



# Strategic Plan 2019-2021

[DRAFT FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY - March 2019]

## **ABOUT VNGOC**

Established in 1983 as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Austria,<sup>1</sup> the **Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC)** is a coordinating body for civil society groups around the world that are concerned with drug policies. The VNGOC provides a link between NGOs and the Vienna-based agencies involved in setting drug policy: the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The VNGOC's purpose is to:

1. Support the activities of NGOs, and promoting contacts and collaboration with the relevant international agencies, offices and fora.
2. Promote activities that lead to enhanced communication, cooperation and scientific, cultural and social exchanges between NGOs, UN agencies and member states.
3. Promote increased awareness about issues relating to controlled substances through the dissemination of news and information.
4. Facilitate the representation of NGOs reflecting the broadest possible range of perspectives and groups involved, including affected populations.

The VNGOC's work is guided by the VNGOC Statutes and Rules of Procedure<sup>2</sup>, which were revised and adopted by the membership in 2017. The Committee represents the broadest spectrum of civil society stakeholders in the drug policy debate: members come from all around the world, and are engaged in service delivery, advocacy, research, evaluation and much more – at the international, regional and national levels.<sup>3</sup> As of March 2019, the VNGOC represented approximately 200 organizations.

## **ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

This document aims to provide a strategic overview and structure for the work of the VNGOC Board over the three-year period 2019-2021. The Board, in turn, undertake to implement this Strategic Plan under the principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence, guided by the principles, rules and procedures of the UN system.

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<sup>1</sup> The legal registration name is “Wiener Drogen Komitee”

<sup>2</sup> <https://vngoc.org/about-the-vngoc/statutes-of-the-vngoc/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://vngoc.org/about-the-vngoc/membership/>

## **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND OPERATIONAL PLAN 2019-2021**

### **1. Provide resources and support to develop NGO capacity to engage the relevant UN bodies on drug policy and related matters.**

- 1.1. Maintain and disseminate the CND Guide for NGOs, and produce other materials and guides as required to enable NGOs and other stakeholders to more easily and effectively engage with presenting the relevant UN entities – especially CND, INCB and UNODC.
- 1.2. Continue to disseminate the NGO Guide to ECOSOC Consultative Status, and to support members towards achieving this status where appropriate.
- 1.3. Seek funding to develop NGO trainings and capacity building opportunities on how to engage the relevant UN bodies on drug policy and related matters.
- 1.4. Maintain, review and develop the VNGOC website, social media platforms and other communications tools, hold regular online conference calls to exchange updates with members, and organize an annual social gathering during CND.
- 1.5. Promote the NGO Marketplace among civil society organizations, and continue working with UNODC to further improve the application.
- 1.6. Promote other resources and tools developed by members and partners to facilitate civil society engagement and capacity building.

### **2. Foster new, and utilise existing, opportunities for NGO engagement with relevant UN bodies on drug policy and related matters.**

- 2.1. Support NGO participation at, and networking in, meetings of the CND and other relevant UN agencies and entities – including facilitating access passes for NGOs, coordinating an NGO lounge space, and holding NGO briefings and/or networking events in Vienna.
- 2.2. Host 'Informal Dialogues' with the CND Chair, the INCB President, and the UNODC Executive Director during each main CND session in March.

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2.3. Working collaboratively with other relevant NGO Committees to promote civil society participation in different settings and explore further collaboration, including with the New York NGO Committee on Drugs (NYNGOC)<sup>4</sup>.

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2.4. Coordinate and/or host CND side events on key issues for civil society (including civil society engagement itself).

2.5. Coordinate the identification of NGOs for the INCB to meet during their country missions.

2.6. Promote the participation of civil society representatives at expert meetings and other UN speaking opportunities.

### **3. Advocate for NGO inclusion in international debates concerning the implementation, impact and development of drug policies.**

3.1. Hold regular meetings with the UNODC Secretariat – including the Civil Society Team – to monitor the implementation of a (renewed) Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations.<sup>5</sup>

3.2. Hold regular meetings with the CND Bureau and/or Secretariat.

3.3. Hold regular meetings with the INCB President, other Board members, and/or the INCB Secretariat – including to discuss and develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations and for promoting joint collaborations.

3.4. Where required, make formal written or oral contributions to the CND on the issue of civil society engagement.

### **4. Present a global, balanced NGO voice and/or position on drug policy at strategic national, regional and international events.**

4.1. Draft and deliver oral and written statements, as appropriate, based on common civil society positions (such as the Beyond 2008 outcomes and the Civil Society Task Force findings from 2016 and 2019).

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<sup>4</sup> [www.vngoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Draft-Memorandum-of-Understanding-23-11-2017.pdf](http://www.vngoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Draft-Memorandum-of-Understanding-23-11-2017.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [www.vngoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/VNGOC\\_MoUUNODC\\_SignedVersion20170124.pdf](http://www.vngoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/VNGOC_MoUUNODC_SignedVersion20170124.pdf)

4.2. Identify and coordinate opportunities for VNGOC inputs into high-level international processes related to drug policies, ensuring open and transparent NGO speaker selection for any relevant UN meetings and engagement.

### **5. Effective and efficient management and promotion of the Committee**

5.1. Ensure transparent and accountable governance for the Committee, in line with the VNGOC Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

5.2. Strive for at least two face-to-face board meeting per year.

5.3. Maintain all operational and financial policies and procedures in accordance with relevant Austrian legal regulations and requirements.

5.4. Maintain a membership database, and promote membership, especially in underrepresented regions.

5.5. Proactively engage with members.

5.6. Secure sufficient funds to ensure the continued running and sustainability of the Committee.

5.7. Develop Annual Reports each year that comprise a summary of activities undertaken, a financial summary for the year, the current list of members, and a broad work plan and budget for the coming year – for formal adoption at the General Assembly.

5.8. Develop a new Strategic Plan for 2022-2024, for adoption by the General Assembly at the end of 2021 or early in 2022.