

Annual General Assembly of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs

Tuesday, 19th March 2019 16:00, Board Room D, 4th floor, C Building, VIC

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Adoption of the agenda

Approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2018 have been circulated. The Committee **approved** the draft as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Attendance and apologies for absence

79 members in good standing attended the meeting in person, 2 members attended online. Please see Annex 1 for the full list of attendees.

No apologies were received by the Secretary prior to the meeting.

4. Membership

The Committee was informed about the latest applications for membership and the new members were officially introduced.

New VNGOC Members (since October 2018)

Organsiation	Country	Website
Association des relais communautaires d'Oshwe	Democratic Republic of Congo	
Independent Narcological Guild	Russia	http://nng.com.ru
Scottish Drugs Forum	United Kingdom	sdf.org.uk
Villa Maraini Foundation	Italy	www.villamaraini.it
Instituto RIA	Mexico	www.InstitutoRIA.org
The Jordan Anti Drugs Society	Jordan	www.tjads.org
Red Iberoamericana de ONG que trabajan en Drogas y Adicciones	Spain	www.riod.org
Eurasian Harm Reduction Association	Lithuania	www.harmreductioneurasia.org
Center Point Inc.	USA	www.cpinc.org
Knowmad Institut gemeinnützige UG (haftungsbeschränkt) Europäisches Institut für multidisziplinäre Studien zu Menschenrechten und Wissenschaften	Germany	https://knowmadinstitut.org
Spero	Norway	www.speroforeningen.no

New VNGOC Members (since October 2018)

Organisation	Country	Website
Against bad habits public union	Azerbaijan	
Afghanistan Relief & Sustainable Development Organization (ARSDO)	Afghanistan	
Sociedad Mexicana de Criminología capítulo Nuevo León (SOME CRIMNL)	Mexico	www.somecrimnl.es.tl

5. Annual Report

The Board presented the annual report of activities for 2018 including those of the Civil Society Task Force (CSTF) and invited the Committee to review and approve. The Board especially thanked Heather Haase and Benjamin Philipps from the New York NGO Committee (NYNGOC) for their great work, support and dedication as well as the UNODC Civil Society Team and the CND Secretariat for their continued support.

Approved.

6. Financial Report

The treasurer informed the committee about the annual accounts for 2018 and the latest financial status. The Auditors, Christian Mirre (Foundation for a Drug Free Europe) and Gebhard Fidler (Verein zur Förderung der Völkerverständigung) **approved** the financial documentation.

7. Strategic Plan 2019-21 and Budget for 2019

The Committee was invited to review and approve the documents presented by the Board. The budget for 2019 was presented by the treasure and **approved** by the Committee. The deputy chairperson presented the Strategic Plan for 2019-21 and it was **approved** by the Committee **pending the addition of a line** on the consultation regarding future options for the organisation of the VNGOC.

8. Voluntary Code of Conduct for NGOs at the CND

The Committee was invited to review and approve the document presented by the Board. When presenting the draft Code of Conduct the chair reiterated that civil society organisations have great opportunities to engage at the CND and that it is important to remember that the CND is a Member State meeting. He drew attention to an unauthorised flash mob, organised by NGOs that took place during the Ministerial Segment and emphasised that such things could threaten the current opportunities. In light of what happened the board decided to amend the current draft of the code of conduct to include the UNOV security rules.

The Board then received comments from the membership and it was decided to include a few examples without listing all possible actions. The Board will circulate a

new draft of the Voluntary Code of Conduct for review by the membership in due course.

9. The Future of the VNGOC

The membership was invited to continue discussing the future organisation of the VNGOC, based on the background paper presented by the Board.

The proposed resolution that the membership requests the Board to engage in a consultation period, and present a recommendation to the General Assembly by March 2020 was **approved**.

The following ideas and suggestions were brought up by members of the committee during the discussion:

Dag Endal (FORUT): Thank you to the board. Good idea to do this in two steps and give us a background paper. My basic position is that VNGOC was established to be a global committee. It was meant to be a global committee from the beginning. The new technical opportunities have made it possible to better connect with Vienna on a global basis. Everyone can become a member so its global in that respect. My concern is that you have to distinguish between the formal and practical functions. The formal function should be global but for the practical we can form ad-hoc committees for places other than Vienna. We should simplify instead of making 3, 5 or 10 formal committees.

Michael Krawitz (Virginians Against Drug Violence): Reflect what I presented before 2016. Suggested to resurrect the New York committee as a VNGOC project. VNGOC said no and shut me down - we had tried that. NYNGOC started on their own. Presented an idea a few years later a coordinating council like the CSTF. What I'd like to see is that both committees stay and would like a third one in Geneva. Much better relations with entities in New York. Create a body over us to control all committees.

