



CCIG
INTERNATIONAL
CATHOLIC
CENTER
OF GENEVA

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2020

www.ccig-iccg.org

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ABBREVIATIONS

CINGO	Catholic-inspired Non-governmental Organization
HRC	Human Rights Council
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ILC	International Labour Conference
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

« Open to the world,
at the very heart
of International
Institutions »

EDITORIAL

« Post Tenebras Lux ! Après les ténèbres, la lumière ! Light After Darkness! »

DEAR FRIENDS OF CCIG,
DEAR READERS,

Most of us who live and/or work in Geneva might know very well this expression. It is engraved in the Reformation Wall in Geneva. This is a particular expression that has been used by the Protestant Reformation in the time of John Calvin as well as the motto of the City of Geneva.

2020 was a very particular year due to the global Covid-19 pandemic that has affected and continues to affect the whole planet, almost without exception. At the beginning considered as a health issue, now it touches almost all aspects of our life, our ways of work, education, relating with other people, governance, economic system and the list continues. At the same time, the pandemic has provided... or perhaps forced us to think and function differently, or as some call it the "New Normal". The way we work, the way our children go to school, the way we interact with other people, the way we get our groceries were adapted in a completely new way, to prevent the propagation of the Covid-19 virus. The overall impacts of the pandemic might only be recognized after some years.

At the International Catholic Center of Geneva, the pandemic period has posed a great challenge on our functioning. We had to adjust our activities without compromising our vision and mission. Thanks to the quick and on-going coordination between the Secretariat and the Board, we were able to deliver most of the activities we had planned. The resilience of CCIG during the 2020 pandemic can be illustrated through our work in providing service to NGOs and Training. Due to the restriction of face-to-face meetings and the need to observe strict health protocols in Geneva, the UPR Platform periodic coordination meetings were organized through an online platform. The NGOs participating in this platform continued to submit joint UPR Submissions and oral statements to the UN Human Rights Council.

For the Training, CCIG succeeded to organize two webinars on how to collect information from local actors and to build up UPR submissions and human rights indicators for monitoring UPR progress and supporting an introductory online training for Human Rights Defenders in Papua New Guinea (PNG). CCIG has initiated a new capacity building Project « **Human rights enhancement in Papua New Guinea (PNG) through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** » since December 2020. The aim is to support CCIG's members and partners in their advocacy efforts towards a better implementation of human rights in PNG, by organizing in-country and international activities.

Though we are conscious that we are not at the end of the tunnel, we start seeing the light at the end of it. We do know that we all still have to face many challenges in the coming years as humans and as an organization. However, the CCIG will continue its work and commitment to serve the cause of the most vulnerable in compliance with its mission and vision and we thank our members and donors for their continuing support.

Sincerely,

Budi Tjahjono
President of CCIG Board



SERVICE TO NGOS

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) PLATFORM

The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly impacted all sectors of activities and, among them, the Human rights related ones. The UPR Platform promoted by the CCIG, does not represent an exception. Nonetheless, the CCIG remained engaged to continue its work through its UPR Platform aimed at supporting Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), with the ultimate goal of generating more effective States' action to prevent and address human rights violations.

