

# GNEC ELECTIONS 2022

Any NGO registered with DGC has one vote in GNEC's election process. Candidates are from eligible registered NGOs and will serve from 2022 to 2024 if elected to their respective positions.

If you have any questions please contact  
nomselectionschair@gnec.ngo

## The Nominees

**The Second Vice President** shall: advise the President of the Executive Committee; carry out duties of the Executive Committee President in their absence; assist the President in overseeing & coordinating the activities of the Executive Committee; be responsible, as delegated by the President, for the effective functioning of the subcommittees; assist the President in organizing the Annual Meeting & Retreat; mentor newly elected directors on responsibilities; discharge other duties as assigned by the President of the Executive Committee.

### Candidates:

**Uwem Robert - African Youth Movement**



I seek to be elected as the Vice President at the Global NGO Executive Committee (GNEC) to continue to support the work of GNEC towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. My target is to

mobilize many NGOs to get affiliated through DGC to the United Nations. My current position as the Secretary of the Outreach and Partnership Sub-committee of GNEC has helped me to understand the tremendous work and opportunities involved in working with our constituents. Added to my previous two terms as a Director of GNEC, I have the capacity to represent you effectively as a Vice President. On October 13th 2021 with support from GNEC we hosted the Zoom webinar to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. Earlier, I was selected for the ONE on ONE with the President of the UN General Assembly on 19 February 2021. At the onset of COVID 19 in May 2020, in collaboration with GNEC we hosted the West Africa UN 75 Dialogue to educate NGOs on the Pandemic especially the myth surrounding the pandemic. In 2017, I was a Member of the Collaboration Committee for Civil Society Organisations for the United Nations Development System Review process convened by the United Nations Secretary General. In contributing to the success of GNEC, I plan to intensify the use of social media platforms to train and build capacity of NGOs to be equipped for future unplanned eventualities. COVID19 has taught us that the dynamics of work and communication has shifted virtually.

### **Dr. Mary Norton - School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University**



I seek the position of 2nd Vice President because I believe I meet the criteria and bring important experience to the position.

I have previously served on the Executive Committee during the DPI period of its history. During that time, I served in several positions that specifically address the criteria for 2nd Vice President.

Overseeing and coordinating activities of the Executive Committee.

I served as Executive Committee First Vice President for two terms. Prior to that I served as Secretary.

Be responsible for effective functioning of the subcommittees.

I have been Chair of the workshop committees as well as a member of the outcome document committees for several DPI Annual Conferences.

Assist in organizing the Annual Meeting.

I was elected Chair of the 67th Annual DPI Conference entitled "Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs" which was held in Melbourne, Australia.

In summary, I believe I meet the criteria for the position of 2nd Vice President both in theory and experience.

The above experiences have provided me with the knowledge, skills, and institutional memory to advise and collaborate effectively with GNEC officers, directors, and NGO partners.

I look forward to working with you, my colleagues, to advance the UN civil society agenda and achieve the SDGs.

**The Treasurer shall: manage the financial operations of the Executive Committee; send out notifications of membership fees from the Executive Committee; suggest Executive Committee fee changes for membership; receive all funds collected, deposit all funds in an account established by the Executive Committee, which shall require multiple signatures, and more.**

**Candidate:**

**Reverend Brian K. Muzás - School of Diplomacy and International Relations,  
Seton Hall University**



I wish to serve as GNEC Treasurer. I am eager to place my skills, expertise, and experience at the service of you, my colleagues, so that together we can amplify the voice, and advance the agenda, of UN civil society.

As Treasurer, I will bring institutional memory to GNEC. I previously served two consecutive terms as Secretary of the Executive Committee, so I have a proven communications track record. In addition to ensuring that Executive Committee members were supplied with accurate minutes, I spearheaded the effort to revise the Executive Committee's *Bylaws* and *Policies and Procedures*.

