



Civil Society Task Force

- Joint Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs - New York NGO Committee on Drugs Initiative for UNGASS 2016 -

Building on the success of the Beyond 2008 initiative and after reviewing best practices of civil society involvement in other recent high-level United Nations General Assembly meetings, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) and the New York NGO Committee on Drugs (NYNGOC) collaborated on setting up the Civil Society Task Force (CSTF).

After a meeting with Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the margins of the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs High-level Review in March 2014 and extensive consultations within the NGO community working on drug related issues, a proposal outlining the terms of the CSTF was drafted and then finalised in November 2014:

Mission

To serve as the official liaison between the United Nations and civil society in the preparatory process of and at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the world drug problem in 2016.

Objective

To ensure a comprehensive, structured, meaningful and balanced participation of civil society during this process.

Structure

26 members, 18 regional representative, i.e. 2 per region (listed below) and 8 representatives of affected populations.

Regions represented: Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific; Eastern Europe and Central Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; Northern Africa and the Middle East and Central Asia; North America; South Asia; South-East and East Asia; Sub-Saharan Africa and Western Europe.

To allow for efficient steering of the CSTF and in order to undertake its task more effectively, the CSTF is chaired by a Steering Group, consisting of 1 Chair, 2 Vice-Chairs and 1 Secretary. The nomination of the Chair and one Vice-Chair lie with the VNGOC, while one Vice-Chair and the Secretary are nominated by the NYNGOC.

Activities

Working closely with the UNODC Civil Society Team, the CSTF will (i) identify speakers and participants for all relevant UNGASS 2016 preparatory events; (ii) lead regional consultations; (iii) host a fourth VNGOC Civil Society Hearing during the 58th session CND and (iv) co-host with the Chair of the CND and/or the President of the General Assembly an Interactive Civil Society Hearing for all stakeholders prior to the UNGASS, whose conclusions would be an officially recognized document of the UNGASS preparatory process.

Funding

While the members of the CSTF commit to identifying in kind and other resources to support their membership in this body, the proposal also asks that the United Nations assume costs as deemed acceptable by the President of the General Assembly, including the participation of a pre-determined number of other civil society participants to ensure geographic diversity, travel and personnel support costs.

For further information, please contact: info@vngoc.org.

Composition of the Civil Society Task Force on Drugs Steering Group

Chair, Steering Group	Vienna NGO Committee	Esbjörn Hörnberg
Vice-Chair, Steering Group	New York NGO Committee	Heather Haase
Vice-Chair, Steering Group	Vienna NGO Committee	Elisa Rubin
Secretary, Steering Group	New York NGO Committee	Allan Clear

Members of the Civil Society Task Force

No.	Category	Organisation	Representative
1	Affected Population:Farmers	Transnational Institute	Pien Metaal
2	Affected Populations: Palliative Care/Essential Medicines	International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care	Katherine Pettus
3	Affected Populations: Recovered Users	Celebrate Recovery, NGO Proslavi Oporavak, Recovered Users Network (RUN)	Boro Goic
4	Affected populations: Families	Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific (OFAP)	Nuno Jorge
5	Affected Populations: Users	International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD)	Holly Bradford
6	Affected Populations: Youth	Active, Friendship and Peace	Vasilka Lalevska
7	Prevention, global voice	World Federation Against Drugs	Linda Nilsson
8	Harm reduction, global voice	Harm Reduction International	Rick Lines
9	Criminal Justice, global voice	tbc	tbc
10	Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific	New Zealand Drug Foundation - Te Tuapapa Tarukino o Aotearoa	Ross Bell
11	Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific	Australian National Council on Drugs	Margaret Hamilton
12	Central- and North America	Centros Integracion Juvenil	Carmen Fernandez Cáceres
13	Central- and North America	Canadian Drug Policy Coalition	Donald McPherson
14	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Eurasian Harm Reduction Network	Dasha Ocheret
15	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Turkish Green Crescent	Ahmet Zeki Olas
16	Latin America and the Carribean	Red Iberoamericana de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales que Trabajan en Drogodependencias	Margarita María Sánchez Villegas
17	Latin America and the Carribean	Intercambios Asociación Civil	Pablo Cymerman
18	Northern Africa and the Middle East/ Central Asia	Rebirth Society/Asian DDR NGOs Association	Abbas Deilamzade
19	Northern Africa and the Middle East/ Central Asia	Skoun- Lebanese Addictions Center	Ms. Sandy Mteirik
20	South Asia	India HIV/AIDS Alliance	Simon Beddoe
21	South Asia	Alcohol and Drug Information Centre Sri Lanka	Pubudu Sumanasekera
22	South-East and East Asia	Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI)	Khuat Thi Hai Oanh
23	South-East and East Asia/ Affected Populations: Alternative evopment	Mae Fah Luang Foundation/Doi Tung Development Project	M.L. Dispanadda Diskul Duke
24	Sub Saharan Africa	PILS (Prevention Information et Lutte Contre le Sida)/CUT (Collectif Urgence Toxida)	Nathalie Rose
25	Sub Saharan Africa	People Against Drug Dependence & Ignorance (Paddi) Foundation	Eze Eluchie
26	Western Europe	International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)	Ann Fordham
27	Western Europe	Europe Against Drugs (EURAD)	Fay Watson