



## **NGO COMMITTEE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2017 – JUNE 2018**

### 1. Terms of reference

- The NGO Committee on Financing for Development (NGOsonFfD) was established in 2003 as a Substantive Committee of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO) at the request of 20 UNECOSOC accredited NGOs who were also CoNGO members. To obtain additional information, please visit [www.ngocongo.org](http://www.ngocongo.org)
- The Committee offers a venue for both new and established NGOs affiliated with the United Nations to learn, discuss, and contribute to the plans, activities and initiatives pertaining to the Financing for Development agenda.
- NGOsonFfD continues to work closely with the Financing for Sustainable Development Office (in April 2018 the office changed its name from Financing for Development office to Financing for Sustainable Development Office.)
- NGOsonFfD is a founding member of the “Global Social Economy Group” (GSEG), which is a virtual group of more than 800 large and small NGOs with an interest in financing for development issues. GSEG’s ongoing work is facilitated by the Addis Ababa Civil Society Coordinating Group (ACG) and a Rapid Response Group. The ACG is

composed of representatives of 21 GSEG member organizations. NGOsonFfD is one of the 21 organizations. NGOsonFfD's chair serves as the representative to the ACG. To obtain additional information, please visit <https://csoforffd.wordpress.com/>

- By practice, the Committee updates its brochure annually. This year the brochure has been updated from previous years' tri-fold format to a double sided post-card version. Thanks to Cecilie Kern for her work with the design and layout of the new brochure. [Link to Brochure](#)
- The Committee has three emails - [ngosonffdsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ngosonffdsecretary@gmail.com), [ngosonfffd@gmail.com](mailto:ngosonfffd@gmail.com) and [ngosonffdchair@gmail.com](mailto:ngosonffdchair@gmail.com).

## 2. Membership Structure

- NGOsonFfD recognizes two levels of membership: "Full" (dues-paying) and "Associate". For the current year, it has 28 full member organizations and 35 associate organizations.

## 3. Executive Committee (EC)

- EC members
  - Chair - Anita Thomas, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund
  - Vice-Chair- Marc Jourdan, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (from June 2017 through September 30, 2017), Celine Paramunda (Beginning October 2017), Medical Mission Sisters
  - Secretary - (position remained vacant till March 2018); Marianne Senneck, Congregation of St. Joseph (March 2018- May 2018)
  - Treasurer - Cheryl Morrissey, Pax Christi International
  - Member-at- Large - Teresea Kotturan, Sisters of Charity Federation

- Member-at-large - Cecilie Kern, Congregation of our Lady of Charity of Good Shepherd
- In the 2017-2018 period, the EC dealt with two vacancies, the roles of Vice-Chair and that of the Secretary. Clarification on situation as the EC began its work, steps taken by the EC to rectify it, and current vacancies are included below.
- The Vice-Chair position became vacant in October 2017 as Marc Jourdan moved abroad to pursue new career opportunities. Celine Paramunda took over as Vice-Chair shortly after that.
  - As the nominating Committee was not successful in identifying a suitable and willing candidate to fill the role of Secretary, the EC started its work without a Secretary. The bulk of the Secretarial responsibilities - writing the minutes, finalizing the agenda, maintaining the membership lists and emails, and disseminating information to membership- were handled by Anita Thomas with support for writing the minutes of some of the meetings from Marc Jourdan, Celine Paramunda, Teresa Kotturan and Cecilie Kern.
  - As there was limited interest from the membership to step into the role of Secretary, the EC explored the possibility of dividing the secretary role into Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. After considerable outreach, Marianne Sennick stepped into take on the work of recording secretary (limited to taking the minutes) in March 2018. Anita Thomas continued managing the remaining responsibilities. Unfortunately, Marianne is not able to continue in the role due to personal reasons and has stepped down.
  - Cheryl Morrissey informed the EC in March 2018 that she will be stepping down from the Treasurer's position due to changes within her organization. The executive committee has identified a new person to take over as Treasurer and the name will be shared at the Annual meeting.

- Cecilie Kern will be stepping down from her role in August 2018 as she will be returning to school to pursue a Master's Degree.
  - In summary, there are two positions vacant - Secretary (can be divided into recording secretary and corresponding secretary) and member-at-large
- EC meetings have been held monthly, usually two weeks prior to the next meeting. These meetings are normally held at Celine Paramunda's office. The EC also regrouped two days prior to the meeting, in-person or via conference call, to prepare for the monthly meeting. In between meetings, the EC conducted its business via WhatsApp and freeconferencecall.com.

