



2017 Report of the New York NGO Committee on Drugs

In accordance with the CoNGO Rules on Substantive Committees, below is the Report of the activities of the New York NGO Committee on Drugs (NYNGOC) for the calendar year 2017.

A. Current Committee rules

There were no changes to the current Committee rules.

B. Membership

As of April 2018, the NYNGOC had 90 members from all United Nations regions:

Organization	Country
A Better Way Foundation (ABWF)	USA
AIDS Service Center (ASCNYC)	USA
Al-Maqdese for Society Development (MSD)	Occupied Palestinian Territories
Americans For Safe Access (ASA)	USA
Amitiel Welfare Society	Pakistan
Asociacion Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervencion en Drogas (ACEID)	Costa Rica
Associação Brasileira de Redução de Danos (ABORDA)	Brazil
Associação Lua Nova	Brazil
Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council (AADC)	Australia
Boom! Health	USA
Brazilian Drug Policy Platform (PBPD)	Brazil
Broken No More (BNM)	USA
Campaign for Compassion	USA
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC)	Canada
Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP)	Canada
Center for Universal Drug Researches, Approaches & Studies (CUDRAS)	Iran
Centre for Harm Reduction Therapy (HRTC)	USA
Centre for Optimal Living (CFOL)	USA
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)	Argentina
Centro De Investigacion Drogas Y Derechos Humanos (CIDDH)	Peru
Centroo de Orientacion e Investigacion Integral (COIN)	Dominican Republic
Chanvre & Libertes (NORML -France)	France
Cogitative Freedom Alliance	Italy
Colectiva Ciudad y Genero	Mexico
Colectivo por una Politica Integral Hacia las Drogas (CUPIHD)	Mexico
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH)	Mexico
Concile Mondial (CMOCDAPUNDHJ)	France
Corporación Humanas	Chile
Creative Media Centre for Development (CMCD)	Nigeria

Dianova International	Spain
Drug Policy Alliance	USA
Drug Strategies	USA
Drugs Security and Democracy (DSD) Program	USA
Fields of Green for All	South Africa
Forum Droghe (FD)	Italy
Foundation Against Illicit Drugs & Child Abuse (FADCA)	Liberia
Foundation for Alternative Approaches to Addiction (FAAAT)	France
Fundacion Latinoamerica Reforma	Chile
Fundacja Reduckcji Szkod (FRS)	Poland
Global Exchange	USA
Harm Reduction Coalition (HRC)	USA
Harm Reduction International (HRI)	UK
Health Poverty Action (HPA)	UK
Help Not Handcuffs	USA
Human Rights Watch	USA
Igarape Institute	Brazil
Integración Social Verter, A.C (Verter A.C)	Mexico
Intercambios Asociacion Civil	Argentina
Intercambios Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico
International Centre for Ethnobotanical Education Research Service (ICEERS)	Uruguay
International Centre for Science in Drug Policy (ICS DP)	Canada
International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies (IDHDP)	UK
International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)	UK
International Social Service	USA
Japan Advocacy Network for Drug Policy	Japan
Latin American & Caribbean Network of People Who Use Drugs (LANPUD)	Latin America & Caribbean
Latin American Drug Policy Observatory	Chile
Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP)	USA
Matua Raki, National Addictions Workforce Development	New Zealand
National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW)	USA
National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI)	USA
National Users Network Nepal (NUNN)	Nepal
New York Harm Reduction Educators (NYHRE)	USA
New Zealand Drug Foundation	New Zealand
No Drugs Implication Life (NDIL)	Bangladesh
NYC Bar Association Committee on Drugs and the Law	USA
Open Society Foundations (OSF)	USA
Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing (PROP)	USA
Piaget Agency for Development (APDES)	Portugal
Plantforma para le Defensa de la Ayahuasca (Plantforma)	Spain
Proderechos	Uruguay
REDUC	Brazil
Release	UK
Society of Collective Interests Orientation (SOCIO)	Pakistan
StoptheDrugWar.org	USA
Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP)	USA
T. Stephen Jones Public Health Consulting	USA
The Beckley Foundation	Scotland (UK)
Transform Drug Policy Foundation (TDPF)	UK

Treatment Action Group (TAG)	USA
Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access	USA
Veterans for Safe Access and Compassionate Care (VSACC)	USA
Virginians Against Drug Violence	USA
Visionistas	USA
VIVA RIO	Brazil
VOCAL-NY	USA
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)	USA
Women and Harm Reduction International Network	UK
World Hepatitis Alliance	UK
Yale Global Health Justice Partnership	USA
Youth Organizations for Drug Action (YODA)	Poland
YouthRISE	Nigeria
Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network	Zimbabwe

C. Current Committee Officers and their term of office

The Committee held re-elections of its Executive Committee in June 2016 at its Annual General Meeting. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary must be from organizations with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or formal relations with other UN agencies, whereas the up to six elected members-at-large are not required to hold ECOSOC consultative status. Below are the members of the 2017 Executive Committee.

