The role of civil society in the international drug control regime

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About Us

• Formal link between NGOs and the Vienna-based drug control entities
• Established in 1983
• Open to all NGOs: broad spectrum of views
• Support NGO engagement in Vienna
• Raises awareness of the debates in Vienna
VNGOC Membership:
231 NGOs around the world
What We Do…

- CND Orientation Meeting for NGOs
- CND Guide for NGOs
- “Informal Dialogues” with key figures at CND
- NGO Marketplace: https://mp.vngoc.org
- Communications and updates on new developments
- Open calls for speakers
- Promoting opportunities to input into UN consultations
A [Very!] Brief History of Civil Society Involvement

1946: The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) established
1954: 6 NGO representatives attended the 9th CND
1983: VNGOC is established
1984: NYNGOC is established
1986/1987: NGO Forums linked to International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT)
A [Very!] Brief History of Civil Society Involvement

1998: UNGASS provided new levels of CS access (NGO Village)
2006: CND resolution on civil society participation (49/2)
Beyond 2008 Initiative:
  - Over 500 NGOs from 116 countries
  - 9 regional consultations
  - Global Forum with 300 NGO representatives
  - Declaration and three resolutions adopted by consensus
A (very) Brief History of Civil Society Involvement

2014: Civil Society Task Force (CSTF) launched for the UNGASS
2015: Global and regional consultations
2016: UNGASS: 11 CS speakers and “contributions” from ~60 NGOs
2018: CSTF relaunched for the Ministerial Segment
        Global survey (~500 NGOs)
2019: Civil society hearings in Vienna and New York
        Conference Room Paper submitted
Number of NGOs attending CND

- **1983**: Creation of the VNGOC
- **1984**: Creation of the NYNGOC
- **2008**: Beyond 2008 initiative
- **2014**: Creation of the CSTF

Source: IDPC (2019)
Strong endorsements of CS role

2019 Ministerial Declaration:
We commit to supporting the Commission on Narcotic Drugs continuing... fostering broad, transparent and inclusive discussions within the Commission, involving, as appropriate, all relevant stakeholders, such as... civil society...
Strong endorsements of CS role

2016 UNGASS Outcome Document:
We recognize that civil society... plays an important role in addressing and countering the world drug problem, and... should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation, implementation, and... evaluation of drug control policies and programmes...
Strong endorsements of CS role

UN system common position on drugs:
We, therefore, commit to stepping up our joint efforts and supporting each other, inter alia...
To promote the active involvement and participation of civil society and local communities, including people who use drugs, as well as women and young people;
The Current Situation in Vienna

- ECOSOC-registered NGOs are “observers” – but can:
  - Attend all public meetings
  - Apply to make oral interventions in the main session
  - Organise and participate in side events
  - Submit written and video contributions
  - Increased NGO representation on government delegations

- Our voice is being heard – thank you!
Thank You!

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