

## **ASSOCIATION OING-SERVICE**

Maison des Associations  
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### **Moral report OING-Service 2023**

**adopted by the General Assembly of 9th April 2024**

Dear Colleagues,

This spring 2024 session was particularly important because it included the General Assembly of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, which elects the President of the Conference, two Vice-Presidents and eight members of the Standing Committee every three years.

New committees have been created, taking their official place within our great organisation. We have come together to take part, as representatives of the member INGOs, in the General Assembly of OING-Service, a mark of our commitment to the Conference of INGOs.

Our moral commitment and our active involvement in our European projects contribute to bringing new ideas, creating links and developing new forms of communication, with the aim of strengthening, through our actions, a Europe that is often criticised and even threatened, but in which we believe and for which we are committed

The Board and the Bureau of OING-Service are composed as follows:

The elected members are:

Annelise OESCHGER, ATD Fourth World, President

Marie-Claire GALIBERT, FIAPA, Vice-president

Heleen JANSEN, IAW, Treasurer

Joyce HERRENT, EYBA, Secretary

These four people form the Bureau and are at the same time members of the Board.

The ex-officio members, who are also members of the Board, are

Gerhard ERMISCHER, President of the Conference of INGOs

Geneviève LALOY, Vice-President of the Conference of INGOs

Simon MATTHIJSSSEN, member of the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs

## 1) MAIN ACTIVITIES

### **- Representation of the Conference of INGOs**

As one of its main tasks, OING-Service reimbursed the travel and subsistence expenses of the representatives of the Conference of INGOs to the various Steering Committees and subordinate bodies, as well as to the North-South Centre. Active participation in these steering committees is vital in order to bring to them the knowledge and point of view of civil society engaged in the respective fields.

OING-Service also reimbursed travel expenses for two and subsistence expenses for one meeting of the Standing Committee in Strasbourg (on the occasion of the April and October sessions).

### **- Civil Society Summit on the Council of Europe**

On 28 February and 1 March, the Conference of INGOs co-organised this meeting in The Hague, the aim of which was to draw up the basis for the recommendation to the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Reykjavik on 16 and 17 May. Under the heading of "specific actions", OING-Service contributed by covering accommodation costs and, most importantly, by providing simultaneous interpretation of the event so that all interested members of the Conference of INGOs could follow the proceedings.

### **- Zoom**

In January, OING-Service took out a subscription to Zoom, a multi-platform videoconferencing service. It is available to the Conference of INGOs, its Standing Committee and its committees, as well as to other bodies linked to the Conference of INGOs. For all these users, use is free of charge. As a result, OING-Service no longer reimburses the use of other videoconferencing services.

### **- Interpreting**

OING-Service works with interpreters who provide their services for a fixed fee, currently €125 per hour started for interpreting services of no specific complexity. The committees can work with other interpreters and are then reimbursed at this same rate.

### **- Webinars organised by the Committees**

Several Committees of the Conference of INGOs have organised webinars for the representatives of their member INGOs and other committed people, to further reflection and action on their issues, but also to support INGOs in contributing more to the application of relevant Council of Europe instruments such as the European Social Charter or the Istanbul Convention. For the following Committee webinars, OING-Service financed the interpretation in 2023: Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child, Environmental and health crisis: governance and solidarity issues, Interreligious and interconvictional dialogue, Environment, climate change, heritage and health, NGOs as defenders of gender equality and women's rights.

### **- Side event to promote the European Social Charter to stakeholders in Brussels/EU**

OING-Service supported the side event "Civil Society Protecting and Advancing Socio-Economic Rights in Europe", organised for the INGO Conference by the Action Committee for Social Rights, on 20 June in Brussels, during which the "Social Rights Tracker", set up the previous year with the support of OING-Service, was presented.

### **- Roadmap for youth participation**

In 2023, the Conference of INGOs' "Youth Delegates" action came to an end. Within this framework, OING-Service has again financed the participation of young people in Conference sessions.

### **- Presidency expenses**

The President of the Conference of INGOs is based in Strasbourg, which gives him a much more constant presence at the Council of Europe to make the voice of civil society heard and consolidate the position of the Conference of INGOs. At the same time, this significantly reduces the Presidency's travel costs and OING-Service is therefore contributing financially to this local installation.

## **2) ACCOUNTS**

The accounts show a surplus of € 2'070 against a budget of €34,000. Reserves stood at nearly €45,000, which is still more than the average annual expenditure.

The number of contributing INGOs has increased significantly: 131 INGOs have contributed a total of €19,700 (2022: 107 INGOs - €16,170). This is an encouraging sign for the work of the Conference of INGOs, which OING-Service strives to support as much as possible.

The Council of Europe grant, paid to OING-Service in addition to direct support for the Conference of INGOs, remained unchanged at €16,000.

Details of resources and expenditure are published in the accountant's report.

## **3) PROJECTS**

OING-Service looks forward to working with the newly elected Standing Committee and to supporting the Conference of INGOs in its new projects and representations.

OING-Service also remains financially at the disposal of the Committees within the amount freely available (including interpretation costs but excluding translation costs) and for dynamic projects validated by the Standing Committee.