#### 4. Committee Meetings

- As a Substantive Committee of CoNGO, the Committee continues to receive a room at the Church Center for its monthly meetings, free of cost, from the United Methodist Women
- Committee meetings have been held monthly, the first Wednesday of each month. At the request of the membership, monthly meeting times have been changed from 2-4 pm to 1:30-3:30 pm followed by working group meetings from 3:30-4:00 pm.
- Anjali Rangaswami, Economic Affairs Officer with the Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO), (previously Financing for Development Office), has been the Committee's liaison to the Office and has provided briefing at all but one of the monthly meetings of the Committee since June 2017. As a result of the changes taking place at the FSDO, Anjali will be moving to the Development Cooperation Forum. Anjali has been a great friend to the Committee and she will be missed.

#### 5. Strategic Plan -

- The EC developed a strategic plan and identified three areas of advocacy priorities
- Financing Social Protection
  - Financial Inclusion

- Eradication of poverty as a development imperative guaranteed by human rights- Where is the money?
- The EC aims to advance the three advocacy priorities by strengthening the membership's knowledge base through educational sessions, raising awareness of the three areas through organizing side events and advancing its position through developing advocacy statements. The EC accomplishes this through the three working groups as well as through organizing additional sessions in the three priority areas.

6. Working Groups (WGs) - The three Working Groups, Advocacy and Writing, Education, and Side Events, established under the previous EC, continued under the current EC as well. However, as several members indicated that the current format limits a member's activities to their assigned working group (for instance, education working group (EWG) members do not get the opportunity to actively participate in developing advocacy statements or organizing a side event and such do not gain the same level of visibility), the EC will revisit the current format at its retreat in June.

- Education Working Group - As part of the EWG's ongoing project titled the 'Beginner's Guide to FfD, it is also developing an advocacy tool kit. The advocacy tool kit is expected to be completed by September 2018.
- Advocacy and Writing Working Group - The group's work focused mainly on the following areas:
  1. Summarizing chapters of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to be included in the Education Working Group's advocacy tool kit. Thanks to Cheryl Morrissey for spearheading this process.
  2. Developing an advocacy statement on financing social protection
  3. The group is planning to develop advocacy statements on the other two advocacy priorities of the Committee as well
- Side Events Working Group

- Developed a framework for its work strategy which also outlined the pre-requisites to list an organization as a co-sponsor vs. additional supporting organization, that only organizations working directly to organize the event will be listed as a co-sponsors and all other members, if interested, can be listed as additional supporting organizations.
- The group had worked to organize three side events- one during the IMF/WB 2017 Annual Meeting, one during CSW63 and another during the 2018 Financing for Development Forum. Additional information on all three events are listed under the side events bullet.

## 7. Education sessions

- Teresa Kotturan, member of the Education Working Group, organized monthly education sessions which included short video clips followed by interactive discussion. The sessions focused on the following topics:
  - Domestic Resource mobilization
  - Human Rights approaches to Social Protection
  - Social Protection - Human Rights and Women
  - Where do we find money for financing sustainable development? Governments are spending money on military budget that could be used for sustainable development
  - How can we build capital? Moving to a circular economy
- Anita Thomas organized an education session, during Teresa's absence, focusing on the potential impact of cryptocurrencies on Financing for Development
- Cecilie Kern conducted a social media training at the September monthly meeting
- Celine Paramunda and Anita Thomas collaborated with the Bahai International Community and Regions Refocus to organize a breakfast session entitled "Trade, tax and global economic policies: how to create inclusive financial systems that reduce inequalities. Anita Thomas was a speaker at this event along with Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief New York UNCTAD Office. The event took place

on Tuesday, 27 March 2018, from 8:30-10:00AM, at the 10<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, CCUN

- Barbara Adams from the Global Policy Forum was a special invited guest at the April meeting of the Committee and provided an education session titled "Funding of the United Nations: Current trends" which linked to the Committee's third priority area, "Where is the money?".

## 8. Social Media

- NGOsofFfd's social media presence has strengthened thanks to the support of Cecilie Kern who maintains the Committee's website <http://www.ngosonffd.org/>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NGOsonFfD> and a Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/NGOsonFfD/>)
- Social media updates as of 5/2/2018
  - Twitter
    - 214 followers
    - 282 following
    - Access available to Cecilie, Anita
    - Last post 4/25/2018
  - Facebook
    - 26 likes
    - Access available to Cecilie
    - Last post 11/1/2017
- The Committee also has a blog page which is planned to be revived in the upcoming year <https://ngosonffd.wordpress.com/>
- The EC will explore setting up a LinkedIn page as well as strengthening the Facebook presence.

