

Annual General Assembly of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs

Wednesday, 4th March 2020 16:00, Board Room D, 4th floor, C Building, VIC

Draft Minutes

1. Adoption of the Draft Agenda

Approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The [draft minutes](#) of the meeting held on 19 March 2019 have been circulated. The Committee **approved** the draft as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Attendance and apologies for absence

115 members in good standing attended the meeting in person, 4 members attended online.

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.

43 new organisations from 32 different countries were admitted since 2019, bringing the total membership to 152 organisations.

Organisation	Country
Afghanistan Green Crescent Organization	Afghanistan
African Council on Narcotics	Nigeria
Alcohol and Drug Foundation	Australia
Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies	Norway
Americans for Safe Access	United States
Autamaimasa Health Foundation	Nigeria
Center for Innovative and Pragmatic Development Initiative	United States

Concepts Foundation	United States
CROISSANT VERT NIGERIEN (CVN)	Niger
FEDERAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE COMUNIDADES TERAPÊUTICAS	Brazil
FONDACIONI YESILAY (Green Crescent Albania Foundation)	Albania
Foundation for Innovative Social Development	Sri Lanka
Green Crescent Australia	Australia
Green Crescent Health Development Initiative	Nigeria
Green Crescent Indonesia Foundation	Indonesia
Green Crescent Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan
Green Crescent of Congo DR	Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The
Green Crescent South Africa	South Africa
Green Moon	Georgia
Indonesia Gugus Semangat Anti Narkoba	Indonesia
International Society of Substance Use Professionals	United Kingdom
Just Say No Nepal	Nepal
Kenya Economic Youth Network	Kenya
KIBRIS YEŞİLAY DANIŞMANLIK MERKEZİ	Cyprus
Knowledge Foundation	India
Kosova Yeşilay Cemiyeti/ Shoqëria Hana e Gjelbërt e Kosovës	Kosovo

Milo Shaheed Trust For The Control Of Drug Abuse	Pakistan
Moroccan Green Crescent	Morocco
Pariwartan Sanchar Samuha	Nepal
Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia (Green Crescent)	Malaysia
Prevention Information Lutte contre le Sida	Mauritius
Rafia Bashir Trust	Pakistan
SDRUZHENIE YESHILAY - BALGARIA	Bulgaria
SMART Recovery International	United States
Stardom Association	Lebanon
Students Community Against Drugs	Kenya
Sudanese Green Crescent Society	Sudan
The green crescent society-Palestine	Palestine
tunisian green crescent	Tunisia
Udruzenje gradjana Zelene polumjesec u Bosni i Hercegovini	Bosnia And Herzegovina
UGANDA GREEN CRESCENT SOCIETY	Uganda
Youth Net and Counselling	Malawi
Zeleni krst - Zelene polumjesec	Afghanistan

5. Annual Report

The Board presented the VNGOC [annual report](#) and reflected on activities for 2019 including those of the Civil Society Task Force (CSTF). In particular the board presented civil society speaking opportunities in 2019 and the range of speakers selected by the VNGOC. (see [Annex 1](#)). **Approved.**

Upon request from the membership the board listed the side events of the 61st CND, where the VNGOC nominated speakers following the request of the UNODC Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Section:

- A Health Centered Approach to Drug Dependence, a Mult-Factoral Health Disorder. Speaking on behalf of CSTF: Morgana Daniele, CSTF Member
- Strengthening the Global Prevention Response: Strong Families and Listen First. Civil Society speaker: Anna Mikhlap from the National Anti Drug Union (Russian Federation)
- Addressing Stigma: Continuing the Discussion. Civil Society speaker: Kenneth Arctander, Dianova International (Switzerland)
- Special Event: Evidence-Based Treatment and Therapeutic Communities as an Integral Part of the Health System. Speaking on behalf of VNGOC: Lucia Goberna, Deputy Chair
- Strengthening Efforts to prevent drug abuse in educational settings Civil Society speaker: Cristina von Sperling Afridi, Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation (Pakistan)
- Collaboration between Government and Civil Society on Health Promotion, Prevention, and Treatment of Drug Use. Speaking on behalf of CSTF: Jamie Bridge, Co-Chair

6. Financial Report 2019 and Budget 2020

The treasurer informed the committee about the annual accounts for 2019 and the latest financial status (see [Annex 2](#)). The Auditors, Christian Mirre (Foundation for a Drug Free Europe) and Mousa Daoud (Jordan Green Crescent) **approved** the financial documentation.

