



# **Annual Report 2017**

Prepared by the VNGOC Executive Board, March 2018

Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs/  
Wiener Drogen Komitee (VNGOC)  
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## About the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC)

### **Purpose**

The VNGOC is a coordinating body for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) around the world concerned with problems related to substances controlled under the three international drug control treaties. The purposes of the Committee include, inter alia:

- a) Supporting the activities of NGOs, and promoting contacts and collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and other relevant UN agencies, offices and fora.
- b) Promoting activities that lead to enhanced communication, cooperation and scientific, cultural and social exchanges between NGOs, UN agencies and member states.
- c) Promoting increased awareness about issues relating to controlled substances through the dissemination of news and information.
- d) Facilitating the representation of NGOs reflecting the broadest possible range of perspectives and groups involved, including affected populations.

The VNGOC was established in 1983, and is a legally registered not-for-profit corporation under Austrian law. The VNGOC office is registered in Vienna, although the Committee operates globally.

### **Contact Details**

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### **VNGOC Executive Board**

<b>Chair:</b>	Esbjörn Hörnberg, IOGT International, Sweden
<b>Deputy Chair:</b>	Katherine Pettus, IAHPC, USA <i>(until August 2017)</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Marcus Day, ICASO, Saint Lucia <i>(until March 2017)</i> Jamie Bridge, IDPC, UK <i>(from March 2017)</i>
<b>Deputy Treasurer:</b>	Maria Phelan, HRI, UK <i>(until March 2017)</i> Zoran Jelić, Celebrate Recovery, Bosnia Herzegovina <i>(from March 2017)</i>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Luciana Pol, CELS, Argentina
<b>Deputy Secretary:</b>	Wilson Box, ZCLDN, Zimbabwe
<b>Project Manager:</b>	Sarah Pirker, <a href="mailto:spirker@vngoc.org">spirker@vngoc.org</a>

## Message from the Chair

### *What can the VNGOC really do?*

That might be an awkward question for an organisation that has existed for over 30 years, but we need to ask ourselves this if we want to continue to have added value for our member organisations and our partners.

During the process leading up to the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in April 2016, our evaluation showed that the majority of civil society organisations were satisfied with the work done by the [Civil Society Task Force \(CSTF\)](#) – where the VNGOC partnered with the [New York NGO Committee on Drugs \(NYNGOC\)](#).

In many areas, the results of the UNGASS 2016, including the [outcome document](#), were seen by our members as progress. In the follow-up to UNGASS 2016, including the CND inter-sessional meetings in 2017, the VNGOC has played a key role among others through selecting and proposing speakers from civil society.

We have also signed a [Memorandum of Understanding with UNODC](#), including the following areas of cooperation:

- Implementing joint projects and initiatives on issues related to drug policy, strategy or practice.
- Developing joint proposals to undertake activities aimed at contributing to the goal of building more resilient societies that are less vulnerable to drug related violence and crime, supporting innovative and evidence-based strategies to prevent the non-medical use of controlled psychoactive substances, as well as to provide treatment, health and social care and rehabilitation for drug use disorders and to prevent their health and social consequences, including overdose, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and hepatitis, and improving access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, particularly for the relief of pain and suffering.
- Further enhancing the working relations between CSOs and the drug control bodies of the United Nations by continuing to bring together civil society, UN Member States, and key international bodies to exchange views and discuss best practices in the area of drug policy.
- Facilitating CSO participation in and contribution to international processes and discussions aimed at addressing drug related issues in communities around the world, including the implementation of the UNGASS 2016 outcome document and participating in preparations for the 2019 process.

As far as administrative issues are concerned, due to three resignations of Board members this year, the Annual General Meeting in March 2017 elected a new Treasurer and a new Deputy Treasurer. In September 2017, the General Assembly decided, on recommendation from the Board, not to seek a replacement for the position of Deputy Chair before the ordinary elections in March 2018.

The bulk of the work done by the VNGOC Executive Board and part of the membership has focused recently on legal matters, such as updating the Statutes and Rules of Procedures; preparations for the upcoming elections; and identifying technical solutions to facilitate communication and involvement of our membership, especially from the Global South. Updated Statutes corresponding to the Rules of Procedure were a necessity. Despite our committed efforts, due to unforeseen technical difficulties, we were not able to run the elections as planned at the end of 2017. This also meant a delay in discussing and deciding on the future of the VNGOC, including the name of our

organisation, our ability to support members, and our relationship to other CSO partners. The postponed or unanswered questions are many, but we look forward to fruitful discussions during this year's session of the CND.

