

*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 - 2024

### A. Current substantive NGO Committee rules and membership

- **NGO rules** see attachment
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- **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

The Committee lost in this biennium 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.

### B. Current substantive NGO Committee Officers and their terms of office

2023 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 to look for a new webmaster. Elections of the Board 2025 – 2026 will be held on December 3 2024.

#### - **Leadership of the Committee 2023 - 2024**

**President:** Ingeborg Geyer, ZONTA International (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

C. List of activities (programmes, seminars, briefings, publications, advocacy vis-a-vis relevant entities of the United Nations System, collective work with other substantive NGO Committees

- **Committee meetings**

**General Assembly 17 January 2023** (online)

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

Elected board:

President: Ingeborg Geyer, ZONTA International (2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Auditor: Elisabeth Francis, GWI

**Monthly Meeting 14 February 2023** (hybrid)

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

Reports from member organisations

**Monthly Meeting 11 April 2023** (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 2023** (hybrid)

discussion about our new website and banner

**Extraordinary General Assembly 31 May 2023** (online)

Appointment of Secretary Sieglinde Teuwen (VFV)

to replace Roland Leithenmayer

**Monthly Meeting 19 September 2023** (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 2023** (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 2023** (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

**Monthly Meeting January 16, 2024**

**Briefing with Mary Church (CIEL)**, an internationally recognized advocate for radiation-exposed individuals who are bearing consequences due to the nuclear exposure from testing of nuclear weapons. Nuclear contamination especially during the time of the cold war, not only due to nuclear weapons, nuclear testing, but also to Uran mining and the deposit of nuclear waste is a world-wide legacy.

**Monthly Meeting 13 February 2024**

Discussion of the committee activities in 2024, NGO CSD website, Zoom licence, Banner: the text has been approved, Side event proposal

**Monthly Meeting 9 April 2024**

**Conversation with Joschka Selinger**, Lawyer and Head of the Work Area "Democracy and Fundamental Rights" of Gesellschaft für Freiheitsrechte (GFF)

**Monthly Meeting 30 April 2024**

**Excursion** to IIASA in Laxenburg - Sustainable Development and Wellbeing

**Monthly Meeting 21 May 2024**

Briefing with Maria Meiler: Sustainability in business practice

**Monthly Meeting 21 June 2024**

**Excursion** to Vienna Climate Biennale 2024: Design with a purpose

**Monthly Meeting 21 September 2024**, Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) Vienna

**Applying lessons from social and personality psychology to sustainable development: NGO Committee on Sustainable Development meets the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)** with Friedrich M. Götz, PhD Assistant Professor in Social/Personality Psychology; University of British Columbia, Jana Berkessel, PhD Post-Doctoral Research Fellow; Mannheim Centre for European Social Research & Andrés Gvirts, PhD Assistant Professor in Marketing Technology and Innovation; King's College London

**Monthly Meeting 8 October 2024**

Reports and updates of conferences. Poster presentation by Wolfgang Beiglböck (IAAP) in September at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Development in Rome, see [Proceedings Book of Abstracts 112h ICSD 2024](#); current trend in Sustainability Science is to focus on education and awarenessraising in schools and universities, developing guidelines for and training of youth. There is a special project at the TU in Graz. [Joint International Master in Sustainable Development - Universität Graz \(uni-graz.at\)](#)

**Monthly Meeting 5 November 2024**

Lecture by Landscape architect MARIA AUBÖCK: Resilience of public space? *Considerations for the planning and development of public spaces in the face of climate change.*  
Preparations of General Assembly, slate of candidates

**Monthly Meeting 3 December 2024**

General Assembly, election of the new board 2025 – 2026:

Chair: Anna Alvazzi del Frate IADL/KENNIS  
1st Vize Chair: Marion Prechtl SI  
2nd Vize Chair: Brigitte Landesmann WIZO (second term)  
Secretary: David Menham Servas International  
Vize Secretary: Sieglinde Teuwen VfV  
Treasurer: Elisabeth Francis GWI  
Vize Treasurer: Ceja Gregor-Hu IIW

2 Auditors to be appointed  
Hannes Ludwig OSMITH  
John Clark WUPJ

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

**CSW 67 Orientation Day, 7 March 2023** (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 2023** (online)

**Gender Gaps in Cybersecurity**

**Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of CoNGO in Vienna, April 28 2023** (hybrid)

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

**Exhibition booth at CCPCJ 32, 22 – 26 May 2023**

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

**Side Events at CCPCJ 32, 25 May 2023** (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 2023**

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

**Panel Discussion and Art Exhibition at UN Vienna 14 July 2023**

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

**Excursion September 20 and September 28 2023**

Sustainable Vienna Walking Tour

**Inter-active Discussion 28 September 2023** (hybrid)

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

**Excursion 10 October 2023**

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

**Inter-active Discussion 8 November 2023**

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

**Briefing 22 November 2023**

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 2023**

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](https://crimealliance.org/resources/documents/76_Working_paper_NST.pdf)