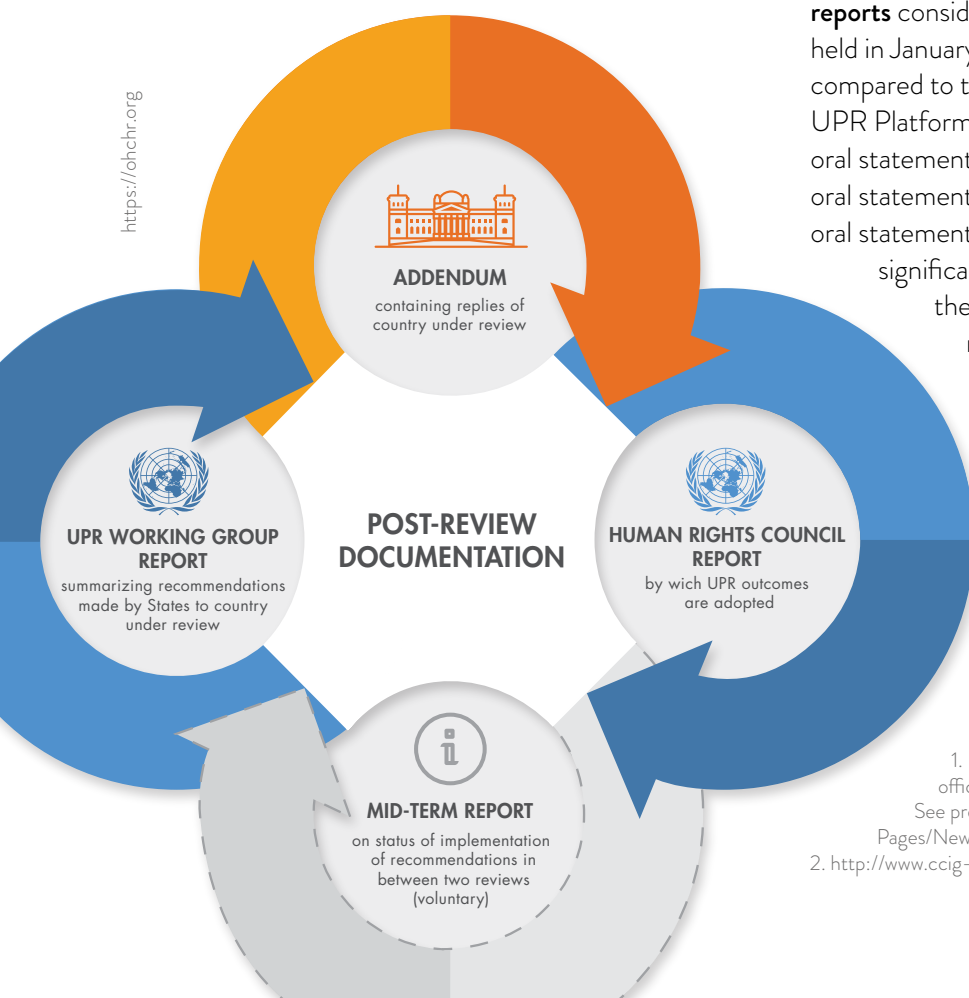
To this end, the CCIG has identified and put in place adapted solutions to ensure the effectiveness of its UPR Platform's activities despite the challenging situation. For example, plenary meetings of the Platform taking place from March 2020 have been held online and further efforts were made to prioritize capacity building events that could effectively take place online and therefore effectively respond to the concrete needs of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

As a result, 2020 has been a fruitful year for the CCIG UPR Platform, which not only maintained its work to support and enhance coordination among its members (an updated list is available [here](#)) but also extended its range of sensitization and capacity building activities.

Finally, the UPR Platform offered a space for NGOs committed to human rights to share and coordinate their activities to better face the impact generated by the Covid-19 emergency on their regular UPR work.

During 2020, **four plenary meetings** of the Platform took place to facilitate the joint work of NGOs between the 35th and the 38th sessions of the UPR. Due to the Covid-19 emergency, only 2 out of the 3 usual UPR sessions were held by the United Nations in 2020 (i.e. the 35th and 36th UPR sessions).¹

Six joint written reports were submitted to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) by members of the CCIG Platform and **seven oral statements** were delivered under item 6 of the HRC. Moreover, **follow up** was ensured for **seven reports** considered under the 35th and 36th UPR sessions held in January-February and November 2020.² When compared to the number of countries addressed by the UPR Platform in 2017 (13 joint written reports and 5 oral statements), 2018 (8 joint written reports and 8 oral statements) and 2019 (11 joint written reports and 11 oral statements), these reports and statements show a significant and steady contribution resulting from the work of the Platform. This is even more relevant if one takes into account that, due to the Covid emergency, a lower number of countries were examined by the UN in 2020. With the support of CCIG, NGOs also developed common strategies to collect information from their own members in the field, draft joint UPR submissions, and carry out joint lobbying activities with States Representatives in order to prioritize members' concerns during the review.