Also, the Board has not managed to raise additional funds. The only Member State supporting our project, the [NGO Marketplace](#), running jointly with the UNODC Civil Society Team, is the Russian Federation. Fundraising is a key factor if we are going to be able to include global civil society voices in the preparations for and during the 2019 Ministerial Segment of CND. In this, we hope to count on the support of our member organisations as well.

There may be challenges awaiting our work ahead. However, in my view, the main one will be internal: creating an environment for real, constructive discussions leading to concrete decisions to be implemented at various level. This will indeed further the concrete role that civil society can play in drug-related matters, and is preferable to simply reaffirming our views, whatever they may be.

With the necessary funding, the VNGOC can bring together civil society organisations working on the ground. In my life-long experience I have come to realize that they are much more open to discussing obstacles, challenges and what is working in their day-to-day work, instead of cornering the discussion into some false dichotomy. Simply put, they are able to respectfully see past differences of opinion to achieve the best results possible for the people in their communities. It is our hope, that the NGO Marketplace will be the tool creating this momentum and I trust our committed local members.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible during this year's CND session, and to our productive discussions.

Sincerely,

Esbjörn Hörnberg  
Chair  
Vienna NGO Committee

## VNGOC Activities in 2017

### **60th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

From Monday 13th to Friday 17th March 2017, the [60th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs \(CND\)](#) was attended by hundreds of civil society representatives. VNGOC worked hard to facilitate their attendance and engagement in the build-up to, and throughout, the week. This support included the release of the annual [VNGOC Guide to CND](#), and the provision of logistical support and advice, and visa invitation letters for civil society representatives.

The VNGOC also co-hosted a side event entitled “Civil Society and International Drug Policy in the Context of Agenda 2030”, alongside the Governments of Lithuania and Mexico, our sister New York NGO Committee on Drugs, Health Poverty Action, SCDI (Vietnam), NGO I Can Live (Lithuania), the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, and Help Not Handcuffs (USA). The event explored how civil society can partner with Member States to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The side event well attended, and was [streamed live](#) to enable access for those not in Vienna and in case you missed it, we recorded it.

Other side events sponsored by VNGOC included:

- Treatment and care of people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system: alternatives to conviction or punishment.
- New initiatives in prevention: strengthening the global prevention response.
- Schools as valuable social institutions for prevention and to build socio-emotional skills.
- International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders: each person counts, leaving no one behind.
- The S-O-S initiative: emergency community management of heroin and opioid overdose including interim naloxone.
- Increasing access to controlled drugs post-UNGASS.

In addition, VNGOC hosted or coordinated the following meetings to support civil society participation and dialogue at the CND:

- An NGO coordination briefing on the morning of Monday 13th March.
- An [informal dialogue](#) between NGOs and the Executive Director of UNODC.
- An [informal dialogue](#) between NGOs and the President of INCB.
- An [informal dialogue](#) between NGOs and the Chair of CND and the Post-UNGASS Facilitator.

The VNGOC Chair, Esbjörn Hörnberg, also made a [statement in the opening session of CND](#), as well as at [the launch of the UNODC World Drug Report](#) in June 2017.

### **VNGOC’s Annual General Assembly**

Also at the 60th CND in March 2017, the VNGOC held our [Annual General Meeting](#), with 56 member organisations in attendance. As always, this meeting was a prime opportunity for members to hear from the VNGOC Executive Board, ask questions and make suggestions – which this time focused on the newly signed [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) between the VNGOC and UNODC](#), on the ongoing CND inter-sessional meetings, and on the future of the [Civil Society Task Force \(CSTF\)](#). At the meeting, the resignations of Marcus Day (Treasurer) and Maria Phelan (Vice Treasurer) were

accepted by the membership, and we thank them again for their contributions. Jamie Bridge (Treasurer) and Zoran Jelic (Vice Treasurer) were appointed onto the Board in their place on an interim basis.

