

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE VIENNA NGO COMMITTEE ON NARCOTIC DRUGS**

Friday, 11 November 2005

Present:

Members: R. Benesch (Soroptimist International), rbenesch@utanet.at
E. Carlin (Mentor Foundation), ec@mentoruk.org.uk
E. Frei (Salvation Army), NGO@swi.salvationarmy.org
S. Gfundner (Zonta International), Sylvia.gfundner@chello.atf
E. Hauer-Rona (ICW), boefv.ncwaustria@utanet.at
T. Legl (1st Vice-Chairman), (ICAA, Euro-TC), thomas.legl@gmx.at
I. Luxon (IFUW)
M. Parenzan (IFBPW), marlene.parenzan@chello.at
E. Pomberger (Pax Romana, ICMICA-IMCS)
I. Szabolcs (IFUW), szabolcsing@hotmail.com
K. Tripp (Soroptimist International), tripp@mdw.ac.at
E. von Wartburg (ICAA), esther.wartburg@aon.at
B. Walsberger (European Union of Women, (barfrina@utanet.at

UNODC:

C. Dos Santos
M. Dummar Frahi, mirella.frahi@unodc.org
F. Roversi, flavius.roversi@unodc.org
J. Tomás-Rosselló, juana.tomas@unodc.org

Guests:

F. Gehart (Vice-President of CONGO), friedrich.gehart@gmx.net
B. Lechner (International Council of Women)
V. Meisinger (PPSEAWA-T), vanmeis@aon.at

Apologies:

F. Berger (International Police Association), franz.berger@ipa.at
E. Efthimiou-Mordaunt (John Mordaunt Trust),

JohnMordauntTrust@Drugscope.org.uk

E. Jensema (The Senlis Council), jensema@senliscouncil.net
H. Kaschitz (Soroptimist International ECE Liaison), hpkaschitz@aol.com
Dr. M. Musalek (Anton Proksch Institute), musalek@api.or.at
Dr. D.Q. Philip (ICAA), ndcceo@ndc.bm
R. Spalt (CeIS), rosetta.spalt@gmx.at
M. Perron (2nd Vice-Chair) (Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse),

mperron@ccsa.ca

E. Tongue (Chairperson) (IFUW), atongue@worldcom.ch
F. Zeidler (Rotary International), f.zeidler@aon.at

Agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 23 May 2005
3. NGO Forum 2006
4. International NGO Forum 2007
5. Regional Crime Prevention Forum for NGO Central and Eastern Europe, 27-28 October

6. Preparations for Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 2006
7. Any other business

The First Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone and informed the meeting of regrets from E. Tongue (Chairperson) who had been ill but hoped to attend the next meeting. The Committee sent its best wishes for her speedy recovery. The Vice-Chairman had received a letter from Norbert Zimmer, the former Treasurer of the Committee, tendering his resignation following the appointment of Franz Zeidler as the representative of Rotary International to the UN. It was decided to send Dr. Zimmer a letter of appreciation for his very active service for many years to the Committee, with a copy to the headquarters of Rotary International. The First Vice-Chairman introduced the guests from UNODC.

Item 1

It was agreed to take item 6 before item 3. The agenda was thus approved.

Item 2

The minutes of the meeting of 23 May 2005 were approved without change.

Item 6

Flavius Roversi of UNOCD said he had recently joined the secretariat of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and was honoured to make his first presentation to this meeting.

The 49th session of the CND will most likely be held from 13 to 18 March 2006 (five days). A copy of the agenda and list of documents were handed out. The election of the bureau for this meeting will be held at the end of the reconvened 48th session on 9 December 2005, organized to approve the budget of UNODC for 2006-2007.

The subject of the thematic debate will probably be "Alternative development" although this decision is still to be finally approved.

The CND is intended to provide policy guidance to UNODC and is also an opportunity to exchange expertise. It was therefore trying to revitalize its meetings by introducing more debates in addition to national statements. Suggestions have been made to bring in guest speakers with first-hand experience, and to hold side events such as exhibitions and media encounters. He suggested that NGOs could present their showcase achievements in drug control and alternative development. He hoped that NGOs could also help in re-energizing the CND.

In reply to his proposal that NGOs use lunch hours to make presentations to delegates, it was pointed out that delegations usually use this time for regional group meetings and that such events are often not well attended

Item 3

Drug abuse within the criminal justice system had originally been proposed as the theme of the NGO Forum 2006. However, F. Roversi suggested that the Committee consider changing this topic to that of the CND thematic debate. He felt that a lot could be learnt from the NGOs on this subject which had always been a "hot" issue. Alternative development covers such areas as technical assistance to develop a livelihood away from illicit cultivation. The debate would also address illicit cannabis cultivation in Africa as well as preventive alternative development. He felt it would be interesting to have NGOs from the grass roots level discuss good practices and share their experience with delegations at the CND.

The Vice-Chairman thanked F. Roversi for his proposal. He suggested that if there was interest in involving NGOs more in the work of the CND, thought could be given to integrating the NGO Forum into the official programme, to allow delegates to attend.

E. Carlin, speaking for himself and for M. Perron who is Second Vice-Chairman of the Committee as well as Delegate to the CND, welcomed the suggestion of working more closely with UNOCD. He felt that the integration of the Forum within the CND would be appropriate if they were covering the same issues. He also agreed it would be more useful to hold a Forum on an issue of the CND rather than covering a separate item. He had just returned from Colombia where he had seen how a country had been destroyed by drugs. He had visited a slum where alternative development had not been working as intended. Many displaced persons were coming to Bogota because they had no crops to cultivate. Government representatives should see and hear first-hand what problems alternative development brings. He had many photos to illustrate this point.