1. Please note that due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the official UPR calendar was modified by the United Nations.

See press release: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=25733&LangID=E>

2. http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page_id=457



CCIG continues supporting human rights defenders in Bolivia

In addition to the oral statements presented by the Platform members, the CCIG, on behalf of a NGO coalition consisting of ERI, FMSI, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA), Société Saint Vincent de Paul and Teresian Association, delivered an **oral statement under Item 6 (Consideration of the UPR Outcomes of Bolivia) of the UN Human Rights Council (March 2020)**. The statement was drafted with the support of RUN Bolivia, a network of several NGOs that had contributed to the UPR of their country, bringing to the attention of the international community the alarming escalation of violence against children, adolescents and women in Bolivia.

The coalition called on the government of Bolivia to continue its efforts to strengthen institutions in charge of assisting children, adolescents and women victims of violence and to ensure adequate budget allocation to implement shelters for victims.³

As a reply to the statement, the Bolivian Vice-Minister of Justice highlighted to the Human Rights Council that 2020 was declared the year of the fight against violence in Bolivia and that the Government was working on a plan of action for the eradication of violence against children, adolescents and women. Moreover, he confirmed that extraordinary resources will be allocated to address cases and ensure protection both at the departmental and municipal level.

Furthermore, in order to maximize existing partnerships and joint efforts, the CCIG UPR Platform has continued to find new forms of collaboration with the UPR Branch of the United Nations OHCHR as well as with other NGO partners especially UPR Info.

Hence, the CCIG represented the members of its Platform in various informal meetings and provided relevant contributions. This includes participation in a

virtual meeting organized by the OHCHR and UPR Info to reinforce the effectiveness of the UPR mechanism in preparation for its 4th cycle. Following the meeting, the CCIG provided **written inputs for an OHCHR Study on UPR Good Practices**, in the form of two contributions: (i) A CCIG detailed contribution supported by ERI, FMSI and FIACAT presenting key lessons stemming from CCIG projects run in Guatemala, Togo and Bolivia; (ii) A Joint contribution supported by several members highlighting key lessons resulting from the experience of the UPR Platform itself.

A database on the **CCIG website**, providing links to all Joint UPR Submissions by members, as well as Oral Statements has been regularly updated throughout 2020.⁴ This is to ensure that the database remains an effective tool for information exchange. Moreover, this year, the CCIG has created a new section in its website dedicated to projects implemented by CCIG on the ground. A specific webpage on the UPR project run in Bolivia was made available online⁵ with the objective to support CCIG members while developing and strengthening their own advocacy activities. The new webpage can be used as a tool for training and awareness-raising of local members as it also gathers video testimonies of local human rights defenders and/or local NGO representatives who benefited from different CCIG initiatives in their countries.

This contributes to prove how the CCIG UPR Platform has become a stimulating space for NGOs to conceive and implement new initiatives, to enhance know-how and spread best practices among its members all over the world.

3. The full text of the oral statement is available at: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CCIG-joint-statement-43HRC-Item-6-BOLIVIA-09.03.2020-final-with-cover.pdf>

