



2018 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” or the “Committee”) for the calendar year 2018.

A. Current Committee rules

In April 2017, the NYNGOC amended its Bylaws to 1) to create a staggered board in accordance with the Bylaws so that five of the ten members are elected each year, and 2) to increase the number of consecutive terms a member of the Executive Committee may serve from two terms to three. Under the Amendment, the Executive Committee may make further provision to retain the staggered terms or to return to non-staggered terms, as the Executive Committee deems necessary or appropriate. There were no other changes in Committee rules.

B. Membership

As of December 2018, the NYNGOC had 96 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 HIV/AIDS Legal Network	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
Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (CDPE)	Canada
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)	Argentina
Centro De Investigacion Drogas Y Derechos Humanos (CIDDH)	Peru
Centro 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 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
Moms Stop the Harm	Canada
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 – Australia (SSDP)	Australia
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

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C. Current Committee Officers and their terms of office

The Committee held re-elections of its Executive Committee in June 2017 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.

As discussed above, in April 2017, the NYNGOC amended its Bylaws to 1) to create a staggered board in accordance with the Bylaws so that five of the ten members are elected each year, and 2) to increase the number of terms a member of the Executive Committee may serve from two consecutive terms to three. Under the Amendment, the Executive Committee may make further provision to retain the staggered terms or to return to non-staggered terms, as the Executive Committee deems necessary or appropriate.

The Executive Committee members for the term beginning June 27, 2018 are as follows:

Name	Organization	Executive Position	Term Expires
Heather Haase	<u>New York City Bar Association Committee on Drugs & the Law (US)</u>	Chair	26 th June 2020
Ernesto Cortes	<u>Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (Costa Rica)</u>	Vice-Chair	26 th June 2020
Carolyn Eisert*	<u>Amnesty International (US)</u>	Treasurer	26 th June 2019
Michael Krawitz*	<u>Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access (US)</u>	Secretary	26 th June 2019
Candelaria Aráoz Falcón	<u>Intercambios (Argentina)</u>	Member-at-Large	20 th June 2020
Farah Diaz-Tello*	<u>Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice (US)</u>	Member-at-Large	20 th June 2019
Brun González	<u>International Network of People who Use Drugs (Mexico)</u>	Member-at-Large	20 th June 2020
Donald MacPherson*	<u>Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (Canada)</u>	Member-at-Large	20 th June 2019
Lisa Sanchez*	<u>Transform Drug Policy Foundation (Mexico)</u>	Member-at-Large	26 th June 2019
Luciana Zaffalon	<u>Plataforma Brasileira de Política de Drogas (Brazil)</u>	Member-at-Large	20 th June 2020

*As part of the committee's Bylaw amendment, the Executive Committee member's term indicated was extended for one year in order to stagger the board.

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

The Civil Society Task Force

The UN general Assembly Special Session on Drugs held in 2016 (the "2016 UNGASS") 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 original 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 [here¹](#)), the CSTF conducted a [Global Survey](#) to gather information on the impressions amongst civil society representatives on the effectiveness of the CSTF and potential next steps. The survey showed strong support for the CSTF and the desire that it should continue in some form during preparations for the then undefined high-level meeting set to take place in 2019. Following a meeting of CSTF members at the 60th Session of the CND in which a majority of members were in favor of continuation of the CSTF, a working group was formed to come up with a plan. Over the year a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) was negotiated between the two committees and a basic structure of a new CSTF for 2019 was created. The MOU was approved by the committees in January 2018 and signed at the 61st Session of the CND paving the way for implementation of the new CSTF.

The Steering Committee for the new CSTF met for the first time in April 2018 and a global nomination process began shortly thereafter. Co-chaired by the chairs of the VNGOC and NYNGOC, the new CSTF consisted of three additional Steering Group members (adding officers in charge of communications, fundraising and outreach), 18 representatives of global regions and 10 representatives from affected populations and global voices (the full list is [here](#)). The CSTF was [jointly announced by the NYNGOC and VNGOC](#) in May 2018 with the stated purpose of “promoting inclusivity of civil society at all proceedings leading up to and at the Ministerial Segment of the 62nd Session of the CND in 2019.”

