



AGNA Steering Committee (April 2016-April 2017)

AFRICA

Sophie Kange, Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Uganda.

CHAIR OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE



Sophie Kange also served as a Steering Committee of AGNA during the period 2015-2016 and was the co-leader of the Enabling Environment thematic group and Women Empowerment. She works with the Uganda National NGO Forum as the Coordinator of Capacity Development, managing over 600 NGOs, 35 District Networks with a membership of 3864. She is also the Board Chairperson of Social Enterprise for Women Empowerment and Director at Skills of Excellence, an organization working to empower Ugandan youth through skills and talent development.

Sophie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and Management and Master's Degree in Peace and Conflict Management from Makerere University. She wields great competence and expertise in Organizational Development, Research and Civic Space Monitoring, Advocacy and Campaigns, governance and membership servicing, networking and partnership development.

She has supported the platform in reviewing and endorsing key policies, plans and reports; The State of Civil Society report, the Enabling Environment National Assessment report and other civic space monitoring instruments. Sophie represented AGNA in Uganda, Turkey, South Africa, and Ghana and recently in New York at the CSW60. Sophie is among the few Women champions the campaign to empower women in Civil Society into leadership. Her active participation has contributed to the great innovations and programming that AGNA has adopted for 2016 and beyond.

Sophie is optimistic and confident that now that she's been re-elected to be part of the AGNA steering Committee, she will be able to move existing AGNA campaigns to fruition and to the growth of the platform at national, regional and global level.

Oyebisi Babatunde Oluseyi- Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO), Nigeria.



Oyebisi Babatunde Oluseyi is the Executive Director of the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO) and for many years been an internationally respected authority on the growth of civil society, campaigning and advocacy particularly as they concern development on the African continent. Prior to joining NNGO, he worked with UNICEF as the Global Coordinator for the UNICEF Rural Voices of Youth Initiative. He has over 10 years of experience as a senior policy analyst and strategist on addressing diverse development challenges of the African policy landscape primarily in the fields of economic development, institutional analysis, and communications for development and public sector reforms. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Civil Society Pillar of the Community of Democracy.

From 2004 onwards Oyebisi has headed successively series of portfolios of activities on development policy, civil society strengthening and participatory governance. He serves and has served on the Board of many companies and civil society organisations including Society for Family and Social Protection in Nigeria. Oyebisi a World Citizen is a Fellow, ICNL Global Forum 2015 and was recently elected member of the Board of Directors of CIVICUS at the International Civil Society Week 2016.

Over the years, Oyebisi has remained focused on growing the work of civil society on the African continent and in ensuring that the world remains a better place and that civil society stays true to its commitment of being legitimate, transparent and accountable values he holds so dearly.

ASIA

Roselle Rassay, Red de ONGs del Cauco (CODE-NGO), Filipinas.



Roselle is the Deputy Executive Director of CODE-NGO and oversees the membership network, promotion of programs and knowledge development and management. At the same time, she coordinates a project on capacity building and the promotion of CSO networks for disaster risk management (DRRM).

Roselle has 11 years of experience in managing programs and projects of social development in the non-profit environment and 11 years of service in various government agencies - as a researcher of laws and policies in the House of Representatives of the Philippines, as manager of special government projects in the Department of Trade and Industry and a member of the faculty at the Philippine Military Academy.

She has an Australia Awards 2013 Fellow prize, it is a voluntary evaluator of the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC), and a mentor to some CSOs in their management processes for organizational change. Roselle has a Master's in Public Administration at the National School of Public Administration and Government (NCPAG) at the University of the Philippines.

Harsh Jaitli, Red de Accion Voluntaria de la India (VANIA), India.



Harsh Jaitli is the Chief Executive Officer and Member Secretary of Voluntary Action Network India (VANI), which is the national platform of Indian Voluntary Organizations. He holds a M. Phil in International Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. He joined PRIA, an International Centre for Learning and Promotion of Participation and Democratic Governance in November 1990. During his tenure of 19 years with them he held various assignments in all major functions such as project cycle management, participatory trainings and participatory research. He worked on various themes like occupational and environmental health, urban governance, capacity building of voluntary organizations, organizational development, etc. His last assignment with PRIA was Director.