4. http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page_id=457

5. http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page_id=2705

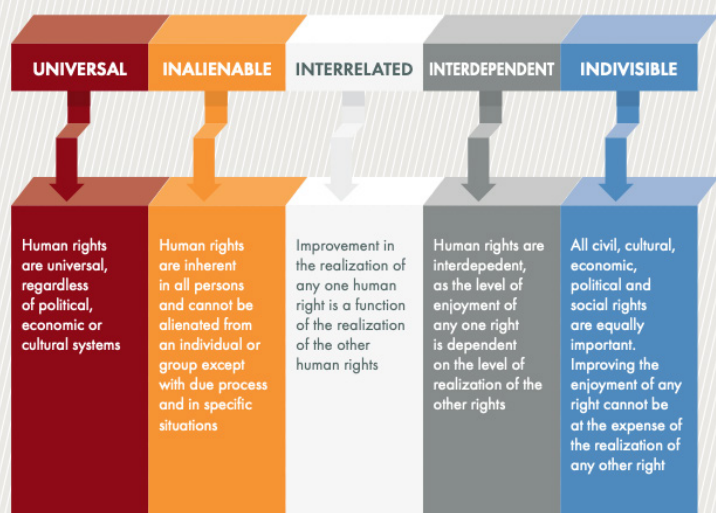
TRAINING

CCIG continued its efforts to carry out several training activities for local human rights defenders and international NGO representatives. In accordance with its 2018 – 2022 Strategy and Action Plan, CCIG intends to foster quality contributions by NGOs in the UN system through a complete and successful exercise of their consultative status. Accordingly, CCIG offers training courses and theoretical-practical seminars for NGO members as well as other attendees interested in receiving specified training on United Nations mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, such as the Treaty Bodies and the UPR.

The COVID-19 restrictions have prevented the realization of in-person training sessions in Geneva in 2020. However, greater efforts were made by the CCIG to prioritize capacity building events that could effectively take place online and therefore respond to the concrete needs of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

In accordance with its strategic priority of training and awareness raising, the CCIG secretariat offered continuous assistance to NGO activities to train their members in the field.

Fig. III Human rights characteristics



6. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=3134>



WEBINAR ON HOW TO COLLECT INFORMATION FROM LOCAL ACTORS AND BUILD UP A UPR SUBMISSION

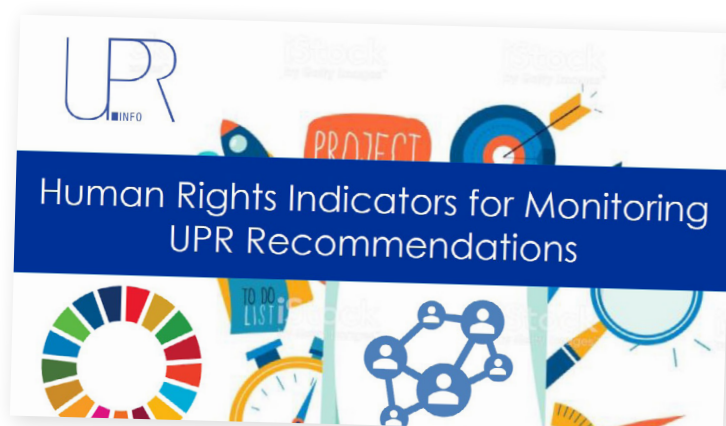
In May, following the request of the members of the UPR-Platform, the CCIG conducted an online training to enhance CSO's participation in the UPR. The webinar focused specifically on how to collect information from local actors in order to build up and draft a UPR submission. It was attended by 11 participants representing 10 NGOs who learned the implications of leading the building up of a submission. In particular, they learned how the tight collaboration between the local CSO and international NGOs is crucial during the drafting of the UPR Submission to ensure that human rights concerns raised by affected local populations effectively impact the interested Governments at an international level through UN mechanisms such as the UPR.⁶



«Thank you very much for the useful training, very concrete and applicable. Thank you for thinking about a follow up session and for making a recording available. That will greatly improve our work with the UPR mechanism.»

*Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI),
CCIG Member*

WEBINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS INDICATORS FOR MONITORING UPR PROGRESS



The first webinar was followed by a second virtual session organized with UPR Info in late October and titled “Human Rights Indicators for Monitoring UPR Progress”. 17 participants from 13 NGO members of the UPR Platform and two other interested civil society organizations attended the E-meeting and gained skills to improve their monitoring and implementation work. The training also provided a roadmap for more effective CSO action at the local level.

