion.

6. Report from CND proceedings

The Board briefed the Committee about the proceedings at CND in the past months. The CND Intersessional meeting in September 2016 focussed on laying ground for the next meetings as most Permanent Missions in Vienna changed their staff during the summer.

Two series of Intersessional meetings were held in October 2016, focussing on Post UNGASS follow up. The sessions were devoted to covering the seven chapters of the UNGASS outcome document and their implementation from the national perspectives. In cooperation with the CND Secretariat and the CND Chair, VNGOC arranged and coordinated the participation of up to four NGO speakers for each thematic area, either in person or through video message. It was certainly a positive highlight that all NGO contributions were integrated in the discussion and called between member state speakers, not only at the end.

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In October, the VNGOC Chair was invited to speak at the opening of the OSCE conference « UNGASS 2016: Roadmap for Tackling the World Drug Problem ».

In the end of November, the current president of the General Assembly, Mr. Peter Thomson held a meeting with the CND, focussing on the implementation of the SGDs. Vice-Chair Katherine Pettus spoke at that event on behalf of the VNGOC.

From 23 - 25 January 2017, CND intersessionals will take place focussing on the implementation of the UNGASS outcome document by covering each thematic area. Again, NGO representatives have been invited to speak at the meetings. Video messages are welcome, as they enable a true reflection of the global voice of civil society without limiting it to those able to being present in person. VNGOC will announce the nomination and selection process in due course.

CND 2017 will take place from 13 to 17 March 2017. Side events registration is open from 2-20 January 2017 by using the form available at: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND-and-CCPCJ_Side-Events.html

7. Civil Society Task Force

The Civil Society Task Force has acted on a low level after UNGASS, as its main mandate was over. In evaluating its work, a survey was sent to over 1000 organisations connected to the CSTF in UNGASS preparations. Unfortunately, only around 190 responses were recorded. However, out of those, 89% were satisfied with the work of the CSTF. Only 11% perceived the CSTF as non-satisfactory. The impact of the Task Force's work was seen as positive by 90% of respondents. Valuable comments leading forward were received, as well as a number of complaints about the UNGASS logistics and UN attitude towards civil society.

The CSTF Steering group therefore sent a letter to the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary General, and the President of the General Assembly, the UNGASS Board Chair and Mr. Fedotov. While the letter also focussed on the positive aspects of UNGASS, it made very clear the negative issues highlighted by civil society.

The letter and all responses received so far are attached as annex 3.

In going forward, the CSTF steering committee, along with the leadership of VNGOC and NYNGOC agreed on continuing the cooperation, but to review the structure and direction of the task force, taking into account the results of the evaluation and other lessons learned. The CSTF will remain the

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framework for the UNGASS implementation, as is important to remain present in both Vienna and New York, especially when looking at the SDGs as most important challenge ahead.

VNGOC and NYNGOC will draft a formal proposal for a collaboration structure to ensure civil society participation in 2019 and the implementation of the SDGs.

While the details are still under discussion, a first idea was to hold a workshop about SDGs and drug policy during CND in March 2017. For that purpose, the board will draft a concept paper, synthesising the literature available on the topic. The workshop is intended to increase the knowledge about the SDGs and drug policy within the membership.

Another idea was that each member organisation would adopt a target or goal and see how they can make it relevant to their work. This will increase the participatory nature of VNGOC's work and enable a broad global conversation about how NGOs work with the SDGs.

VNGOC will communicate information about prior meetings on the topics, as well as about future events. For example, in July 2017, a High-Level meeting on the SDGs under ECOSOC auspices will take place. Information about Civil Society participation is not fully available yet, but will be communicated once it is.

The need for a stronger cooperation with the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was highlighted as well. The Alliance's work on the SDGs, especially in the context of the Crime Commission offers opportunity for further exchange with the VNGOC membership.

8. VNGOC Strategic Plan

The board agreed to develop the new strategic plan in relation to the post UNGASS and SDG requirements. While it has been preliminary discussed, a substantial draft will only be made available once the overall direction of the processes towards 2019 and beyond is clear.

9. MoU with UNODC

The board and UNODC have negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed in 2017. It defines the areas of cooperation and adds to the role of VNGOC towards the United Nations by improving the VNGOC status for joint fundraising activities.

10. UNODC update

Billy Batware, UNODC Civil Society Team updated the committee on the work of his team relating to the UNGASS outcome document. It is necessary to ensure civil society, especially on the ground level, is well aware of the role it has been given in the document, and its implementation. They are inviting

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civil society to work with them on drafting a guideline for civil society on the outcome document, focussing on the implementation opportunities together with member states and UNODC regional offices.

It was agreed that this idea ties into the VNGOC plan for a workshop on SDGs in March, and that the board will work with UNODC on the matter.

11. “Marketplace” Platform

The NGO marketplace (mp.vngoc.org) has received further updates in the last months. An auto-translate feature has been implemented, allowing non-English speakers to participate on the platform in their respective languages. All content can be automatically being translated now into a wide number of languages. Overall, around 100 organisations registered their profiles already. Tying into the discussion on the UNGASS and SDG implementation, the platform allows its users to follow certain UN resolutions and declaration, thereby connecting similar interests and expertise from within the users. VNGOC will work on a guideline to make the best use of the platform and its features for the read ahead.

