



2022
2023

Annual Report



Introduction from the Chair

We come together for the April 2023 Annual Meeting at a time of great uncertainty in our world. We are gathering where there is great inequality in our countries. Millions have taken to our streets in protest, seeking reforms to healthcare, education, housing, homelessness, poverty, climate, and many kinds of social reform to which the world committed to over 75 years ago with the creation of the United Nations.

All of us here, our collaborators, other NGOs, Civil Society, are looking for a world that reflects the oneness of humanity, with all its richness, dignity, and diversity. It's time for us to call for and require the engagement of great depth with the leaders of our respective countries.

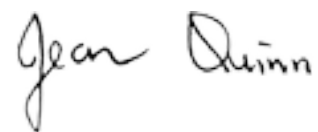
During the strategy consultation process, we came to more deeply appreciate the importance of strengthening the culture of our Committee. We are accepting the changes this new, dynamic era is ushering in; we have identified potential improvements to be made within our subcommittees and Committee as a whole in order to respond effectively, to evolve, and to meet the needs of our Members.

During the strategy process we acknowledged that we are living in moments of transition and that NGO CSocD must find stability in instability.

Our new strategy allows us a group to preserve and build on our considerable strengths while making the changes needed for us to succeed in the future. In developing the strategy, we revised our vision and mission statements to reflect our newfound clarity of vision and understanding our role in achieving the vision. We clearly articulated our values and what this group stands for, along with the core principles underlying our strategy for the future. We have started evaluating the work of the past year, and any evaluation of our desired outcomes will reveal that they cannot be achieved solely by NGO CSocD. We can only achieve success of our ambitious plan if we work collaboratively with other groups.

We will continue to be a strong voice for the shared interest of all our members, and we will work collaboratively with others to ensure the strongest possible voice for NGO CSocD is presented on matters of concern to Member States, our political systems, etc.

For us to be effective and deliver on our strategy we have been reflecting on our internal operations to ensure that we are as efficient and effective in our work together.



Jean Quinn, DW

Chair of NGO CSocD

Report of Activities

Administration:

- Monthly Meetings
 - Committee Meetings – 3rd Wednesday of every month
 - Executive Meetings – 2nd Tuesday of every month (sometimes more)
 - As needed – Extended Leadership and Strategic Planning Meetings
- NGO CSocD Google Drive maintenance
 - Resources Folder
 - File sharing, planning
- Bylaws Update (in progress)
 - Annual election process for 2023 – 2025 Executive term
- Subcommittees
 - Advocacy, Education, Communications, Grassroots
 - New subcommittees: World Social Summit, Civil Society Forum
- NGO CSocD Internship
 - Job Description
 - Interviews
 - Internship Signed Agreement, stipend

Finances:

- Banking and membership dues
- Donations
 - \$3,930 in donations
- Tax Filing
 - Completed by Exec. and Cynthia in March 2023
- Closing of NGO CSocD PayPal account
- Treasurer Role
 - Cynthia Mathew from April – December 2022
 - NGO CSocD Chair and Executive Assistant from January 2023 – present
 - Election of new Treasurer to take place in April 2023

Communications:

- Twitter and Instagram
 - Social media plan and evaluation developed by MGA Intern, Catherine in January and February 2023
 - Advocacy Priorities Videos in 5 languages
 - English

- Spanish
 - Chinese
 - Hindi
 - French
- Website (updates in process)
 - Managed by NGO CSocD Intern, Gonzalo, in January 2023
- Mailchimp
 - Used to send information on the CSF and Declaration to members & NGOs
- Civil Society Forum – completed by Gonzalo in January 2023
 - Banner (reusable)
 - CSF Program
 - CSF Digital Flyers
 - Website graphics
- Translations of Civil Society Declaration (Kimberly, Small World Translations)
 - French
 - Portuguese
 - English, Spanish, and Arabic done for free
- NGO CSocD External Strategy Design (Julie Conway Designs)
 - Hard copies given to Member States on Mission Visits
- NGO CSocD Flashdrives x 100
 - NGO CSocD history, priorities, Declaration, CSF program, etc. loaded onto each
 - Given to Member States on Mission Visits
- Edited videos of youth speakers for CSF

Strategic Planning:

- New vision, mission, values, goals, and strategies developed
- NGO CSocD Internal Strategy shared with Committee in August 2022
 - External Strategy → adapted from original internal strategy, available December 2022
- Extended Leadership Meetings
 - July 2022
 - Executive Committee
 - Monica Jahangir Chowdhury
 - Jeff Huffines
 - Winifred Doherty
 - Dan Perell
 - NGO CSocD Subcommittee Chairs and Veteran Members
 - January 2023, Civil Society Forum “dress rehearsal”

- Executive Committee
 - Dr. Ify Ofong
 - Dan Perell
 - Winifred Doherty
- March 2023
 - Executive Committee
 - Dan Perell
 - NGO CSocD Subcommittee Chairs and WSS Subcommittee
- NGO CSocD Evaluation of CSocD61
 - With members
 - With Executive Committee
 - Indicators (in development)

NGO CSocD Member Engagement:

- Timely communications via email
- Google Forms and Docs
 - Used for the Committee to provide feedback
 - Consultation on CSF speakers and panel themes
 - Gathering suggestions for the 2022 – 2023 year
 - Received comments on Advocacy Priorities
- Hybrid meetings at the Baha'i International Community and via Zoom
- Meeting new members and growing membership
 - Over 10 new member NGOs joining from January – April 2023
- NGO CSocD members regularly put forward for speaking opportunities and other ways to participate in CSocD and UN processes
 - Expert Group Meeting on Decent Work for All – June 2022
 - Interventions from...
 - Lili Nkuzimana
 - Aria Ribieras
 - Jean Quinn, DW
 - All interested NGO CSocD members could observe
 - Dr. Ify Ofong – participant in upcoming EGM on Third UN Decade of Poverty Eradication
- NGO CSocD Orientation and Networking Session – February 5, 2023
- Facilitation of Morning Briefings for CSocD61
 - Led by Winifred Doherty, MaryAnn Dantuono, and Angela Reed
- Breakfast with the Bureau – January 2023
- Promotion of NGO CSocD members' side events for CSocD61
- Holiday Gathering



NGO CSocD Subcommittees:

- Advocacy – Chaired by MaryAnn Dantuono
 - Development of Advocacy Priorities
 - Analysis of Mission Visits
 - Member State Allies Document
 - Civil Society Declaration
- Education – Chaired by Dusty Farnan
 - Three education sessions
- Communications – (formerly) chaired by Lili Nkunzimana
 - Website feedback and maintenance
 - Social media management
 - For CSF – working to get Declaration signatures
- Grassroots – Chaired by Lynne Healy and Janet Palafox
- Civil Society Forum – Chaired by Lara Hicks
- World Social Summit – Chaired by Lili Nkunzimana



Partnership with UN DESA:

- Invitations to monthly meetings
 - Amine Lamrabat
 - Wenyan Yang
 - Attended an Executive Committee meeting to share information
 - Recording for NGO CSocD Orientation
- Consistent communication with UN DESA in the lead up to CSocD61
 - Coordination with Amine for Civil Society Forum logistics and Morning Briefings, including –
 - Registration
 - Room bookings
 - Security
 - Negotiating costs
 - Technological services, UN Web TV, etc.
 - UN DESA asked NGO CSocD for CSocD61 speaker suggestions
 - Assistance in liaising with UN Secretary General's office, participation of Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua
- UN DESA participation in NGO CSocD Morning Briefings, convened with Member States
- Inclusion of NGO CSocD members as observers and speakers for the Expert Group Meeting on Decent Work in preparation for CSocD61

- Inclusion of NGO CSocD members in high-level CSocD panels
 - Opening Panel – Jean, Chair of NGO CSocD
 - Emerging Issues Panel – Lara, Civil Society Chair of NGO CSocD
 - Multistakeholder Panel – moderated by Jean

Relationships with Member States:

- 18 Mission Visits conducted by NGO CSocD members
 - One meeting with CSocD61 Chair, Amb. Al-Thani (Qatar)
 - Two meetings with Or Shaked, Vice-Chair (Israel)
 - One meeting with Daniel Zavala Porras, Vice-Chair (Costa Rica)
 - One meeting with Hellen Chifwaila, Vice-Chair (Zambia)
- Costa Rica, Israel, and Zambia – Participation in Morning Briefings
- Colombia, Finland, Sierra Leone, and Israel attended Breakfast with the Bureau gathering at the Baha'i International Community
- Participation of Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias (UN Permanent Representative of Portugal) and Ambassador Amara Sowa (Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone) as speakers in Civil Society Forum thematic panels

Our Advocacy Initiatives:

- Advocacy Priorities
 - Five priorities, developed by Advocacy subcommittee after the EGM
- Civil Society Declaration
 - Looking to 2025 and focusing on a new social contract
 - 1,160+ signatures received from NGOs and individuals
- Civil Society Forum
 - In-person in the UN Trusteeship Council, Friday, February 10th
 - Recording and live stream on UN Web TV
 - Simultaneous interpretation into Spanish (all day), simultaneous French interpretation (during thematic session 2)
 - Five sessions:
 - Opening Panel
 - Thematic Session 1
 - Regional Breakout Groups
 - Thematic Session 2
 - Closing Panel
 - Orientation and Networking Session
 - In-person at the UN Church Center, Sunday, February 5th

- Orientation session also held on Zoom
- Three Morning Briefings
 - Held in Conference Room 4 during CSocD61
 - Organized in collaboration with UN DESA and included the Vice-Chairs of the CSocD61 Bureau



Appendices

Administration

Administration functions were largely performed via an NGO CSocD Google Drive. The Chair's office in the UN Church Center served as the administrative "hub" for NGO CSocD this year; various files/receipts are stored in the office and some subcommittee meetings were held in-person regularly as well. The NGO CSocD bylaws are being reviewed and re-examined by the Chair, Vice-Chair, and longtime NGO CSocD member Veronica Brand.

Finance

In 2022, NGO CSocD had Cynthia Mathew, IBVM/CJ serving as the Treasurer. In this role, Cynthia cashed in checks for Member Dues, managed the NGO CSocD Chase Account, tracked Membership Forms and dues, and paid for various expenses. In December 2022, the Executive Committee took over the responsibilities of the Treasurer position after Cynthia returned to India for her visa process. The 2022 tax filing was completed by the Chair with assistance from Cynthia. Furthermore, regular meetings and communications took place between the Executive and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, who generously contributes to our Civil Society Forum each year. Below is an overview of NGO CSocD's yearly finances:

- **NGO CSocD Financial Overview:**
 - Account balance, April 2022 – **\$4,566.12**
 - Account balance, April 2023 – **\$3,135.35**
- **Expenses Breakdown: \$6,531.05**
 - Civil Society Forum & NGO CSocD Advocacy (covered by NGO CSocD) – **\$4,074.57**
 - NGO CSocD Internship Stipend – **\$1,200**
 - Administration, Technology – **\$276.03**
 - General Expenses – **\$980.45**
- **Total Income: \$5,270**
 - 2022 – 2023 Membership Dues – **\$1,340**
 - Donations – **\$3,930**
- **Contribution by FES this year to support the Civil Society Forum: \$10,302.54** (see spreadsheet below for more details)

Item/Service	Cost	Purpose/Category	Payment Method
Trusteeship Council technology & UN services	\$3,555.00	Civil Society Forum	To be paid by FES

Conference Room 4	\$1,200.00	Morning Briefings	To be paid by FES
Security for UN Trusteeship Council	\$1,871.12	Civil Society Forum	To be paid by FES
Security for Morning Briefings	\$1,181.76	Morning Briefings	To be paid by FES
UN WebTV & Interpretation Fees	\$592.00	Civil Society Forum	To be paid by FES
NGO CSocD Banner	\$308.47	Civil Society Forum	Reimbursement from FES
Civil Society Forum Spanish Interpretation	\$200.00	Civil Society Forum	Paid by FES
UN Church Center Room	\$875.00	Orientation/Networking Session	Reimbursement from FES
Catering from East Amish Market	\$519.19	Orientation/Networking Session	NGO CSocD Card; Reimbursement from FES
Total:	\$10,302.54		

Strategic Planning

The Executive Committee engaged in both standalone and ongoing strategic planning sessions internally and with an “extended leadership model.” Extended leadership consisted of meetings with subcommittee chairs and leaders in the social development, civil society, and UN spaces to discern plans of action in relation to CSocD61 and the upcoming UN Summits.

Partnership with UN DESA

The Executive Committee regularly communicated with UN DESA this past year. The collaboration worked in both directions, with Amine Lamrabat and Wenyan Yang consistently consulting the Committee and Executive for speaker suggestions, ideas, and participation in the lead up to the Commission for Social Development. Jean also had meetings, calls, and written correspondence with Amine and his colleagues to navigate the Civil Society Forum room bookings, finances, logistics, etc. This year, all NGO representatives that put forward oral statements for CSocD were able to deliver their interventions during the 2nd week of the

Commission. Wenyan and Amine also participated in NGO CSocD monthly and/or Executive meetings, providing invaluable support, updates, and suggestions.

Member State Engagement

NGO CSocD regularly engaged with Member States this year, primarily on the occasion of CSocD61. All Bureau members, including the Chair (Ambassador Al-Thani, Qatar) were visited by the NGO CSocD Executive. Additionally, 18 Mission Visits were conducted by Committee Members. These visits took place with the following Permanent Missions:

Austria	Japan	Nigeria
China	Poland	Portugal
Colombia	Democratic Republic of	Qatar
Zambia (twice)	Congo	Israel (twice)
Finland	United States	Costa Rica
Sierra Leone	Switzerland	

The Executive especially developed strong relationships with representatives from Costa Rica, Israel, Zambia, Portugal, and Sierra Leone. Additionally, a Breakfast with the Bureau gathering was held in January at the Baha'i International Community. The Chairs of different NGO Committees, Member States on the CSocD Bureau, and all NGO CSocD members received invitations; we found this gathering to be most successful and appreciated by all in attendance.

Expert Group Meeting

In June 2022, members of NGO CSocD participated in the Expert Group Meeting “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all” as observers. As Chair, Jean participated in the policy recommendations section. Aria Ribieras of ATD Fourth World (NGO CSocD Member-at-Large) and Lili Nkunzimana of the Baha'i International Community (NGO CSocD Secretary) delivered interventions during the EGM. The EGM was organized by UN DESA to begin preparations for CSocD61.

Our Advocacy Initiatives

Historically, and again this past year, NGO CSocD has had three major advocacy initiatives that regularly contribute to the CSocD process:

1. Advocacy Priorities (Talking Points)
2. Civil Society Declaration
3. Civil Society Forum (see section devoted to the Forum later on in this report)

The Advocacy Priorities (five for this past year) were developed by the Advocacy subcommittee in Fall 2022 out of what was discussed during the EGM and in an extended leadership/strategy meeting with the Executive Committee in July 2022. This document was widely shared and adapted for different audiences like social media and Member States. The Advocacy Priorities, along with our External Strategy and other important documents, were shared during the NGO CSocD Mission Visits.

The Civil Society Declaration was written by Lili Nkunzimana with substantial inputs and edits from the Executive and BIC Research team. This year, we received over 1,160 signatures to the Declaration.