It aimed at highlighting the crucial role of CSOs in the monitoring of the government’s action on the UPR Recommendations, through the use of Human Rights Indicators. The latter are specifically designed to measure whether human rights are fulfilled within a given State, especially for the most vulnerable groups. They provide a reliable way to measure achievements

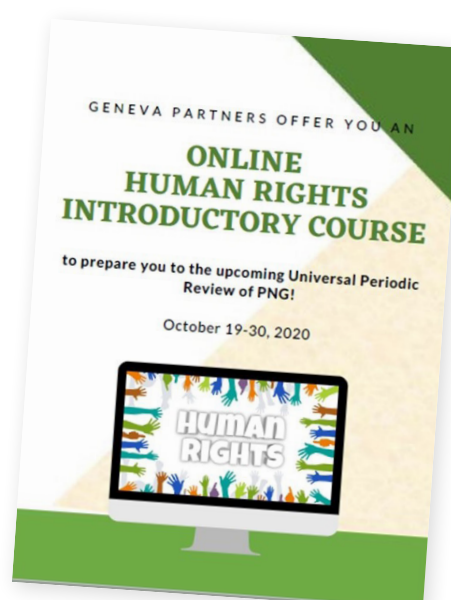
and challenges in human rights implementation. They promote accountability and transparency, inform public policy, show compliance with human rights obligations, simplify complex data and facilitate their use for reporting. A practical exercise designed to test participants’ understanding of the content of the training as well as a follow up session with a trainer were also organized.⁷

SUPPORT TO THE INTRODUCTORY ONLINE TRAINING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

In October, 6 representatives of Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Edmund Rice International and Marist International Solidarity Foundation -which will run, together with the CCIG, a new human rights project in PNG in 2020-2022 -benefitted from an on-line preparatory course organized with the technical support of the CCIG.

The on-line training provided information on human rights and international human rights obligations; introduced attendees to the UN human rights mechanisms, with a special focus on the UPR and provided them with monitoring and advocacy tools and useful tips on working methodologies.

By doing so, this seminar met the overall goal of the wider PNG project which is to support the CCIG members and partners in their advocacy efforts at the



7. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=3150>

UPR, towards a better implementation of human rights in PNG, by organizing in-country and international activities.

In particular, this training had the benefit to reinforce the skills and competences of PNG human rights defenders who face enormous challenges in having their voices heard at the government level. The need of capacity building initiatives is even more evident now when the Covid-19 pandemic has brutally challenged

on human rights. Real change in government policies necessarily passes through the empowerment of human rights defenders who are key to systemic societal changes towards the full enjoyment of human rights.⁸

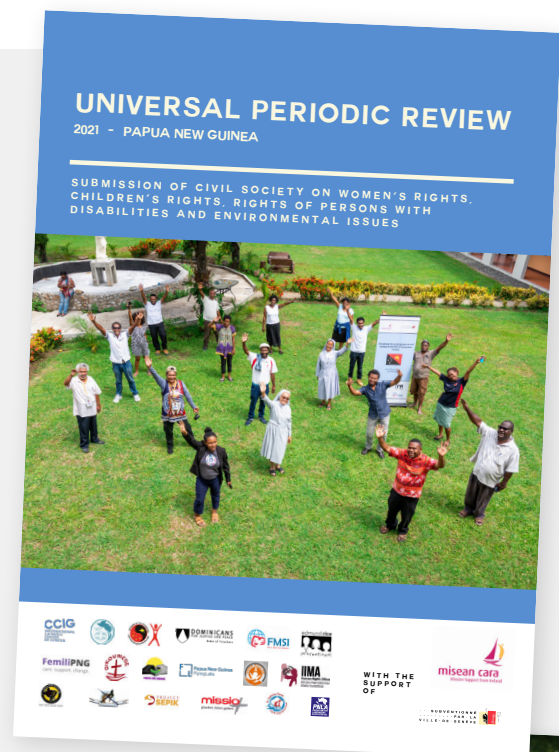
These webinars were part of CCIG's capacity building efforts for Civil Society Organizations, especially for its members and partners to engage more effectively for the human rights implementation at the local level.

8. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=3224>

A NEW CCIG PROJECT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In December 2020, the CCIG initiated a new capacity building Project « Human rights enhancement in Papua New Guinea (PNG) through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) », whose goal is to support CCIG's members and partners in their advocacy efforts towards a better implementation of human rights in PNG, by organizing in-country and international activities. Co-organized together with Edmund Rice International (ERI), Dominicans for Justice and Peace and the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI), this project aims at reinforcing human rights in PNG through an effective engagement with the United Nations (UN) human rights mechanisms, with a particular focus on the UPR.