## **Other UN Meetings and Opportunities**

A series of CND “inter-sessional” meetings were organised during 2017, and VNGOC supported civil society participation and engagement in all of them. With the support of the CND Chair and UNODC, an open call was launched for civil society speakers on each of the seven chapters of the UNGASS Outcome Document – with priority given to grass-roots organisations who wanted to speak about their experiences and perspectives from the ground. One civil society representative was selected to be on the panel for each inter-sessional meeting, while other civil society interventions were delivered in person or by video link (with VNGOC Board members also reading statements on behalf of some organisations where required). The selected interventions were:

### **Chapter 1: Demand reduction and related measures (26th September 2017)**

- [Kristof Bryssinck](#) (Free Clinic, Belgium)
- [Bethany Medley](#) (Harm Reduction Coalition, USA)
- [Dazogbo Agossou Ulrich](#) (Perle Sociale NGO, Bénin)
- [Matej Košir](#) (Institute for Research and Development, Slovenia)
- [Subhan Hamonangan](#) (Rumah Cemara, Indonesia)

### **Chapter 2: Access to controlled substances (27th September 2017)**

- [David Oliver](#) (European Association for Palliative Care, Belgium)
- [Busi Nkosi](#) (International Children’s Palliative Care Network)
- [Samy Alsirafy](#) (Cairo University Palliative Medicine Unit, Egypt)
- [Sunita Panta](#) (Nepal Military Hospital Katmandu)

### **Chapter 3: Supply reduction and related measures (16th October 2017)**

- [Corina Giacomello](#) (EQUIS, Mexico)

### **Chapter 4: Cross-cutting issues (28th September 2017)**

- [Rashmila Shakya](#) (Nepal Concerned Center)
- [Amaya Ordorika Imaz](#) (Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights)
- [Jan Stola](#) (Youth Organizations for Drug Action, Poland)
- [Koka Labartkava](#) (Georgian Network of People who Use Drugs)
- [Randy Thompson](#) (Help Not Handcuffs, USA)
- [Luciana Pol](#) (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Argentina)

### **Chapter 5: Evolving realities and threats (17th October 2017)**

- [Øystein Schjetne](#) (Stiftelsen Golden Colombia)
- [Brun Gonzalez](#) (ReverdeSer Colectivo, Mexico)
- [George Ochineg Odalo](#) (Slum Child Foundation, Kenya)
- [Pamela McColl](#) (REAL Women of Canada)
- [Zara Snapp](#) (ATS, Colombia)
- [Christina Afridi-Sperling](#) (Afridi Foundation, Pakistan)

#### Chapter 6: Strengthening international cooperation (16th November 2017)

- [Martin Diaz](#) (Iglesia Evangelica Protestante de El Salvador)
- [Abdellatif Adebibe](#) (Confederation of Associations of Senhaja of the Rif for Development, Morocco)
- [Ezekwesiri Eluchie](#) (People Against Drug Dependence and Ignorance, Nigeria)
- [Farid Ghehioeche](#) (Foundation for Alternative Approaches to Addiction Think, France)
- [Nikita Lushnikov](#) (National Anti-Drug Union, Russia)

#### Chapter 7: Alternative development (18th October 2017)

- [Nang Khin Oo](#) (Myanmar Opium Farmers Forum)
- [Natasha Horsfield](#) (Health Poverty Action)
- [Mohammad Qader Mesbah](#) (New Line Social Organization, Afghanistan)
- [Moulay Ahmed Douraidi](#) (Association de Lutte Contre la SIDA, Morocco)

### **NGO Marketplace**

The [NGO Marketplace](#) continues to be a valuable online platform that gives civil society organisations the opportunity to document and present their work, and exchange information and ideas with other like-minded groups around the world. It is a joint project of UNODC and VNGOC, with funding channelled through UNODC by the Russian Federation.

In December 2017, VNGOC launched an improved ‘Version 2’ of the Marketplace, redesigned to improve its usability and facilitate interactions and dialogue between civil society organisations on the platform. With these improvements, the platform can now be better used to facilitate reporting on NGO activities and make it easier for organisations to interact with each other. To date 147 organisations from all continents have registered on the NGO Marketplace, and have created 114 projects showcasing their work.

### **Revision of Statutes and Rules of Procedure**

In August 2017, the VNGOC Executive Board presented the members with a new proposal to revise the organisation’s Statutes and Rules of Procedure – the two governing documents for the Committee. The revisions were made with the intention of providing greater clarity and removing some inconsistencies between the documents which had emerged during the year.

