



Standing Committee
CONF/SC(2020)SYN3

Standing Committee meeting
Monday 4 May 2020
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Remote meeting
Report

Members present: Anna Rurka, Gerhard Ermischer, Anne Kraus, Salomon Levy, Annelise Oeschger, Cyril Ritchie, Katarzyna Sokolowska, Christoph Spreng, Simon Matthijssen, Claude Vivier Le Got, Anne Nègre, Richard Pirolt, Jeremy Mc Bride, lamvi Totsi
Secretariat: Mary Ann Hennessey, Jane Crozier, Ellsworth Camilieri

Apologies for absence: Robert Bergougnan, Miguel Cabral de Pinho, Rares Craiut, Luminita Petrescu, Thierry Mathieu

1. Opening of the meeting by Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs
2. Appointment of the rapporteur for the meeting: Richard Pirolt was appointed
3. Draft agenda – adopted
4. Report of the meeting of 20 April 2020 - adopted
5. Content and planning of the online discussions and webinars to be proposed to INGO members and national NGOs.

The webinars would take place during the week from 22 to 26 June. The Standing Committee members proposed 7 topics for webinars which would be submitted to the INGOs members. The topics are following:

- How to reduce inequalities and poverty throughout the upcoming economic and ecological transitions?
- Let's build a better future together. The Conference of INGOs role in the pandemic and post-pandemic context
- What lessons from Covid-19 should be taken for the topic of education and the digital era
- Migrants and refugees facing the Covid-19 crisis, what lessons are taken for the post-pandemic time
- Women should not pay the price for the Covid-19
- Preparing the Conference of INGOs for the future
- Consequences of the Covid-19 crisis on press freedom.

The INGOs would be invited to make their own proposals. On the basis of the feedback from the consultation, the Standing Committee would work on the content of the digital session and,

in the meantime, the secretariat would look into logistical aspects (time slots, rooms available in Kudo). In addition to the webinars via KUDO, the committees could also organise webinars without interpretation and using other tools.

6. Information on the two online meetings with the Honorary Presidents of the Conference of INGOs

Anna Rurka had held two meetings with the Honorary Presidents of the Conference of INGOs (Claude-Laurent Genty, Daniel Zielinski, Annelise Oeschger, Jean Marie Heydt) in order to discuss the process of the reform and the draft rules of procedure. All Honorary Presidents agreed on the need to find a way to be more dynamic, relevant, flexible and structured and at the same time adopt a stronger bottom-up approach and better connect the Conference of INGOs members with their members (national and local NGOs). The challenges linked to a too strong institutionalized working process, the difficulties in channelling information from the grassroots level, to be timely and productive had been the same since many years.

Regarding the draft rules, Anna Rurka asked the Honorary Presidents to look for any inconsistencies. They found nothing inconsistent or incoherent in the 2nd version of the project.

The Honorary Presidents were also informed about the internal evaluation of the Conference of INGOs being carried out by the Council of Europe Directorate of Internal Oversight.

The Honorary Presidents made the following proposal: the voting on the rules planned for October 2020 should be accompanied by a political statement of the Conference of INGOs regarding civil society's role and contribution during the pandemic and post-pandemic time.

Anna Rurka added that the video messages requested from INGOs (14 replies had been received until now) could help regarding the content.

It was decided that all the Honorary Presidents would be involved in the drafting process.

7. The draft rules of procedure (continuation of discussion) - modalities and organisation of the election of the Chairs of the Committees

At its last meeting, the Standing Committee decided that the Chairpersons of the Committees would be elected by the General Assembly. With regard to the modalities of this election:

- the procedure for the election of the Chairpersons of the Committees would be different from that for the election of the Standing Committee members. The Chairpersons of the Committees would be elected by the General Assembly by a show of hands, without a quorum, by the majority of member INGOs present or represented. Prior registration would be needed to collect voting cards.

The Standing Committee in its current form and composition would continue until April 2021 (next elections). Thus, the current Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Committees will keep their mandate as elected members of the Standing Committee until April 2021.

The new rules will be submitted for vote by the Conference of INGOs in October 2020. The members of the Standing Committee will be elected in April on the basis of the new Rules if adopted or on the basis of the current Rules if the new Rules are rejected. The drafting group will propose the transitional measures concerning the period from October 2020 to April 2021.

These 3 decisions were unanimously adopted.

8. Preparation of the contribution to the evaluation process: feedback on the working meeting

Some members of the Standing Committee held an informal discussion on the type of documents and questions to transmit to the consultant. Simon Matthijssen would send a recap of the discussion to all Standing Committee members.

9. World Forum for Democracy 2020 - preparation of the contribution

The concept note of the Forum would be revised on the basis of the comments received from the different members of the Steering Committee. The call for initiatives would be sent out in a broad sense regardless of the format of the Forum.

10. The appointment of the representative of the Conference of INGOs to the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Marie Salfati (FIACAT) was appointed by the Standing Committee. Voting results: 2 members against, no abstention, adopted by a majority (8 votes)

11. INGO-Service - for information

Taking into account the pandemic, the part of the budget initially devoted to travel costs will be used for communication activities.

12. Any other business: no other business

13. Date of the next online Standing Committee meeting

An informal meeting focusing on the preparation of the webinars will take place on 20 May from 3 to 5 pm.

The Standing Committee meeting will take place after the webinars, before the summer break.