The board presented the [budget for 2020](#) and the committee **approved**.

7. Code of Conduct for NGOs at the CND

The Committee was invited to approve the [document](#) circulated by the Board in November 2019 and approve to amend the [Rules of Procedure](#) as follows:

Article 2.5: “Member organizations in good standing are those member organizations that **abide by the “Voluntary Code of Conduct for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs”**, **and** have paid the appropriate membership fee (or have submitted annual

membership commitment forms, where applicable) for the current year and the previous year.”

Article 4.5: “If a member organization is deemed to be violating the membership criteria and obligations as per the VNGOC Statutes, or is deemed to have brought VNGOC into disrepute **or to have violated the “Voluntary Code of Conduct for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs”**, they may be reported to the Board in writing by another member organization, or identified independently by the Board or VNGOC staff.

The Committee **approved** the Code of Conduct and all changes to the Rules of Procedure.

8. Proposal for VNGOC to join the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)

The membership was invited to discuss whether or not VNGOC should become a Substantive Committee of the [CoNGO](#). After a brief overview by the board on the merits of becoming substantive Committee of the CoNGO the membership was invited to comment and discuss.

As no consensus was achieved the **decision was deferred** until the next General Assembly in March 2021.

9. The Future of the VNGOC

In March 2019, the membership requested the Board to engage in a consultation period, and present a recommendation to the General Assembly by March 2020. The Board presented the [results](#) of the consultation held in 2019 and the membership was invited to consider the way forward from these three options:

- a) Maintain the status quo, with two separate and independent committees (VNGOC and NYNGOC);
- b) VNGOC Board to explore greater collaboration with NYNGOC, while maintaining two separate committees; or
- c) VNGOC Board to continue to pursue the possibility of one Global NGO Committee on Drugs – forming a working group to elaborate on how such a global committee could be formed, structured, managed and funded, which can then be brought back to the membership for further consideration.

After a discussion among the members present (see below) the membership voted on the options presented with the majority approving option (a) maintain the status quo, with two separate and independent committees.

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

Dag Endal (FORUT): I roposed an alternative formulation of option (a) “Maintain the status quo, with Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs as the single global platform for civil society interaction with the UN on drug issues.” His full list of suggestions can be found in Annex 3.

Kristina Sperkova (IOGT): I don’t feel like my answer to the consultation was included. I can see myself in option A and C but our idea was to make it clear that we already are a global organization with a global membership.

Randy Thompson (Help not Handcuffs): My impression from NYNGOC is, that there is a lot of interest in deepening the collaboration and at a minimum to continue as we are, but not a lot of appetite to become one global committee.

Scott Bernstein (Canadian Drug Policy Coalition): Option 2 is the most important option for us. The idea that VNGOC is the only committee or the global committee does not reflect the reality of the UN system and we need to build connections to tackle the different facets of drug policy.

George Ochieng Odalo (Slum Child Foundation): The UNODC cites three Committees as their main counterpart and VNGOC is cited as the main voice of civil society on drug policy issues. If we want to raise issues related to drugs, VNGOC is the official platform that is also recognized by the UN. I believe NYNGOC was created for issues decided in New York. If there surfaces anything from Nairobi, Geneva, etc they should go through Vienna.

Lisa Sanchez (MUCD): VNGOC does not have the capacity to negate another committee that has been very helpful in coordinating issues on drug policy. E.g. Omnibus resolution. Latin America for example has only 19% of membership in VNGOC but has a much stronger voice in NYNGOC together with North America.

Amy Ronshausen (Drug Free America): It’s a question of who is the global representation? Coming from the US, we see VNGOC as the home of the global voice, its not about cancelling anyone else. Who do the Vienna based orgs recognize as the civil society voice?

