

REPORT UN VIENNA 2017-2020

Our team of three representatives is accredited as observers to work to the Vienna International Centre (VIC) - mainly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) and the United Nations Information Service (UNIS). We follow sessions of the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (COP) and to a lesser extent sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs due to lack of time.

We are also accredited to the United Nations Industrial Organisation (UNIDO). Rita (Assogna) participated in an international online conference organized by UNIDO “Building Resilience to Global Challenges and Emerging Crises” aimed at increasing the interaction between women entrepreneurs and the multitude of women’s business networks to further women’s economic empowerment.

Rita and I followed sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in person in 2018 and 2019, as well as the reconvened sessions CCPCJ in December 2018 and 2019.

Stopping hate crime, supporting SDGs through criminal justice was the focus of the 28th CCPCJ in 2019. The 29th CCPCJ and reconvened session met in December 2020 and could be attended in person only by members of the Commission, all others participated remotely.

A side-event on the occasion of the 2018 session of CCPCJ was organized by Zonta, co-sponsored by GWI and IFBPW under the title “Make young people aware of and protect them from the dangers of Cyberspace”, Catherine Bosshart was one of the panellists.

Another side-event on the occasion of the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties took place on October 15, 2020 **online** organized by Zonta and IFBPW on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work: ILO Convention No. 190 – a blueprint to ensure the right to equal treatment of trafficked persons, migrant and domestic workers with Catherine Bosshart as moderator.

The Conference of the Parties, 10th session, 10-12 October 2020 took place in a hybrid format, all side-events in a virtual format, but managed to adopt 7 substantive resolutions on, among other things, the review mechanism, falsified medical products, crimes that affect the environment and crime against cultural property.

In 2020 we tried to follow the deliberations of CCPCJ at least online, but meetings were postponed, cancelled or held in a scaled down format – making continuous participation difficult.

A large amount of time was devoted to preparations for the 14th Crime Congress in Kyoto, Japan – it is now being held as a scaled down hybrid meeting from 7 to 12 March 2021. Cybercrime and Community responses to organized crime are on the agenda and the concept of the culture of lawfulness is one of the priorities of Japan. A large number of ancillary meetings are planned by NGOs but participation of NGOs is limited and difficult, so I

hope that at least our Japanese colleagues may be able to attend some of the ancillary meetings.

During 2018 and 2019 we actively participated in a number of **NGO Committees**. Rita focussed on the NGO Committee on **Ageing** and the NGO Committee on **Peace**, holding offices on both committees. Besides its priority issue of poverty, the Ageing Committee has started to discuss the use of very advanced technologies and artificial intelligence in personal support and care services for older persons living at home.

I have had and still have an active involvement in the work of the NGO Committee on the **Status of Women**. Besides the increasing co-operation between the three Committees in NY, Ge and Vie we developed joint oral and written statements to the CSW and are organizing an event celebrating Beijing+25 entitled “Beijing-Covid-What next?” For those UN Commissions and other entities whose meetings take place here in Vienna we try to offer input and a gender perspective. UNOV and UNODC presented in March 2018 its Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018-2021),

A large amount of my time in the past triennium was devoted to being member of the Transitional Team that dealt with “reorganizing” **the Alliance of NGOs** on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Co-operation with the Civil Society Team of UNODC continues while the Alliance forges new partnerships – eg organizing together with APCOF (African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum) and Fixed (formerly Social Transformation System) a series of webinars 2020/2021 on “Change the World” promoting global urban safety in the context of Covid-19 pandemic responses and impact. A working group is writing the Civil Society Statement for the Crime Congress based on input of members of the Alliance (questionnaire).

At the recent GA I was chosen together with the two past chairpersons to become an honorary member of the Alliance in a personal capacity.

Together with the Chair of the NGO Committee on **Narcotic Drugs** and the Chair of the UNCAC Coalition Ms Anna del Frate, Alliance Chairperson, met with the Director–General/ Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC Ms Ghada Fathi Waly (appointed in February 2020, the first woman, the first Arab and the first African to head UNODC) to be briefed about the latest developments and measures to tackle the effects of the pandemic. We hope to follow meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and of the NGO Committee Narcotic Drugs when Christa (Kirchmair) will have more time.

Last but not least we are members of the NGO Committee on **Sustainable Development** which focusses on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Briefings and lectures are held by recognized experts of universities in Austria and France, and the committee encourages new initiatives, seeks input into civil society’s contributions to the UN Agenda 2030 and prepared a statement for the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in NY in July 2020.

CoNGO held one of its Board Meetings in Vienna in 2019, and I follow occasional meetings called for by the second vice-president of CoNGO; Ms Committees as well as CoNGO now meet at more or less regular intervals in virtual meetings and the whole range of events like

Gen Baku Nohi or Commemorative Events for Victims of the Holocaust are held in a hybrid format, i.e. UN staff/ VIPs in person , the rest by video-conferencing. In 2018 and 2019 I participated in UNIS film screenings followed by discussions – now impossible.

But in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic and in the hope of recovering from it, we as civil society continue to follow what was identified in the course of a global survey on the occasion of the 75th birthday of the UN “a strong call for action on inequalities and climate change, as well as more solidarity” (UNIS/INF/568).

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