This year, an **in-country steering committee in Papua New Guinea (PNG)** was created and equipped with information on the UPR mechanism in preparation for the Review of PNG. With the support of the CCIG, the Steering Committee started reaching out to local civil society organizations in order to create a local coalition to advocate for human rights in the context of the UPR.



EXCHANGES AND AWARENESS-RAISING

OPEN DIALOGUE ON POPE FRANCIS' LATEST SOCIAL ENCYCLICAL "FRATELLI TUTTI"⁹



In November, a video-conference about the new encyclical of Pope Francis, "Fratelli Tutti" was organized by the CCIG and the Formation Service of the Catholic Church of Geneva.

It was facilitated by Diana Rizzolio, the Coordinator of the Geneva Environment Network of the UN Environment Program and Guillermo Kerber who works for the Service of Formation of the Catholic Church and teaches at the *Atelier Œcuménique de Théologie* of Geneva. Ms. Rizzolio is currently the Vice President of the CCIG Board of Directors while Mr. Kerber is a former CCIG Board member.

They discussed the central themes of the recent social encyclical which are: fraternity, social friendship, dialogue, culture of encounter and good politics. A presentation of the structure and a synthesis of the 8 chapters were made as a way of encouraging the participants to discover and read the encyclical. They highlighted how that latest document of the Pope is an

encouragement and a reminder to Catholic Inspired Organizations in their continuous engagement with human rights institutions at the international and local levels.

DECENT WORK & SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC – CATHOLIC INSPIRED ORGANIZATIONS WEBINAR¹⁰

On June 4, 2020, in continuity with CCIG's collaborative work with other Catholic Inspired Organizations (CIOs), CCIG members participated in a webinar entitled "Life and Work after Pandemic: The Road to Recovery". It aimed to provide a platform of discussion in order to measure the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on life and work as well as how to re-construct the recovery journey to the "New Normal."

The interchange between the resource persons, Luc Cortebeeck, Anna Biondi and the sharing of good

9. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=3234>

10. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=3203>



practices of some organizations has been rich. Indeed, COVID-19 highlighted existing social inequalities and gaps and therefore, the challenge to work for socio-economic frameworks that safeguard people's well-being and promote social dialogue among governments, labor organizations and civil society at large are urgent imperatives for our time.

EMPLOYMENT, DECENT WORK AND PEACE IN TIMES OF COVID – ILO WEBINAR¹¹

On 28 September 2020, CCIG participated in a virtual event organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in partnership with the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs to discuss the key contribution of employment and decent work to peacebuilding, social cohesion and social justice, in particular in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The discussants were in unison in affirming that more than ever, there is a need to work on inclusivity, dialogue and partnership with as many actors and stakeholders in the effort to seek effective responses and solutions. Also, they underlined that employment is one of the most effective ways to address humanitarian emergencies and start on the path to peaceful and sustainable development.

11. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=3218>

► Panelists BJOs
How employment and decent work can contribute to peace and social cohesion in time of COVID-19 crisis



► Mr. Guy Ryder
The Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2012, Mr. Guy Ryder is the first Director-General to have been born in the 20th century. He is also the first Director-General to have been born in the 20th century. He is also the first Director-General to have been born in the 20th century.




► Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco
Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco is the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support Office (PSO) at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). He is also the first Director-General to have been born in the 20th century.




► H.E. Mr. Felix Baumann
H.E. Mr. Felix Baumann is the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva.


► Ms. Renée Larivière
The Senior Director of Policy and Strategy in the Peacebuilding Support Office (PSO) at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). She is also the first Director-General to have been born in the 20th century.



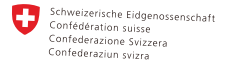
► H.E. Mr. Maman Sidikou
H.E. Mr. Maman Sidikou is the Executive Secretary of the GS Sahel. He is also the first Director-General to have been born in the 20th century.



