

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

Friday, 13 January 2006

Present:

- Members: R. Benesch (Soroptimist International), rbenesch@utanet.at
F. Berger (Internatiional Police Association), franz.berger@ipa.at
E. Carlin (Mentor Foundation), ec@mentoruk.org.uk
E. Efthimiou-Mordaunt (John Mordaunt Trust),
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E. Frei (Salvation Army), NGO@swi.salvationarmy.org
S. Gfundner (Zonta International), sylvia.gfundner@chello.at
H. Kaschitz (Soroptimist International ECE Liaison),
hpkaschitz@aol.com
G. Köcher (IFUW)
T. Legl (1st Vice-Chairman), (ICAA, Euro-TC), thomas.legl@gmx.at
M. Parenzan (IFBPW), marlene.parenzan@chello.at
E. Pomberger (Pax Romana, ICMICA-IMCS)
R. Spalt (CelS), rosetta.spalt@gmx.at
I. Szabolcs (IFUW), szabolcsing@hotmail.com
E. Tongue (Chairperson) (IFUW), atongue@worldcom.ch
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
F. Zeidler (Rotary International), f.zeidler@aon.at
UNODC: C. Albertin, Cristina.albertin@unodc.org
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C. Dos Santos, cicero.dos.santoz@unvienna.org
M. Dummar Frahi, mirella.frahi@unodc.org
J. Rios (jorge.rios@unodc.org
F. Roversi, flavius roversi@unodc.org
Guests: L. Gundacker (Women's Federation for World Peace International)
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F. Gehart (Vice-President of CONGO). friedrich.gehart@gmx.net
Regrets: E. Jensema (The Senlis Council), jensema@senliscouncil.net
Dr. M. Musalek (Anton Proksch Institute), musalek@api.or.at
E. Hauer-Rona (ICW). boefv.ncwaustria@utanet.at
I. Luxon (IFUW)
M. Perron (2nd Vice-Chair) (Canadian Centre on Substance
Abuse), mperron@ccsa.ca

Agenda:

- Approval of the agenda
- Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 11 November 2005
- NGO Forum 2006
- Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 2006
- International NGO Forum
- Membership
- Any other business

Eva Tongue, the Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the staff members from UNODC, and wished all a happy new year. She introduced two new members: Mr. Franz Zeidler from Rotary International who is replacing Mr. Zimmer and Ms. Lilly Gundacker from Women's Federation for World Peace International.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without any changes.

Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2005 were approved without any changes.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

F. Roversi from the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) Secretariat referred to his briefing at the Committee's previous meeting. The reconvened session of the CND in December approved the 2006/2007 budget, elected the Bureau for the 2006 session of the CND (Chairperson: Ambassador of Hungary) and decided upon the topic for the thematic debate (alternative development).

A Working Group had begun preparations for the thematic debate and one delegation had been in favour of having NGOs participate. Their next meeting will be on 23 January. If the Committee wishes to propose NGOs to attend the debate and ask for the floor, it would be useful to pass names to the Working Group which is interested in NGOs with relevant experience, such as in micro-credit, etc. Also, it would be useful if a summary of the Committee's Forum could be provided to the Working Group's forthcoming meeting.

M. Dummar Frahi requested that if the NGO community is planning any side events during the CND, the UNODC (Secretary of the CND) would appreciate receiving information in advance rather than the same day.

B. Walsberger wondered if an NGO Lounge would be provided during the CND. Also, the Editor of the daily Journal had been requested last year to include a note requesting NGO representatives on delegations to meet with members of the Committee in the NGO Lounge. However, this request had been refused. It

was agreed to put the request for an NGO lounge and a daily notification in the Journal to the Secretariat in writing.

NGO Forum 2006

F. Roversi was pleased that the Committee had decided to take the same topic as the thematic debate. C. Albertin from the Latin American and Caribbean Section said that a good part of her Section's work was on alternative development and she was interested to find out what the Committee expected from the Forum. J. Rios was new in UNOCD and was managing the Sustainable Livelihoods Unit. He offered to assist M. Dummar Frahi in putting together whatever the Committee will need to structure its debate. He referred to the Resolution 48/9 on "Strengthening alternative development as an important drug control strategy and establishing alternative development as a cross-cutting issue" which he had passed to the Committee through M. Dummar Frahi. She offered assistance with the names of world NGOs involved in this topic.

