

**GWI United Nation Representative
Advocacy Report
2019**

GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of United Nations low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

Please bear in mind these five overarching, long-term goals during any United Nations intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these five goals further.

NB: *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, our United Nations Representatives are should always promote all GWI key messages and represent GWI professionally.*

Name: Ingrid H. Szabolcs, PhD.

City of UN Representation: Vienna

Session/meeting attended: (place, date, time, name of meeting)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), 62nd Session plus Informal Dialogue and Side-Events;
14th to 22th March 2019;
Vienna International Centre (VIC)

Subject of session/meeting:

a) The topics of the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were:

(1) Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated Action and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem; (2) Follow-up the Special Session of the General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) that was held in New York in April 2016; (3) Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem; (4) Decriminalizing and destigmatizing of drug users, especially women; (5) Developing a framework in line with Sustainable Development Goals.

b) Topics of the informal dialogue of VNGOC held with the Executive Director of UNODC and with the President of INCB on the 20th March 2019 were:

The discussion with the ED focused on a tool kit developed by UNODC in close cooperation with Embassy of Sweden and on evidence based prevention plans involving children, youth and families that are implemented by UNODC in close cooperation with UN Developing Programme (UNDP) in 30 countries.

The discussions with the INCD President focused on rehabilitation. It is deplorable that 30% of drug users are women, but the rehabilitation rate is only 15%. Regarding the legalization of Cannabis the INCD President emphasized that it is a national prerogative.

c) **Topics of the side events** attended prior to the session of the of the 62nd CND as well as during lunch hours were:

1) *CFTF Civil Society Hearing in Vienna*. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland. The questionnaire developed by CFTF was completed by a number of NGOs describing their role and targets. Unfortunately, due to the scarcity of information statistics do not reflect a broad picture. Efforts will continue.

2) *Working Together – Drugs and Sustainable Development Goals*: The event was co-sponsored by the Swedish Ambassador who mentioned in her introduction the successful past cooperation between VNGOC and UNODC in developing the “Market Place” EDP program for scheduling activities between NGOs. Main emphasis is put on rehabilitation, peer educational programs for children, decriminalizing of drug addicts, especially women. Focal points are Latin American countries, India, Kenya and Nepal. Mr. Esbjörn Hörnsberg, former Chair of VNGOC suggested the involvement of rehabilitated drug addicts as guides for rehabilitation programs.

3) *Aligning Data Collection with UNGASS Implementation and Sustainable Development Goals: Recommendations for a Review of the Annual Report Questionnaire*: The event was organized by the Governments of Canada, Mexico and Switzerland, the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, and the Global Drug Policy Observatory of Swansea University. The original matrix was based on UNGASS 2016 recommendations. After seven national dialogues, a more comprehensive and refined data collection is recommended, focusing on gender and youth data, specific drug groups (e.g. the opium crises in Canada) in order to support governments in making policy decisions. IDPC issued a Civil Society Shadow Report “Taking Stock: A Decade of Drug Policy” that was discussed by various forums and used as a guideline.

Summary of 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs:

The Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr. Yury Fedotov as well as relevant high-level staff of the branches concerned were present at these proceedings. As usual, there were also representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) actively participating. In line with the UNGASS resolution, recognizing the important role the Civil Society (CS) can play in assisting Governments in developing drug control programmes, representatives of VNGOC and other accredited NGOs participated in the meetings.

The Vienna NGO Committee against Drugs (VNGOC) elected as chairperson Mr. Jamie Bridge for a period of two years. Actually, the whole board was replaced. It appears that several of

the about 200 NGO members of VNGOC do not understand their advisory role as Civil Society (CSOs) within the UN environment. Based on the good cooperation between the previous chairperson of VNGOC Mr. Estbjörn Hörnberg and Mr. Yury Fedotov Executive Director of UNODC, all CSO members of VNGOC were treated almost at the same level as Delegates of Governments. Due to a deplorable protest at the VIC premises by CSOs – members of VNGOC - prior to the 62nd Session, the chair even deemed it necessary to issue a statement for “Code of Conduct” for NGOs, and the ED of UNODC was not amused. Please refer to www.unodc.org for the wealth of documents presented at the session.

Intervention by GWI representative:

discussed gender related topics with the delegates of Norway, China, Mexico, and USA as well as with representatives of NGOs and participated in discussion at side-events

How this serves GWI members:

- a. Explain trends in development in this particular subject.
- b. Explain why these trends and developments are relevant to GWI and NFAs.
- c. Outline what needs to be done at international and national levels.

a) Trends and developments:

Documents E/CN.7/2019 /2 to 6 refer Inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem. This item was repeatedly stated. So far, UNODC only cooperates closely with WHO. Cooperation with UNESCO and UNICEF was not apparent during the 62nd CND Session. Furthermore, the Commission is asked to follow-up and review the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in accordance with GA Resolution 68/1. This matter was taken up during the 62nd Session of CND in 2019. GWI should actively participate but it is doubtful whether this will bring results within the framework of VNGOC. Cooperation with the NYNGOC is recommended.

b) Why these trends and developments are relevant to GWI members: Education is a significant factor in drug prevention programs, therefore the cooperation of UNODC with UNESCO and UNICEF are very important. GWI representatives lobbied on several occasions. Please refer to the Side Events.

c) What needs to be done at international and national levels: cooperation with other NGOs in stressing this interagency close coordination is very important and CND sessions provide an appropriate forum. Furthermore, treatment and de-stigmatization of female drug users needs special attention.

Next steps: (What needs to be done)

Continue to represent GWI at events of CND and International Crime and Drug Prevention (INCP) sessions.,