



## TRIENNIAL REPORT OF IFUW REPRESENTATIVES TO ECOSOC IN VIENNA

**Members:** Inge Luxon (Coordinator)  
Gertraude Köcher, Eva Tongue  
**Ad hoc representatives:** Ingrid Szabolcs, Rosy Weiss, *from May 2007*, Ilona Graenitz

During the triennium, team members held special functions:

Ingrid Szabolcs, Treasurer of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs  
Eva Tongue, Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs

### **NGO Committee on the Status of Women**

The Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women was established, in 1982 under the umbrella of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CONGO). It now consists of about 40 INGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

The Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women cooperates as closely as possible with the NGO Committees on the Status of Women in Geneva and New York.

The Committee not only exchanges information on UN and NGO activities related to women's issues, but also discusses and agrees on joint statements dealing with the issues of improving the status of women and implementing agreed conventions and treaties. It followed closely implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention against Transnational Crime, together with its Protocol. The Vienna Committee also took an active part in the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York.

Activities during the year ranged from support for the creation of a special day to promote international awareness of the sexual mutilation of women in addition to the celebration of International Women's Day with an emphasis on security, development, disaster response and human rights.

In 2008, work concentrated on issues related to women and migration and women in trafficking. Trafficking in Women is embedded in the international process of migration and should be understood in all its complexity, but should not be reduced to the simple version of victims and perpetrators.

Our NGO definition: "the trafficking in women has to be understood as a specific form of violence against women violating women's rights or human rights" was confirmed by the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (supplementary to the Convention Against Organized Crime).

### **NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs**

The Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs cooperated closely with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (QCD) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), which are situated at the Vienna duty station. The Team provided substantive and logistical support to the Committee and drew attention to the fact, that women are both victims and perpetrators of the abuse of substances. Eva Tongue was, again, re-elected Chairperson of this Committee and has played a large role in preparations for the Fourth International NGO Forum on the Review of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Illicit Drugs, which will be held in Vienna in 2008.

## **NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs**

The NGO Committee on Peace conducted, in the course of many years, a great variety of information sessions and interesting discussions on peace education with opinions on international reputation. Recently the following topics were discussed:

- "The Nuclear Supplier Group", presented by Ambassador Roald Naess (Norway),
- "The Open Skies Treaty", presented by Andre Sevigny (Military Advisor to the Canadian Delegation to the OSCE),
- "UN; Efforts to Stop Illicit Small Arms Trade - Towards the 2006 Review Conference" presented, by Mag. Dorothea Auer (Envoy, Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs),
- "Strengthening the Implementation of the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty on Nuclear Weapons) - New Tasks for IAFA?" presented by Tariq Rauf (Head, Verification and Security Policy Coordination, IAEA).

## **NGO Committee on Ageing**

The NGO Committee on Ageing studied the outcomes of the 44th session of the Commission for Social Development and joined other NGOs as well as governmental and private organizations to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons.

## **CONGO**

The Conference of NGOs (CONGO), Vienna, brings together NGOs accredited with the United Nations Offices in Vienna (UNOV), as well with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), all three based in Vienna.

Substantial preparations are under way including an analysis of current efforts to prevent terrorism and its impact on human rights. That enterprise was conducted in cooperation with the Vienna based UN anti-terrorism branch.

CONGO held its 2006 meeting in Vienna. A large number of participants came from countries neighbouring Austria, some of them at the invitation of the Austrian Government. Among the topics addressed were:

- "The long-term perspectives of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime".
- "The Non-Proliferation Treaty of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), its current problems and role".
- "UN relations and events regarding the Commission on Human Rights".
- "The Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)".
- "Contributions regarding freedom of expression/media".
- "Human rights and election monitoring".
- "The peaceful use of outer space".

Inge Luxon (Coordinator)  
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