



Events unfolding from
the **Spiritual Caucus** to the
NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns
a Committee of the 'Conference Of NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations' CoNGO
AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENEVA

What is the Spiritual Caucus?

The Spiritual Caucus was created a few months after the tragedy of 11th of September 2001 as an initiative of a few people feeling the need to address world issues in a new and different way, shifting from the material to the spiritual paradigm. The Spiritual Caucus is a forum of organizations and their representatives interested in bringing the many different aspects of the Spiritual dimension in all areas of the UN agenda and global public policy. It is grounded in the recognition of the importance of spirituality to a future of inner and outer peace, respect and dignity for all. Through the organisation of events, the publication of the document series, the creation of a clearinghouse, it is committed to keep the knowledge and wisdom of the spiritual perspective alive and transmitted throughout time.

The Spiritual Caucus membership consists of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and members of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO). at the United Nations in Geneva which are willing to include the spiritual dimension in their work and policy. Participation is open to other international governmental or non-governmental organizations as well as civil society individually or collectively wishing to participate and aspiring to the same goals. Links and collaboration with other NGOs and UN organizations in New York and Vienna has also been established.

Mission Statement

The Spiritual Caucus aims at bringing the spiritual dimension in all areas of the UN agenda and of public policy by encouraging a spiritual perspective within the international community and making written contributions for inclusion in United Nations declarations and programmes of action relating to spirituality and peace at all levels.

The Spiritual Caucus envisions a global society where there is compassion, love, friendliness, enthusiasm, a feeling of belonging and oneness with all life, as well as commitment, service and responsibility. These spiritual values are common to all faiths, cultures and traditions, are universal in nature and transcend the boundaries of religion and of nationality. These imperatively need to be either reawakened, nurtured or sustained for the advancement of the world.

The Spiritual Caucus recognizes that an emphasis on spirituality is a key factor in providing common solutions to the societal ills of the modern world, such as human rights violations, lack of distributive justice, inner and outer poverty, destruction of the planet, injustice through racism, religious intolerance and all forms of discrimination, conflict, violence, terrorism, and war.

Religions, cultures and traditions around the world use silence, contemplation, prayer, reflection and meditation to ensure inner peace, well-being and to uplift individuals, families, communities, nations and life on earth, so that the finest and highest human qualities are self-realised and the full potential of human life can be expressed and preserved. The Spiritual Caucus facilitates dialogue bringing people together to reach a higher level of consciousness and responsibility for our common global values and commitment to improve the state of the world.

Goals

- **To share information and understanding** about the various religions and spiritual traditions in order to create understanding and respect, and to share experiences of spiritual practices and inner peace
- **To participate in the work of the United Nations and in international conferences** by:
 - encouraging a spiritual perspective within the international community and making written contributions for inclusion in United Nations declarations and programmes of action
 - promoting the right to lead a spiritual and religious way of life in full respect of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Life on Earth

- developing and implementing programmes relating to spirituality and peace at all levels
- creating a global network of participants
- **To organize events** in order to initiate dialogue between religious and spiritual dignitaries, speakers from UN agencies, UN missions, NGOs, civil society, private sector, media, etc.

Launching of the Spiritual Caucus, United Nations Day, 24 October 2002

Creation of a Path for Peace around the United Nations

The launching of the Spiritual Caucus took place in the garden of the United Nations on 24th of October 2001, with *the inauguration of a path for peace marked by putting up the name of 108 trees circling the United Nations*, which would allow delegates and NGOs to stroll around the United Nations and recognize the importance of peace, to facilitate the state of peace through linking with a peaceful environment for the world and their work for humanity. [Map \(PDF\) of the UN Peace Path](#)

Outcome of one year of activities

After one year of intense activities, the Spiritual Caucus has been producing a momentum and discussion about the values of the spiritual dimension of the human as well as the work on development and human rights. Many conferences have led to reports that were widely distributed and are still the basis of further discussion on the link between religious and spiritual dimension and the work in the United Nations.

The Spiritual caucus consequently created the demand to be formalized by a group of 30 NGOs. After some long talks, the decision to put up a new committee was decided under the name of "NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns", it was accepted by the Board of CONGO, end of November 2002.

The many events and reports realized have set a new trend in possible dialogues within the United Nations, with NGOs and the public. We summarize below a few of those events, documents are available upon request.

Events of the Spiritual Caucus during 2002

- **Creation of the Geneva Spiritual Appeal Group** - April 2002
- **"The Geneva Spiritual Appeal: An Instrument for Peace?"** – 22 April 2002
Public Conference during the Commission on Human Rights, United Nations Geneva,
 - Reverend Dr William McComish, Dean of the Cathedral, initiator of the Appeal
 - Steve Bernard, Director, Geneva Welcome Center, co-writer of the Appeal
 - Hafid Ouairi, UN representative of the Muslim World League, also spokesman of the Islamic Cultural Foundation and Mosque of Geneva
 - Venerable Mujin SUNIM, Buddhist nun; Vice-president, International Buddhist Center
- **"The Spiritual Dimension in Health"** – 17 May 2002
Brainstorming Session during the WHO World Health Assembly at the UN Geneva
- Two Panel Discussions* during World Forum of Civil Society, ICCG, Geneva – 17 and 18 July 2002
- **"Religion, Spirituality and the Environment: A Key Component for Johannesburg?"** (Document series no 2)
- **"Intergenerational Cooperation : Vital Backbone for Our Future"** (Draft document available)
- **"Integrating the Spiritual Dimension of Sustainable Development into the Work of the UN"**
UN World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa - 30 August 2002
- **"Prayers for Humanity"** 11 September 2002 - A *Ceremony*
co-organisation of an Interfaith Ceremony at the Cathedral of Geneva - (booklet available)

• **“September 11: Self-Realization – as a Challenge to Expand Inner Peace to Humanity”**; 11 September 2002- *Panel Discussion*, United Nations Geneva

• **Peace Bell Ringing Ceremony at the United Nations Geneva**, September - *Ceremony* in honour of the International Day of Peace – 21 September 2002

Series: Dialogue with Religious and Spiritual Leaders:

• **“Spiritual Leaders share Wisdom”**, 26 September 2002- H.H. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar; Founder Art of Living Foundation, at the Hotel President Wilson, Geneva

• **“Spiritual Leaders share Wisdom”** October - Dadi Janki, International Head of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, at the World Council of Churches, Geneva

Series: The Spiritual Dimensions in Global Policy:

• **“Spirituality and Global Public Policy”** 19 November 2002, *Public Conference* by Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, Special Representative of the World Bank Group to the United Nations and to the World Trade Organisation, United Nations Geneva (document available)

Series: The Spiritual Dimensions in Health:

• **"Path to Health, Traditional Medicine and Spiritual Dimensions in Health"**

• **"The Healing Breath"** Dr Vinod Kochupillai

• **Spiritual Education as a Human Right**, *panel discussion*

Working Groups on Specific Issues:

• The Spiritual Dimension in Health working group

• Spirituality and the Environment working group

Events of the Values Caucus during 2002:

Human Values and Human Rights, Bertrand Ramcharan, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

Human Values and Globalisation, Iranian Experiences. H.E. Ali Khorram, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Creation of the official NGO committee “Spirituality, Values and Global Concern” composed of more than 24 NGOs with consultative status with the United Nations and under the umbrella of the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO)



Preparatory Meeting of the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns

November 21, 2002, UN Geneva, NGO lounge

Minutes

Renate Bloem, President of the Conference of NGOs (CONGO), advised us on how to operate as a committee of CONGO. She explained that we would need to have rules and procedures in accordance to the CONGO rules.

Membership of the Committee is open to NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN, members of CONGO. Participation is open to NGOs, government officials, UN civil servants, UN missions, organizations, and individuals that are willing to include the spiritual dimension in their work and policy.

Ms. Bloem stressed that she is not a member of the committee as the President of CONGO, but is as a representative of her ECOSOC accredited NGO World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Ms. Bloem emphasized the importance of getting proper accreditation for visitors wishing to attend meetings of the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns.

