



ANNUAL REPORT
THE NGO COMMITTEE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
June 5, 2019 – June 3, 2020

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Executive Committee:

➤ The Executive Committee members are:

- Chair - Anita Thomas, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF)
- Vice -Chair -Thomas Pallithanam, Salesian Missions Inc.
- Secretary - Joseph Klock, New Humanity of the Focolare Movement
- Treasurer - Marvelous Lomerio Misolas, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.
- Member-at- large - Graciano Gaillard, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development
- Member-at-large - Cynthia Mathew. Institute of Blessed Virgin Mary

Working Groups

- Based on the feedback from members from the survey that the Committee conducted last year, it was decided to continue the substantive work of the Committee through three working groups. These are:
 - Climate Finance - (co-leads - Marvie Misolas and Quinn Wonderling)
 - Financial Inclusion (co-leads - Anita Thomas and Teresa Kotturan)
 - Social Protection- Barry Herman

Time was allocated for working group meeting during the monthly meeting. Similar to last year, a key deliverable for the working groups was to make a joint submission in response to outline for the Inter Agency Taskforce Report. All three working groups made substantive contributions to this process. A second deliverable is to deliverable to craft a joint advocacy statement. This work is still in progress.

Addis Ababa Coordinating Group (ACG)

- The Committee is a founding member of the ACG which is the coordinating group for Civil Society FfD Group. However, the Committee needs to reevaluate its role and engagement in this group as any such engagement should not undermine the Committee's role as substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs to facilitate NGO advocacy on FfD matters. The executive committee is discussing a strategy for engagement.

Monthly Committee Meetings

- The Committee held meetings every month from September to June. In person meetings were held from October - March. Since the onset of COVID-19, Committee meetings were held virtually via Zoom from 1:00-3:30 pm. In March, the Committee signed up for a paid Zoom account. Since then, the Committee established an agreement with the NGO Committee on Migration to share the usage and cost of the account jointly. The NGO Committee on Migration covers 50% of the cost of this Zoom account. The executive committee meetings were held in the third week of the month in order to prepare for the next monthly Committee meeting.
- Key updates from monthly meetings are included below:
 - **June 5, 2019** - The annual meeting of the Committee was held at the Church Center. The annual report was presented and a new executive committee was elected. We are deeply appreciative of the contribution made by the previous executive committee members. Our special appreciation to Celine Paramunda and Teresa Kotturan who completed their terms. Annual survey questions were discussed with a view to evaluating the Committee's work, propose measures for improvement and identify priority areas for the upcoming year.
 - **June 28, 2019** - The executive committee held its annual retreat from 10 am - 3:30pm at the GFDD conference room. The discussions focused on the strategic plan for the upcoming year, review of feedback from membership survey, thematic focus of the working groups and strengthening the work of the three groups. Alberto Padova, Greg Barret and Barry Herman joined to discuss specific segments.

- **August 7, 2019** - The meeting was held at the Church Center. The Committee's draft strategic plan was presented. Greg Barrett, Economic Affairs Officer, Strategic Engagement, FSDO and Anjali Rangaswami, Economic Affairs Officer, Development Cooperation Forum, FSDO provided briefing FfD matters and the Development Cooperation Forum. Education session on the work of Salesian Missions Inc. was conducted by Thomas Pallithanam. There were 15 attendees at the meeting.

- **September 4, 2019** - The meeting was held at the Church Center. Members reviewed the strategic plan proposed by the executive committee and proposed edits to it. It was decided to increase the Committee's membership dues to \$40. Greg Barrett, Economics Affairs Officer, Strategic Engagement Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO) provided a briefing on FfD matter. Graciano Gaillard will manage Social Media under his portfolio as Member-at-large and Cynthia Mathew will help with developing a newsletter. There were 18 attendees at the meeting.

- **October 23, 2019**
 - Due to difficultly securing a room at the Church Center or any other nearby venues (on account of GA meetings), the Committee's October meeting was postponed from October 4 to October 23. The October 23 meeting was held at the World Vision conference room. The Committee created working groups to focus on its three priority areas - Social Protection, Financial Inclusion and Climate Finance and assigned members and leads for each group.

