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PROPELLING
NGOs
INTO THE FUTURE

NGO ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER ISSUE N° 1 - JANUARY 2013

May 2013 see all our efforts for the betterment of humanity and this earth take form and infuse the new structures humanity and this planet will need to move into an era of abundance, peace, rejuvenation, balance, justice and dignity for all and may

humanity learn to act wisely and with compassion and tolerance so that the environments on all levels can be regenerated.

May each one of us see the wishes of our heart manifest and become reality.

**Happy
!! 2013 !!**

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THE NGO INSIDER

Knowledge in Networking

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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RECENT ACCREDITATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS!

And a Warm Welcome From All of Us at the NGO ALLIANCE

Introducing ourselves

NGO ALLIANCE is a members-only organization of experienced international representatives from a wide range of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), accredited with the United Nations (UN) or related agencies, who have come together to provide information that will enable newly accredited NGOs and their Representatives to be more efficiently engaged with the UN of Geneva (UNOG).

We created NGO ALLIANCE because we recognized a very real need for more information. Like you, we, too, were once newly accredited, and we were unsure about where or how to start working with the United Nations and all its affiliated agencies.

It took many of us years to find our way around, frequently feeling frustrated and anxious with a wish for friendly, uncritical guidance that would enable us to immediately put our passion and expertise to good use.

Eventually, we recognized that the various UN offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna operate in different ways, have different institutional cultures and offer diverse opportunities for NGO participation. Not only that, their objectives, giving the illusion of overlap, are actually often diverse and changing.

Because of past frustrations and countless meetings listening to NGOs expressing similar encounters with the complex architecture of the UN system, we became convinced of the need for targeted assistance to new NGOs to help them integrate quickly and effectively into the UN of Geneva. The work of civil society in Geneva is inherently expensive but it should and can be cost effective.

We have created NGO

ALLIANCE to help overcome the inevitable teething problems associated with penetrating the arcane world of UNOG. Our executive board volunteers *their* time to make *your* time more productive. We provide step-by-step guidance to the UN world that awaits your NGO, offering assistance on how to operate more efficiently during your visits to Geneva.

One of the most useful tools to begin with is our monthly digital newsletter which provides information and insider tips throughout the year on UNOG and related agencies and how they work with NGOs. There will also be a website, accessible to members only, with continuously updated information that you will need while at UNOG.

Why Geneva?

This is a great place for NGOs to begin their UN adventure. While internationally well-known, Geneva is also very manageable in size. It boasts a clean, efficient and affordable public transportation system, facilitating regular access to and from Geneva, as well as the downtown area. In addition, Geneva offers a range of comfortable accommodation options.

Networking

Coming to Geneva allows for crucial networking, including participation in the often collective work of a statement preparation and/or co-sponsorship, and attendance at various parallel events that take place during the human rights council.

We are offering NGOs to make their organisation and activities known through *'their'* page on the NGO ALLIANCE website.

There will also be a page where NGOs can specify the areas or issues

January and February 2013

Calendar of Events

<http://www.unog.ch/calendar>

January 2013

WG Discrimination Against Women

14 to 18 of January

Convention: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cedaw.htm>

Universal Periodic Review WG (15th)

21 January - 1 February

NGO participation:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/NgosNhris.aspx>

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/pages/uprmain.aspx>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BasicFacts.aspx>

February 2013

CEDAW

11 February to 1 March - Room XVI

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/accesstojustice.htm>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WGWomen/Pages/WGWomenIndex.aspx>

Written Contributions:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/WrittenContributions2013.htm>

WG on HR, TNCs and Business

11-15 February

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/WGHRandtransnationalcorporationsandotherbusiness.aspx>

Human Rights Advisory Committee

18-22 February - Rm XX

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B6XUJ0SW4C68cU9HclpHZHh2NUE/edit?pli=1>

Accreditation:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/Accreditation.aspx>

Human Rights Council 22nd Session

25 February to 22 March

NGO participation:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NgoParticipation.aspx>



The Human Rights Council

WG Discrimination Against Women was established by the HRC in 2010 as there has been insufficient progress related to the Convention on the Elimination of ALL Forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**) which is often described as an international bill of rights for women.

Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

Universal Periodic Review - UPR The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a HRC driven process, which assesses the actions States have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations. The UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed. The ultimate aim of this mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur.

The **Human Rights Advisory Committee**, composed of 18 experts, has been established to function as a think-tank for the Council and work at its direction. The Advisory Committee replaces the former Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The **Human Rights Council** is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them.

