



Yury Fedotov
Executive Director

Reference: CU/2013/125/DTA/SGB NGO Committee

12 June 2013

Dear Mr. Perron,

I would like to seek your cooperation, as Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, in relation to the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem* adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in 2009.

Member States established 2019 as a target date to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably the world drug problem, also in cooperation with the civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to that effect. A first report on the action taken was presented to, and examined by, the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, in 2012.

As reflected in the Political Declaration, the Commission should conduct, at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, a high-level mid-term review. This forms part of the process of assessing the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and its Action Plan and in finding ways to enhance their implementation to overcome the challenges encountered in addressing the world drug problem.

The Commission, in its resolution 56/12, entitled *"Preparations for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem"* sets out the organizational and substantive elements for the preparation of the high-level review, including the holding of intersessional meetings taking into account relevant information from civil society.

Mr. Michel Perron
Chairperson
Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs
P.O. Box 14
Wagramerstrasse 5
1400 Vienna

Pursuant to this resolution, I have the pleasure to invite, through you, as Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to provide information to support the high-level review. The information received will be made available online at:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/session-57.html> and will be considered by the Commission during its intersessional meetings (next meeting is scheduled for September 2013) and the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (March 2014). Please be informed that the Office will not be in a position to edit or translate the information received.

It would be greatly appreciated if the information could be sent electronically to sgb@unodc.org as early as possible, and no later than 15 August 2013. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Flavius Roversi of the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies, Tel: +43-1-26060 4138, Fax: +43-1-26060 5885).

Yours sincerely,

Yury Fedotov
Executive Director
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism

From: Perron, Michel [mailto:mperron@ccsa.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 7:50 PM

To: Alejandro Vassilaqui; Allan Clear (clear@harmreduction.org); Beigl-boeck Wolfgang; C. Quijano-Caballero; Daniel Quittan (dquttan@vngoc.org); David Turner (dturner@vngoc.org); Elena Goti; Esbjorn Hornberg; 'gino@ncd.org.au'; Gloria Lai (glai@idpc.net); Graciela Touze; Janina Romanova; Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch;

Milena Mijović; Nuno M. R. Jorge (njoffmfm@macau.ctm.net); Paul Rompani (paul@mentorfoundation.org); Perron, Michel; Rubini, Elisa
Cc: Daniel Quittan (dquttan@vngoc.org)

Subject: Kick off email concerning the Informal Drafting Committee

Importance: High

Dear VNGOC colleagues

Thank you for agreeing to be part of the VNGOC's informal drafting committee.

I will be chairing this process but very much welcome and need your collective input as we begin assimilate text for submission to the Secretariat or other channels, so as to contribute to the High Level Segment Declaration of 2014 – which is a mid-term review of the 2009-2019 Political Declaration and Plan of Action.
A few initial points need to be made.

- A) First, this process remains an inter-governmental one and while the mandate to the Commission is to take into consideration NGO perspectives, there is no defined or clearly structured process to do so. I am seeking a meeting with the Chair of the Commission at the June 26th meeting to clarify some of these issues. You should know that the Chair remains sympathetic to NGO matters but has limited power over the Extended Bureau, Secretariat and the like.
- B) Second, is that the VNGOC has not yet been formally approached to provide this input, nor draft text – we are doing this on the basis of informal advice from several friendly Member States (MS). I will however be seeking a more formal channel for our work to flow to the process underway.
- C) Third, our work will evolve organically and opportunistically. I foresee some MS sending us draft text they would like our 'NGO' perspective on (you can expect these to be quick turn-around requests). They would then use our input that to inform their MS to MS negotiations. Other times, we can initiate text that we would like to bring to the attention of MS's in Vienna or bilaterally between our VNGOC members and their respective capital/national level government contacts. Ideally, consistent language should flow from us.
- D) Fourth and finally, the tone and objective of our text will be consistent with the established VNGOC terms of reference and where relevant to the Beyond 2008 document which serves as the policy basis of our actions. This means that not every individual VNGOC member voice can necessarily be the defining one in our contributions. I should add that there is nothing preventing individual NGOs from advocating for their own policy base directly with government – but from a VNGOC perspective, we intend to present as much of a comprehensive and unified front as possible.

Thank you for your understanding of the above.

Now in terms of immediate next steps. We understand MS are being asked to provide initial input on a generic report framework (see below) by July 1, 2013. I would like us to be able to do the same and ideally have our initial input in hand for the June 26th meeting in Vienna. Daniel Quittan, the VNGOC's newly recruited Project Officer will coordinate and compile your input. Rather than engaging in a massive series of 'reply all' emails, I think it may be more efficient for you to send your comments to him directly and he will send us all a compiled list. Daniel can be reached at [dquttan@vngoc.org](mailto:dquittan@vngoc.org) **Can you please provide your initial and very brief sentences for input by next Wednesday, June 19th.** Should it be helpful, the Secretariat to the Commission has also set up a webpage for this process:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/session-57.html> We will provide you with a compilation by the end of that week or the 24th at the latest. Please know that this is but the very first step in what will be a long and bureaucratic process led by the Commission. We don't need to get it all perfect right now.

So our first action: **Informal Drafting Committee to identify specific input:**