

A healthy planet



For future generations

BOARD

President Ingeborg Geyer (Zonta International)

Vice President Brigitte Landesmann (WIZO)

Secretary Sieglinde Teuwen (VFV)

Deputy Secretary John Clark (WUPJ)

Treasurer Marion Prechtel (Soroptimist International)

Vice Treasurer David Menham (SERVAS)

<https://ngocsdvienna.org/>

NGO Committee on Sustainable Development VIENNA

REPORT 2023

Leadership of the Committee

President: Ingeborg Geyer, ZONTA International (2nd term)

Vice President: Brigitte Landesmann, WIZO

Secretary: Sieglinde Teuwen, VFV

Deputy Secretary, John Clark, WUPJ

Treasurer: Marion Prechtel, SOROPTIMIST International

Vice-Treasurer: David Menham, SERVAS

Auditor: Elisabeth Francis, GWI

This year started with challenges in both administration and leadership. In order to be able to access the deposits of the former account holder, late Ilona Graenitz, an association had to be founded under Austrian law. The statutes were submitted for approval on November 11, 2022 to the Austrian authorities. Since December 16, 2022 the Committee is officially registered in the Austrian register of associations („Vereinsregister“) under number 1242799274. This was also the precondition for being able to set up a corresponding account.

In January 2023 we elected a new board and finalized the transfer to the new account in March 2023. Our secretary and webmaster Roland Leithenmayer passed away end of March. So, the Committee had to elect a new secretary in May and look for a new webmaster.

The Committee lost unexpectedly two dedicated members, who were very much involved in Committee activities:

Marlene Parenzan (IBPW) passed away on December 25, 2022. She chaired the nominating committee for the elections in January 2023. We are missing her strategic, international and articulate thinking, as well as her wealth of information about UNO matters. She was a mainstay of the Committee and the Vienna NGO community.

On March 26, 2023, we lost our secretary Roland Leithenmayer (VfV). He served as deputy secretary from 2016 to 2020. In 2016 he set up the website and supervised it continuously. He was passionate about creating a platform for the exchange of knowledge on topics related to sustainable development.

Thanks to outstanding solidarity and commitment of the board and the members we were able to solve the problems and can look back on successful activities.

Aims and objectives of the Committee

As a substantive committee of the Conference of Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, the aims of the Committee are to:

- a) Focus on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development.
- b) Provide a forum for NGOs interested in discussing and analysing the work of the UN intergovernmental bodies active in the field of sustainable development, as well as in related activities of the Vienna-based UN organisations.

- c) Encourage new initiatives and seek input into civil society's contribution to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in September 2015.
- d) Facilitate liaison with the United Nations organisations and agencies working in the field of sustainable development.

Membership of the Committee

Currently the Committee on Sustainable Development has 30 member organisations with each organisation having at least one representative. The amount of the annual general membership fee is 30,-- EUR.

Committee meetings

General Assembly 17 January (online)

Report of the chair, discharge of the board and election of a new board

Elected board:

President: Ingeborg Geyer, ZONTA International (2nd term)

Vice President: Brigitte Landesmann, WIZO

Secretary: Roland Leithenmayer, VFV

Deputy Secretary, John Clark, WUPJ

Treasurer: Marion Prechtel, SOROPTIMIST International

Vice-Treasurer: David Menham, SERVAS

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Monthly Meeting 14 February (hybrid)

Lecture by **Brigitte Landesmann: Building Bridges in Biomedical Sciences**

Reports from member organisations

Monthly Meeting 11 April (hybrid)

Presentation and discussion of the book **Global Governance and the Emergence of Global Institutions for the 21st Century** with the authors **Arthur L. Dahl** and **Maja Groff**

Monthly Meeting 9 May (hybrid)

discussion about our new website

Extraordinary General Assembly 31 May (online)

Appointment of Secretary Sieglinde Teuwen (VFV)
to replace Roland Leithenmayer

Monthly Meeting 19 September (hybrid)

Welcome of new members:

Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Kennis: Knowledge for Safety and Good Governance

Herbert Paulischin, International Federation of Social workers

Gerda Beck, Inner Wheel

Reports from member organisations

Monthly Meeting 10 October (hybrid)

Presentation by **Shaza Alrihawi: Seeking Asylum – Addressing Human Rights Violations and Protecting Refugee Rights from Lived Experience Perspective.**

Welcome of special guests

Kent Mc Cully, SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

Hamsavahini Singh, SERVAS INTERNATIONAL

Reports from member organisations

Monthly Meeting 14 November (hybrid)

Welcome of new members:

Doris Wydra (IFBPW)
Reinhild Strauß (GWI)

Unfortunately, Eleonora Musco was unable to give the planned presentation on the Carpathian Convention. COP7 – Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention Reports from the chair and member organisations

Joint Activities with NGO CSW Vienna, the Alliance of NGOs, and others

CSW 67 Orientation Day, 7 March (online)

Vienna Consultation Day organized by NGO Committee on CSW, SDC, Alliance of NGOs with UNEP: **Bridging the gender gap in rural mountainous regions – challenges: digitalization as one opportunity**

CSW 67 Parallel event, 9 March (online)

Gender Gaps in Cybersecurity

Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of CoNGO in Vienna, April 28 (hybrid)

First Global Commemorative Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of CoNGO in Vienna

Exhibition booth at CCPCJ 32, 22 – 26 May

Stop non-state torture info video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWtNOjwrAnI&t=20s>

Side Events at CCPCJ 32, 25 May (hybrid)

- Gender-Based Violence - Rethinking the Definition of Torture
- Ending harmful practices: preventing violence and ensuring access to justice – good practices

Excursion Wednesday 14 June

visit of the **Exhibition of Yasmeen LARI** at Architekturzentrum Wien

Panel Discussion and Art Exhibition at UN Vienna 14 July

Youth Skill Day *From 2023 to 2030: Building Collaboration*

Excursion September 20 and September 28

Sustainable Vienna Walking Tour

Inter-active Discussion 28 September (hybrid)

Women's Rights are Human Rights! Briefing with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women **Reem Alsalem**

Excursion 10 October

Visit and briefing at the **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**

Inter-active Discussion 8 November

Meeting with Finnish Students' NGO "Friends to UN" at Café Diglas

Briefing 22 November

Discussion with Civil Society Unit and Human rights NGOs of Turkey at UN Vienna

Vienna Human Rights Conference and Human Rights Fair 10-11 December

advertising the flyer of the working Paper Stop Non-State Torture: Enforcing Human Rights for Everyone https://crimealliance.org/resources/documents/76_Working_paper_NST.pdf

Joint Meeting 14 December (hybrid)

Panel discussion with **Helga Konrad, Zoi Sakellidou, Shams Asadi: The linkage of Human Rights and Human Trafficking of children and women**

For more details and relevant presentations visit <https://ngocsdvienna.org/>