John Redman (CADFY): We also have one other dormant committee in South-East Asia. If we go down this path, it is never ending. I am with Amy on this. VNGOC is the world-wide representation, this is where we come together. NYNGOC seems to me as a whole lot of America.

10. UNODC update

The committee received an update on developments within UNODC from the Civil Society Team. The Civil Society Team especially highlighted the appointment of a new Executive Director, who agreed to meet with the chair prior to the informal dialogue with the UNODC.

11. Appointment of an auditor

The membership was asked to nominate and confirm an auditor. John Redman (CADFY) volunteered and was **appointed for two years**.

12. VNGOC Board elections

The Nominations Committee (George Baxtali Ochieng, Amy Ronshausen, and Olga Szubert) 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.

163 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 and 29 gave proxies (see [Annex 4](#)). As detailed in the [Rules of Procedure](#), a separate vote was taken for each of the Board positions:

Deputy Chairperson

NOMINEE	ORGANISATION	VOTES RECEIVED
Lucia Goberna	Dianova International	55
Augusto Paulo Valente Nogueira	Associacao Reabilitacao Toxicodependentes de Macau (ARTM)	21
Matej Košir	Institute for Research and Development (Utrip)	60

Treasurer

NOMINEE	ORGANISATION	VOTES RECEIVED
Orsolya Feher	Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)	53
Hellen Waiswa Lunkuse	World Federation against Drugs (WFAD)	69
Sana Ullah Rathore	Pakistan Youth Organization	13

Secretary

NOMINEE	ORGANISATION	VOTES RECEIVED
Tania Ramírez	Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)	52
Augusto Paulo Valente Nogueira	Associacao Reabilitacao Toxicodependentes de Macau (ARTM)	22
Ergin Beceren	Turkish Green Crescent Society	59

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**:

- Orsi Feher, SSDP int. (Austria)
- Rogers Kasirye, UYDEL (Uganda)
- Clement Oppong, SSDP Ghana