During preparations for UNGASS 2016, the majority of the activity of the NYNGOC was channeled through the CSTF, with the following priorities:

- Identifying Civil Society Speakers and Participants for all preparatory events for the 2019 Ministerial Segment, including intersessionals held during the leadup to the meeting and roundtable discussions held during the Ministerial Segment itself;
- Conducting a Global Online survey;
- Hosting Civil Society Hearings in New York and Vienna during the lead-up to the Ministerial Segment; and
- Publishing a final report presenting the findings of the Global Civil Society Survey.

Speaker Selection during the Preparation for the 2019 Ministerial Segment

The CSTF was fortunate to have the opportunity to select speakers for events leading up to the 2019 Ministerial Segment, in particular the series of intersessional meetings organized by the CND during September, October and November. The CSTF selected a total of 40 speakers for these events on numerous topics including: demand reduction, access to controlled medicines, cross-cutting issues (drugs, human rights, youth, children, women, communities), supply reduction and related measures, evolving realities and trends, alternative development, international cooperation and taking stock of the past decade. Selected speakers are listed on *Annex A* to this report and presentations are featured on the CSTF “[Civil Society Presentations](#)” webpage. Global open calls were launched to select one civil society panelist for each inter-sessional meeting, while other civil society interventions were delivered in person or by video link. The selection followed the [Speaker Selection Guidelines](#) established by the CSTF.

Global Online Consultation

In October and November 2018, the Task Force conducted an online consultation for civil society which was translated into the six official languages of the United Nations. Building on the [consultations conducted by the Task Force for 2016](#), the questions covered three key areas: progress since the adoption of the *2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated*

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.

and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; progress since the 2016 UNGASS on drugs; and views on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In total, complete and eligible responses were received from 461 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from 100 countries and territories. Nearly 40 percent of the respondents were NGOs that deliver services directly, whereas a further third were advocacy organisations. More than two thirds of respondents were from the local or national level. Respondents also came from a variety of fields – such as prevention (25 percent), harm reduction (19 percent), human rights (10 percent), drug law reform (9 percent), treatment (8 percent) and rehabilitation (5 percent). A quarter of the respondents were from Western Europe, 22 percent from Latin America and the Caribbean, 14 percent from Africa, 12 percent from North America, with the remainder from Asia, Eurasia, the Middle East and Oceania – a diverse range of perspectives and experiences were shared.

The [final findings report is available online](#), and has been formally presented to member states on several occasions, first at the reconvened 61st Session of the CND in December 2018 and then at the Civil Society Hearings held in New York and Vienna in January 2019.

Civil Society Hearings

To support preparations for the 2019 Ministerial Segment, interactive fora were held at the UN Headquarters in New York and at the CND in Vienna. The event in New York was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations and the Vienna by the Mission of Switzerland. Each sought to present a range of interventions from civil society experts from around the world, focused on the role of civil society in responding to drug-related challenges “Beyond 2019”.

The results from the global civil society consultation (as summarized above) were presented at each event – outlining the composition of respondents, the key findings, and some of the varying viewpoints of the NGO respondents in terms of what were considered achievements, trends or set-backs over the past decade. A panel of civil society speakers followed covering several common themes including: the need to support policies that improve the lives of people; the interconnected nature of the ‘world drug problem’ and Sustainable Development Goals; and the work to ‘connect the dots’ between individual health, public health, drug policy and development objectives, the need to include the voices of affected populations in decision-making processes; the need to respect human rights in all drug policies; and the need to acknowledge and overcome common challenges facing NGOs, and of course, the important role played by civil society in drug policy debates.

A full description of each hearing is contained in the [Conference room paper submitted by Switzerland on the views of civil society for drug policies beyond 2019](#).