► Ms. Elna Mejia Fernandez
Ms. Elna Mejia Fernandez is the Manager of the Territorially Focused Development Program (PDET) of the Sierra Nevada and Perijá, Colombia. She is also the first Director-General to have been born in the 20th century.



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► How employment and decent work can contribute to peace and social cohesion in time of COVID-19 crisis

28 SEP 2020

3.30 pm - 5 pm (CET)
9.30 am - 11 am (ET)

The virtual event is an ILO initiative in partnership with the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Swiss government to discuss the key contribution of employment and decent work to peacebuilding, social cohesion and social justice, in particular in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

► Event registration link:
bit.ly/jobs4peace2020

#jobs4peace

Opening remarks:

- Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General, ILO
- Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary General, PSO
- H.E. Mr. Felix Baumann, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

Moderator:

- Ms. Renée Larivière, Senior Director for Programme Management, INTERPEACE

Panelists:

- H.E. Mr. Maman Sidikou, Executive Secretary, GS Sahel
- Ms. Elna Mejia Fernandez, Manager of the Territorially Focused Development Program (PDET) of the Sierra Nevada and Perijá, Colombia
- Mr. Omar Faruk Osman, General Secretary, Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU)
- Ms. Lindwe Sephomolo, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Lesotho Employers and Business.



► Ms. Elna Mejia Fernandez



► Mr. Omar Faruk Osman



► Ms. Lindwe Sephomolo

The Chairperson of the Association of Lesotho Employers and Business, Ms. Lindwe Sephomolo, is the first woman to be elected as the Chairperson of the Association of Lesotho Employers and Business. She is also the first woman to be elected as the Chairperson of the Association of Lesotho Employers and Business.

#jobs4peace

► Event registration link:
bit.ly/jobs4peace2020



ADMINISTRATION

STRUCTURE OF CCIG ACTIVITIES

In 2020, the Board held six meetings in order to ensure coherence and adequate realization of all activities as well as the development of fundraising efforts. This year, Guillermo Kerber resigned from the Board. We greatly thank him for his valuable contribution to make CCIG a more effective and dynamic organization. Angel Diego Garcia Otaola, FMSI representative, became a new member of the Board.

As a result of the measures taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the General Assembly of the CCIG, initially scheduled for May, had to be postponed to the last trimester 2020. Moreover, In view of the fact that the epidemiological situation in Geneva remained delicate, the Executive Board of the CCIG decided that the General Assembly had to be fulfilled through electronic means.

In 2020, the CCIG submitted its application and was granted a Tax exoneration from the Geneva cantonal authorities.

Finally, as with every year, several meetings were held between the Secretariat and members wishing to receive assistance in the development of their activities. The work of the Secretariat was supported by Silvia Palomba as a Consultant for Projects Management and Fund-raising and



MEMBERS OF CCIG BOARD (UPDATED ON DECEMBER 31, 2020)

- Budi Tjahjono — President
- Diana Duarte Rizzolio — Vice-President
- Felix Wertli — Treasurer
- Brian Bond — Secretary
- Larry Kohler — Member
- Sophie de Rivaz — Member
- Angel Diego Garcia Otaola — Member



Francesco Leonardo Scarpa as intern in the first trimester 2020. A special thanks to Maria Lilian S. Espedilla, ODN for her precious support throughout the year.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

In 2020 CCIG continued its efforts to shape and secure the future of the organization vis-à-vis its traditional donors as well as the more recent donors.

In addition to the continued and appreciated support of Action de Carême (Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund), CCIG has received a contribution from the City of Carouge, in 2020.

Moreover, the approval by Miseen Cara as well as the City of Geneva of the project for human rights defenders in Papua New Guinea (PNG), has been an important outcome of CCIG fundraising efforts.



KEY POINTS RELATED TO FUNDRAISING

- The Project for Human Rights Defenders in PNG was approved by Miseen Cara as well as the City of Geneva.
- The Covid-19 pandemic prevented the realization of a few activities financed by concerned partners.
- Preliminary contacts were undertaken with new potential donors to open additional funding opportunities in 2021.
- We also thank all those who made a donation to CCIG in 2020.



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2020

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