ANNEX 1

Speaking selection criteria - CSTF

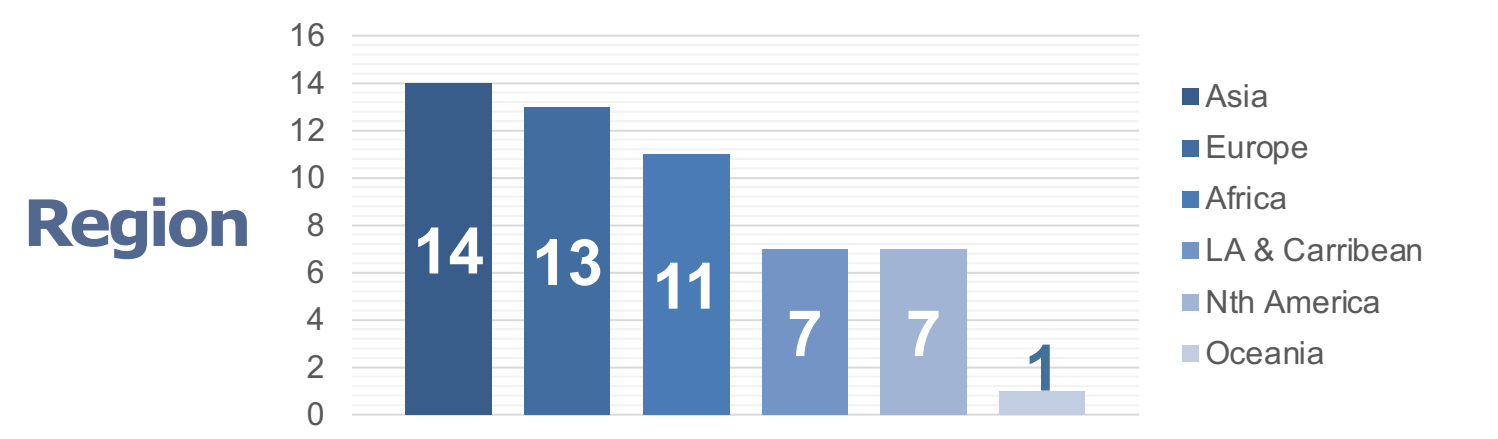
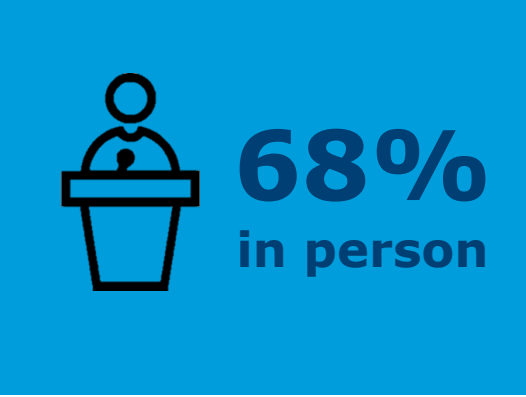
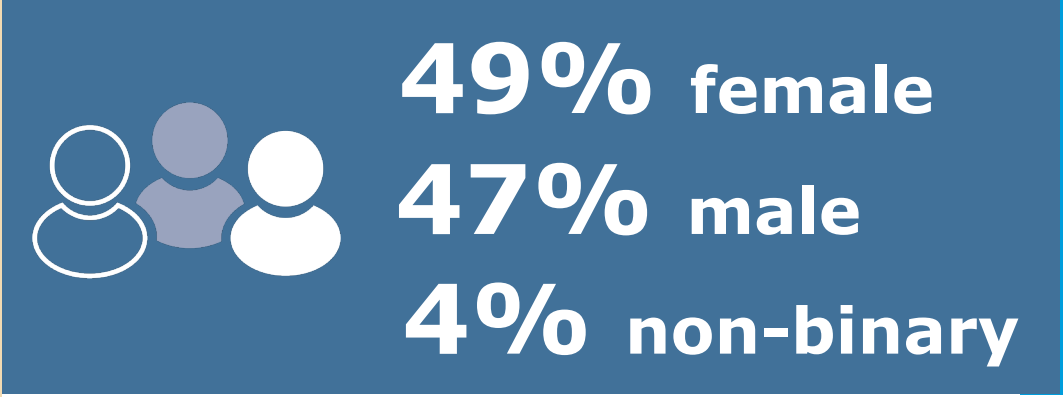
To ensure the
broadest
representation..



- Relevance of the abstract
- Expertise of the applicant
- Range of different views
- Geographical balance
- Gender balance
- Focus of the presentation
- Form of delivery

2019 Speaking Opportunities:

- Vienna Civil Society Hearing
- 2019 Ministerial Segment/CND
- INCB Civil Society Hearing
- VNGOC Consultation
- CND Thematic Intersessional



2019 Ministerial Segment and CND

6 speakers in roundtable discussions:

- 'Taking stock'
- 'Safeguarding the future'



9

**VNGOC
co-sponsored
side events**

civil society
families
dependence
stigma
pain relief
prevention
therapeutic communities

**NGO
coordination
briefings**

2

3 informal dialogues

- **CND Chair**
- **INCB**
- **ED**

3

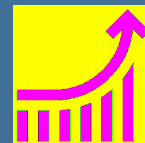
CND Thematic Intersessionals

The range of drugs and drug markets are expanding and diversifying

drug checking programs
east african heroin markets
illicit markets research
european drug markets

drug abuse & precursors
supply reduction efforts
voluntary crop substitution
opium reduction in myanmar
drug war has failed

Record levels of abuse, illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and rise in demand for precursor chemicals



Increasing risk of synthetic opioids and the non-medical use of prescription drugs and challenges with regard to the scheduling of substances



prescription drug abuse
opioid crisis in nth america
tramadol in west africa
hitting SDG targets
harm reduction

Other speaking opportunities

Global civil society hearing (February)



10
speakers

INCB Civil Society Hearing (May)

- Young people and drugs
- Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Turkey, Uganda, USA



63%
Under 30

VNGOC consultation (Sept/Oct)