 - Greg Barrett, Economics Affairs Officer, Strategic Engagement Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO) provided a briefing on FfD matters. Membership provided positive feedback and recommendations to Greg on the format and process for CSO selection for the High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development. Resina Katafano, Economic Affairs Officer, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, FSDO conducted

an education session on Blended Finance. Greg will be moving to Development Cooperation Forum section of FSDO and Philipp Erfuth, Economic Affairs Officer, will be the Committee's new liaison to the FSDO.

- **November 6, 2019** - The monthly meeting was held at the Salvation Army conference room. Members discussed preparations and whom (from member states and UN agencies) to invite for the briefing on November 19. In working groups, members discussed their group's contribution to the position paper to be submitted in Response to the published outline of the 2020 Inter Agency Task Force Report. Philipp Erfuth, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters and Resina Katafono, Economic Affairs Officer, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, FSDO conducted an education session on climate finance. There were 25 attendees at the meeting.
- **December 4, 2019**- This meeting was held at the Church Center. The membership had a debriefing session on the Committee's very successful event- A Briefing on the Road-map to 2020 ECOSOC FfD Follow-up Forum with Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, FSDO. More information on this event is included under the engagement section. Sarah Decuir, Economic Affairs Officer provided a briefing on FfD matters and Cornelia Kaldewei, Economic Affairs Officer, Policy Analysis and Development Branch, FSDO conducted an education session on Financial Inclusion. There were 24 attendees at the meeting
- **February 5, 2020** - This meeting was held at the Church Center. A. Thomas and Thomas Pallithanam shared about a joint project between the Committee and the Salesian Missions Inc to conduct a research study to ascertain the effectiveness of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement in meeting the financing needs for addressing climate change, social protection and financial inclusion as well as to identify gaps in implementation and financing needs. Salesian Missions

Inc has received a small grant for this project from Misan Cara. There were 22 attendees at the meeting.

- **March 5, 2020** - This meeting was held at the World Vision Conference Room. Nicholas Bian, International Affairs Officer, World Bank discussed the FfD agenda as it pertains to the World Bank. The Committee agreed to proceed with the second breakfast interactive discussion on the roadmap to the 2020 FfD Forum. Mr. Navid Hanif and Ms. Shari Spiegel had already agreed to be speakers at the event. There were 22 attendees at the meeting.
- **April 1, 2020** - The Committee held this meeting virtually via Zoom. A considerable amount of time was dedicated to strategizing on how best to refocus the working group's efforts to address the impact of COVID-19 and strengthening the Committee's advocacy initiatives. There were 24 attendees at the meeting.
- **May 6, 2020** -
 - The Committee held this meeting virtually via Zoom. Philipp Erfurth, FSDO provided a briefing on FfD matters.
 - Eric LeCompte, Jubilee USA Network made a presentation on "The anticipated effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on sovereign debt, international trade, and the projected shortfall on resource mobilization for the SDGs and poverty alleviation".
 - In response to a request A. Thomas had made at the March Committee meeting for help with editing the Committee's logo (to convert it to a high definition image), Francesca had offered to help with this. With feedback from the Executive Committee, Francesca provided several samples which were put to vote at the Committee meeting. The new logo was agreed to be finalized, pending a few minor edits.
 - Additionally, Jacqueline Witwicki has offered to help with updating the Committee's website

- It was decided to submit a written response to the call from the UN High Level Panel on Financial Accountability Transparency Integrity (FACTI) for written responses.
- There were 24 attendees at the meeting.

Social Media

The Committee's website - <http://www.ngosonffd.org/> is kept updated. The Twitter account <https://twitter.com/NGOsonFfd/> is kept reasonably active.