I also co-chaired or served on subcommittees for numerous civil society meetings, typically the workshops committee or the outcome document committee. Crafting and revising outcome documents sharpened my skills in facilitating communication, reaching compromises, and building consensus even when addressing contentious issues.

Additionally, I am an assistant professor of diplomacy and international relations at Seton Hall University where I specialize in peace, security, and Track II diplomacy. My students represent all continents and age ranges, from young professionals to those in mid-career.

Furthermore, I am prepared to handle GNEC's treasury because I direct the university's Center for United Nations and Global Governance Studies, including the Center's budget and finances.

My prior Executive Committee involvement, combined with my experience as a Center Director, will enable me to serve effectively as GNEC Treasurer. I look forward to working with you for peace, dignity, and equality on a healthy planet.

**The Secretary shall: Prepare & distribute notifications & minutes of all proceedings & regular meetings of the board, including the Annual Meeting, to Executive Committee, 5-days prior to board meetings; Record & report absences; Keep records of the meetings; Be responsible for Executive Committee files; Arrange for electronic participation of members at meetings of the Executive Committee; & Discharge other duties as assigned by the President or by the Executive Committee.**

**Candidate:**

**Sandra Timmermann - International Federation on Ageing**



I am submitting my name for consideration for the position of Secretary of the Global NGO Executive Committee (GNEC). I am currently serving as a Director and this would be a continuation of my participation, but in an officer's role.

There are several reasons I am applying for an officer position.

- First, I believe that GNEC, building on its solid reputation, is now poised to do so much more to bring together the NGOs that have consultative status with the UN. Under the new leadership, there is increased activity and energy, and I would like to be a part of it.
- Second, I believe that it is important that the generations come together to work on issues common to all of us—human rights, climate change and migration, to name a few. The voice and perspective of older persons is needed to assure that no one is left behind.
- Third, my professional work in executive and leadership positions, my role as the UN Representative for the International Federation on Ageing, and my work on the Executive Committees of GNEC and the NGO Committee on Ageing gives me the experience and track record to make a significant contribution to GNEC.
- Fourth, the IFA is fully supportive on my work with the GNEC; it is viewed as an important element in their strategic plan.
- Fifth, I am personally excited about continuing to serve on the GNEC and will work hard to help it grow and thrive

**Director: Shall attend all regularly scheduled meetings. Members shall participate in at least one of the Subcommittees. All Executive Committee voting members must attend as many GNEC & DGC briefings as possible. Virtual attendance at Executive Committee meetings for elected members is acceptable. There is a membership fee of \$200 per term.**

**\*This election cycle there are five Director positions open**

### **Faisal Alfadl - Saudi Green Building Forum**



ALFADL strongly believes in “protecting the planet and building resilience.” Speaking of climate change, he stated that it would be “nearly impossible — and substantially more expensive — to keep global warming in check without bolstering local action” through the mobilization of volunteers to this end.

To bring this sentimental value to all associates would drive global NGOs’ mission upfront and center to all cross cutting issues

- Mr ALFADL vision for the Global NGOs in upcoming years (2025)

- Global NGOs to become the number one global advocate network platform on policy issues related to the built-Environment
- Global NGOs the most trusted partner bridging the gap between the public, private and civil societies
- Best practice showcase of humanity with SDGs allocation for its principles, methodologies and applications
- Increase the number of NGOs members