Since 2009, Jaitli is working with VANI is an organization which was founded in 1988 to act as a promoter/ protector and collective voice of the voluntary sector. VANI acts as a platform to promote voluntarism and space for voluntary action. It attempts to bring about a convergence of common sectoral issues and concerns for building a truly national agenda of voluntary action in India. As an association, it works towards fostering value based voluntary action and long- term sustainability especially amongst our members. The major engagement of VANI is towards strengthening internal governance of voluntary organizations and research based policy advocacy to create enabling environment for voluntary organization and voluntary action. VANI has the outreach of almost 10,000 voluntary organisations in India.

Harsh is a member of Governing Body of Sphere India, Vice Chair of International Forum of National NGO Platform (IFP), Co-convener of Asia Development Alliance (ADA), Co-convener of Asia Democracy Network (ADN). He was reference group member of Action 2015 & member of the "Task Force on Business Responsibilities (TF-BRS)" constituted by the Planning Commission of India for next five years plan; Steering Committee on 'Voluntary Sector' for the formulation of the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017)" constituted by the Planning Commission of India and member of Drafting Committee on "National Voluntary Guidelines for the Social, Environmental and Ethical Responsibilities of Businesses", constituted by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. Harsh Jaitli is also founding board member of Forum of International Development Cooperation (FIDC) formed to work of Indian International Development Cooperation.

EUROPE

Liana Varon- Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), Turkey

DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE



After earning her Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Koç University, Liana Varon completed her master's degree in the same subject at Koç University where she also worked as a teaching and research assistant. Prior to joining Third Sector Foundation of Turkey (TUSEV), Liana worked for Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey and consulted various civil society organizations on fundraising strategies.

Liana joined TUSEV in 2011 where she is currently serving as Deputy Secretary General. She's responsible from the overall coordination of TUSEV's programme areas and the Communications department. Liana co-authored several number of articles and publications by TUSEV on subjects such as; civil society monitoring, enabling environment and civic space, philanthropy and strategic giving and social entrepreneurship development.

As a strong believer of the role and importance of AGNA, Liana highly motivated to work in the Steering Committee to strengthen the reach of AGNA, build its capacity and develop different ways of working more closely with its members as well as CIVICUS. As described briefly above, as part of her role at TUSEV, she has experience in CSO management, communications and membership relations.

Furthermore, her areas of interest and experience include but not limited to areas such as enabling environment, civic space, philanthropy and strategic giving, social entrepreneurship. Over the past years, she has followed closely the developments both at national and international levels in these areas as well as

writing and contributing to reports/articles, attending conferences and sharing information about the state of civil society in Turkey. Liana believes her skills, expertise and commitment for working with AGNA makes her a strong candidate for the Steering Committee.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Guillermo Correa- Argentine Network for International Cooperation (RACI), Argentina.



Since 2007, Guillermo has been the founder and Executive Director of the Argentine Network for International Cooperation (RACI), and from 2013 to March 2016 he is also the Executive Director of HelpArgentina. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, with specialization in International Relations and a Masters in International Relations (both from University of Buenos Aires – UBA). He was also the Director of Institutional Development of Poder Ciudadano Foundation, the Argentinean Chapter of Transparency International.

Guillermo is the author of several publications such as "Problems of Democracy. What to do to fix them?" (2006) – Poder Ciudadano & Kettering Foundation; "Manual for easy access to International Cooperation – A tool for strengthening civil society organizations (CSOs)" (2008, 4th edition 2012) –Argentina Network for International Cooperation (RACI); "Inclusion of civil society to increase transparency and accountability: A program, multiple challenges" in The Power of transparency (2012).

