

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

**Wednesday, 10 May 2006**

**Present:**

Members: R. Benesch (Soroptimist International), rbenesch@utanet.at  
F. Berger (International Police Association), franz.berger@ipa.at  
E. Frei (Salvation Army), NGO@swi.salvationarmy.org  
E. Hauer-Rona (ICW). boefv.ncwaustralia@utanet.at  
G. Köcher, IFUW  
T. Legl (1st Vice-Chairman), (ICAA, Euro-TC), thomas.legl@gmx.at  
I. Mäntler (Women's Fed. for World Peace Int.),  
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Dr. F. Poldrugo (ISAM), polydrug@units.it  
E. Pomberger (Pax Romana, ICMICA-IMCS)  
R. Spalt (CeIS), rosetta.spalt@gmx.at  
E. Tongue (Chairperson) (IFUW), atongue@worldcom.ch  
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](mailto:f.zeidler@aon.at)

UNODC: M. Dummar Frahi, mirella.frahi@unodc.org  
F. Soltani, [fariba.soltani@unodc.org](mailto:fariba.soltani@unodc.org)

Guests: M. Barzanti, (San Patrignano), mbarzanti@sanpatrignano.org  
Dr. M. Duru (Life Foundation Network Int.),  
Lfni\_drug2006@yahoo.com  
M. Luppi, (San Patrignano) mluppi@sanpatrignano.org  
E. Nishijima (WFWPI)  
J. Paul (LFNI)  
J. Rubio-Andre's (CeIS), julia.rubio@aon.at  
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Regrets: Dr. W. Beiglböck (Int. Assoc. Of Applied Psychology),  
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W. Köhler, (Rotary International), koehler.wolfgang@chello.at  
I. Luxon (IFUW)  
Dr. M. Musalek (Anton Proksch Institute), musalek@api.or.at  
Dr. B. Nassirimanesh (Persepolis NGO), bijan@ahrn.net  
M. Parenzan (IFBPW), marlene.parenzan@chello.at  
M. Perron (2nd Vice-Chair) (Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse), mperron@ccsa.ca  
Dr. D.Q. Philip (ICAA), ndcceo@ndc.bm  
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D. Turner (CeIS), management2@ceis.it

## **Agenda**

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Progress Update on UNODC Strategy
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 16 March 2006
4. Introduction of guests/new members
5. International Day Against Drug Abuse (26 June)
6. Update on Fourth International NGO Forum:
  - (a) Meeting in March
  - (b) Funding
7. International CONGO Board Meeting, Vienna, 22-23 August 2006
8. Any other business
  - (a) General
  - (b) NGO Committee meetings in 2006

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Chairperson opened the meeting with the adoption of the agenda. She proposed adding as a new item two the Progress Update on UNODC Strategy which had been distributed through email and in hard copies at the meeting. The agenda was approved with this change.

### 2. Progress Update on UNODC Strategy

Katharina Kaiser, Programme Management Officer in UNODC's Strategic Planning Unit, said that the Unit had been created two years earlier and had prepared this interim update on the UNODC strategy, not only as a basis for discussions with Member States and UNODC staff but also with NGO representatives. It was intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the work carried out by UNODC, its comparative advantages, specific niches and expertise as well as the demands for the future.

The document had passed through different stages: the February model had been an inventory attempting to categorize the work, leaving the strategic objectives blank. The March model had established the strategic objectives in five areas.

On the fourth page, the functions of UNODC appeared in the left column (knowledge, normative work and capacity-building or technical assistance). The column on the right entitled Enablers indicated what the organization needed to deliver its programmes, what it should become and the resources it required.

The middle columns set out the objectives of UNODC and were covered in more detail on the subsequent pages.

Prevention dealt with preventative work in drugs and crime. The Rule of Law was the organization's main area of work. Treatment and reintegration covered the other side of prevention. Analysis handled the reporting system.

The strategy was also a reporting tool, setting out what would be held accountable for reaching these objectives and provided more transparency on the work of UNODC. The objectives at the global level still needed to be customized for the regions. More fine-tuning needed to be done to the strategy, with the assistance of Member States and NGOs.