- Results to be discussed in meeting

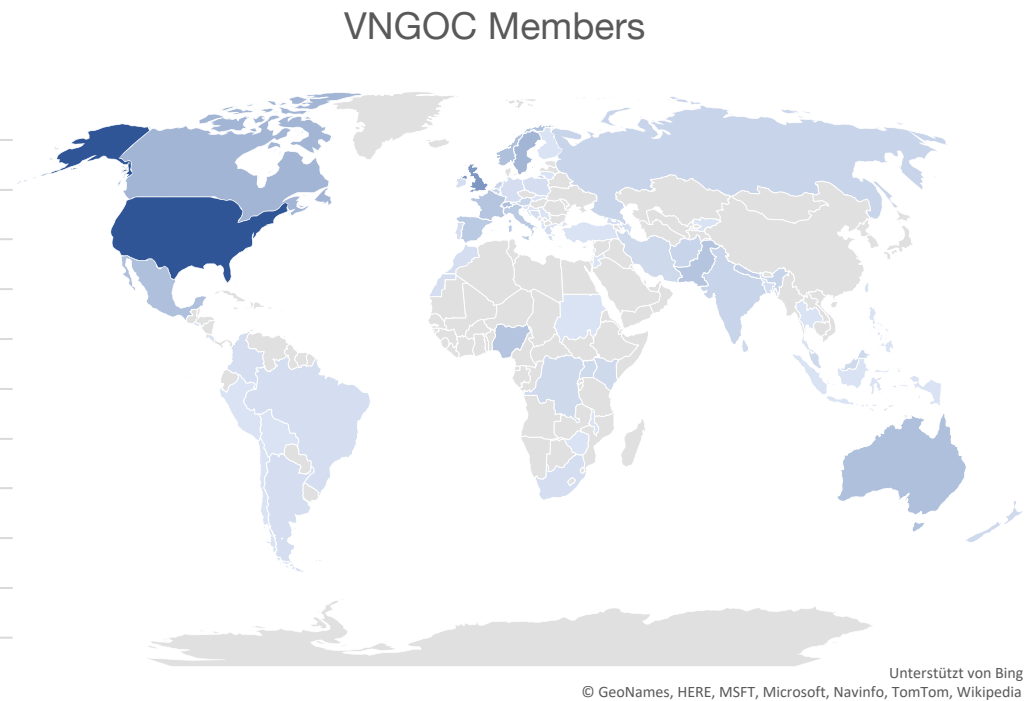
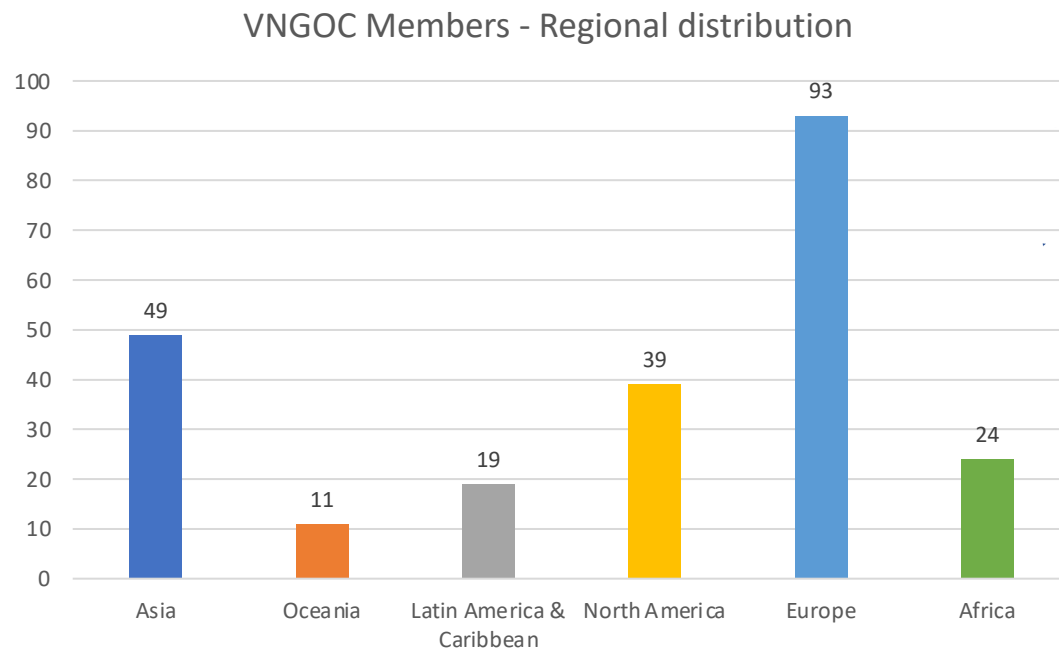


