

Terms of Reference for the selection of speakers at VNGOC events

As agreed by the board of VNGOC at its meeting on 3 September 2014

The VNGOC has a long tradition of organizing, hosting and co-sponsoring civil society side events in cooperation with International Organizations and Member State Permanent Missions in its thematic field according to its mandate and its strategic plan.

In the spirit of transparency, the VNGOC board would like to make public the TOR that will be used for the selection of participants in the NGO side events and in the events promoted by UN entities and or Permanent Mission asking for civil society contribution.

Particularly in the process leading to the UNGASS 2016, a considerable number of side event is expected to be run in the period 2014-2016, which will reflect the variety of the NGO contribution to the UNGASS while presenting grass root voices of those active on the drug field around the globe.

The present TOR are not considered exhaustive but provides a framework for action and selection by the VNGOC board, which, in its mandate from the membership, has the last word in the decision.

Whenever time allows it, if the event notice is more than 1 month, the board will contact the membership informing of the possibility and asking for nominees. A prompt reply by the membership is required. Suggestions received after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

The leading criterion would be balancing out the thematic areas of NGO action.

The NGO position will be considered and the approach will be balanced according to the following areas of civil society expertise in the drug field:

1. drug prevention
2. recovery oriented drug treatment
3. harm reduction interventions/ substitution therapy
4. youth and gender sensitive initiatives
5. criminal justice and alternative to incarcerations
6. human rights
7. advocacy and lobby

A minimum of 3 of the above mentioned categories will be featured in the event program. If time allows for multiple panels, an attempt will be made to represent all the voices.

Other relevant criteria, which are subordinated to the thematic areas, but will also be taken into consideration:

The geographic balance will always be considered and ideally reached by presenting panelists from Europe, Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

In person presence is always preferable, but in case of limited travel resources participation via Skype or other media might be considered.

Gender balance is highly preferable and will be taken in consideration whenever achievable.