

General Assembly of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs
Wednesday, 24th October 2018 17:00, Room C0229, VIC (C-Building, 2nd Floor)

DRAFT MINUTES

1. The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Roll Call

12 Member Organisations attended in person (all in good standing):

- Dianova International
- Elternkreis Wien
- International Council of Women
- International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)
- International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD)
- IOGT International
- Lions Club International
- Mexico Unido contra la Delincuencia A.C (MUCD)
- Stijena Resoc
- Students for Sensible Drug Policy
- TB/HIV Care Association
- Zonta International

4 Member Organisations attended via online conference (all in good standing)

- Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP)
- DRCNet Foundation
- FORUT
- Foundation for Alternative Approaches to Addiction – Think & do tank

VNGOC Board members:

- Jamie Bridge, Chair
- Lucia Goberna, Deputy Chair
- Orsi Feher, Treasurer
- Zoran Jelic, Deputy Treasurer
- Tania Ramirez, Secretary
- Shaun Shelly, Deputy Secretary

Also present:

- Michael Platzer, NGO Alliance
- Billy Batware, UNODC Civil Society Team (CST)

Chairperson	Deputy Chair	Treasurer	Deputy Treasurer	Secretary	Deputy Secretary	Project Officer
Jamie Bridge International Drug Policy Consortium United Kingdom info@vngoc.org	Lucia Goberna Dianova International Spain	Orsi Feher Students for Sensible Drug Policy USA	Zoran Jelic Stijena Resoc Croatia	Tania Ramirez Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia Mexico	Shaun Shelly TB/HIV Care South Africa	Sarah Pirker ViNGOC Austria www.vngoc.org

Apologies for absence

- International Federation of Social Workers
- Slum Child Foundation

In addition, 15 valid proxy votes were held. For complete list please see ANNEX 1.

3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of the meetings held on 15 March 2018 and 26 June 2018 have been circulated and are available for download on the website. The Committee approved the drafts as a correct record of the meetings.

4. Membership

The Committee was informed about the latest applications for membership since March 2018 and the new members were officially introduced:

Organsation	Country	Website
Action Jeunesse pour le Développement (AJED-Congo)	Congo	www.ong-ajedcongo.blogspot.com
ANORW Police and Emergency Services of the Ottawa Watershed	Canada	www.anorw-police.ca
Anti-Corruption Association of NGO (NGO-ACA)	Taiwan	www.ngo-icac.org.tw
Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad (Dejusticia)	Colombia	www.dejusticia.org
Foreningen for human narkotikapolitikk (the Association for Humane Drug Policies) (FHN)	Norway	https://www.fhn.no/
International Drug Policy Unit (IDPU)	United Kingdom	www.lse.ac.uk/drugpolicy
International Police Organization (Internacionalna Policijska Organizacija)	Serbia	www.interpolice.org
Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS)	USA	www.maps.org
Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA)	Singapore	www.sana.org.sg
South Asian Drugs and Addictions Research Council	India	www.sa-darc.org
The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws France (NORML France)	France	www.norml.fr

Chairperson	Deputy Chair	Treasurer	Deputy Treasurer	Secretary	Deputy Secretary	Project Officer
Jamie Bridge International Drug Policy Consortium United Kingdom info@vngoc.org	Lucia Goberna Dianova International Spain	Orsi Feher Students for Sensible Drug Policy USA	Zoran Jelic Stjena Resoc Croatia	Tania Ramirez Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia Mexico	Shaun Shelly TB/HIV Care South Africa	Sarah Pirker ViNGOC Austria www.vngoc.org

5. Financial Report

The Treasurer, Orsi Feher, presented the financial report for January to September 2018 (see ANNEX 2 for details). Current expenditure and income is tracking as expected against the agreed budget. While the expenditure for the full board meeting exceeded the budget, the committee did not need to pay the budgeted costs for personnel. The Treasurer also explained the expenditure for the CSTF – namely money fronted for an initial consultancy to develop the CSTF online global consultations, which will be reimbursed before the end of the year.

6. Membership Fees 2019

The Treasurer, Orsi Feher, presented the proposal for the membership fees 2019 to the committee for approval. The board proposed that membership fees remain unchanged from 2018:

Organisation's 2018 annual budget	EUROS	USD
Under €10,000	No fee, but mandatory completion of the <u>Membership Commitment Form</u>	No fee, but mandatory completion of the <u>Membership Commitment Form</u>
€10,001 to €50,000	€ 60	\$ 75
€50,001 to €150,000	€ 90	\$ 110
€150,001 and over	€ 120	\$ 150

Approved.

