



CONFERENCE OF INGOs CONF/AG(2022)SYN2

CONFERENCE OF THE OING CONF/AG(2022)OJ3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

Draft agenda

Wednesday 6 April 2022

09:30 - 12:00

13:30 - 16:00

Hybrid meeting (Room Palais 9 & Kudo)

English/French interpretation provided

Morning session (09.30 - 12.00)

9.30am Opening of the meeting by Gerhard Ermischer (GE), President of the Conference of INGOs

Appointment of the rapporteurs of the meeting

- Genevieve Laloy
- Goran

Draft agenda – Adopted by the members

9.45 Presentation of the committees (half an hour each) :

- 1) INGOs as advocates for gender equality and women's rights (on the Istanbul Convention) - Bettina Hahne and Anita Schnetzer-Spranger

[Powerpoint presentation on role of NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women's rights.](#)

The committee wants to ensure that relevant conventions are disseminated and better known to the members of the CINGO. Defends the rights of women and girls through different themes e.g. women's rights, girls' rights, equal pay, etc.

[Powerpoint presentation on the Istanbul Convention](#)

Not all countries have signed the convention. In October last year the EU agreed it would implement the Istanbul Convention without waiting for all countries to sign it. The convention makes a difference in the lives of women and girls including through national case law. It must be promoted amongst our INGOs and ratified by all countries in CoE.

Recognition of Anje Wiersinga: Gerhard thanked Anje who is attending the CINGO for the last time and who has been so committed to the issue. Standing ovation.

Anje spoke of her long and esteemed life of activism from the 1980s onwards. She noted Istanbul Convention also concerns men who are minority (5-10%) victims of domestic violence.

2. Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child - Michel Grangeat

[Powerpoint presentation on work of the committee](#)

Save the date: 21 June: a webinar and Determination and Assessment of best interests of the child in parental separation and care proceedings.

Statement on Ukrainian children considered the specificity of this migration: men staying behind, creating difficult separations for children and women in families. Need to set up psychological support as well as for carers, social workers and others supporting families.

3. [Environmental and health crisis: governance and solidarity issues](#) - Anne-Marie Chavanon

Speaking at event in Stockholm 2/3 June 2022 : Stockholm +50 : a healthy planet for the prosperity of all. 50 years since environment put on global agenda. We have come a long way. Change is needed now and millions are concerned to act for the environment. The environment is about more than sustainability – includes eco-science, laws, civil society involvement, rights. Civil society actors must take their place and be part of dialogue e.g. within United Nations. Key problem now is not backsliding on implementation.

4. Human rights and artificial intelligence - Gilbert Flam

Focus in committee on human rights and the place of civil society in policy-making. The committee's mandate is to reflect on this in artificial intelligence (AI) theme including implications for equality, sexism, racism, etc, Over ten INGOs now involved.

AI is a strategic issue discussed in all European and international bodies, at the level of the CoE but also at the PACE, the Congress, the EU, Unesco and key other organisations. Each has a different approach to implications and development of AI. Committee seeking to understand all these agendas. The CAHAI is working towards a convention that will mainly the impact on human rights with AI.

Webinar organised in January. The Committee will provide a written report and recording of the webinar. INGO Service provided financial support for Zoom with translation: Solution for translation needed for the future.

Objective of the Committee: for INGOs to be informed in order to be able to intervene in AI in an informed way.

5. Presentation of a new potential committee on education - Arja Krauchenberg, Vice-President, Lifelong Learning Platform - European Civil Society for Education

Committee proposal provided in report to GA. Main role of committee is to highlight the role of civil society in education. Hope to contribute to the work of other committees and holistic approach. Twenty INGOs involved so far, hope more will join.

GE noted the proposal follows request for change to proposal made in October 2022. A lot of work has been done and the Standing Committee supports new proposal. Other members spoke in support of the new proposal.

Vote :

Approval of the new committee: Yes (1 vote against)

Approval of the Chair of the Committee: Yes (1 vote against, 3 abstentions)

12.00 End of morning session – Break 12.00 – 13.30

Afternoon session (13:30 - 16:00)

(Continuation of committee presentations paused for additional agenda item).

Proposal by Gilbert Flam to adopt a statement on the Ukraine war worked on by several members of CINGO in recent days.

CINGO President's (GE) stated the statement is not yet complete/ready. There has not been time to refine it. GE proposes a working group to finish the text after the GA, possibly to create two letters; one regarding countries providing visas and support for Russian human rights defenders; a second supporting sanctions against Russia and ending imports of Russian gas and oil.

Members discussed and agreed a better statement could be created by the approach proposed by GE. Group of members to progress with GE.

Committee presentations recommenced.

6. Interreligious and interfaith dialogue - Gabriela Frey and Sören Lenz

See [Powerpoint Presentation](#)

The committee is a platform for dialogue between representatives of religions and non-denominational organisations and is based on three pillars of CoE. Education plays a key role. [Actions and upcoming activities](#) presented.

7. Environment, climate change, heritage and health - Carol Ritchie

See [powerpoint presentation](#)

Stefania Petrosillo presented as Carol Ritchie unable to attend.

Committee brings together human rights and environmental concerns. Aims to show how conventions of CoE can be tools in this field. Links with other bodies and committees are important. Next event - Roundtable 20 October.

14:30 Final discussion with members chaired by CINGO President Gerhard Ermischer on current priorities and how to proceed in the next six months.

Important to share CINGO news and summary information on meetings and activities on the website for all members to access. Wishes expressed for more sharing of information across members and

committees including through informal sessions (e.g. venues suggested: Youth Centre, Lieux d'Europe or Orangerie). GE noted that there will be an informal interactive session between committees and members in October. Wish for assurance that database of INGOs is updated regularly to facilitate communication.

The importance of youth participation in CINGO was mentioned – including in World Forum for Democracy (7-9 November 2022) in which INGOs are encouraged to participate.

Reflecting on the huge threats and destruction in Ukraine, suggestion made that we consider a service to help INGOs in difficulty to show solidarity from across civil society. We will continue to engage Ukraine organisations in our next assembly.

Thanks to the interpreters, rapporteurs, secretariat and all members for contributing.

15:45 Closing remarks by the President / Date of next session 4 October networking event in Strasbourg ; 5/6 October General Assembly – hybrid format