It was commented that reference to NGOs should be included in the text of the document, not only on the last page in connection with consultations, and that the analysis (part 4) placed at the beginning would give a better overview of the situation.

The Committee decided to provide a consolidated statement to M. Dummar Frahi by the middle of June. The members of the Committee were requested to provide their comments to the Secretary, B. Walsberger, by 25 May. The Secretary would draft the consolidated statement and send it back to the Committee for comments by 7 June.

### 3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 16 March 2006

The minutes were approved after adding apologies from E. Tongue and D. Turner,

### 4. Introduction of guests/new members

Monica Luppi introduced **San Patrignano** as a drugs-free rehabilitation centre for addicts in Italy near Rimini. It was not a traditional treatment centre but a residential community following a peer-to-peer method without the usual hierarchy of curer/person being cured. The inhabitants recovered as a result of living and talking together. They resided for 3 to 4 years. The centre had existed for 28 years and had helped more than 20,000 addicts. A study presented last September indicated that 72 per cent recovered completely. Vocational training is provided to permit a return to work and a future drug-free life. Further information can be found on the website [www.sanpatrignano.org](http://www.sanpatrignano.org). In reply to a question on the high recovery rate, M. Luppi explained that drug problems were usually the result of not being able to face life's difficulties and the desire to escape reality. San Patrignano gave attention to this whole situation.

Dr. Miriam Duru, a psychiatrist from Nigeria, introduced the **Life Foundation Network International**. The NGO began work in September 2005 visiting African drug dealers in prison to discuss with them why they were selling drugs. Many of them were illiterate and were not aware of the problems they caused. They accepted the intervention of Dr. Duru because she was African and could speak their tribal language. Gerry Paul from the same organization said that while it was too early to register a real impact, they felt they were making a positive impact on some of the prisoners. The Chairperson thanked them for this report and hoped they would continue coming to the Committee's meetings.

Dr. Fabio Poldrugo introduced the **International Society of Addiction Medicine** with headquarters in Canada. The Society was established in 1999 and had more than 1,000 members in 120 countries on all the continents, most of them medical doctors. It was also affiliated with WHO. Its main activity is networking. It produces an email journal and organizes congresses world-wide. Last year, a meeting was held in South America with some 8,000 participants. Standards are issued for doctors. Dr. Maria Riehl, a medical doctor attending the meeting, hoped that standards and a publication would soon be issued for Austria so that doctors could advise parents and children where to go for help, as there are many different opinions on treatment amongst doctors.

##### 5. International Day Against Drug Abuse (26 June 2006)

An information sheet entitled "Drugs are not child's play, 26 June 2006, International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" printed from the UNODC website, was distributed at the meeting. M. Dummar Frahi explained that UNODC was aiming in particular at children under 12 years who were targets for traffickers and for action in schools. The logo is available in the UN languages as well as in German and Italian, and NGOs were invited to use it in their campaigns. Posters, leaflets and radio spots would be included in the UNODC campaign which will begin on 26 June and continue for one year. Suggestions and action by NGOs during next academic year would be welcomed by UNODC. The only action planned for 26 June was a table in the rotunda to distribute leaflets. However, UNODC would be happy to be associated with any activities of NGOs.

F. Zeidler reported that the local clubs of Rotary International have begun an initiative of Youth without Drugs and were planning the education of teachers and young children in kindergartens. This action started last year during the 100-year anniversary of Rotary International and has been assisted with funds by the Red Bull drinks company. F. Zeidler suggested that a presentation could be made in the rotunda of this project next autumn or winter after it has been running for a while. M. Dummar Frahi indicated the interest of UNODC not only in a presentation at the VIC but also outside the UN.

Dr. F. Poldrugo said that the International Society of Addiction Medicine was working with parents, providing advice as a doctor/friend. Children usually prefer to discuss their problems with doctors rather than teachers.

The Chairperson pointed out that there was no urgency because the activities of UNODC were continuing for a whole year. If other NGOs were undertaking activities in this field, the Committee could consider producing a small brochure. The fact that its member organizations carried out activities fostering the work of UNODC would be good publicity for the Committee.