Social Media and External Communications

The NGO CSocD social media accounts were managed primarily by members of the Executive and especially Catherine Edwards, a Mercy Global Action Intern, during January and February 2023. The posts on Twitter and Instagram included videos with our Advocacy Priorities discussed in different languages, promotional posts about CSocD, etc. Mailchimp was a primary tool used to send updates about NGO CSocD and the Civil Society Declaration out to thousands of people.

The NGO CSocD website and promotional materials (online and printed) were completed by our intern, Gonzalo, in January 2023.

NGO CSocD Internship

Due to the generous donations from some NGO CSocD members, we were able to welcome Gonzalo Ruiz Fernandez as a Communications Intern. Gonzalo enthusiastically contributed to the NGO CSocD website, Civil Society Forum program, flyers, and other external admin/comms functions in his month with NGO CSocD. Unfortunately, he was unable to stay with us for more than a month due to visa issues, but despite this he remained a dedicated virtual collaborator.

Subcommittees

NGO CSocD subcommittees regularly met both online and in-person this past year. Our four original subcommittees include Advocacy, Education, Communications, and Grassroots. Additional subcommittees that formed this year are the Civil Society Forum subcommittee and the World Social Summit subcommittee. The Civil Society Forum subcommittee convenes only in the lead up to the Forum and CSocD, the World Social Summit subcommittee is an ad-hoc group that will convene at least until 2025 for the World Social Summit, and all other subcommittees' work is ongoing.

Civil Society Forum

Jean in her capacity as NGO CSocD Chair, with Lara assisting the NGO CSocD Executive as the Civil Society Forum Chair, organized the Civil Society Forum during the Commission. The Forum gives civil society an opportunity to “takeover” the UN for a day, and convene panels and sessions related to the Commission’s priority theme. This year’s Civil Society Forum was the first to take place in-person since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below you will find more information about the sessions. Aria Ribieras moderated our first thematic panel, Lili Nkunzimana moderated the second thematic panel, and Dr. Ify Ofong (WorldWIDE Network Nigeria) facilitated the Regional Breakout Groups. Help with selecting speakers, brainstorming themes, and bringing the grassroots voice to the UN was done by the Civil Society Forum subcommittee in partnership with the Executive. Click [here](#) to view the Civil Society Forum program for more information about speakers and the day.



The 61st Commission for Social Development

The 61st Commission for Social Development (CSocD61) at the United Nations took place from February 6th – 15th. The theme for CSocD61 was “*Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*” NGO CSocD organized a number of preparatory gatherings for the Commission, including a Breakfast with the Bureau of CSocD61 at the Baha’i International Community (BIC) and a Networking and Orientation Session at the UN Church Center, which was moderated by Dan Perell of the BIC and featured remarks from Jean, Wenyan, and MaryAnn. Winifred Doherty and Sude Gokce of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd led a very successful and engaging networking session.

As the Chair of NGO CSocD, Jean delivered remarks on the opening panel of the Commission, alongside the Chair of the CSocD61 Bureau – Ambassador Al-Thani (Qatar), Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs – Li Junhua, and other high-level panelists. Jean also presented this year’s NGO CSocD Civil Society Declaration.

At the invitation of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Lara participated as a speaker on the Emerging Issues Panel. She offered the civil society perspective on major emerging issues for the global community and highlighted good practices for Member States to consider. UN DESA also invited Jean to moderate the Multi-stakeholder Forum for CSocD61. She facilitated presentations, dialogue, and a question-and-answer session for Member States and civil society related to the Commission’s priority theme.



Conclusion

We are people of hope. And we continue to be people of hope, giving ourselves permission to fail at times, to reflect, learn and try again – and with no expiration date. For me personally, hope is confidently expecting something good despite circumstances that suggest otherwise. Hope is our history as an NGO Community – with hope we are standing on the shoulders of all those who were on this committee before us. Their resilience and testaments embolden our own.

Hope Springs Eternal.





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