Chairperson Jamie Bridge International Drug Policy Consortium United Kingdom info@vngoc.org	Deputy Chair Lucia Goberna Dianova International Spain	Treasurer Orsi Feher Students for Sensible Drug Policy USA	Deputy Treasurer Zoran Jelic Stjena Resoc Croatia	Secretary Tania Ramirez Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia Mexico	Deputy Secretary Shaun Shelly TB/HIV Care South Africa	Project Officer Sarah Pirker ViNGOC Austria www.vngoc.org
---	--	---	---	---	--	---

7. Election Committee for Board Election 2019

The Board presented the nominations for the election committee, and their proposal for approval. The nominees in good standing at the time of the deadline for applications were as follows:

- a. Christian Mirre, Foundation for a Drug Free Europe (Belgium)
- b. Daniela Kreher, IEPES (El Salvador)
- c. Ernesto Cortes, ACEID (Costa Rica)
- d. George Ochieng Odalo, Slum Child Foundation (Kenya)
- e. Hannah Hetzer, Drug Policy Alliance (USA)
- f. Linda Nilsson, World Federation Against Drugs (Sweden)
- g. Scott Bernstein, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition

The Board explained that the original deadline for nominations was extended to ensure that nominees were balanced in terms of gender, regions and organizational focus. Based on these same criteria, the Board proposed to nominate the following four people to the election committee:

- c. Ernesto Cortes, ACEID (Costa Rica)
- d. George Ochieng Odalo, Slum Child Foundation (Kenya)
- e. Hannah Hetzer, Drug Policy Alliance (USA)
- f. Linda Nilsson, World Federation Against Drugs (Sweden)

Approved.

8. Elternkreis - statue „Tree of Hope“ in front of VIC

The Board updated the Committee about the situation with the „Tree of Hope“ sculpture outside of the VIC – for which the VNGOC has been requested to support the ongoing maintenance costs.

The Board and the representative from Elternkreis explained that the VNGOC had been a partner in putting up the statue. Until 2017 the small, local NGO Elternkreis have taken on the burden of maintaining the sculpture (cleaning, gardening, etc.) with the small funding they received from the Austrian government. Now the funding situation changed and Elternkreis is no longer in a position to maintain the sculpture.

After initial discussions in June the board approached UNODC and UNOV and asked them to step in. However, UNODC is not in a position to cover the costs and UNOV only looks after sculptures that are situated within the UN grounds. The proposal to

Chairperson	Deputy Chair	Treasurer	Deputy Treasurer	Secretary	Deputy Secretary	Project Officer
Jamie Bridge International Drug Policy Consortium United Kingdom info@vngoc.org	Lucia Goberna Dianova International Spain	Orsi Feher Students for Sensible Drug Policy USA	Zoran Jelic Stjena Resoc Croatia	Tania Ramirez Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia Mexico	Shaun Shelly TB/HIV Care South Africa	Sarah Pirker ViNGOC Austria www.vngoc.org

move the statue into the UN grounds was rejected on the basis that there a) is not enough room and b) the sculpture is only related to one of the agency based at UNOV.

Proposal: That VNGOC commits to the maintenance and cleaning of the „Tree of Hope” sculpture (maximum EUR 700 per year) until a review in March 2020.

Approved.

9. Q&A / Update on VNGOC activities

a. Civil Society Task Force (CSTF)

The Chair, Jamie Bridge, gave an updated on the work of the CSTF particularly the online consultation. The results of the consultation will be presented at a lunch time event on [December 5th in Vienna](#). The CSTF also selected the civil society speakers for the autumn thematic intersessionals. We received 64 applications for September, 32 for October and 16 for November. The CSTF made balanced decisions based on the applications received and managed to bring people who have never spoken in Vienna or at a UN Meeting. For these activities the CSTF managed to secure support from Russia and Sweden (via UNOD CST), and Germany and the Netherlands (via IDPC). For various reasons, the CSTF budget is a fraction of what it was for 2016.