E. Carlin said he had understood that M. Jelsma, an expert on this subject, was preparing the background to the Forum but as no documents had been received from him as yet, he will look into the matter next week and possibly consult with J. Rios and M. Dummar Frahi on the agenda and speakers. He promised to have a plan ready by 23 January to pass to the Working Group. The Chairperson requested E. Carlin and T. Legl to be responsible and to coordinate with M. Dummar Frahi.

While it was felt that the day before the thematic debate would be best for holding the Forum, it was acknowledged that the first day of the CND was not appropriate. It was therefore agreed that the Forum would be held on Wednesday, 15 March (the day after the thematic debate) and would last the whole day. [In the meantime, the date and length of the NGO Forum has been changed by the Committee to **Monday, 13 March, 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. in Conference Room 1**]. In future, it would be necessary to discuss the date with UNODC before the agenda of the CND was finalized some time in November. M. Dummar Frahi was requested to have conference room I reserved. The Chairperson requested the Secretary to send out the agenda of the Forum to members of the Committee as soon as it is ready.

The Chairperson suggested that three Committee members look at the list of participants in the CND to identify any NGO representatives on the delegations. She requested E. Pomberger, H. Kaschitz and R. Spalt to contact the CND Secretariat (through M. Dummar Frahi) to try to obtain this information in case the list of participants is issued only towards the end of the CND. G. Babbar suggested that the agenda be sent to the Permanent Missions in Vienna. Their addresses can be found online. The Chairperson requested E. Carlin and B. Walsberger to prepare a note to the Permanent Missions. C. Albertin suggested that an announcement be made during the thematic debate.

M. Dummar Frahi was asked to obtain agreement from the CND Secretary to have the agenda of the Forum distributed in the pigeon holes of delegates, as had been done last year.

International NGO Forum

The detailed minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held in London on 21 November 2005, had been distributed to the Committee. With regard to the date, it had been felt that our Forum should be held the year before the UNGASS Review and before the CND in that year, in order to provide the CND with the report. F. Roversi confirmed that the date of the Review will be decided at the CND in March. It was agreed to meet again during the CND, after the arrival of M. Perron.

G. Babbar suggested that a small publication be prepared and passed to the UNGASS Review. Member States are required to report on their action since UNGASS and there are sometimes questions concerning the authenticity of these reports. Perhaps NGOs could review the statements of the Member States. Officials tend to dismiss NGO forums. The NGO Committee should make a proposal on how to structure its participation in the Review. UNODC could provide some structural support. E. Carlin and B. Walsberger were asked to draft a proposal to discuss with G. Babbar and send it to the members of the Committee for comments. The draft should be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

E. Carlin said that if funds could be made available, a consultant could be recruited. G. Babbar said that if a one-page proposal on the kind of consultation and its impact on the final Review were to be drafted, it could be used as a basis for a small project with the NGO Committee as the executing agency. He offered assistance in drafting a document.

Membership

The Treasurer, I Szabolcs, reported that the Committee had one new paid-up member in 2005, the International Society of Addictions Medicine (IMAS). She provided the Secretary with the financial statement for 2005 which will be distributed to the Committee with the minutes.

A new letter with the payment form for the 2006 subscription will be sent to Committee members soon. In reply to a question from a new member, she said that the cost for the first NGO representative is 45 euros and 10 euros for all further representatives of the same organization. The Chairperson said it should not be forgotten that some members from overseas pay cash during the CND because they have difficulty in transferring funds. For this reason, they may not have paid regularly in the past. She thanked the Treasurer for her very efficient work during the past year.

Any other business

Next meeting of the Committee

It was agreed to meet again during the CND on Thursday, 15 March at 10.30 a.m. **(please note the change of time)** in the NGO lounge of the CND. At that meeting, a list of further meetings will be prepared for the rest of the year.

CONGO

F. Gehart, Vice-President of CONGO, requested a short note from the Committee on its work during 2005 so he may report to the next CONGO in meeting in New York what the Vienna NGO Committees had been doing during the year. The Chairperson asked the Secretary to prepare a note which she outlined.

Barbara Walsberger, Secretary
Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs