

Background and context

In July-September 2019, the VNGOC held an extensive consultation among its members and selected stakeholders on future possibilities for the committee. The consultation consisted of an online survey open to all members and stakeholders and interviews with members, where desired. In response to the consultation, in which members from Asia and Africa highlighted the need for better regional representation and participation, the VNGOC Board is working to strengthen regional engagement from these regions.

Purpose

The purpose of the working group is to strengthen participation and engagement between the VNGOC members from the Asia-Pacific Region.

The working group's objectives are to:

- Promote and expand VNGOC membership from the region to ensure a more geographically representative NGO Committee.
- Guide the VNGOC Board on how to better engage members from Asia in the work of the Committee, through the sub-regions of East and South-East Asia, South Asia, South-West Asia, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia.
- Identify and map regional opportunities for NGO engagement, capacity building and communication to demystify the international drug debates.
- Create, or advise on, effective communication platforms for members and other NGO partners across Asia-Pacific.
- Mobilise greater engagement - in terms of quality and quantity - from the region in VNGOC calls for speakers.

Membership

Initial membership of the working group consists of those who responded to a call to all VNGOC members to join the group. See attachment 1 for the working group's current membership.

Meeting schedule

The working group will meet monthly for the initial three-month period, in order to set up the group and its processes. These initial meetings will be led by the VNGOC representative until the end of 2020 and following this time, quarterly meetings will be led by the regional members.

Activities

- Whatsapp group between WG members
- Regular meetings of the WG

Review

The terms of reference will be reviewed annually.

Attachment 1: Current membership

Augusto Nogueira	Associacao de Rehabilitacao de Toxicodependentes de Macau (ARTM)	Macau	artm@macau.ctm.net
Samir Kumar Das	International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development (IMAECSSED)	India	samirkdaslegal@gmail.com
Sana Ullah Rathore	Pakistan Youth Organization (PYO)	Pakistan	surathor@yahoo.com
Penny Hill	VNGOC representative (Deputy Sec)	VNGOC	penny@ssdp.org.au

Attachment 2: Regions as defined by the UNODC World Drug Report

Noting that Australia and New Zealand are part of this region but regularly participate in VNGOC activities.

- East and South-East Asia: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, China, Macao, China, and Taiwan Province of China
- South Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka
- South-West Asia: Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan
- Central Asia and Transcaucasia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- Polynesia: Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, French Polynesia, Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna Islands
- Melanesia: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia
- Micronesia: Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Guam and Northern Mariana Islands