The new documents, which can be viewed on the [VNGOC website](#), were approved by the membership at an Extraordinary General Meeting in September 2017 following much discussion. They provide a clearer distinction between decision-making General Assembly meetings, and more informal, informative members meetings – the former now having a quorum established to improve governance. The documents also seek to increase the accessibility of VNGOC meetings and decision-making by clarifying processes for online participation, proxy voting and electronic voting where required.

### **VNGOC Website**

The VNGOC website – <https://vngoc.org/> – continues to be updated on a regular basis with the latest news, civil society statements and videos, governance documents and letters, and calls for inputs from the membership.

## Financial Summary: January to December 2017

For 2017, the VNGOC's independent auditors were Christian Bölckow (IOGT International) and Phaedon Kaloterakis (Kethea). An independently verified version of this financial summary will be presented at the VNGOC Annual General Meeting in March 2018.

	VNGOC EURO Account	VNGOC USD Account	Total in EURO*
<b>Opening Balance (1st Jan 2017)</b>	€ 16,205.90	\$ 15,069.28	€ 28,381.88
<b>2017 Income</b>			
<i>Membership Fees</i>	€ 6,676.22	\$ 2,967.62	
<i>Grants</i>			
<i>Other<sup>1</sup></i>	€ 2,287.84		
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 8,964.06</b>	<b>\$ 2,967.62</b>	<b>€ 11,361.90</b>
<b>2017 Expenditure</b>			
<i>Salary Costs</i>	€ 6,600.38		
<i>Travel and Expenses</i>	€ 655.00		
<i>Banking Fees and Charges</i>	€ 591.45	\$ 439.78	
<i>Communications and Postage</i>	€ 854.82		
<i>Other<sup>1</sup></i>	€ 2,287.84		
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 10,989.49</b>	<b>\$ 439.78</b>	<b>€ 11,344.83</b>
<b>Closing Balance (31st Dec)</b>	<b>€ 14,180.47</b>	<b>\$ 17,597.12</b>	<b>€ 28,398.94</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>€ (2,025.43)</b>	<b>\$ 2,527.84</b>	<b>€ 17.06</b>

\*Calculated using the average 2017 exchange rate of US\$ 1.00 = EUR 0.808.

<sup>1</sup> Membership over-payment received in error, and refunded in full.

## List of Current Members

The following organisations were VNGOC members in good standing as of December 2017:

1. ACTIS - Norwegian Policy Network on Alcohol and Drugs
2. Active - sobriety, friendship and peace
3. African Action on AIDS
4. Agencia Piaget para o Desenvolvimento
5. AIDES
6. AIDS Foundation East-West
7. Andean Information Network
8. Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice (ARF)
9. Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas
10. Asociacion Proyecto Hombre
11. Associacao de Reabilitacao de Toxicodependentes de Macau
12. Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme
13. Canadian Center on Substance Abuse
14. Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids
15. Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
16. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
17. Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy
18. Celebrate Recovery
19. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales
20. Centro de Informacion y Education para la Prevencion del Abuso de Drogas
21. Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign
22. Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth
23. Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America
24. Community Development & Entrepreneurship Foundation
25. Community Restoration Initiative project
26. Coordinating Network for Drug Abuse Control in Ethnic Communities
27. Correlation Network - De Regenboog Groep
28. Dalgarno Institute
29. Dianova International
30. Dianova Portugal
31. Diogenis
32. Drug Policy Alliance
33. Drug Policy Australia Limited
34. Drug Reform Coordination Network
35. ECHO
36. Elternkreis Wien
37. EQUIS: Justicia para las Mujeres, AC
38. European Cities Against Drugs
39. European Federation of Therapeutic Communities
40. Family and Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT) Incorporated
41. Federation Addiction
42. Fédération bruxelloise francophone des institutions pour toxicomanes
43. Finnish Association for Humane Drug Policy
44. Forum Droghe
45. FORUT – Campaign for Development and Solidarity
46. Foundation for a Drug Free Europe
47. Foundation for Alternative Approaches to Addiction – Think & do tank
48. Fundacion Atenea Grupo GID
49. Graduate Women International
50. Groupement romand d'études des addictions
51. Harm Reduction Australia
52. Harm Reduction Coalition
53. Harm Reduction International
54. Health Poverty Action
55. Help not Handcuffs, Inc.
56. Human Rights Watch
57. Iglesia Evangélica Protestante de El Salvador
58. Intercambios Asociacion Civil
59. International Association for Applied Psychology
60. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care
61. International Centre for Science in Drug Policy
62. International Council of Women
63. International Council on Alcohol and Addictions
64. International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies
65. International Drug Policy Consortium
66. International Federation of Social Workers
67. International Inner Wheel
68. International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development
69. International Police Association
70. IOGT - NTO
71. IOGT International
72. IOGT-NTD Junior Association
73. Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation
74. KETHEA
75. Latinoamerica Reforma
76. Mainline Foundation
77. México Unido contra la Delincuencia A.C
78. National Association of Drug Court Professionals
79. Needle Exchange Services New Zealand