### **Shennon Sequeria - MUN Impact**



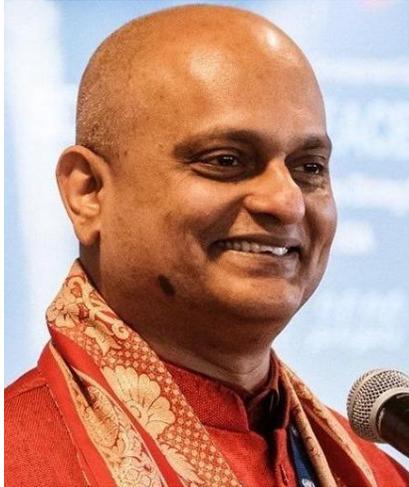
As a strong believer in the SDG's and youth empowerment in shaping the future of advocacy as well as a current law student, I will bring ambition, diverse insight and extensive grass roots experience amongst the youth. As a university student and an active youth in society, I believe to bring a unique and vital perspective to the committee as Director. In the last two years, I have worked at the grass roots level with the youth and various organizations in hopes to achieving a sustainable future. As well as, worked to build a fully functioning administration system that has evolved to an active network to facilitate cohesion amongst all administrative processes across the organization at MUN Impact. The concerns and issues relevant to the youth have been highlighted and it is crucial to be delivered at a higher level. The voice of the youth as the generation of tomorrow remains imperative in building steps to future sustainability. In my role at MUN Impact, working both at the Board of Directors and amongst the youth, I believe to have a critical understanding in translating the concerns led by the youth to plausible solutions in accordance to the organization demonstrating professional capacity and understanding. In addition, having also worked in publicity/marketing as well as communications and networking- I strongly believe to possess a diverse array of skills and expertise that will be an asset in this role to the Global NGO Executive Committee.

## Dasse Diarra - Olof Palme Peace Foundation International



My name is DASSE DIARRA. I am the UN Main Representative of Olof Palme Peace Foundation International (OPPFI) with our Headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. OPPFI is UN-DGC affiliate NGO represented in different places of the world. OPPFI initially helps the bartered women and misfortune children. OPPFI aims at opening vocational training centers to help this targeted group to learn new trades and become independent. As the Main UN Representative, I connect our members to the different UN-GDC related activities and help them through the protocol. I help them get involved in all the briefings and the different on-going activities we are to participate in. I am a current member of the Global NGOs Executive Committee (GNEC); and current chairperson of Development and Fundraising subcommittee of GNEC. Under my leadership, I have initiated that GNEC partners with some expert fundraisers who have been working since then to put GNEC in a very good position now with the donors. Through them we have a lot of promises that, I believe, will help us achieve our goal which is to support GNOs in need now rise to meet their expectations. I run for GNEC reelection because I would like to give a voice to the UN-DGC NOGs through the pursuit of the same goal and program that is to raise fund to help NGOs around the world achieve their goals. It is commonly noticed that so many UN-DGC affiliate GNOs are going through difficult moment now. My ambition goes hand in hand with our current GNEC President's which is to help the GNOs in need to meet their goals. For this, we at the Development and Fundraising subcommittee, we have launched great, professional fundraising campaigns. I hope, should I be nominated again, to continue with these campaigns to support the GNOS in need to meet the SDGs.

## **Guru Dileepkumar Thankappan - World Yoga Community Inc.**



Rev. Dr. Dileepkumar Thankappan is the President of the World Yoga Community Inc., and an NGO Representative at the United Nations. Since 1999, he has been invited as a Guest Speaker/Panelist, Interfaith Minister, Yoga Master, Musician, Event Organizer, and Volunteer at the UN. For more than 35 years, he has been organizing international events, seminars, summits, and festivals around the globe. He travels and gives lectures at numerous institutions on Healthy Living, Universal Spirituality, Yogic lifestyle, Global Culture of Peace, Interfaith Harmony, Non-violence, Human Rights & Dignity, Education, Gender Equality, Climate Action, Environmental Protection, as well as other Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. As a selfless servant and facilitator, he will work with the GNEC for implementing the UN SDGs for the global community on a grassroots level. For the last 22 years, he has been partnering and attending events with Permanent Missions, UNSRC, DPI, ECOSOC, and other bodies of the UN. He will be a resourceful supporter and volunteer, serving as a bridge between the Executive Committee, NGOs, and the UN system. 50 years of his selfless community service will show that, he will be able to serve successfully in any sub-committees or any events or projects of the GNEC. His life mission is to “Love All, Serve All” without any discrimination and make sure no one left behind. Currently, he is the Secretary of the Committee of Religious NGOs and Vice President of the UNSRC-Salus Well-Being Network at the United Nations.

