

AGNA Steering Committee

JULY 2018 - JUNE 2019



AFFINITY GROUP OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AGNA

AFRICA

MS. SOPHIE KANGE (CHAIR)

*UGANDA NATIONAL NGO FORUM
(UNNGOF), UGANDA*

Sophie Kange is the current representative for Africa and Chair of the AGNA Steering Committee. 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 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 2017 and beyond.



MR. SIMAO TILA

*JOINT - LIGA DE ONGS EM
MOCAMBIQUE, MOZAMBIQUE*

Simao Tila is the Executive Director of JOINT, the NGO League in Mozambique, for 11 years. He has been a personality who has earned a lot of respect and admiration for his work in strengthening Civil Society in Mozambique, in the region and internationally.

From 2014 to the present he led several movements and advocacy platforms on Public Debt, Restoration of Peace in Mozambique and on Freedom of Expression. He also led several studies highlighting the study on civic space in the Organization of the Civil Society in Mozambique and gave rise to a plan of action whose main activity and the Review of the Law of Associations in Mozambique the Law 8/91 in revision process. He is a founding member of HUB Africa Member of the Executive Committee of SADC CNGO And chairman of the Board of Directors of the Social Protection Platform in Mozambique

For about 18 years he has been devoting himself as a social activist, human rights advocate and a fighter to the growth, visibility and impact of civil society actions in Mozambique, the region and the African continent to ensure that world remain a better place and for civil society to remain faithful to its commitment to be legitimate, transparent and accountable values. Reason for which he led through the organization that he is now a Executive Director, the auscultation and elaboration of the Code of principles, conduct and ethics of the Civil Society Organizations in Mozambique in 2015, and which is in the process of adoption by the CSOs in Mozambique.



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ASIA

MR. GOPAL LAMSAL

NGO FEDERATION OF NEPAL, NEPAL

Gopal Lamsal is the president of NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN), which is the national NGOs' platform established in 1991. Mr. Lamsal has Master Degree in Rural Development and in Law (LLM). His mother organization is Integrated Community Development Campaign Nepal (ICDC-Nepal). He has served in NFN in different capacities for last fifteen years.

He has proven his capacity in CSOs/NGOs leadership and management, policy advocacy for enabling environment of CSOs and development effectiveness. On behalf of NFN, he has successfully led the Millennium Development Campaign and post 2015 civil society process. He has deep knowledge about the history and initiatives MDGs and SDGs and now he is leading GCAP National Coalition and national CSOs coalition which is composed of more than 20 civil society networks, federations and alliances.

Lamsal is now giving leadership to the civil society process on the 2030 sustainable development agenda. He has played very important role to form a common civil society platform in the country to work on sustainable development agenda, called CSOs Forum for Sustainable Development in Nepal (Nepal SDGs Forum). He has experience of participating many meeting and forums regarding sustainable development agenda at international, regional and national level.

MR. HARSH JAITLEI

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 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.

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).



EUROPE

MS. LIANA VARON (CO-CHAIR)

*THIRD SECTOR FOUNDATION OF
TURKEY (TUSEV), TURKEY*

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. Liana served as the Deputy Chair of the AGNA Steering Committee in the 2016-2017 period.



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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

MR. 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).

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 nominated to become a part of the CIVICUS board, and if chosen, he could act as a link between the AGNA national platforms and the CIVICUS board. This would allow him to take the issues of most importance to AGNA, to the CIVICUS core.

MS. 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 President 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.



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MENA

MS. AREEN ABUALROB

*PALESTINIAN CONSULTATIVE STAFF
FOR DEVELOPING NGOS (PCS),
PALESTINE*

Areen 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.

Areen 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.



PACIFIC

MS. NGARA KATUKE

*THE COOK ISLANDS CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANISATIONS INC., COOK ISLANDS*

Ngara Katuke is the current President for the Cook Islands Civil Society Organizations, this the national platform in the Cook Islands. She wears few hats in her community and church working with young youth, women's groups and uniform organization groups. She commits and dedicates her time and provides her services to her non-governmental group. She coordinates events and programs that are required by the government sector on health, economy, education and so forth.