Name	Organization	Executive Position
Heather Haase	<i>New York City Bar Association Committee on Drugs & the Law (US)</i>	Chair
Luciana Pol	<i>Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (Argentina)</i>	Vice-Chair
Carolyn Eisert	<i>Amnesty International (US)</i>	Treasurer
Michael Krawitz*	<i>Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access (US)</i>	Secretary
Wilson Box	<i>Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network (Zimbabwe)</i>	Member-at-Large
Lisa Sanchez	<i>Transform Drug Policy Foundation (Mexico)</i>	Member-at-Large
Aldo Zaiden	<i>Brazilian Drug Policy Platform (Brazil)</i> (until April 2018)	Member-at-Large
Charif Adardak	<i>Amaziqhs de Senhaja du Rif (Morocco)</i>	Member-at-Large
Donald MacPherson	<i>Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (Canada)</i>	Member-at-Large
Farah Diaz-Tello*	<i>Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice (US)</i>	Member-at-Large

*Farah Diaz-Tello of National Advocates for Pregnant Women (an ECOSOC-accredited organization) was originally elected at the 2016 AGM to serve as Committee Secretary, and Vicki Hanson of the Cannabis Commercial and Medicinal Research Taskforce (CCMRT)/Ganja (Future) Growers & Producers Association (GGPA) was elected as a non-officer Executive Committee member. In early 2017, Farah Diaz joined the Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice (a non-ECOSOC-accredited organization) and Vicki Hanson left CCMRT/GGPA to take a position with the Jamaican government. At the Annual General Meeting held in June 2017, it was announced that Michael Krawitz and Farah Diaz-Tello had been appointed Secretary and Executive Committee Member-at-Large, respectively, by vote of the Executive Committee in accordance with the NYNGOC Bylaws.

D. List of activities, programmes, seminars, briefings, publications, etc.

Collaboration with the Vienna Committee on Drugs and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime

The UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs ushered in a period of collaboration between the NYNGOC and its sister committee, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), with the two

committees partnering to form the [“Civil Society Task Force” \(CSTF\) for UNGASS 2016](#). The CSTF was a global 33-member task force of NGOs representing nine global regions and nine affected populations/global voices. After the CSTF finalized its activities around the UNGASS with a final report (available [here](#)¹), the CSTF conducted a global survey to capture the level of satisfaction of global civil society at large on the work done by the Civil Society Task Force (CSTF) in the preparatory process of and during the UNGASS. The survey also collected suggestions on the future and the role the CSTF could eventually play in view of the high level meeting set for 2019 (i.e. the final review of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem) The survey showed strong support for the CSTF and reflected the desire that it should continue in some form during preparations for the 2019 meeting (the parameters of which at that time were unclear). After the survey, the CSTF went somewhat dormant pending direction from member states on the structure and format of the meeting to be held in 2019. The survey and resulting report can be found [here](#).

In the meantime, the committees continued to collaborate on ongoing events: they were called on to select speakers for thematic sessions held during the [ongoing intersessional meetings of the CND](#) reviewing the implementation of the Thematic Chapters of the UNGASS Outcome Document. The committees were also called on to collaborate with UNODC on side events at the 60th session of the CND as well as expert meetings held throughout the year by UNODC and the WHO.

During the 60th CND, NYNGOC collaborated with UNODC and VNGOC to provide speakers for the following side events:

- 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

Finally, the NYNGOC worked closely with VNGOC and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, and in some cases, the World Health Organization, to select speakers for the following expert meetings held throughout the year:

- Treatment of drug use disorders in patients affected by psychiatric and medical co-morbidities (UNODC)
- Pharmacological options promising for the treatment of dependence on stimulants (UNODC)
- Treatment and care of people with drug use disorders in contact with the criminal justice system: alternatives to conviction and punishment (UNODC/WHO)

During the 60th session of the CND a meeting was held which was attended by members of the CSTF to determine its future. Due to the overwhelming support for the CSTF as expressed through the Global Survey, the majority of CSTF members were in favor of its continuation, and a working group was formed to formulate a plan. Over the year a Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated between the two committees and the structure of a new CSTF for 2019 was formulated. That MOU was approved by the committees in January 2018 and signed by the committees in March 2019.