- Website and logo- The Committee website is being redesigned with the help of Jacqueline Witwicki. The logo was redesigned to make it high definition by Francesca
- Social media updates as of 6/2/2020
 - Twitter
 - 314 followers
 - 308 following
 - Facebook- the Committee has a Facebook account, but it not being kept updated and active. Cynthia Mathew has agreed to maintain it beginning in June
 - LinkedIn - Graciano Gaillard is currently working on creating an account

Engagements in UN processes

- **September 26, 2019 High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development**
The Committee was extended the option by the FSDO to nominate five delegates to attend the sessions. The delegates were A. Thomas, Barry Herman, Daniel LeBlanc Rohan Dominic and Teresa Kotturan. The provided a report at the October Committee meeting.
- **November 5, 2019 Panel discussion: "Financial aspects of the SDG implementation" at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)**
A. Thomas was a panel speaker at this session held as part of FES's annual Fall Academy
- **Breakfast briefing on the roadmap to the FfD Forum**
On November 19 from 8:30 am to 10:00 am, the

Committee organized a breakfast briefing, at the Church Center, on the Road-map to 2020 ECOSOC FfD Follow-up Forum, followed by an interactive discussion based on the concept note that was shared with all participants in advance. Navid Hanif, Director, FSDO, Chanteline Carpenter, UNCTAD and Amber Barth, ILO provided the briefing. Close to 60 people attended the event. The key participants in this discussion were H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Alberto Carazo, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN, H.E. Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the UN and H.E. Ambassador Carlos Amorín, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN, representatives from the Permanent Missions of Canada, Ireland, and the European Union and the World Bank. The concept note for the event was very well-received by participants and speakers. CoNGO President, Levi Bautista gave closing remarks. A.Thomas gave the opening remarks and moderated the discussions.

- **ILO Convention -190** Follow-up conversations that took place at the above meeting between A.Thomas and Amber Barth, ILO has resulted in two joint initiatives between the Committee and ILO.
 - A joint briefing on ILO Convention 190 (Violence and Harassment Convention in the World of Work) between the Permanent Mission of France to the UN, ILO and the NGO Committee on Financing for Development took place at the Permanent Mission of France On December 19. The Deputy Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of France to the UN, and A.Thomas gave opening and closing remarks and ILO staff provided briefings on the status of ratification of the Convention and action items to be taken.
 - A.Thomas proposed to ILO staff in New York the possibility of taking this forward as a joint initiative between four CoNGO Committees - NGO Committee on Financing for Development, NGO Committee on Social Development, NGO Committee on the Status of Women and NGO Committee on

Migration- to generate the necessary advocacy and momentum to advance ratification of C 190 by member states.

- With strong support from the ILO New York office to take this initiative forward, the group has come together as a coalition under the name NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking Persons (CSTIP), which is not a CoNGO Committee, had indicated interest to join this coalition and have joined it. The group is composed of 12 people representing the NGO Committee Chairs, their designees, a youth representative and three individual NGO representatives who had attended the first briefing and whose organizations have a strong focus on the topic of C 190.
- As a first step, the group's decided to draft an advocacy letter to be submitted to Member States. The letter has been recently finalized and will be circulated for endorsements

- **Contribution to the Inter Agency Taskforce Report -**
The Committee submitted a stakeholder contribution to the preparation of the 2020 UN Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) Report. This contribution was prepared in response to the draft outline of the IATF Report dated October 24, 2019. This submission was crafted with extensive consultation within the three working groups of the Committee. The submission has been posted to the IATF website and can be accessed [here](#)
- **Panel event during Commission for Social Development -**
The Committee co-sponsored a panel event organized by the Salesian Missions Inc. during the Commission on Social Development. The event titled "Youth Homelessness: Interrogating policy Gaps and Legislative Vacuum" was moderated by A.Thomas.
- **Intervention as the launch of the FACTI Panel - A.**
Thomas received an invitation from the FSDO on behalf of the President of the General Assembly and the

President of ECOSOC to make civil society intervention at the launch of the Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity panel. A. Thomas nominated Thomas Pallithanam, Vice Chair to give this intervention. Thomas Pallithanam made a successful intervention on behalf of the Committee.