64
24 calls

ANNEX 2

Membership

- 43 new members since March 2020 from 32 different countries
- 252 members in total



Vienna NGO Committee (VNGOC) Accounts 2019			
Description	2019 Budget (EUR)	EURO Actual Expenditure	US\$ Actual Expenditure
Opening Balance, 1 Jan 19		€ 25.644,01	\$ 13.396,65
Income			
Membership Fees	€ 11.000,00	€ 10.238,48	\$ 2.244,36
CSTF Grants	€ 4.000,00		\$ 3.294,69
Total Income	€ 15.000,00	€ 10.238,48	\$ 5.539,05
Expenditure			
Salary costs	€ 3.000,00	0	0
Travel Grants for Members	€ 2.000,00	€ 2.631,60	
Board Meetings	€ 3.000,00	€ 1.683,31	\$ 1.702,42
Bank Fees and Charges	€ 1.500,00	€ 765,93	\$ 495,55
Office Expenditure / Website	€ 1.500,00	€ 1.524,96	\$ 594,18
CSTF	€ 4.000,00	€ 1.759,64	\$ 1.393,00
Other ¹	0	€ 1.200,00	
Total Expenditure	€ 15.000,00	€ 9.565,44	\$ 4.185,15
Surplus/(Deficit)		€ 673,04	\$ 1.353,90
Balance, 31 December 19		€ 26.317,05	\$ 14.750,55

¹ Membership over-payment received in error, and refunded in full.

Budget 2020

Income*		Expenditure	
Membership Fees	€ 12,000	Salary Cost	€ 3,000
Travel Grants (from reserves)	€ 4,000	Travel Grants for NGO Speakers	€ 4,000
		Ad-hoc regional working group activities	€ 2,000
		Board Meeting	€ 3,500
		Bank Fees and Charges	€ 1,500
		Office Expenditure / Website	€ 2,000
Total	€ 16,000	Total	€ 16,000

ANNEX 3

To: DPF affiliates
From: Dag Endal
Date: 03.03.2020

The future of the VNGOC

In the draft agenda for the General Assembly it is said that the membership is invited to consider the way forward from these three options:

- a) *Maintain the status quo, with two separate and independent committees (VNGOC and NYNGOC);*

Alternative formulation to be proposed during the meeting:

- a) **Maintain the status quo, with Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs as the single global platform for civil society interaction with the UN on drug issues.**

This can either be considered a new version of point a) or a new point d) in the voting.

- b) *VNGOC Board to explore greater collaboration with NYNGOC, while maintaining two separate committees; or*
- c) *VNGOC Board to continue to pursue the possibility of one Global NGO Committee on Drugs – forming a working group to elaborate on how such a global committee could be formed, structured, managed and funded, which can then be brought back to the membership for further consideration.*

Talking points:

- Make it simple: We already have one global NGO committee on drugs; the VNGOC. It was established to serve as a platform for NGOs all over the world and as civil society's liaison towards CND, UNODC and the UN in general in drug policy issues. Basically, we do not need to establish a new global committee as long as we have one.
- The name Vienna may confuse some people, but as well-informed members of the VNGOC we should not be confused ourselves. The name indicates simply that the Committee was founded and based in Vienna because the UN had - and still has - their drug policy headquarters here.
- If the name still confuses, we are ready to discuss and propose a name change, but if we approve our new version of point a), there should be no doubt about realities. If
- Today, VNGOC has all characteristics and working procedures to serve as a global committee. Membership is open to NGOs from all corners of the world, and the list of members show that this is the case also in practice. There are no hindrances in the statutes that excludes NGOs from membership on geographic grounds provided that they fulfill all other criteria. As such there is no need for regional committees any other place than in Vienna. If a name change is wanted, that should be an issue for a future General Assembly.

- If we need working groups for practical reasons, be it in New York, Geneva or Nairobi, they can be formed by the VNGOC Board on an ad hoc basis. The resource situation of VNGOC as it is today, does not allow any ambition for us to be working on several levels and in several regions of the world.
- We should instead prioritize to develop working methods and find resources to make it possible for more organisations to involve more easily and more often in the affairs of the Vienna NGO Committee. The Board has already taken several good steps in that direction.
- In this discussion we should limit ourselves to discussing the future of the Vienna Committee. That is what we have the mandate to decide over. The New York Committee is an organisation of its own, and with its own members, and the future of the New York Committee is up to the members of that committee to decide.

ANNEX 4

No.	Organisation	Good Standing	Proxy	Representative	Good Standing2
1	Dianova Portugal	Yes	Dianova International	Montse Rafel	Yes
2	Kosova Yesilay Cemiyeti	Yes	Fondacioni Yesilay	Endrit Reka	Yes
3	Yeşilay Bulgaria	Yes	Fondacioni Yesilay	Endrit Reka	Yes
4	"Zerərli verişlərə qarşı" ictimai birliyi (Azerbejdjan)	Yes	Fondacioni Yesilay	Endrit Reka	Yes
5	San Patrignano	Yes	FORUT	Dag Endal	Yes
6	Tunisian Green Crescent	Yes	Green Crescent Health Development Initiative	Tajudeen Oluwafemi Abiola	Yes
7	Green Crescent Sudan	Yes	Green Crescent Nigeria	Tajudeen Oluwafemi Abiola	Yes
8	Kıbrıs Türk Yeşilayı, Cyprus Turkish Green Crescent	Yes	Green Crescent South Africa	Shuhaida Adam	Yes
9	Croissant Vert Nigerien	Yes	Green Crescent South Africa	Shuhaida Adam	Yes
10	Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia	Yes	Harm Reduction Australia	Penny Hill	Yes
11	Release	Yes	Harm Reduction International	Olga Szubert	Yes
12	Canadian HIV/ AIDS Legal Network	Yes	IDPC	Marie Nougier	Yes
13	Juvente (Norway)	Yes	IOGT Norway	Mirjeta Emini	Yes
14	Green Crescent Georgia	Yes	Jordan Anti Drugs Society	Moussa Daoud	Yes
15	Stardom Association	Yes	Jordan Anti Drugs Society	Moussa Daoud	Yes
16	AROD	Yes	Knowmad Institute	Daniela Kreher	Yes
17	Green Crescent Indonesia	Yes	Malaysia Green Crescent - Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia	Dr. Ahmed Fairuz Bin Mohamed	Yes
18	Green Crescent Australia	Yes	Malaysia Green Crescent - Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia	Dr. Ahmed Fairuz Bin Mohamed	Yes
19	Croissant Vert Senegal	Yes	Moroccan Green Crescent-Croissant Vert Marocain	Asmaa Debbagh Boutarbouch	Yes
20	Mali Green Crescent Society.	Yes	Moroccan Green Crescent-Croissant Vert Marocain	Asmaa Debbagh Boutarbouch	Yes
21	JUNIS	Yes	MOVENDI (IOGT International)	Kristina Sperkova	Yes
22	Kyrgyzstan Green Crescent	Yes	Turkish Green Crescent	Ergin Beceren	Yes
23	Green Crescent Society Palestine	Yes	Turkish Green Crescent	Ergin Beceren	Yes
24	Green Crescent DRC	Yes	Uganda Green Crescent Society	Magid Kagimu Mayanja	Yes
25	AFGHANISTAN GREEN CRESCENT ORGANIZATION (AGCO)	Yes	Uganda Green Crescent Society	Dr. Abubakar Kalinaki	Yes
26	Green Crescent in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Yes	Zeleni krst -Zeleni polumsejec (Green Crescent and green cross association of Serbia)	Nihad Dervisevic	Yes