NYNOC member organizations were also very active at the CND, hosting side events on a number of topics including gender issues, extrajudicial killings being carried out in the name of drug law enforcement, supply side harm reduction, decriminalization of drug use and possession, stimulant drug

¹ An [abbreviated version](#) showing the many areas of consensus of global civil society, as well as the areas of disagreement, was circulated during the UNGASS meeting.

use in Latin America and Asia, human rights and drug control, drug-checking services, drug policies and the protection of youth, and extrajudicial killings in the drug war as a human rights challenge. NYNGOC member International Drug Policy Consortium maintains the [CND Blog](#), which provides live reporting on CND proceedings and is a major resource for civil society as well as member states.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking / Support.Don't Punish

Every year on June 26 marks the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in which the UNODC launches its annual World Drug Report. The NYNGOC facilitates attendance at this event of its members and civil society at large. This year's event was hosted by the Portuguese mission, highlighting the recent appointment of the Portuguese Secretary General António Guterres. At the event, Mr. Álvaro Mendonça e Moura, the Permanent Representative of the Portuguese Mission in New York, delivered the keynote presentation. Ambassador Mendonça had played a key role in UNGASS 1998, and in that context remarked that it was impressive to see the progress in the balancing towards a more public health and human rights based approach to drugs since then, an evolution he said was not at all obvious in the late 1990s. He was extremely complimentary of the UNGASS outcome document, remarking that it "provided us with better instruments and more comprehensive policies that place human beings at the center of drug policy," and that it would remain the basis for international discussions for the next decade. NYNGOC members attended the event and a statement was delivered by its Chair.

Every year after the launch of the World Drug Report, members of the NYNGOC assemble outside the UN to participate in the annual [Support.Don't Punish Global Day of Action](#), which is coordinated every year by a number of NYNGOC members. Last year thousands of people across 205 cities were representing 93 countries took part in the fifth global day of action for the Support.Don't Punish campaign to call for better drug policies anchored in public health and human rights. In New York, a lively rally took place in the Dag Hammerstein place, which continued with a march to the entrance of the UN.

The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017

During July 2017, the primary focus at UN Headquarters in New York was on the summer's [High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (HLPF) which took place on 10-19 July, ending with a three-day high level ministerial meeting. Convened under ECOSOC, the HLPF is the UN's central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a set of Goals and Targets brought up for review each year. In 2017, [Goal 3 on Good Health and Well Being](#) was under review, which was of particular interest to NYNGOC members. Goal 3 includes two targets of relevance to drug reform: Target 3.3 on ending the AIDS epidemic and combating Hepatitis and other communicable diseases, and target 3.5 on strengthening prevention and treatment of drug use disorders. During the HPLF, NYNGOC members attended a number of the over [100 side events](#) on topics from gender issues to HIV prevention, ending poverty, and indigenous peoples' rights, and also contributed to the development of the civil society brief on health in the SDGs under review coordinated by the NCD Alliance.

Integration with the 2030 Agenda

NYNGOC has been working with Networking through Observation, Communication and Cooperation (NOCC) and [International Council on AIDS Service Organizations](#) (ICASO) on an initiative entitled "**The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Drug Policy: Making the Connection**" in which a series of profiles of NGOs working in the drugs field is being created, with the goal of aligning drug policy NGOs

and their projects to the “5 P’s of the SDGs”: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. During the initial stages of the project, several NYNGOC member organizations from around the world were selected to take part in a profiling exercise geared towards identifying and highlighting ties between the work in drug policy and the 2030 Agenda.

“Omnibus Resolution” on the World Drug Problem

Another highlight of the year for NYNGOC is the “Omnibus resolution” on the World Drug Problem, negotiated by the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. Various member organizations follow its progress and make contributions to the resolution over the course of its negotiations.

Geneva processes

Many of our members are also active around recent Geneva processes, including developments around drugs at the Human Rights Council and the WHO Expert Committee on Dependent Drugs, and participated in drug-related sessions held in 2017.

D. Annual financial report

The NYNGOC collects a membership fee of \$20.00 USD from members. The fee is waived for members from low income countries (as defined by the World Bank), and members that can demonstrate financial hardship. The annual membership fee is the NYNGOC’s only source of income.

The funds for 2017 were managed by Benjamin Phillips of Harm Reduction Coalition.² Harm Reduction Coalition is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (since 2014) and is a recognized by the US Federal Government as a 501(c) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Harm Reduction Coalition’s Board Finance Committee reviews reports, budgets, and audits on a monthly basis; approves financial policies; and selects a third party CPA firm to conduct annual audits. Fiscal books are currently maintained using Fund EZ and accrual accounting, following the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles by the Federal Accounting Standards Board.

Membership Fees 2015 (\$USD)	New Members in 2015	Membership Fee Waived (LIC, trade embargo, financial hardship)	PayPal Fees (\$USD)
\$20.00	2 Members	0 Members	\$0
2017 total (\$USD)	\$40.00		
TOTAL	\$2,663.14		

E. Any precise issue you wish to bring forward in regard to the mandate of "relating to programmes, policies and activities of the United Nations System".

None, thank you.

² Benjamin Phillips served as the NYNGOC’s Project Manager throughout 2017.