

## **Martin Ignacio Diaz Velasquez**

Evangelical Protestant Church of El Salvador (IEPES)

Candidate for:

**Chairperson**

**Vice-Chairperson**

To the respected members of the Vienna NGO Committee.

I was proposed by my peers for representing a very important but invisible region, among other peripheral regions to the industrialized countries. Indeed, my application is the result of dialogue and consensus among organizations from three continents, understanding the need to make visible the regions and populations most affected by the war on drugs, whose concerns have been brought to the Committee, but which have unfortunately systematically kept invisible in steering positions.

- The VNGOC members sponsoring the present nomination are:

- FAAAT think & do tank. | President Sebastien Naar Molho | [info@faaat.net](mailto:info@faaat.net) | France/Spain |
- Nierika. | President Armando Loizaga Pazzi | [nierika52@gmail.com](mailto:nierika52@gmail.com) | Mexico
- Latinoamérica Reforma NGO. | President Mariela Ximena Hernández Moraga | [hernandez.mariela@gmail.com](mailto:hernandez.mariela@gmail.com) | Chile
- Evangelical Protestant Church of El Salvador | President Rev. Martin Diaz | [mdiaz@esiglesia.org](mailto:mdiaz@esiglesia.org) | El Salvador
- Confédération des Associations de Senhaja du Rif pour le Développement. | President Adebibe Abdellatif | [boujmildev@gmail.com](mailto:boujmildev@gmail.com) | Morocco

- Brief Profile:

Rev. Martin Ignacio Diaz Velasquez, Pastor, President of IEPES.

You can see my full CV here: <http://bit.ly/cvmdiaz>

I am a Salvadoran Theologian and Presbyterian born in 1990, specialized in Human Rights and public policies on controlled substances. I have worked with churches, supra-ecclesial institutions, inter-religious organizations, freethinkers associations, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations at the international level.

Experience in various programs promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, prevention of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, advocacy for LGBTIQ rights and gender issues. I was a founding member of the Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights Network of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in El Salvador.

Pioneering the Harm Reduction and Risk Management Ministry. I have been active working in the area of Drug Policy and Human Rights in Argentina, Paraguay, El Salvador, Uruguay and more recently Germany.

Indeed, I have been forced to exile in Germany, as a consequence of the persecution and attacks suffered in my country as a result of my work in defence of human rights and individual freedoms. From here however, I have been able to get involved more easily in the Vienna discussions on international drug policies.

As well, as coordinator of the Drug Policy Advocacy programme, I took part in the UNGASS and the post-UNGASS processes. I also managed and coordinated multiple researches focused on the future perspectives for drug policies in Central and Latin America. My experience in the field was also enriched by my involvement in projects of public and political advocacy on drug policy reform and training for youth leaders in El Salvador and the Northern Triangle of Central America.

- Some key proposals I would like to highlight:

- Proactively promote the participation of member organisations from invisible regions and invite new organisations to join in contributing to the diversity and growth of VNGOC;
- Promote the strengthening and development of the marketplace for more effective use;
- Deepen the application of MoU with NYNGOC and follow-up its efficiency;
- Propose greater traceability, transparency and accountability in the activities developed by VNGOC vis-à-vis the UN and its members, as stipulated in Article 11) 2. 3. and 4. of the statutes.

If you elect me to the Board of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, you will be able to rely on an available, young, adogmatic and inclusive professional, open-minded and transparent official who is aware of intergenerational collaboration and trained to constant communication and organisational aspects of entities such as VNGOC.