#### 6. Update on Fourth International NGO Forum

M. Perron had reported before the meeting that the website he was having prepared for the Committee and the Forum was nearly ready, and he would send the draft soon.

##### (a) Meeting on 16 March 2006

T. Legl briefed the Committee on the activities of the Steering Committee of the International Forum which met during the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It had been agreed that M. Perron would chair the Steering Committee with T. Legl and G. Jeremiah (New York NGO Committee) as Vice-Chairmen. I. Szabolcs would be the Treasurer with assistance from the Finance Officer of CCSA. B. Walsberger would act as Secretary with additional paid assistance as required. The Steering Committee would meet twice a year.

A Programme Committee had been set up with D. Turner as Chairman. It would get together usually by email or telephone, with two meetings per year to be held within the framework of other international meetings. The next meeting could be held during the conference of the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA) in Edinburgh from 3 to 8 September 2006. The task of the Programme Committee was to operationalize the three objectives already agreed upon for the Forum:

*To provide commentary on NGO achievements connected with the seven UNGASS action plans, providing data as a basis (objectives, outputs, impact), possibly at regional levels in view of the varied types of success in different areas to identify gaps based.*

*To discuss successful interfaces between NGOs and the UN and to recommend one for adoption by the CND.*

*To review the Conventions and commentaries on these with a view to define a series of high level principles that would be endorsed by all NGO's and serve as a guide for members of the CND in their deliberations on global drug policy.*

The following report to update the Committee on activities since the Steering Committee meeting had been sent by D. Turner:

*Together with M. Perron, I have mapped out some priority areas for action in relation to the themes, objectives and outcomes of the Forum, and am currently reviewing these with the aim of submitting a paper for consultation to the Programme Committee.*

*As part of this process I have also started to examine the relations between various UN organisations and NGOs and the preparation/consultation processes which have been followed for other UN conferences and UNGASS reviews, including NGO participation in the conference/review.*

*Work has also begun on drafting possible instruments for formal consultation with national and international NGOs on progress in implementing the action plans and political declaration approved by the UNGASS. These instruments will also be sent to the Planning Committee for consultation and subsequent revision.*

*The aim is that individual members of the Committee will be expected to take responsibility for some specific task or tasks. A draft document will then be circulated to all members of the Committee for comment within a set time. Comments will subsequently be considered and a revised draft prepared with the aim of approval by the Committee, either through a tele-conference or at an 'in person' meeting.*

#### (b) Funding

The budget for the preparation of the Forum had been set at 650,000 euros which could possibly be trimmed down later. A first donation had been received of 3,000 euros from The Senlis Council. In March 2006, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission from Canada (M. Finnerty) and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (M. Perron) had each donated 40,000 euros. The Treasurer was requested to open a sub-account as soon as possible for these funds.

The Chairperson referred to the NGO meeting in November 2005, when she had asked all members to approach their headquarters requesting each organization to make a one-time donation of 1,000 euros for the Forum. This point would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### 7. International CONGO Board Meeting, Vienna, 22-23 August 2006

As a result of problems with his computer, F. Gerhar, Vice-President of CONGO, had not received the Committee's invitation to attend the meeting and, therefore, no briefing could be given on this subject.

8. Any other business

(a) General

M. Dummar Frahi warned the meeting that the date for the UNGASS event during the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2008 had not been changed as yet. In this case, the Forum must take place in 2007.

T. Legl reported that two international conferences would be held this summer. The **2nd Conference of Democracy Cities and Drugs** would be held in Gent, Belgium on 2 June 2006 to discuss local and participative responses to the issue of drugs. The project was open for partner organizations and cities, and anyone interested could attend. A copy of the announcement was provided in the meeting room. As already mentioned, the **49th International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA) Conference on Dependencies** would be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, from 3 to 8 September 2006.

(b) NGO Committee Meetings in 2006

**Friday, 22 September** (Nominating Committee to be set up)

**Friday, 24 November** (election of the Board)

The Chairperson closed the meeting by wishing everyone a nice summer.

Barbara Walsberger

Secretary

Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs