

CoNGO Board Meeting Geneva

11/5-7/2014 <http://www.ngocongo.org>

The Conference of NGO - Board meets twice a year. This time it was connected with the meeting of NGO committee on the Status of Women - Beijing+20 (11/3-5/2014) in Geneva.

The report of CoNGO-President Cyril Ritchie outlined the recent activities, holding a speech at the DPI-NGO Conference, calling for a high commissioner for the younger generation as approved by the General Assembly of CoNGO in April 2014 and also adopted by DPI.

The reelected president of CoNGO held briefings for the CoNGO-Committees in New York and in Geneva. Vienna will follow in 2015. The UN plans a „Live Museum“ on the event of the 70th anniversary (collection of audio and film files), there is no decision about a location up to now. An Initiative of the Baltic States was launched to declare an international NGO-day by the UN General Assembly.

The **Vice president New York**, Soon -Young Yoon has held informal meetings with DPI-representatives, migration committee on post 2015, NY CoNGO committees should work more together, working group on that issue will be established in NYC.

Vice president Vienna, Wolfgang Beiglböck, reported briefly on the activities of the Vienna Committees. CSW preparing for the meeting in Geneva parallel to CoNGO Board Meeting, Committee on Peace held International Day of Peace, September 21, 2014 in Vienna with a concert of songs against war „Lieder gegen den Krieg“, location was the hall of the former NS-Military-Court in Vienna. The committee on Ageing held 5 sessions dealing with „Social Innovations and Technology for Active & Healthy Ageing“ and organized a side event at the 23rd session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in May 2014 regarding „Burning issues related to crimes suffered by older persons“.

The Committee on Sustainable Development prepared a paper on Human Rights and Sustainable development focussing on decision making systems, distribution issues and resource systems. They plan to organize discussions with relevant UN entities in Vienna and Austrian Ministries and EU Bodies.

The regular CoNGO Vienna Newsletter will be replaced by a new web-based information platform, a new website „congo.vienna.support“ which will go online in December 2014. This new communication platforms determined to improve and enhance the communication between committees and their activities.

Furthermore CoNGO-Vienna is planning an event on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the UN in Oct-Nov 2015.

CoNGO-Board Plans regard finances and accounting system. A new accounting system has been established backed from the website, for the future it will be possible to pay dues on the website via credit card. The financial situation is very tight and new ways of income are planned: friends program, fellows program, legacy program and others.

CoNGO Organisation: has 390 full members, 80 associated members and 43 substantive committees. It is a matter of concern that only 50% of these committees are actually working.

CoNGO Regional Plans: CoNGO Board had been asked to give support for launching regional committees in Asia and Africa. NGOs favoring this and supporters will be collected and preparations for a first meeting are in planning.

Regional committees are supported by interns. It is planned to organize internships and give information on the website also.

UN Activities: main activity and a major topic of concern is the Post 2015 Agenda. NGOs and experts have been very unsatisfied with the draft proposal for the Agenda, especially NGOs claimed they have not been involved in a satisfactory way. NGOs and CoNGO will continue to demand detailed hearings on the agenda topics. Hearings are still to be scheduled, planning to finish before June 2015.

CoNGO schedule: next board meeting during<http://www.ngocongo.org> **first week in May 2015 in New York, 2nd Board Meeting in October 2015 in Vienna, Event 70 year Jubilee of UN in Vienna.**

By Maria Moritz, IFSW-Representative to CoNGO Board, Nov.14/2014