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80. Nepal HIV/AIDS Alliance</li> <li>81. Nepal NGO Society</li> <li>82. New Zealand Drug Foundation</li> <li>83. NoBox Transitions Foundation, Inc.</li> <li>84. Open Society Institute</li> <li>85. Organizacao das Familias da Asia e do Pacifico</li> <li>86. Penal Reform International</li> <li>87. People Against Drug Dependence and Ignorance</li> <li>88. Ray of Hope</li> <li>89. Rebirth Charity Organisation</li> <li>90. Rede Brasileira de Reducao de Danos e Direitos Humanos</li> <li>91. Release</li> <li>92. Riksförbundet Narkotikafritt Samhälle (National Association for a Drug-Free Society)</li> <li>93. San Patrignano Foundation</li> <li>94. Shola Mese Foundation</li> <li>95. Slum Child Foundation</li> <li>96. South Caucasus Office on Drugs and Crime</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>97. Students for Sensible Drug Policy</li> <li>98. Sunny Trust International</li> <li>99. Swedish Youth Temperance Organisation</li> <li>100. TB/HIV Care Association</li> <li>101. Transform Drug Policy Foundation</li> <li>102. Transnational Institute</li> <li>103. Turkish Green Crescent Society</li> <li>104. Ugandan Youth Development Link</li> <li>105. Verein zur Förderung der Volkerverständigung</li> <li>106. Washington Office on Latin America</li> <li>107. Women's Federation for World Peace International</li> <li>108. Women's Organization Committee on Alcohol and Drugs</li> <li>109. World Federation Against Drugs</li> <li>110. Youth Organisation for Drug Action</li> <li>111. Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network</li> <li>112. Zonta International</li> </ul> |
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## Work Plan and Budget for 2018

For 2018, the VNGOC Executive Board will continue to work towards the following strategic objectives:

1. Develop civil society capacity to engage UN member states and relevant UN bodies, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on drug policy issues.
2. Foster new, and utilise existing, opportunities for civil society engagement with UN member states and relevant UN bodies.
3. Advocate for, and facilitate, the inclusion of civil society in debates concerning the impact and effectiveness of drug policies at all levels.
4. Present a global voice on behalf of our NGO member organisations at key national and international events, highlighting the need for balanced drug policies and building on areas where consensus has been reached amongst the membership.
5. Effective and efficient management and promotion of the VNGOC, with transparent and accountable governance and communications with the membership.

Throughout the year, the VNGOC will work through the newly reinstated [Civil Society Task Force \(CSTF\)](#) to support and facilitate civil society inputs and engagement in the preparations for the forthcoming Ministerial Segment on drugs in March 2019. The CSTF model was successful in ensuring a strong civil society voice and contribution to the UNGASS in April 2016, and a call for new representatives from around the world is currently ongoing. Working with colleagues from the New York NGO Committee and others, VNGOC will support the CSTF to, inter alia, select speakers for the anticipated CND inter-sessional meetings in 2018, and to coordinate an anticipated Civil Society Hearing prior to the Ministerial Segment.

Outside of the CSTF, the VNGOC will continue to facilitate civil society participation and coordination at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, and will utilise the NGO Marketplace platform to enable civil society organisations to make submissions into the Ministerial Segment reflecting how their work is contributing to global efforts and targets, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Proposed budget for 2018:			
Income		Expenditure	
Membership Fees	€ 11,000	Salary Costs	€ 3,000
Grants*	--	Travel Grants for Members	€ 4,000
		Board Meetings	€ 2,000
		Bank Fees / Charges	€ 1,000
		Communications	€ 1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 11,000</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 11,000</b>

\*Fundraising efforts will continue throughout the year – both for VNGOC and the CSTF – with the aim of expanding our activities and increasing the opportunities for civil society organisations to participate.