Guillermo believes he is qualified to serve as a Steering Committee, and that he could make a good contribution. He offers fundraising and institutional development skills due to the career he has developed in the field. He served as a member of the Steering Committee of AGNA for the period 2014-2016, and he would like to continue with the work he begun. He was also elected member of the CIVICUS Board of Directors at the International Civil Society Week 2016. This will also allow him to take the issues of most importance to AGNA, to the CIVICUS core.

Diana Vegas Castro- Sinergia, Venezuela



Diana Vegas Castro, born in Venezuela, with a long history of three decades in the Community-based participation and in the NGO world, sociologist, with specialization in social management, with a solid expertise designing, executing, evaluating, inventing and learning permanently from work with and for people most in need; has been co-founder of some local, regional, and national organizations.

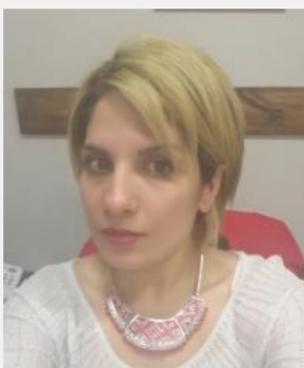
Has been a member of several boards in the public sector and in civil society. Currently occupies management positions in two national networks of social organizations of high profile: Vice Chair of Sinergia and Chairperson of the Grupo Social CESAP. Acts as alternate of the Executive Committee of ALOP (Latin American Association of Promotion Organizations).

The current situation in Venezuela and Latin America, characterized by the deficit of enabling environments for the development and strengthening of the Civil Society, as well as the repeated violation of fundamental Human Rights, regardless of the political and ideological factors, has been a permanent challenge for social actors as Diana: having incidence in public affairs, enabling the dialog between opposing factors, converting crisis in opportunities, learning to manage the changes and be more resilient people, in order to become strengthened in the face of adversities..

The experience of organization of Venezuelan ONGs is a reference to be made to service AGNA with the participation of Sinergia and Diana Vegas in the Steering Committee.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Arein Omer Amin Abualrob, Palestinian Consultative staff for Developing NGOs (PCS), Palestine.



Arein was born and raised in Palestine, she holds a B.A in Sociology from Birzit University and an Exchange M.A in Development from La-sapienza Rome.

Arein has been working for local and INGO which are operating in Palestine, and has been responsible for different positions but mainly her experience evolved around Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Currently she is working for Palestinian Consultative Staff (PCS) as a project coordinator. PCS is an independent civic and Non-governmental assemblage, that aims to develop and empower the Palestinian community during the cadre of promoting democracy, social equity, sustainable development, and respect the law and human rights. PCS's memberships includes more than 50 Palestinian NGOs in Jenin Governorate and northern west bank governorates, that work in human ,social and development fields.

Arein works closely with marginalized people specially women, and being aware of their daily struggle to meet their basic need enhanced her beliefs of the need to redouble our efforts for social justice and fight against corruption.

Dave Henderson- Hui E!, New Zealand. Standing for re-election



Dave Henderson is the External Relations Manager for Hui E!, a national network that encompasses very many community and voluntary organisations in New Zealand and has as its key focus promoting, strengthening and connecting that broad sector.

Hui E! is the leading advocate for a civil society perspective in New Zealand's political and social affairs, and Dave represents Hui E! on a range of consultative and advisory groups that present a civil society perspective on government policy proposals and plans.

Dave has been active in CIVICUS and AGNA for over a decade and has Chaired AGNA for the period November 2014 – April 2016. He is also Chair of Kidney Health NZ, so has a strong interest in health funding and current moves by the NZ Government to better support kidney donors. From 2004 – 2015 Dave was Coordinator of ANGOA, the New Zealand national association of NGOs.

Formerly Dave was Secretary General of Rehabilitation International (RI), a global NGO based in New York with members in over 120 countries. During his time there RI successfully initiated the drive to establish a UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Prior to that he was 9 years as Chief Executive for the NZ national Disabled Persons' Assembly, a consumer rights group for people with all forms of disability.