The 2019 Ministerial Segment

In addition to selecting speakers for events in the leadup to the Ministerial Segment, as mandated by [CND resolution 61/10](#), the CSTF selected two panelists for the roundtable debates at the Ministerial Segment itself, on “Taking Stock” and “The Road Ahead”. The speakers are listed on *Annex B* to this report.

As in years past, the CSTF co-sponsored [several events at the CND](#) on topics including prevention and families, addressing stigma, prevention in educational settings, and collaborations between civil society and government in health promotion, prevention and treatment. Speakers for these events were again chosen by a global online nominations process according with the Speaker Selection Guidelines.

Finally, the work of the CSTF was outlined and highlighted in the *Conference room paper submitted by Switzerland on the views of civil society for drug policies beyond 2019* mentioned above.

New York Activities

Although the majority of the NYNGOC’s work over 2018 and early 2019 centered around the 2019 Ministerial Segment, NYNGOC members also engage in UN activities in New York, particularly in the fall around the negotiation and adoption of the annual resolution entitled “[International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem](#),” or the “drugs omnibus resolution”. Various NYNGOC member organizations follow its progress and make contributions to the resolution over the course of the negotiations.

Another highlight in New York is the launch of the World Drug Report which takes place on June 26 every year in commemoration of the *International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*. For the past five years the launch has been followed by the annual [Support.Don’t Punish Global Day of Action](#) held outside the UN in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, after which members attend the NYNGOC Annual General Meeting.

Additionally, the CND and the INCB are each mandated to provide a report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) each year during its Coordination and Management Meetings (CMM) held in New York. This year’s discussion was followed by a High-Level Event “[2018 HLPF: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: The contribution of functional commissions](#)” featuring presentations by heads of functional ECOSOC commissions such as the UN Forum on Forests, the Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Statistical Commission, and the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. CND Chair H.E. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu focused her comments on the integration of drug policy and the SDGs, a topic which has grown in importance in recent years. NYNGOC members attend the [2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (HLPF) in NY in mid-July each year with varying levels of engagement.

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), organizations that are run by key populations (‘peer-run’ organizations) and members that can demonstrate financial hardship. The annual membership fee is the NYNGOC’s only source of income.

The funds for 2018 were held in an account in the name of Harm Reduction Coalition. Harm Reduction Coalition is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (since 2014) and is 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 monthly; 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 2018 (\$USD)	New Members in 2018	Membership Fee Waived (LIC, trade embargo, financial hardship)	PayPal Fees (\$USD)
\$380.00	15 Members	0 Members	\$9.28
Total dues collected (\$USD)	\$370.72		
Account Balance as at June 20, 2019			\$2,947.01

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".

Throughout the past several years, the NYNGOC has enjoyed many successes, but has encountered some challenges as well, particularly with respect to biases of certain agencies within the UN system. We are working on a more detailed report regarding this issue which we will soon deliver to CoNGO's President, Liberato Bautista. We are committed to working together with the UN family to begin to resolve these issues in the near future.

F. Subsequent Events

Although this report focuses on events occurring during the calendar year 2018, many events occurring subsequent to the end of the year are discussed throughout, most notably the Ministerial Segment on drugs held in March 2019.

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Annex A

Selected Civil Society Speakers for the CND Intersessionals held in September, October, November

Demand reduction and related measures (September 25, 2018):

- Panelist: Olga Szubert (Harm Reduction International, United Kingdom) •Antonio Jesús Molina Fernández (Dianova International, Spain)
- Bikas Gurung (Asian Network of People who Use Drugs, Thailand)
- Boi-Jeneh Jalloh (Foundation for Rural and Urban Transformation, Sierra Leone)
- Oxana Ibragimova (ALE “Kazakhs Union of People Living with HIV”, Kazakhstan)

Availability of and access to controlled substances (September 26, 2018)