## **Cheick Oumar Gakou - Association des Jeunes pour l'Agriculture au Mali**



Dear Colleagues I am requesting your vote and also engaging you to collectively challenge common issues we work to tackle down and values we devote time and energy to promote. The organization I represent has been associated with UN DGC in 2011 and accredited to ECOSOC the following year. We work on eliminating hunger and promoting a reliable and sustainable Agro-industrial development in our region. We have organized and participated in international events across all continents. We gained significant experiences working with academics, farmers and policy makers in since our creation. Dear colleagues, If elected, as Director of Outreach/Partnerships of GNEC I will bring that modest contribution to your expertise that I intend to actively mobilize to achieve and promote our common interests on national and international level. The 4th industrial revolution will undermine the actions and participation of civil society. The challenges for concrete results in reduction of extreme poverty as well as other SDG Goals in vulnerable regions which we strive for can be controlled with a vibrant and dynamic partnership. That is the innovation ASJAM through my person aims to bring you. Under my leadership the sub-committee will be a center of excellence in outreach/partnership. Thank you

## **Aysegul Durakoglu - Ataturk Society of America**



I am interested in being part of the GNEC team, because I care about the challenges our world faces as we go through a global health and human crisis. I believe that, as an educator and an international

performer, I can contribute to spreading the word about the United Nations' goals and objectives; and help raise global awareness for the UN programs.

I have been a member, supporter and a dedicated volunteer of the Ataturk Society of America (ASA) since its establishment in 1995, the NGO which I'm proudly representing at the UN since 2017. ASA was founded with the mission of promoting Atatürk's political philosophy for international prosperity and peace. Atatürk's philosophy for the welfare of all humans promotes global cooperation; and his ideals define almost all of the Sustainable Development Goals. My work as an educator allows me to encourage so many individuals to take action in their own lives to better themselves and their communities by expanding their vision, and contributing to the improvement of our society at large. And as a concert pianist, I'm able to reach many diverse audiences not only through my music, but also through promoting peace and harmony as part of the theme of my concerts. I hope I will be selected to the GNEC team, so that I can contribute to strengthen the UN's collective NGO global engagement with the support of ASA, the NGO I am representing. I also believe that I will be able to contribute to the GNEC team better as a local resident, who can participate in local events held in the UN headquarters in NYC.

### **Dwiti Vikramaditya - Managing Committee of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences**



I work across international diplomacy, public private collaboration for development, capacity enhancement of Civil Society institutions and policy design, liaising with multiple stakeholders, including indigenous communities, the Government of Odisha and India, several Embassies and High Commissions, corporate houses, national and international donor agencies, US State Department and several United Nations agencies. Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, which I lead as a Vice President-International Relations along with KIIT University, offers fully funded and integrated residential education, healthcare and vocational training to over 60,000 indigenous students, two-thirds of them women. We are working towards twenty new campuses by 2030, touching two million indigenous lives. I dream of a world with three zeroes: 'zero poverty, zero net carbon emission and zero unemployment'. For this vision to materialize, global resources and expertise must help design local solutions for the most vulnerable regions and communities. A transformative education motivating indigenous boys and girls to bring positive changes in their communities offers the only sustainable solution. Between 2006 and 2015, I led

such an initiative, raising more than \$ 13 million for education and empowerment of the indigenous people and virtually making armed extremism disappear from a whole district. As a Director, I hope to offer strategic input to the organization towards more effective coordination among the member institutions. My mission is to initiate a policy dialogue towards greater resource allocation for developmental issues, encouraging greater engagement of civil society organizations, leveraging my experience to strengthen GNEC towards timely realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.