All members are encouraged to register, thus improving the interactive and participatory work of VNGOC.

12. News from Members

A representative of the New Line Organisation in Afghanistan presented the work of his organisation.

The IFNGO world conference will take place on 6-8 Nov 2017 in Macao. The website of the conference is ifngo2017.org

Member organisations are encouraged to protest against the proposed reinstatement of the death penalty – a template letter was circulated.

Members were invited to communicate all side event plans for CND 2017 to the VNGOC board.

13. Any other business

INCB

The board was informed that INCB was not regularly meeting NGOs during their country visits. While VNGOC suggests organisations to meet during these visits, they are not automatically added to the

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agenda. In order to explore the reason for that, the board will prepare a report on all NGOs suggested in the past months, and request a meeting with INCB in March.

Governance

The current statute contains several areas in need for improvement to ensure best possible governance for VNGOC. A governance review was proposed by the membership:

Elections

Board election could lead to an entirely new board, affecting the leadership continuity.

Proposal: Staggered board terms, only half of the board would be up for election every other year.

A limit to board terms in row was discussed, possibly limiting them to a maximum of three, and then a break would be needed.

The elections should be secret, and could be held by using the single transferable ballot system. Another suggestion was electoral lists that would require the presentation of a strategic plan prior to the election.

Quorum

The current provision for a quorum at committee meetings should be reviewed, in light of improving the involvements of those not present in Vienna. Bigger decisions should be communicated by email in advance.

The current statute and rules of procedure are available at:

http://www.vngoc.org/details.php?id_cat=7&id_cnt=40

It was agreed that the board would take the matters into consideration and discuss them further at the next VNGOC meeting in March 2017.

14. Dates of next meetings

It was agreed to hold the next meeting during the 60th session of CND. Exact time and date will be announced once the CND schedule is available.

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Annex 1

Vienna NGO Committee Financial Report December 2016				
Euro			Actuals EUR	Actuals USD
Opening Balance			122.340,93	
CSTF			92.060,45	
VNGOC			30.280,48	
Income VNGOC				
	Membership Fees		4.707,89	670,38
	Grants		1.000,00	
Income CSTF				
	Donors		7.165,84	81.273,34
Total Income			12.873,73	81.943,72
Total available			135.214,66	81.943,72
Expenditure			EUR	USD
CSTF consolidated			-147.152,89	- 31.707,90
	Total CSTF		-147.152,89	- 31.707,90
Expenditure VNGOC				
	Staff		- 5.856,87	
	Bank		- 234,48	- 104,47
	Communication		- 950,00	-
	Misc.		- 141,51	-
	Total VNGOC		- 7.182,86	- 104,47
Total Expenditure			-154.335,75	- 31.812,37
Surplus/(Deficit)			- 19.121,09	50.131,35
Account balancing			35.778,18	- 40.000,00
Account Balance			16.657,09	10.131,35

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Annex 2

The below organisations did not complete the membership review in 2015, and have not reacted on two email reminders since. Their exclusion from the membership is therefore recommended.

1. Australian National Council on Drugs
2. Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research
3. International Society of Addiction Medicine
4. Nepal HIV Alliance
5. Action Humaine pour le Développement integer au Sénégal
6. Ain Shohaota Kendra Foundation
7. Anti Drug Abuse Association of Zimbabwe
8. Anton Proksch Institute
9. Association for a Drug Free Portugal
10. Association Prevent
11. Associazione Papa Giovanni XXIII
12. Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League
13. Barnabas Trust International
14. Better Education for All Foundation
15. Bright Generation Community Foundation
16. Centennial Force Foundation Inc. Luzon
17. Center for Non-Traditional Security and Peaceful Development Studies
18. Creative Media Centre For Development
19. Cultural Association for Youth of Iraq
20. Drug Free Nation Pakistan
21. Drug Free Schools Coalition
22. Drug Salvation Foundation
23. Fondazione Centro di Solidarieta Bianca Costa Bozzo Onlus di Genova
24. Fundasalva
25. Humanitarian Welfare Foundation
26. Institute for Ecology of Cognition
27. International Association of World Peace Advocates
28. International Narcotic and Antiterrorist Enforcement Officers Association - Registered as International Narcotic and Antiterrorists Enforcement Officers and Civils Associations
29. Kawish Resource Center
30. Latinomics
31. Life Long Love Organisation
32. Miesperanza Association for Education and Assistance
33. Murna Foundation
34. Nepal Sports Federation Against Drugs and HIV/AIDS

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35. NGO's Computer Literacy Shelter Welfare
36. Pax Romana ICMICA-IMCS
37. Phoenix Haga
38. Ray of Hope Community Organization
39. Rural Women Development Initiative
40. Shelter Don Bosco
41. Victoria AIDS Resources and Community Service Society
42. Way to Happiness Foundation
43. Women Torch
44. World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
45. International Council on Security and Development
46. Captain Ahmed Ali Foundation

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Annex 3



DSG to Mr.
Hornberg.pdf



CSTF letter re civil society access at UN
2016-09-07 Note to the Deputy Secretary



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