We need to reflect on how we would like to establish ourselves as a bureau. In order to run effectively, committees should have a Chair and Secretary. CONGO works on a rotating basis. Officers hold three years terms then there should be elections for new officers. It is possible for an officer to run 2 three-year terms, but was not advised, as this would not allow new leadership to development. The Committee has flexibility in terms of choosing to have other officers like Co-Chairs, Vice Chair and Treasurer. Though it is recommended to have a Treasurer, if the group would like to raise funds.

The Committee could ask for dues. In New York most committees ask for \$25. Sometimes special committees ask for \$180 Swiss Francs. Ms. Bloem stressed that it was up to us. If the committee wants to be proactive and charge membership funds it can.

(Les Amies has status where one can receive funds.)

Ms. Bloem said that the correct protocol for a new NGO CONGO committee is to have CONGO send out the invitations for the first meeting.

Ms. Carlotta Segre from the United Nations Information Service offered to send spread the word about the new committee to the NGO community.

There was a discussion on what our role as a Committee at the Commission on Human Rights can be. It was suggested that Committee Members could not speak on behalf of the committee but sign on as an individual organizations. We decided to research the rules of the Human Rights Commission to better understand the procedure and role of committees.

The group thought it would be useful to exchange information such as minutes with other NGO committees to keep abreast of activities. Ms Bloem also said she would like to see more interaction between the NGO Committees.

We also spoke about having "branches" of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns in New York and Vienna. Ms. Bloem said that since this committee has been adopted already, NGOs that want to join in New York and Vienna are welcome.

It was adopted by the committee that Ms. Astrid Stuckelberger, Ms. Diane Williams, Mr. Werner Peter Luedemann and with the assistance of other members of the committee serve as interim organizers until elections or some sort of consensus is met regarding officers and committee rules and procedures.

Suggestions:

- Circulate the e-mails, addresses and fax lists of everyone in the committee to the whole group
- There was a desire from members of the group that the committee be open and inclusive. A suggestion was made that when decisions are to be taken, the whole group, everyone on our list is included in this decision. If there is an open planning meeting, everyone on our list should be invited to it. This will be explored.
- Have a seminar on the rules and procedures of a NGO Committee.
- Meet with the officers of other NGO Committees for advice.
- Have a consistent time each month for our meeting. Like for example, the third Monday of every month from 1-3 pm etc. so that people can put it on their calendars in advance.
- Announce future meeting at least one month in advance.
- Set up a nomination committee to find out whom is interested and qualified to run for office. Then have these people submit a statement of interest.
- Take our time during this period to really get to know each other to find out who are the most appropriate officers. And to have the best procedures and rules in place for our committee. We agreed to take our time during this process.
- To consider everyone as a leader and not just our future officers
- Development of Advisory Council made up of the Committee members and participants.
- Send out the provisional mission statement of the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns for revision in the committee as a whole or in a working group.

We decided to have our **next meeting** on **Wednesday, December 4, 2002 from 1 – 3 pm** in the NGO Lounge.

The agenda will be:

1. Adoption of the minutes
2. Brief introduction of each member
3. Our common vision for the committee
4. Mission statement
5. Discussion of the draft internal rules
6. Establishing rules and procedures of our committee
7. Nomination of officers and elections (or consensual process)
8. Proposals for future actions
9. Any other business
10. Date of next meeting

Alisa Clarke volunteered to take minutes for the next meeting.

What we need to think about or do in the near future:

- Research CONGO internal rules and procedure so that a working group can form to create the rules and procedures for our group.
- Create a "job description" of officer posts. Ex: qualifications of Chair, Secretary and other positions. After this is done find out who is qualified and interested in being nominated for open posts. Then make a list of the nominees for elections or some sort of consensual process when there is no competition but people are just selected in a thoughtful and consensual way.
- Establish a working group that could prepare the mission statement.
- Review proposals of individuals wishing to create programs through the committee.
- Once the committee and governing body is established, subcommittees can be formed.

Geneva, 25. November 2002

Diane Williams

Astrid Stuckelberger

Werner Peter Luedemann

List of Attendance

Isthar Adler - International Association of Educators for World Peace, isthard@libero.it

Diane Alai'I - Bahai'i International Community, bic@geneva.bic.org

Renate Bloem - World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, rbloem@ngocongo.org
Ursula Barter-Hemmerich - World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, ubarter@swissonline.ch
Laura Chavez - IFUW, Chavez152@hotmail.com
Alisa Clarke - OHCHR, aclark@ohchr.org
Nancy Dargel - World Organization of Former Pupils of Catholic Education, Tel / Fax 022 – 344 07 23
Trevor Davies - Anglican Consultative Council, daviest@mercychips.ch
Karin Maria Hennings - Art of Living Foundation, info@srisriayurveda.de
Laura Leoncini - Sports & Development Networker, lleoncini@yahoo.com
Werner Peter Luedemann - International Association for Human Values, europa@iahv.org
Ana Leurinda - Commission Africaine des Promoteurs de la Sante et des Droit de l'Homme, aleuris@hotmail.com
Lekha Malik - All India Women's Conference, Lekha@bluemail.ch
Margret Mohamed - Bahai'i International Community, bic@geneva.bic.org
Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol - International Federation of Social Workers, mouravieff.apostol@econoprone.ch
Jeanne Salfati - UNCTAD, jeanne.salfati@unctad.org
Rudolf Schneider - Institute for Planetary Synthesis, Institute of Global Education, ipsbox@ipsgeneva.com
Carlotta Segre – United Nations, Information Service, csegre@unog.ch
Clarissa Starey - Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association International
Post only: 19 bis chemin Sous-Bois, CH-1202 Geneva, tel. 022 – 734 79 14, no fax
Astrid Stuckelberger - Society for the Psychological Studies of Social Issues, astrid.stuckelberger@sgg-ssg.ch
John Taylor - International Association for Religious Freedom, echappee@bluewin.ch
Will Taylor - Globalizing Compassion, willtaylor50@hotmail.com
Diane Williams - Temple of Understanding, DMBWilliams2000@yahoo.com



Meeting of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns

December 4, 2002, UN Geneva, NGO Lounge

Participants

Ursula Barter-Hemmerich, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
Alisa Clarke, UNHCHR
Nancy Dargel, World Organization of Former Pupils of Catholic Education
Charles Graves, Interfaith International
Romilly Greenhill, New Economics Foundation, UK
Deva Kaur Khalsa, 3HO Foundation
Marie Thérèse Klein, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University
Laura Leoncini, Sports and Development Consultant
Ann Lindsay, International Association for Counselling
Werner Peter Luedemann, International Association for Human Values
Tim Murithi, UNITAR
R. Pal (for Mala Pal) All India Women's Conference, AFSH/WHO
Conchita Poncini, President, CONGO Committee on the Status of Women
Elly Pradervand, Women's World Summit Foundation
Jeanne Salfati, UNCTAD
Helen Sayers, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University

Rudolf Schneider, Institute of Planetary Synthesis
Carlotta Segre, UNIS
Clarissa Starey, Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association
Astrid Stuckelberger, Society for the Psychological Studies of Social Issues
Jeanette Tantillo, Green Cross International
Will Taylor, Consultant? Globalizing Compassion
Diane Williams, Temple of Understanding
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Apologies :

Isthar Adler, International Association for Educators for World Peace
Manoj Kurian, World Council of Churches
Myrna Lachenal-Merritt, Individual
Ana Leurinda, Commission Africaine des Promoteurs de la Santé et des Droits de l'Homme
Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol, International Federation of Social Workers
Mala Pal, All India Women's Conference
John Taylor, International Association for Religious Freedom
Renate Bloem, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
Raymonde Wagner, AIUTA (new member)
Trevor Davis, Anglican Consultative Council

Werner opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and inviting them to start with a minute of silence.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the minutes and agenda

The agenda as provided was adopted with the following change in sequence to accommodate the early departure of one of the participants:

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the minutes of last meeting and of the agenda
- 2) Welcome & Brief introduction of each member & our common vision for the committee
- 3) Establishing rules and procedures of our committee and Nomination of officers and elections (process of selection)
- 4) Proposals for future actions
- 5) Mission statement
- 6) Any other business
- 7) Date of the next meeting

He then asked for adoption of the minutes and agenda which was accepted by the assembly. .

Agenda Item 2: Welcome and brief introduction of each member and our common vision for the committee

Each participant introduced himself/herself and briefly indicated their organizational and/or personal perspective and interest in participating in the Committee

Astrid Stuckelberger: gave an overview of her work on aging and expressed how important the the ethical and spiritual dimension is an important yet forgotten aspect of ageing and end of life
Nancy Dargel: noted that all human beings are aware of a dimension outside of time and space, to which we all aspire

Clarissa Starey: expressed her concern with the lack of respect displayed at the previous Committee meetings, and hoped that the rules adopted would be abided by

Elly Pradervand: outlined her beliefs about the importance of applying values, and stressed the indivisibility of human rights and spirituality

Helen Sayers: stated that she had not had the opportunity yet to consider the vision she would wish to share with the Committee and noted that she would seek simply to observe at the meeting

Jeanette Tantillo: pointed out that the work of the Committee seemed to parallel the "Earth Dialogues" project being initiated by her organization, Green Cross, and she sought to see how the two could possibly collaborate

Jeanne Salfati: works with the UN Conference on Trade and Development and is a UN staff person

Tim Murithi: works in the area of conflict prevention and peace building and the proposed mission of the Committee thus impacts on his work; he expressed the view that spirituality is humanity seeking peace and harmony

Laura Leoncini: works in the emerging area of Sports in Development and said that as spirituality had come to mean more to her in her personal life she wishes to be part of an organization such as the Committee

Will Taylor: stated that he was forming an organization on "Globalizing Compassion" and said that he was keen to see how such an initiative could interact with the UN

Carlotta Segre: hoped to learn from the group, with particular regard to application to her work at UNIS and beyond

Rudolf Schneider: represented two organisations, Global Education and Institute for Planetary Synthesis, and hoped to explore how spirituality could be applied, notably through teaching by example

Deva Kaur: explained her organizations's work in teaching kundalini yoga and undertaking social projects such as drug rehabilitation. She congratulated Astrid, Werner and Diane for helping to make the transformation from Spiritual Caucus to the Committee and offered her services to the group

Alisa Clarke: works with UNHCHR and sought to play a role in more fully incorporating spirituality in our working lives

Conchita Poncini: as President of the CONGO Committee on the Status of Women has been involved in providing advice to the Committee on CONGO rules and the difference between the Spiritual Caucus and the Committee

Diane Williams: represents the Temple of Understanding that promotes inter-faith dialogue and creating a Spiritual United Nations. She said that she had belonged to the Spiritual Caucus in New York and became involved in the Spiritual Caucus in Geneva when she moved here. She said that for her spirituality was whatever was uplifting

Werner Luedemann: outlined the history of the Spiritual Caucus since its establishment last September 2001 and emphasised that it was a challenge and responsibility for everyone involved. He noted that he saw Conchita as a participant not an observer as was mentioned.

Agenda Item 3:

Establishing rules and procedures of our committee and Nomination of officers and elections

NOTE of AS: after my changes this whole paragraph has to be submitted to Nancy as to my view it does not correspond to what she said but is a wishful interpretation of not sticking to the CONGO rules – it is not what I understand from our phone call of this morning with her!!!

Rules and procedures

Astrid reminded the group that at last meeting Nancy Dargel was asked to help draft the rules and regulations in order to help set the basic documents for the Committee, thanked Nancy and her to present to the group the text.

Nancy Dargel noted that the Spiritual Caucus had become a CONGO organisation on 30-31 October last and expressed the view that the substance of the Caucus had grown over the last year since its inception. She said that the Caucus could benefit from the more than fifty years of experience of the CONGO, and that the Committee would now function under the CONGO rules of a Committee (§ 141ff) although the rules should not be viewed as an impediment to functioning but that CONGO was a body which could be relied on in times of difficulty.

In terms of the principles of the rules, Nancy explained that she tried to draft the internal rules with a view to avoiding a conflict situation with CONGO, but being clear that even if the committee can be open to invite outside persons, the NGOs with consultative status are the official members of the committee and are the only eligible. As such, the vote would not be the primary method, but the Committee would operate through discussion and consensus, drawing on the contributions of all. Only in cases of dispute over an issue would the Committee resort to CONGO and determine if a vote was necessary.

***Nancy does feel that we are committed to elect our executive committee.**

Conchita Poncini confirmed that indeed Committee membership was open to non-NGOs but stressed that they were not eligible for election to office. She suggested that it might be useful to look at the rules and procedures of the other CONGO Committees for the sake of comparison. She also noted that the structure was flexible depending on the wishes of the organization, with the exception of the leadership structure that must include a President and a Secretary. The President would, among other things, ensure that the rules are followed.

Also, in so far as it seemed that the Committee wanted to be more consensus driven, it could also consider the renaming of the various officers, such as "Facilitator" instead of "President" or "Chair". There seemed to be consensus reached on this issue.

Clarissa Starey also noted that it would be useful in addition to a Facilitator and Secretary to have a Co-Facilitator to deputise for or replace the Facilitator, as well as Treasurer once there are financial concerns.

Alisa Clarke raised the question of the nature of envisaged participation for non-NGOs in the Committee, such as UN staff and individuals.

Conchita Poncini advised that this depended on whether participation was as an individual or as an official representative, and in the latter case the respective agency would need to be consulted to avoid a conflict of interest given the role of the Committee vis-à-vis the UN. Rudolf stated that he felt it important for the Committee to have as few limitations as possible so as to foster greater freedom and not to have the issue dominate the spiritual work of the Committee. A broad discussion ensued from which a general understanding emerged that non-NGO members would be assumed to be individuals pending any response to the contrary. Further to this, Ursula Barter-Hemmerich suggested that it may be helpful to use the designations of all persons as participants with the classification of "full members" and "associate members", whereby only full members could take part in election procedures.

Astrid asked for Ursula's assistance in reflecting this in the Committee documents.

Alisa Clarke also sought clarification as to whether the Spiritual Caucus co-existed with the Committee. Werner Luedermann confirmed that with the creation of the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, the Spiritual Caucus no longer existed.

The rules and regulation draft project of Nancy Dargel will be corrected according to the group discussions by AS and in consultation with Nancy – and will be submitted to the group at the next meeting to be endorsed.

Nomination of officers and elections

Before setting elections according to the normal and official procedures of NGO committees, some members of the group felt necessary to explore together possible models of how leadership can function and different approaches to working together

Many NGO leaders reported that the classical model of President, vice-president, secretary and treasurer could be modified easily by other terms such as Chair, vice-chair, ... or Moderator, co-moderator, ... or even Facilitator, co-Facilitator, ... but some type of leadership was needed to identify those sending invitations, convening meetings, doing the work of coordination and organizing meetings and events.

Elly Pradervand informed us of the Circle Model that has rotating leadership. This model uses a talking stick so that we can listen from the heart. She encouraged us to do away with the old hierarchical model and create a new paradigm that is a "laboratory in grace" that evokes the spirit and spiritual values. Elly thinks the circle model could work very well when we come up with our internal rules. Others supported the idea of coming up with a new model in line with spiritual principles and values.

The group felt that the term 'Facilitator' would suit most the committee. It was then suggested we discuss the 3 possible group leadership models and if we do not reach a consensus at the meeting a survey could be sent out to select the best model. Many felt that we should be finding a consensus at the meeting rather than postponing even more the consolidation of the committee.

The discussion was open on the following models

Hierarchy Model -

Facilitator
Assistant Facilitator
Secretary
Treasurer

This team of facilitators would be responsible for organizing and running the meetings, getting out minutes and other necessary information, keeping track of records and funds coming in etc.

Circle Model –

Everyone is an equal participant with rotating leadership/moderators at each meeting. Facilitators for the next meeting could be decided in advance. Decisions are made in a circle. There is a talking stick used so that the group is encouraged to listen and speak from the heart.

Rotating Facilitators or Convenors

This model include a permanent team of facilitators that could include the Facilitator, Assistant Facilitator, Secretary and Treasurer so that there is a consistent group accountable for doing the minutes, running the meetings, getting information out etc. with rotating leadership/moderators that could help set the agenda, run the meetings, assist in developing new leadership, using a talking stick from time to time, etc.

Charles Graves stated that the group could choose to have an election or consensus committee. At least 3 or 4 ECOSOC members of the group need to endorse/nominate their preferred candidates. These candidates would then have to decide if they are willing to stand for elections or be considered for a consensus and if so they would accept the nomination by signing a form prepared by the elections committee that they will run. If they decide to accept they would need to present themselves and their organization to the group. Then when all the nominations are in the committee could hold an election. If the group reaches consensus on the best candidates before elections no elections would be necessary. It was advised that Danielle Bridal could serve as our legal advisor during this process. It was stated that people who serve on the elections committee could vote. Elly Pradervand and Nancy Dragel have volunteered to prepare a nomination form.

The group discussed whether we could not clearly distinguish between how we work within the working groups and the way the leadership has to be officially set. It was also strongly suggested we choose a model as most of us are present. After discussion, it was agreed to :

- endorse the leadership model of : Facilitator, co-facilitator, Secretary, Treasurer
- the way we will be working in the future within the group meetings can be discussed at the next meeting but the preference was for

In order to proceed to the selection of the leadership model chosen. The process of election was discussed. As it was mentioned and suggested several times, Nancy Dargel would be the ideal person to set up the process of nomination as she had already been setting up the process of election very successfully for other committees (ie Committee on Freedom of Religion and Belief). The group agreed that we would ask Elly and Nancy to take in charge the election procedures as soon as possible so it would be clear at the next meeting and we could focus more on the work ahead.

4) Proposals for future actions

Elly Pradervand suggested that we have a brainstorming session of our vision for the future work of our Committee.

The ideas were: (see the attached document I prepared and was corrected/accepted by Elly yesterday)

Agenda Item 5 Mission Statement: (see my corrected statement attached made in concordance with the notes taken during the correction procedures)

The group worked on the first few paragraphs of the mission statement and came up with changes and amendements that Astrid will redraft and submit for approval at the next meeting. Individuals that were not present at the meeting or others who wish to improve on the statement are welcome to make their suggestions and contributions.

Preliminary Mission Statement (*to be revised and adopted by committee)

The vision of the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns is that of a global society where there is compassion, love, friendship, enthusiasm, a feeling of belonging, oneness and respect for all forms of life, as well as commitment, service and responsibility. These spiritual values are common to all beliefs, cultures and traditions, are universal in nature and transcend the boundaries of religion and nationality and need to be -awakened, nurtured and sustained in concordance with the Universal Human Rights.

General Goal

The Committee aims at bringing the spiritual dimension in all areas of the UN agenda and of public policy by encouraging a spiritual perspective within the international community and making written statements and contributions for inclusion in United Nations declarations and programs of action.

Objective

The Committee recognizes that an emphasis on spirituality is a key factor in providing common solutions to the societal ills of the modern world, such as human rights violations, lack of justice, inner and outer poverty, destruction of the planet, injustice through racism, religious intolerance and all forms of discrimination, conflict, violence, terrorism, and war.

Religions, cultures and traditions around the world use spiritual practices (i.e. silence, contemplation, prayer, reflection and meditation) to ensure inner peace, well-being and to uplift individuals, families, communities, nations and life on earth, so that the finest and highest human qualities are self-realized and the full potential of human life can be expressed and preserved.

The Committee will facilitate dialogues, by bringing people together to reach a higher level of consciousness and responsibility for our common global values and commitment to improve the state of the world.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 10, 2003 from 1-3pm in the NGO lounge.