Mirella Dumnar-Frahi (UNODC Civil Society Team): VNGOC has been the counterpart for UNODC since UNODC was founded. I wouldn't be able to work with three different committees. Lately also the CND has always used the VNGOC as their channel. We have to be realistic - we cannot work with more than that.

Kristina Sperkova (IOGT International): Renaming VNGOC: Yes, I support that name. It was originally supposed to be global and it is easy to become a new member. There shouldn't be something newly constructed. One Committee is enough. Ad-hoc structures should be constructed as needed.

Heather Haase (NYNGOC): NYNGOC is actually a member of the CoNGO. I used to be against the idea of a global committee and I have been thinking of different ways. My concern with a global committee is that it means policy decision will always come from Vienna - and it is an outdated model. There is more need to

have leadership not only in Vienna and New York but also in the regions. The CSTF was really useful to prepare for big meetings and if we had a mechanism to reflect not only representation but also leadership that would work a long time.

Oriol Esculies (Projecto Hombre): Maybe we could also add to ask CND what they would like to see but also INCB and the UNODC Civil Society Team.

Esbjörn Hörnberg (WFAD): Thanks to the board for the background paper. I would have liked to see a paper of a vision how to be in the future. How can we support the small region, how can we get funding and not discussion New York committee. Some members are doubly represented. This is our committee and we should only talk about Vienna.

Luciana Pol (CELS): Need to recognize that drug policy issues have become more complex and that different UN agencies are addressing the issue. It is important to interact with all agencies. We need to adapt to that reality. I encourage the board to adopt this spirit.

CADCA: Thank you to the committee. Tremendous increase in capacity of NGOs to engage. There is only one CND that's global and one committee should be enough. Can't see members states dealing with two Jamies or two perspectives. One committee is the way to go. Should be respectful of the opportunities we have at CND and at UNODC.

Ergin Beceren (Turkish Green Crescent): Simplifying is the better solution - not complicating the issue. Multiplying channels, such as opening a committee in Geneva would not be easing the interaction with all the UN entities.

Communication between the members and the board will be open. Please send us any ideas and additional proposals.

10. UNODC update

The committee received an update on developments within UNODC from the Civil Society Team. The Civil Society Team especially highlighted the launch of a new joint [VNGOC-UNODC guide on the UNGASS Outcome Document and the SDGs](#).

11. VNGOC Board elections

The Nominations Committee (George Baxtali Ochieng, Hannah Hetzer, Linda Nilsson, Ernesto Cortes) conducted the election according to the VNGOC Statutes and the Rules of Procedure, and following the election procedure set by the Nominations Committee. [Information on the candidates](#) and election procedure was circulated before the meeting. Each candidate had the opportunity to present herself or himself to the Committee with a short speech.

142 Member Organizations were in good standing at the time of the election and eligible to vote. Of those, 7 organizations chose to vote online in advance, 23 gave proxies, and 1 attended online and voted via instant messaging (see Annex 3). As detailed in the Rules of Procedure, a separate vote was taken for each of the Board positions.

CHAIRPERSON:

NOMINEE	ORGANIZATION	VOTES RECEIVED
Jamie Bridge	IDPC	94
Phaedon Kaloterakis	WFTC	45

DEPUTY TREASURER

NOMINEE	ORGANIZATION	VOTES RECEIVED
Zoran Jelic	Stjena Räsön	Confirmed as only nominee

DEPUTY SECRETARY: (elected for one year)

NOMINEE	ORGANIZATION	VOTES RECEIVED
Asia Ashraf	Sunny Trust	Withdrew
Ergin Beceren	Turkish Green Crescent Society	42
Rogers Kasirye	Uganda Youth Development Link	19
Penelope Hill	Harm Reduction Australia	76

The new Board members were confirmed as follows:

- Chair: Jamie Bridge from the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)
- Deputy Treasurer: Zoran Jelic from NGO Stijena Resoc
- Deputy Secretary: Penny Hill from Harm Reduction Australia

12. Appointment of an auditor

The membership was asked to nominate and confirm an auditor.

Mousa Daoud (Jordan Green Crescent) volunteered and was **appointed for two years**.

13. Appointment of a Nominations Committee

The membership was asked to nominate and confirm the nominations committee for March 2020. The following volunteers were **approved**:

- Amy Roundhouse, Drug Free America
- George Odalo, Slum Child Foundation



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- Olga Szubert, Harm Reduction International

14. **Dates of next meetings**

The Board will decide on the date for the next meeting and align it with the next CND.

Approved.