Documents and Reports for 22nd Session of the HRC

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session22/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

Human Rights for Everyone, Everywhere

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/Leaflet_OHCHR_EN_print.pdf

" **Provisional Calendar and Annual Programme of Work 2013** "

Login: hrc extranet - Password: 1session

OHCHR

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

OHCHR represents the world's commitment to universal ideals of human dignity. They have a unique mandate from the international community to promote and protect all human rights. The High Commissioner for Human Rights is the principal human rights official of the UN.

As the principal United Nations office mandated to promote and protect human rights for all, OHCHR leads global human rights efforts and speaks out objectively in the face of human rights violations worldwide.

They provide a forum for identifying, highlighting and developing responses to today's human rights challenges, and act as the principal focal point of human rights research, education, public information, and advocacy activities in the United Nations system.

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The Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 States. It is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

Special Procedures

is the mechanisms established by the Human Rights Council to address specific issues in all parts of the world.

It calls on mandate holders, e.g. Special Rapporteurs or Independent Experts to examine, monitor, advise and publicly report on human rights situations.

Thematic Mandates there are 36 thematic issues that are addressed by the HRC



Palais Wilson
Geneva: Headquarters of the
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Country Mandates address human rights situations in specific countries or territories.

Special Procedures

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcompage.aspx>

Universal Periodic Review

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>

Core Human Rights Treaties

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/TreatyBodies.aspx>

Complaint Procedure

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Complaint.aspx>

Civil Society Handbook

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/CivilSociety/Pages/Handbook.aspx>

Civil Society Practical Guides

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

OHCHR Calendar 2013

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Meetings.aspx>

On the Web

OHCHR <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>

What Are Human Rights?

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/WhatareHumanRights.aspx>

HRC - The Human Rights Council

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx>

Thematic Mandates

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx>

Country Mandates

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx>

All Human Rights Bodies

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx>

On You Tube

What is the Human Rights Council ?

<http://goo.gl/ZPN5d>

Who's Who in Special Procedures

<http://goo.gl/94Dkt>

The Story of Human Rights

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oh3BbLk5UIQ>

Introducing...Ms. Virginia Dandan

UN Independent Expert on human rights & international Solidarity

The independent expert on human rights and international solidarity is appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council to develop a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity.

The mandate on of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity was created in 2005 by the predecessor of the Council - United Nations Commission on Human Rights (see resolution [2005/55](#)). In 2011, the Council extended the mandate for a further period of three years (see resolution [17/6](#)).

Stages of Implementation

Ms. Virginia Dandan, has set three stages in the implementation of her mandate: the elaboration of a draft declaration on the right to international solidarity.

The past work is to be understood as Stage One, where international solidarity had been affirmed in various ways, including as:

- a fundamental conception of mutually reinforcing relations among persons, groups and nations;
- an essential binding element that underpinned global partnerships,
- a key approach to poverty eradication;
- an indispensable component of the efforts to realize all human rights, including the right to development, and the Millennium Development Goals.

During Stage Two, Ms. Virginia Dandan will set out to develop standards, norms and principles to guide the draft declaration.

Stage Three will be devoted to elaborating the draft declaration, and will culminate in its submission to the Human Rights Council by 2014.

Ms. Virginia B. Dandan is an internationally recognized expert in economic, social and cultural rights and served as the Chairperson of the UN

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) for eight years, from 1999 to 2007, having been a member of the Committee for twenty years. Ms. Dandan was appointed by the Human Rights Council as the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity in June 2011.



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

What is required now is nothing less than a leap to global empathic consciousness and in less than a generation if we are to resurrect the global economy and revitalize the biosphere. The question becomes this: what is the mechanism that allows empathic sensitivity to mature and consciousness to expand through history? from "The Empathic Civilization" by Jeremy Rifkin

With increasing international integration and interchange arises human connectivity and inter-relatedness. Technological advances have accelerated this coming together of humanity and today we find ourselves linked as never before through global networks that have created a mutual interdependence. Whatever occurs somewhere along this matrix will affect other parts of it. Humanity has truly become responsible for the wellbeing of the planet and all those upon it. Humanity is coming of age.

We are living through times of major upheaval, times requiring new approaches to governance, finance, education, health, development etc. We can keep fighting over dwindling natural resources and keep destroying the earth's ecosystems, bringing us to the precipice of human extinction or we can come together to creatively find solutions that benefit all. Do governments have the wisdom and humanity the collective will to come together to tackle the immense challenges that we are facing during these testing times?

While charity is top-down, international solidarity is expressed through partnership and the resulting cooperation arises from dialogue and understanding. International solidarity is borne out of a need to build a more peaceful and just world where all can live a dignified life. International solidarity is a core-value and it is intrinsically part of all that is being discussed and done at the United Nations.