E. Carlin volunteered to work on a proposal for the Forum and coordinate it with UNODC. M. Perron had spoken last week to F. Maertens (Director, Division of Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC) who had also been interested in this development.

The Vice-Chairman asked the meeting to agree to change the topic of the NGO Forum 2006. While treatment within the prison system is an important topic, handling a CND theme could be a useful step for the future. He was sure that some good speakers could be found. E. Carlin said that problems other than alternative crops need to be covered, for example education. M. Dummar Frahi thought that UNODC could provide the names of agencies and NGOs who implement UNODC projects in this field. E. Hauer Rona said she would investigate whether her organization could help on this topic.

E. Carlin agreed to work with M. Perron on preparing a proposal before the end of November. The Vice-Chairman suggested a preparatory committee with E. Carlin, M. Perron and himself, and M. Dummar Frahi as an observer. Most of the

work could be carried out by email. B. Walsberger offered her assistance for administrative matters. It was agreed to discuss the matter at the meeting in London the following week.

Item 4

The Vice-Chairman said that a meeting on the International Forum 2007 will be held in London on 21 November, to review the current status. M. Perron is taking the lead for the Forum. If there are less than 300 participants, it can be hosted by UNODC in the VIC without any cost for renting a conference room.

A discussion was held on the UNGASS Review, the date of which (2008 or 2009) will be decided by the CND 2006. M. Dummar Frahi thought it made sense to hold the Forum in the year before the Review and at least one month before the CND so that the results could be fed through the CND to the UNGASS .

F. Roversi referred to the UNGASS evaluation in which Governments are being involved through questionnaires on progress. UNOCD is also thinking of consulting NGOs, experts, other international organizations, mayors of big cities, parliamentary groups, etc. NGOs' assessments will be important in corroborating reports from governments and other sources. He encouraged the Committee to discuss these assessments at its meetings with individual NGOs or umbrella organizations. The Committee could report on findings and assessments when preparing its paper for the CND.

E. Carlin welcomed the involvement of the Committee in the assessments and requested details by email or telephone as NGOs have their own ways of obtaining information. This was much better than being consulted afterwards.

Item 5

F. Gehart, Vice-Chairman of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) reported on the Regional Crime Prevention Forum for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe, held at the VIC on 27 and 28 October 2005. 138 NGOs from Eastern Europe had registered. The meeting had only been possible through sponsors such as the Municipality of Vienna and UNOCD. M. Dummar Frahi distributed copies of the draft report, which also contained a list of participating NGOs with their email addresses. F. Gehart suggested that this list may be useful to the Committee.

The Forum had focused on three themes: human trafficking, urban crime and corruption. It had aimed at improving the efficiency of NGOs working in the field. The final report was expected on Monday, 14 November and would be posted on the Internet (www.ngocongo.org). F. Gehart referred in particular to the NGO position paper at the end of the report. He said that the Forum had involved day-to-day work and improvement of efficiency rather than the political scene. M. Dummar Frahi said that there had been much coordination with international organizations who had found common ground to work together. The Vice-Chairman congratulated F. Gehart on the organization of the Forum.

Item 6

Juana Tomás-Rosselló said that she had been originally invited to come to this meeting to discuss the old theme of the NGO Forum 2006. However, while at the meeting, she was pleased to introduce the recently launched UNODC project "International Network of Treatment and Rehabilitation Resource Centres" which has, among others, treatment in prisons as a priority topic.

The project's first phase of two years is to select and network 20 centres in all regions, linking them to international and regional organizations, NGOs, as well as national treatment institutions. The centres have already been selected and UNODC is currently awaiting agreement from their side. Both governmental organizations as well as NGOs providing treatment and rehabilitation services have been invited to participate in the Network. Members of the Network are expected to become multipliers, disseminating good practices at the international level. A training component will be developed, based on a training needs assessment.

Good practice documents will be prepared on four priority topics, namely: treatment in prisons, community-based treatment, role of drug dependence treatment in HIV/AIDS prevention and care, and sustainable livelihoods for rehabilitation/reintegration. This last topic builds on UNODC's process to broaden its approach from alternative development into sustainable livelihoods. A second project phase to expand the network and demonstrate best practices is envisaged. UNODC would welcome suggestions from Committee members and the NGO community on possible Network links to relevant initiatives. The Vice-Chairman thanked J. Tomás-Rosselló for her presentation and looked forward to hearing how the project develops.

Item 7

Membership

I. Szabolcs, the Committee's Treasurer, had received nearly all subscriptions and thanked the members for their timely action. She will send out the letter for 2006 subscriptions in February.

Sustainability

Reporting on his visit to a project of his organization in Colombia, E. Carlin said he had been very moved by this experience. He regretted that many UN projects do not succeed in building up sustainability. His organization is running a South American Youth Network on behalf of UNODC, the funding for which runs out this year. More than 300 organizations dealing with drugs and young people had been involved and inspired to network and send out newsletters. However, when the funding ends, interest will be lost. He felt there was no point in funding projects for short periods which was almost worse than not doing anything.

NGO Alliance on Crime

E. Carlin reminded the meeting of previous discussions on holding a joint meeting of the Committee with the NGO Alliance on Crime in view of the obvious link between crime and drugs. Both are interested in economic and social circumstances, social exclusion, crime and drug prevention. It was thought that an annual meeting with that NGO committee could establish a strategy for the future.

Accreditation of NGO representatives to the UN, Vienna

The UN staff member responsible for NGO liaison, N. Sequeira, had informed B. Walsberger that, for security reasons, the accreditation of NGO representatives for 2006 will not be accepted by email or fax. A completed form with an original signature must be provided to his office in future.

Next meeting

Friday, 13 January 2006 at 2.30 p.m. in the Press Briefing Room.

Barbara Walsberger

Secretary

Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs