***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](mailto: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**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 Drug Foundation and Cancer Council (Vic) | Margaret Hamilton |
| 12 | Central- and North America | Centros Integracion Juvenil | Carmen Fernandez  Cáceres |
| 13 | Central- and North America | Canadian Drug Policy Coalition | Donald McPhereson |
| 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 Deilamizade |
| 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 evelopment | 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 |