- Invitation to be part of panel discussions- A. Thomas in her role as Chair of the Committee was invited to be a part of events which were not held due to the COVID-19 Pandemic- speaker at a panel event during CSW 64 organized by Armenian Relief Society, provide a brief intervention at the High Level event that was to be organized by ILO on ILO C-190 during CSW 64 and speaker at a panel event that was being organized by CIFA during the 2020 FfD Forum
- **Side event at IMF/WB Civil Society Policy Forum** - The Committee had submitted a proposal to hold a side event during the Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) at the IMF/WB Spring Meetings. As the Spring Meetings are going to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the CSPF may not held as well.
- **Virtual breakfast discussion on the roadmap to the FfD Forum** - On March24, the Committee held its breakfast discussion on the roadmap to the 2020 FfD Forum virtually by Zoom. Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, UN Financing for Sustainable Development Office (FSDO) and Ms. Shari Spiegel (Chief, Policy Analysis and Development Branch) were lead presenters. Mr. Alberto Padova, Chief, Strategic Engagement and Policy Integration Branch, UN FSDO and Philipp Erfurth, Economic Affairs Officer, UN FSDO also joined the session. This event planned originally to be held as an in-person session at the Church Center and was moved to a virtual setting due to the onset of COVID-19. Mr. Hanif recommended for concerted action from Civil Society Organizations to submit an appeal to member states calling for a substantive outcome document of the 2020 FfD Forum as there were discussions to scale down the FfD forum to a brief virtual event.

- **Tweet Meet with Red Dot Foundation**
The Committee hosted a tweet meet with the Red Dot Foundation as part of their anti-street harassment week from April 19-25. A. Thomas curated the TweetMeet on April 25 focusing on "The role of financing: Ensuring safe inclusive streets for all".

- **Civil Society Appeal on the FfD Forum to the Member States -**
 - As a follow-up to the above call for action from Mr. Navid Hanif, executive committee members- Anita Thomas, Cynthia Mathew, Graciano Gaillard, Joe Klock, Thomas Pallithanam and lead, co-leads of the working group and of the Committee's proposed advocacy statement-Barry Herman Martha Gallahue, Teresa Kotturan, and Quinn Wonderling crafted an Appeal letter. Thanks to Barry Herman for crafting the first draft.
 - The letter was circulated widely to civil society organizations (affiliated (to the UN) and non-affiliated and to CoNGO members (by Levi Bautista, with a deadline of 9:00 am March 30.
 - The letter was submitted on March 30 (with 130 endorsements) to the ECOSOC President, ECOSOC Bureau members, the co-facilitators of the FfD outcome document and to the 193 Member States.
 - All this work was accomplished under a very tight deadline of five days, as the ECOSOC bureau was meeting during the week of March 30 to finalize the format of the Forum.
 - As we received 10 additional endorsements shortly after submission, the Appeal with the updated list of endorsers was re-submitted to the ECOSOC President, ECOSOC Bureau members, the co-facilitators of the FfD outcome document. This letter has been posted to the Committee's website

- **Written response to the FACTI Panel -** After an initial call with several Committee members, where ideas were exchanged on points to include in the written response to the FACTI Panel, a drafting team was established.

The drafting group - A. Thomas, Graciano Gaillard, Rick O'Sullivan, T Kotturan, and Margaret O' Brien- worked over a period of 5 days to draft, finalize and submit the response. M Gallahue, M Misolas, T Pallithanam, and Q Wonderling shared additional points to include in the document.

- **Webinar on Youth and FfD** - The Committee co-sponsored a webinar on youth and FfD organized by Jacqueline Witwicki and Francesca Torcasio Barbaris. A. Thomas helped with securing Philipp Erfurth as a speaker for this panel.

Appreciation:

The Committee extends it deep appreciation and thanks to:

- Catherine Pendergast, Cecilia O'Dwyer and Elsa Muttathu, who have moved onto new roles, for their long time commitment to the Committee and its work.
- Celine Paramunda, who will be leaving us at the end of June. Celine has been a pillar of strength for the Committee and also one of its longest members. She took key roles on the Committee's executive committee including as Vice-Chair in the previous term. We will miss Celine and her commitment to FfD and wish her the very best.
- Greg Barret, Economic Affairs Officer, FSDO who moved onto a new role within FSDO, for his concerted efforts to support the Committee's role as a stakeholder in UN FfD processes.
- Francesca Torcasio Barbaris and Jacqueline Witwicki for their hard work and time committed to getting the Committee's logo and website updated.

Note: A detailed treasurer's report was circulated to the membership for its approval prior to the annual meeting on June 3, 2020. The approved Annual Report Will be submitted to the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO).

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Financing for Development by Anita Thomas, Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development

June 3, 2020