

Dear Members of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC),

We are writing to report on nominations for the Board positions of Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary.

The VNGOC Nominating Committee is charged with examining nominations for the VNGOC Board that are up for a vote, which this year includes the positions of Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary. We review all applications to ensure eligibility to serve on the board, based on the support of a VNGOC member organization, and that organization's good standing in VNGOC.

The following candidates are eligible for the upcoming elections.

Deputy Chairperson

Candidate	Organisation	Region
<u>Augusto Nogueira</u>	ARTM - Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau	Asia
<u>Beatrix Vas</u>	Youth RISE	Europe

Treasurer

Candidate	Organisation	Region
<u>Julie Delvaux</u>	Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth	Europe
<u>Beatrix Vas</u>	Youth RISE	Europe

Secretary

Candidate	Organisation	Region
<u>Asia Almas Ashraf</u>	Drug Free America Foundation	Asia
<u>Karen Cumberland</u>	CCSA - Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction	North America

Statements from the nominees on their rationale for seeking election and the contribution they can offer to the work of the VNGOC are available at the links above and [as a complete PDF](#).

A separate vote for each of the Board positions will be conducted at the Meeting on 26 June in the following order: Chairperson, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Secretary. A simple majority of those voting will be required to elect the Board.

Only VNGOC member organizations in good standing (i.e., paid the 2025 & 2026 membership fee) may cast one vote for each of the Board positions. **Members can participate by voting in real-time (i.e., in person, remotely, or by proxy) or in advance (by completing an online ballot).**

Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs Election Committee

- Cressida De Witte, World Federation Against Drugs
- Edward Carlson, World Federation of Therapeutic Communities
- Hugo Faira, Ares Do Pinhal
- George Ochieng, Slum Child Foundation

- Mousa Daoud, TJADS
- Paulo Thiessen, ACURA
- Peter Moilanen, Drug Policy Centre Sweden
- Stephanie Strutner, Prevention Alliance of Tennessee
- Steve Rolles, Transform

Box: The concept of 'balance' in the context of the VNGOC Board

The VNGOC membership comprises a wide range of different perspectives, views and experiences related to the world drug situation, as well as organisations from all around the world – which remains the greatest strength of the Committee as a whole. It is therefore essential that members feel adequately represented within the VNGOC Board itself, and that the elected officials are from different genders, ages, regions, and backgrounds.

However, the Board elections are a democratic process and reliant on the applications that are received. Furthermore, with just six Board positions available, it is simply not possible to guarantee complete representation, especially from every region of the world. With these challenges in mind, the concept of 'balance' within the Board needs to be implemented in a flexible way. Therefore, the following aspirations should be considered by the Nominations Committee regarding both overall composition of the Board:

- *The six Board members should represent at least four different world regions*
- *Of the six Board members, at least two should identify as men, and at least two should identify as women*
- *The six Board members should represent at least four of the following thematic areas: prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery and social reintegration, drug policy reform, and access to medicines*
- *Of the six Board members, at least one should be a person with current or previous lived experience of drug use, or someone otherwise directly impacted by drug policies.*

VNGOC Board Elections

HOW TO VOTE

only VNGOC members in good standing having paid the 2025 & 2026 membership fees are eligible to vote*



The VNGOC EGM is scheduled for
Thursday, 25 June 2026 at 2PM at the Vienna International Centre
(C0439) and online.

1 REAL-TIME IN PERSON

Each organization **must select one representative to vote for their organization by emailing the name of the voting representative to elections@vngoc.org up to 24hrs in advance of the meeting.**

Representatives can pick up the voting form at the beginning of the meeting. Votes must be registered on the official form that is provided and submitted confidentially to the Election Committee during the relevant agenda item.

2 REAL-TIME VIA MS TEAMS

Designated representatives participating remotely will need to register their votes through a message to the nominations committee.

All members wishing to vote remotely **must email elections@vngoc.org no later than 4hrs before the start of the meeting.**

3 REAL-TIME VIA PROXY

Member organizations unable to participate in the AGM, may assign their voting rights to representative of another member organization in good standing who will be attending in person.

Proxy assignments must be **submitted to the VNGOC before Wednesday, 24 June at 11.59PM CEST using the official online form**. A designated representative may hold a maximum of three (3) proxy votes.

4 IN ADVANCE E-VOTING

Member organizations unable to participate in real-time may submit their votes in advance between 24hrs and 1hr before the start of the meeting, specifically between Wednesday, 24 June 2PM CEST and Thursday, 25 June, 1PM CEST.

Members interested in voting electronically in advance should send an email to elections@vngoc.org to receive instructions and an individual voter key.