

Dear Members of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC),

We are writing to report on nominations for the Board positions of Chairperson, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Secretary. The VNGOC Nominating Committee is charged with examining nominations for the VNGOC Board that are up for a vote, which this year includes the positions of Chairperson, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Secretary. We review all applications to ensure eligibility to serve on the board, based on the support of a VNGOC member organization, and that organization's good standing in VNGOC.

We also provide a slate of our recommended candidates. In considering who from among these candidates to recommend on our slate, we considered a range of objectives for the VNGOC Board, including geographic representation, gender balance, representation of key global drug policy objectives of the UN and civil society, lived experience as part of a population impacted by drugs or drug policies, and applicants' experience and record of service. With just three positions being filled this year, this of course involved difficult choices and leaving out many qualified applicants with compelling backgrounds and expertise.

Note that while VNGOC members have the option of voting based on the slate, there is absolutely no obligation to do so, neither official nor implied. All VNGOC members are free to vote for any eligible candidate they feel would best serve the Board.

We also note that one of the candidates we are recommending in the slate, currently holds an office on our board that he would vacating early if elected to the new position. This would leave the original position vacant. In this situation, the new board will have the option of filling that position by appointment until the next election.

The following candidates are eligible for the upcoming elections.

#### Chairperson

Candidate	Organisation	Country
<u>Ganna Dovbakh</u> <a href="#">video message</a>	Eurasian harm reduction association (EHRA)	Ukraine
<u>Matej Košir</u> <a href="#">video message</a>	Institute for Research and Development "Utrip"	Slovenia

#### Deputy Treasurer

Candidate	Organisation	Country
<u>Alexandre Kieslich da Silva</u> <a href="#">video message</a>	Conectados pela Vida	Brazil
<u>Arumugam Sankar</u>	Empower India	India
<u>Augusto Paulo Valenta Nogueira</u> <a href="#">video message</a>	ARTM - ASSOCIATION OF REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS OF MACAU	Macau
<u>Balqis Binti Muhamad Kasim</u> <a href="#">video message</a>	Persatuan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia (Green Crescent)	Malaysia
<u>Barbara Hastie</u> <a href="#">video message</a>	Walther Global Palliative Care & Supportive Oncology at Indiana University	International/ United States
<u>Heloisa Broggiato Matter</u> <a href="#">video message</a>	International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC)	International/ Brazil

<a href="#">Memory Usaman</a> <a href="#">video message</a>	Rwanda Youth Impact	Rwanda
<a href="#">Raquel P. Tolentino</a> <a href="#">video message</a>	Association of Anti Drug Abuse Coalition of the Philippines, Inc.	Philippines

### Deputy Secretary

Candidate	Organisation	Country
<a href="#">Arumugam Sankar</a>	Empower India	India
<a href="#">Balgis Binti Muhamad Kasim</a> <a href="#">video message</a>	Persatuan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia (Green Crescent)	Malaysia
<a href="#">Barbara Hastie</a> <a href="#">video message</a>	Walther Global Palliative Care & Supportive Oncology at Indiana University	International / United States
<a href="#">Memory Usaman</a> <a href="#">video message</a>	Rwanda Youth Impact	Rwanda
<a href="#">Penny Hill</a> <a href="#">video message</a>	Harm Reduction Australia	Australia
<a href="#">Raquel P. Tolentino</a> <a href="#">video message</a>	Association of Anti Drug Abuse Coalition of the Philippines, Inc.	Philippines

The following candidates are our recommended slate:

### Chairperson

Candidate	Organisation	Country
<a href="#">Matej Košir</a>	Institute for Research and Development "Utrip"	Slovenia

### Deputy Treasurer

Candidate	Organisation	Country
<a href="#">Heloisa Broggiato Matter</a>	International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care	International/ Brazil

### Deputy Secretary

Candidate	Organisation	Country
<a href="#">Penny Hill</a>	Harm Reduction Australia	Australia

Statements from the nominees on their rationale for seeking election and the contribution they can offer to the work of the VNGOC are available at the links above and as a complete PDF. Short videos from the candidates can be viewed on our website.

A separate vote for each of the Board positions will be conducted at the Annual General Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March in the following order: Chairperson, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Secretary. A simple majority of those voting will be required to elect the Board.

Only VNGOC member organizations in good standing (i.e., paid the 2022 & 2023 membership fee or, if exempt, submitted the annual commitment forms) may cast one vote for each of the Board positions. **Members can participate by voting in real-time (i.e., in person, remotely, or by proxy) or in advance (by completing an online ballot).**

# VNGOC Board Elections

## HOW TO VOTE

only VNGOC members in good standing having paid the 2022& 2023 membership fees are eligible to vote\*



The VNGOC Annual General Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 16th March 2023 at 4PM** at the Vienna International Centre and online.

### 1 REAL-TIME IN PERSON

Each organization **must select one representative to vote for their organization by emailing the name of the voting representative to [info@vngoc.org](mailto:info@vngoc.org)** up to 24hrs in advance of the meeting, latest by Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 4PM.

Representatives can pick up the voting form at the beginning of the meeting. Votes must be registered on the official form that is provided and submitted confidentially to the Election Committee during the relevant agenda item.

### 2 REAL-TIME VIA ZOOM

Designated representatives participating remotely will need to register their votes through a private message to the VNGOC staff hosting the meeting. All members wishing to vote remotely **must email [info@vngoc.org](mailto:info@vngoc.org)** no later than 4hrs before the start of the meeting, **specifically by Thursday, 16th march 2023 at 12noon CET.**

### 3 REAL-TIME VIA PROXY

Member organizations unable to participate in the AGM, may assign their voting rights to representative of another member organization in good standing who will be attending in person.

Proxy assignments must be **submitted to the VNGOC before Wednesday, 15th March 2023 at 11.59PM CET using the official online form.** A designated representative may hold a maximum of three (3) proxy votes.

### 4 IN ADVANCE E-VOTING

Member organizations unable to participate in real-time may submit their votes in advance between 24hrs and 1hr before the start of the meeting, specifically between Wednesday, 15 March 2023 4PM CET and Thursday 16 March, 3PM CET.

**Members interested in voting electronically in advance should send an email to [info@vngoc.org](mailto:info@vngoc.org) to receive instructions and an individual voter key.**