



BOARD PROPOSAL

UPDATING THE VNGOC MEMBERSHIP FEES:

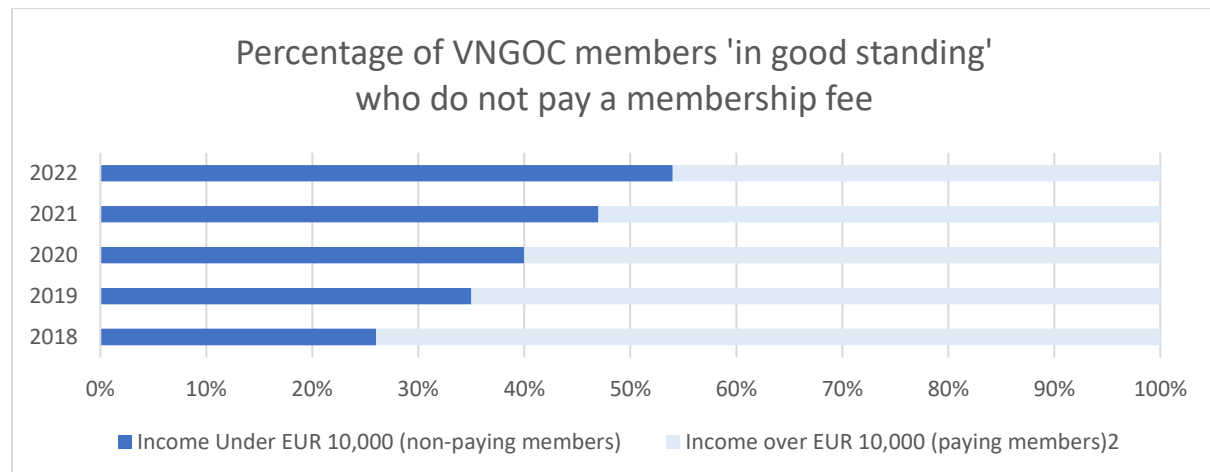
A DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MARCH 2023

The following proposal is submitted by the VNGOC Board, to the membership, for consideration at the Annual General Assembly (AGM) on 16th March 2023.

Background

For several years, the VNGOC has operated a tiered membership system, with annual membership fees that take into account an organisation's total income and affordability (as captured in the [Rules of Procedure](#), revised in 2017). Those with an annual income over €150,000 pay the highest amount, followed by those between €50,000 and €150,000, and then those between €10,000 and €50,000. Successive Boards and AGMs have also decided to enable free membership for organisations with an annual income below €10,000 – requesting a 'Membership Commitment Form' to be submitted instead.

However, as the graph below shows, the percentage of members who self-report being within this lower income bracket has grown considerably since 2018, to the extent that in 2022 they represented more than 50% of the membership for the first time:



The Board discussed this issue in their September 2022 meeting, and noted that this trend has implications for the governance and finances of the Committee (as membership fees remain the main source of income for the VNGOC). Moreover, the Board concedes it does not have the capacity or ability to check or verify the self-reported income brackets of new and existing members – and concerns have been raised that the non-payment option may be being misused.

Nonetheless, the VNGOC Statutes and Rules of Procedure state that membership fees are to be approved annually by the General Assembly, and also that such fees “are based on the member

organization's total annual revenue for the preceding year" – and the Board believes it is important to maintain this principle.

Proposal

1. The Board proposed to make no changes to the 2023 membership fees – which will continue at the same levels as in 2022.
2. It is then proposed that the membership fees and structure for 2024 are updated to the following:

Income Bracket	2022	2023	2024*
€150,001 +	€120	€120	€120
€50,001 to €150,000	€90	€90	€90
€10,001 to €50,000	€60	€60	€60
Below €10,000	No fee (completion of the Membership Commitment Form)	No fee (completion of the Membership Commitment Form)	€30

*The incoming VNGOC Board reserves the right to suggest further changes to the fees if the financial climate dictates, to then be approved by the VNGOC AGM in 2024.

For organisations unable or unwilling to pay the relevant fee, a non-paying and non-voting membership option will also be provided to allow them to remain engaged and part of the network.

For all payment tiers, PayPal will be promoted as the preferred method for transfers originating outside of the EU to reduce the overall burden of banking fees on the Committee. However, bank transfer will remain an option as well for those who prefer or require it.

The proposed changes do not require any amendments to the VNGOC Statutes of Rules of Procedure.