One of the members present posed a question regarding CSTF funding for travel grants and the Chair explained the CSTF funding situation in more detail: the CSTF managed to secure some funding (around €10,000) for the Civil Society Hearing and additional travel grants for civil society representatives speaking at the CND thematic intersessionals. The CSTF to date provided travel grants to two speakers in October and three in November. Due to time constraints the civil society hearing itself had to be moved to the new year, and the lunch time event in December will be focused on the launch of the consultation results. For the civil society hearing there will be funding for travel grants and an open call will be held to select speakers.

A member present asked about extending the deadline of the online consultation to reach weaker regions in terms of response rates. The Chair explained that the promotion and dissemination in these areas was stepped up and that the CSTF Steering Committee will meet early next week to decide whether to extend the deadline for a few days. The goal for the consultation is to reach 400-500 responses.

Chairperson	Deputy Chair	Treasurer	Deputy Treasurer	Secretary	Deputy Secretary	Project Officer
Jamie Bridge International Drug Policy Consortium United Kingdom info@vngoc.org	Lucia Goberna Dianova International Students for Sensible Drug Policy Spain	Orsi Feher USA	Zoran Jelic Stjena Resoc Croatia	Tania Ramirez Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia Mexico	Shaun Shelly TB/HIV Care South Africa	Sarah Pirker ViNGOC Austria www.vngoc.org

b. NGO Marketplace

Sarah Pirker gave a brief update on the [NGO Marketplace](#), the online platform for drug policy organizations maintained by VNGOC and UNODC Civil Society Team. As in previous years Russia is funding the NGO Marketplace and new features will be introduced before the end of the year:

- an event calendar open to all MP members
- a survey tool
- new notification mechanisms
- general improvements

c. VNGOC Board Meeting

The VNGOC Board held a in-person, all-day Board Meeting yesterday at the VIC. The meeting was very productive – the Board prepared for today’s General Assembly, and developed a draft Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2021. The Board discussed ideas on how to better engage with member organizations, such as reintroducing a social night for members during the CND in March. To assess future plans to further develop the organizational structure of the VNGOC, the Board spoke with a colleague from the [NGO Major Group](#) (the civil society engagement mechanism related to the SDGs), to see what they are doing and how they are organising themselves.

One of the members attending online mentioned that he has been joining the open conference calls that the NGO Major Group regularly holds. They form clusters around different topics and it might be interesting and useful to form a cluster related to drugs and SDGs. In general, the NGO Major Group has an interesting and good structure that allows for many opportunities to engage.

Zoran Jelic highlighted the discussions of the Board regarding capacity building among VNGOC member organizations from developing regions and stated that the Board is trying to find a way to better connect with the 136 members in good standing, focusing not only on those that regularly come to VNGOC meetings.

10. UNODC update

UNODC Civil Society Team gave a brief update on developments, including feedback from the recent 9th UNTOC session that saw a breakthrough in the adoption of a new review mechanism. The [review mechanism](#) presents a novel opening for civil society to actively involve themselves with member states in the three substantive [working groups](#) that will be convened twice a year.

Chairperson	Deputy Chair	Treasurer	Deputy Treasurer	Secretary	Deputy Secretary	Project Officer
Jamie Bridge International Drug Policy Consortium United Kingdom info@vngoc.org	Lucia Goberna Dianova International Spain	Orsi Feher Students for Sensible Drug Policy USA	Zoran Jelic Stjena Resoc Croatia	Tania Ramirez Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia Mexico	Shaun Shelly TB/HIV Care South Africa	Sarah Pirker ViNGOC Austria www.vngoc.org



Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs/
Wiener Drogen Komitee (VNGOC)
PO Box 14, Wagramer Straße 5
A - 1400 Vienna
Austria / Europe
ZVR-Zahl 995552988

11. Dates of next meeting

The Committee will convene its Annual General Assembly during the next regular CND in March 2019. Given that the Ministerial Segment will be held the week before and likely not all members will stay for the whole week of the regular CND, the General Assembly will most likely be held on Tuesday 19th March.

Chairperson	Deputy Chair	Treasurer	Deputy Treasurer	Secretary	Deputy Secretary	Project Officer
Jamie Bridge International Drug Policy Consortium United Kingdom info@vngoc.org	Lucia Goberna Dianova International Spain	Orsi Feher Students for Sensible Drug Policy USA	Zoran Jelic Stjena Resoc Croatia	Tania Ramirez Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia Mexico	Shaun Shelly TB/HIV Care South Africa	Sarah Pirker ViNGOC Austria www.vngoc.org