How to Get Your Annual UN Ground Pass

We explain the process for those NGOs who will be requesting their pass for the first time

First write a letter on the official letterhead of your organisation and send it to New York. Sample of this letter can be found [here](#). Then write a second letter (sample [here](#)) for your Geneva pass and sent either by faxed or scanned and emailed.

The ECOSOC website has changed and it is important to have the details requested from Representatives. These are: Surname - Name - Middle Initial - Permanent Address - Telephone - Place of Birth - Date of Birth - Hair Colour - Eye Colour - Height - Weight - ALSO: First and Last Name and Telephone number of Emergency Contact.

For each duty station (NY, Geneva and Vienna) each NGO can appoint five Representatives (of which one is the Main Representative) and two additional Executive Officers. The NGO can decide to give their Main Representative accrediting rights.

Here are the steps:

- 1) Go to <http://esango.un.org/paperless/Web?page=static&content=designation>
- 2) Second window on right is Civil Society Database and click on NGO Login.
- 3) Log in with NGO username and password and you' will be directed to your NGO page.
- 4) Under Consultative Status scroll down to Designations. Start with NY, then proceed with Geneva and Vienna.
- 5) To confirm an already existing name for 2013 renewal:
- 6) Click on the person's name and at the bottom of the page you will find 'Update'
- 7) Click on "Update" and first update duty station: for it to be NY, Geneva and/or Vienna and the type of representative.
- 8) Click on person's name and update duty station of representation: for it to be NY, Geneva and/or Vienna and the type of representative.
- 9) Then update the dates from 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013.
- 10) "Submit" and you should get an email confirmation within 48 hrs.
- 11) Do not forget to log out

AND...do not forget to scan or fax and send/fax/email the letter to the relevant NY and the UN 'duty' station (UN offices Geneva/Vienna)

It is advisable to contact the NGO Liaison Office in Geneva before going to the UN to make sure that the details have been sent to Security so that an annual badge can be prepared. It has happened on a number of occasions that main office in NY had processed everything but not Geneva. Contact details for the Geneva Ground Pass:

LIDIYA GRIGOREVA
 NGO Liaison Officer
 Office oPN 153
 Palais des Nations
 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
 Tel:+41 22 917 13 04
 Fax:+41 22 917 05 83

email: [ungeneva.ngoliaison\[at\]unog\[dot\]ch](mailto:ungeneva.ngoliaison[at]unog[dot]ch)

Q&A

Helping NGOs find their way at the United Nations in Geneva

What services/help does the NGO ALLIANCE offer NGOs that are not based in Geneva?

We are planning to regularly expand the information we are providing via the monthly Newsletter. We hope to soon include information on workshops that will be available. Most NGOs are still working on their 2013 schedules and we shall post information with links as soon as these will be available. Putting NGOs in touch with Geneva based NGOs or networks is another service we can offer. We are working on an interactive website whereby members can access information that is only available to them. Members will have their own login.

We would be interested to becoming a member of the NGO ALLIANCE.

We welcome new members as a strong membership strengthens participation and networking and enriches the expertise on offer. Membership fee is CHF 150 and it will give you access to 12 Newsletters with relevant information specifically for working with the United Nations in Geneva and with NGOs and NGO networks based in Geneva. Our interactive website is in the making. If you want to become a member please contact us on:

and we'll send you our membership request form.

What NGOS can become members of the NGO ALLIANCE?

Any NGO with accreditation to the United Nations and related agencies. Other organisations working on human rights issues might also be interested as they can be put in touch with relevant networks or NGOs working on same/similar issues.

Do you provide help with accommodation?

Not directly, but our website will have all the information that you need to link with the Tourist Office and other NGOs websites that offer such information. We respect the work other NGOs have done in providing such services and will collaborate with NGOs though try not to repeat what others already do well.

Do you provide help with travel and with visas?

No. However, through our site we shall direct you to websites, agencies and NGOs who have experience on this front and already provide such information.

Can we request specific information related to our visit to Geneva, e.g. related to a specific mandate of Special procedures of the HRC?

Yes, please. This will allow us to really help in providing relevant information. Please also suggest areas you need more information with.

We came to Geneva and got hopelessly lost at the UN, can such information be provided through your Newsletter?

In fact, our Newsletters aim to address such issues and provide guidance

Is it known what areas INC (?) members are active in?

Yes, members are involved with: gender, development, climate change, environment, ageing, spirituality, interfaith, human rights, cultural rights, international solidarity, peace, MDGs, post 2015 agenda, freedom of religion or belief, tangible and intangible heritage etc