**Joint Meeting 14 December 2023** (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/>

**Meeting of NGO CSW Vienna and NGO CSD Vienna, WILPF**

**22 February 2024** HausWirtschaft, Bruno-Marek-Allee 5, 1020 Wien (hybrid)

*Perspectives on the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and future activities*

The discussions at this meeting, as well as the declaration and decisions adopted by states parties, show a firm commitment to advancing work to stigmatize and eliminate nuclear weapons. There is much to be done for the achievement of nuclear abolition, and the obstacles can sometimes feel unsurmountable, especially amidst rampant nuclear weapon modernisation, abrogation of arms control treaties, and threats of use. But there is another way, another world, that is actively being built by the

TPNW community. The second meeting of state parties adopted several further steps to reach the long-term goal of a nuclear free world.

The Treaty's gender perspective inspires other disarmament instruments and processes and the integration of the work on disarmament with the women's peace and security agenda and other areas such as the SDGs, human rights and development are important ways forward in reaching the goals of global justice and peace.

### **Reception: Women in diplomatic leadership positions in Vienna March 7 2024**

#### **Consultation Day CSW 68 12 March 2024**

Vienna Consultation Day organized by NGO Committee on CSW, SDC, Alliance of NGOs with UNEP Empowering Pastoralist Women in Mountain Areas: Navigating Environmental and Gender Challenges

Mountainous regions in Europe harbour not only stunning natural beauty but also communities deeply rooted in pastoral traditions. In these regions, pastoralist women play an integral role in sustaining local practices, preserving the delicate ecological balance, and contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of their regions. Pastoralist women, as the backbone of these societies, have traditionally shouldered responsibilities ranging from animal husbandry to the preservation of cultural knowledge, making invaluable contributions to the sustainable management of natural resources.

#### **Side event at CCPCJ May 15th, 2024**

The Corporate due diligence Directive

On behalf of NG CSD Vienna ZONTA International invited **Johannes Jäger**, Head of Economics Department, University of Applied Science (Vienna), **Stefan Grabher**, Founder and CEO of Mary Rose GmbH and **Gertrude Klaffenböck**, Project Coordinator of Clean Clothes Campaign (Südwind) to discuss the benefits and shortcomings of the recently adopted European Due Diligence Directive. The new rules require companies and their partners to foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour and to anchor human rights and environmental considerations in companies' operations and corporate governance. The new legislation – though watered down – can be seen an important entry point

- to progress in combatting exploitation and for fair, humane working conditions worldwide, despite remaining loopholes.
- For Labour Unions and Civil Society Organisations to intensify the cooperation between Global North and Global South and to act as controllers and supervisors.
- To trigger the discussion about social responsibility on international level, rethinking of production and consumption, the global transformation of economy and lifestyle.
- For clear and strict rules for companies and consumers

**May 16th, 2024:** Side event at CCPCJ: ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS AFTER NUCLEAR DISASTROUS ACCIDENTS: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES ON HEALTH, ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

#### **Poster presentation at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Development in Rome, 11-12 September 2025.**

Wolfgang Beiglböck (IAAP) introduced the activities of NGO CSD Vienna.

#### **September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Frauenhertz**

##### **Lecture and discussion with Feng Yuan from Beijing Equality**

What developments have taken place for women and girls in China since the 1995 World Conference on Women?

Report of a Chinese feminist about initiatives for equality and against violence against women and girls followed by discussion with Austrian participants in the World Conference on Women in 1995 and with representatives of the co-organizers and on the question: How do we view the developments in Austria since the World Conference on Women?

#### **Meeting of NGOCWS and NGOCSD Vienna 12 December 2024**

Towards a weapons-free world: a progress "report" on current processes including the role of civil society actors

Developing and implementing international disarmament treaties is a long and difficult process. States are slow in making firm commitments and taking actions. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) currently counts only 94 signatories and 73 states parties. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), aiming too regulate the trade in conventional arms, has 116 states parties and 26 signatories that are not parties yet. Furthermore, there is seemingly a continuous modernization of nuclear and other weapons, and a threat to use nuclear weapons during conflicts. In view of the Third Meeting of the TPNW States Parties (UN Headquarters New York, 3-7 March 2025), this event aims to hear from leading diplomats and civil society about progress in those processes. What are the hindrances, the gaps, the next possible steps and what is the contribution of civil society, particularly in the view of disarmament as part of "The Pact of the Future"? How might a Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, as envisioned by "The Pact of the Future" contribute to advancing greater international commitment to disarmament processes?