## 9. Side Events - The Committee organized/cosponsored 7 panel events during the current year.

- On Wednesday 11 October 2017, NGOsonFfd organized a panel discussion in collaboration with Social Justice in Global Development, Brot für die Welt and the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund. The event titled

"Financing Universal Social Protection in Developing Countries" was held at the World Bank during the Civil Society Policy Forum ahead of the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings in Washington DC

- On Monday, 12 March 2018, NGOsonFfD and the NGO Committee on Social Development co-organized a parallel event during CSW62 titled "Economic Empowerment of Rural Women through Access to Innovative Financing and Effective Partnerships"
- On Wednesday, 18th April, NGOsonFfD co-sponsored a Panel Session titled "Financing Universal Social Protection to Promote Inclusive Development and Reduce Inequality" during the Civil Society Policy Forum of the World Bank/IMF Spring meetings 2018
- On Monday April 23 NGOsonFfD co-sponsored a panel event titled "Domestic and international financial instruments for Universal Social Protection". The event organized in collaboration with ILO, Brot für die Welt, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN, Global Coalition on Social Protection during the FfD forum was held on April 23 from 8:00 am - 9:30 am, Conference Room 7, UNHQ
- NGOsonFfD co-sponsored a panel event titled "Tackling Illicit Financial Flows: Time to Drop False Solutions & Embrace Real Change" The event organized by the Global Social Economy Group was held on Monday April 23rd at 6:30 PM at CR 5 UN Headquarters
- During the FfD forum on Wednesday April 25th at 8:00 AM, CR A, UN Headquarters, NGOsonFfD held a panel event titled "Financial Inclusion to Financial Stability: Linkages that Work Toward Income Inequality Reduction, Poverty Alleviation, & Shrinking the Gender Gap".
- NGOsonFfD co-sponsored a panel event titled "Domestic & International Financial Instruments for Financing Universal Social Protection". The event o organized by the Global Social Economy Group was held on Monday, April 23rd at 8:00 AM, at CR 7 UN Headquarters



Please visit the Committee's website - [www.ngosonffd.org](http://www.ngosonffd.org) to access flyers and concept notes of the side events.

#### 10. Collaborations with other NGO Committees and other NGO entities

- NGO Committee on Social Development
  - NGOsonFfD continues to work closely with the NGO Committee on Social Development (NGOCsocD). In 2017, the two Committees jointly organized two side events (see side events bullet for additional information.
  - Anita Thomas was a speaker at the monthly meeting of the NGOCsocD, where she provided an update on the social protection discussions at the IMF/WB spring meetings and during the 2018 FfD Forum and discussed strategies to strengthen advocacy on financing social protection
  - Winifred Doherty and Monica Jahangir from NGOCsocD provided a briefing to share how NGOCsocD is advancing its advocacy work to bring about a resolution on social protection and shared strategies that would help NGOsonFfD to advance its own advocacy work in the area.
  - In preparation for CSW 63, its focus being social protection, NGO Committee on Social Development, NGO Committee on Financing Development and NGO Committee on the Status of Women are exploring ways to collaborate to strengthen advocacy for social protection. This work is expected to begin soon.
- NGO Committee on Sustainable Development - Anita Thomas was invited to be a speaker at a panel event organized by the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development on the impact of block chain technologies on financing for development.
- Anita Thomas attended the Civil Society FfD Group's (comprising of GSEG and ACG) Strategic Planning Session organized in cooperation with CSO Partnership for Development from December 11-13 in Rome, Italy. All related expenses including room and board was covered by the organizers of the event.

- Many of our members also participate actively in other NGO committees and working groups around the UN and as such continue to be good ambassadors between committees.

11. Engagements with UN officials to advance the Committee's work

- A letter was submitted to the ECOSOC President bringing attention to the lack of importance given to social protection in the preparation for the IATF report and the FfD forum
- Executive Committee members (Anita Thomas, Celine Paramunda, Cheryl Morrissey and Cecilie Kern) met with Shari Spiegel, Chief of Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) to provide input into the preparation of the IATF Report
- Executive Committee members (Anita Thomas, Celine Paramunda, and Cecilie Kern) met with Navid Hanif to congratulate him on his appointment as the Chief of Financing for Sustainable Development Office, to learn about the FSDO plans for the future and to introduce him to the work of the Committee.

12. Survey to membership - The EC disseminated a survey to the membership for feedback on the committee initiatives and its work. Thanks to Celine Paramunda and Cecilie Kern for their work with developing the survey.

Executive Committee  
June 06, 2018