- Panelist: Dr. Lukas Radbruch (Lancet Commission on Palliative Care and Pain Relief, Germany)
- João Batista Garcia (FEDELAT, Brazil) •Lauren Deluca (Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group, USA)
- Mark Mwesiga (Palliative Care Association of Uganda)
- Dr. Rumana Dowla (Bangladesh Palliative And Supportive Care Foundation)

Cross-cutting: drugs, human rights, youth, children, women, communities (September 27, 2018)

- Panelist: Dayana Vincent (Fourth Wave Foundation, India) •Cara Lavan (Transform Drug Policy Foundation / Anyone’s Child, United Kingdom) •Corina Giacomello (EQUIS Justicia para las Mujeres, Mexico)
- Orsi Fehér (Students for Sensible Drug Policies, Global)
- Wongayi Nyahuye (Youths against Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, Zimbabwe) Supply reduction and related measures (October 22, 2018) •Panelist: Daniel Joloy (Amnesty International, United Kingdom)
- Belarmino Carlos Langa (UNIDOS, Mozambique)
- Juliana Miranda (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Argentina)
- Olivia Rope (Penal Reform International, United Kingdom)
- Carlos Humberto Romero Vergara (OCCDI, Colombia) Cross-cutting: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances (October 23, 2018)
- Panelist: Ola Byelyayeva (Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, Lithuania)
- Lul Admasachew (Higher Education Leadership, Ethiopia)
- Tania Ramírez (México Unido Contra la Delincuencia, Mexico)
- Martin Horton-Eddison (Global Drug Policy Observatory, United Kingdom) •Gretchen Burns Bergman (A New PATH, USA) www.vngoc.org

Alternative development (October 24, 2018)

- Panelist: Martin Jelsma (Transnational Institute, Netherlands)

•André Øystein Schjetne (Golden Colombia Foundation, Norway) •Nang Yon (Myanmar Opium Farmers Forum, Myanmar)

•Roxana Argandoña (Andean Information Network, Bolivia) International cooperation (November 7, 2018)

•Panelist: Paul Kogi Mburu (Soberlife Mentorship Society, Kenya)

•Professor John Toubourou (Deakin University and Dalgarno Institute, Australia)

•Rajesh Didiya (SURUWAT, Nepal)

•John M. Walsh (Washington Office on Latin America, USA)

Taking stock (November 8, 2018)

•Panelist:Ann Fordham (International Drug Policy Consortium, United Kingdom)

•Hussein Abdalla Tayab (Muslim Education and Welfare Association, Kenya)

•Peter Sarosi (Rights Reporter Foundation, Hungary)

•Brun González Aguilar (International Network of People who use Drugs, Mexico)

Annex B

Selected Speakers for the 2019 Ministerial Segment



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Civil Society Speakers for the 2019 Ministerial Segment Round Tables

TAKING STOCK

	Organisation	Country	Website	NGO Representative	Title and topic
Panelist	Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA)	Singapore	http://www.sana.org.sg/	Mr Abdul Karim S/O Shahul Hameed	Singapore's Community Approach to Harm Prevention
Intervention from the floor	IOGT International	Slovakia	http://www.iogt.org	Kristina Sperkova	Tackling the world drug problem - how far have we come
Intervention from the floor	The Legal Agenda	Lebanon	http://www.legal-agenda.com/en/	Karim Nammour	Dealing With the World Drug Problem by Ending the Global War on Drugs

SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

No.	Organisation	Country	Website	NGO Representative	Title and topic
Panelist	Dejusticia. Center of Studies for Law, Justice and Society	Colombia	www.dejusticia.org	Isabel Pereira-Arana	Recommendations for the next decade of drug policy: Drawing lessons from the Latin American experience.
Intervention from the floor	Eurasian network of people who use drugs (ENPUD)	Russia	http://enpud.net	Alexander Levin	Shrinking space for harm reduction programs and repressive drug policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region
Intervention from the floor	Parent-Child Intervention Centre	Nigeria	www.facebook.com/PCICENUGU	Peggy Chukwuemeka	The role parents/family in preventing drug and substance abuse