

The background of the cover features a photograph of the International Catholic Center of Geneva building, a large, light-colored stone structure with a central entrance. In front of the building, numerous national flags are displayed on tall, silver flagpoles, arranged in two long rows that recede into the distance. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The bottom half of the cover is a solid blue gradient, with a green gradient at the very bottom.

**CCIG**  
INTERNATIONAL  
CATHOLIC  
CENTER  
OF GENEVA

# REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2019

[www.ccig-iccg.org](http://www.ccig-iccg.org)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

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

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



## EDITORIAL

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE CCIG,

We are pleased to share with you the activities of the International Catholic Center of Geneva in 2019. Throughout its history, CCIG has continued to reflect on its role in our society, especially in relation to the very dynamic life of the *Genève Internationale*. As a key place for International Diplomacy, Geneva provides us with opportunities and challenges. In accordance with its 2018-2022 Strategy and Action Plan, CCIG organized successful activities throughout 2019. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Bolivia Project was one of the key activities. In collaboration with two organization members, Edmund Rice International (ERI) and Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI), we facilitated the UPR Submission and advocacy of 18 Bolivian NGOs in their country as well as in Geneva. CCIG played an important role as a catalyst in bringing the human rights challenges faced by our partners in Bolivia to the UPR mechanism at the United Nations (UN). Apart from lobbying diplomats in Geneva, we also provided a platform for national civil society actors to speak up at the UN during a side event. As a result, a few very focused UPR recommendations were addressed to the Government of Bolivia, reflecting the main concerns expressed by the local NGO coalition. These recommendations represent a key tool to improve the human rights situation in the country. Through the UPR Platform, our Center also continues to play a coordinating role for our NGO members. Apart from providing support for the UPR Submissions,

we are moving toward developing a tool for assessment of advocacy actions within the UPR mechanism. The ultimate goal is to improve the effectiveness of the UPR mechanism for a better human rights implementation. In addition, last year CCIG continued its capacity building efforts as part of our engagement in sharing knowledge and expertise on human rights mechanisms with the NGO community.

Moving on from our success in 2019, currently we are also facing challenges. At the time of the publication of this annual report, we are facing a global challenge of the Covid-19 outbreak. Several measures have been taken to ensure that this public health problem could be contained in a timely manner. Geneva, as one of the world capitals for international diplomacy, has been affected, including the cancelation of most side events at the margin of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council. This shows how our world is highly interconnected and the need for all actors to work hand in hand in facing those challenges.

Through the good work of the CCIG secretariat and CCIG members as well as the Executive Board, we will continue to reaffirm our contribution to society, and respond to the contemporary challenges of our time. I am convinced that our faith will continue to be the main source of our inspiration, reflection and energy in building a better place for all.

Sincerely,

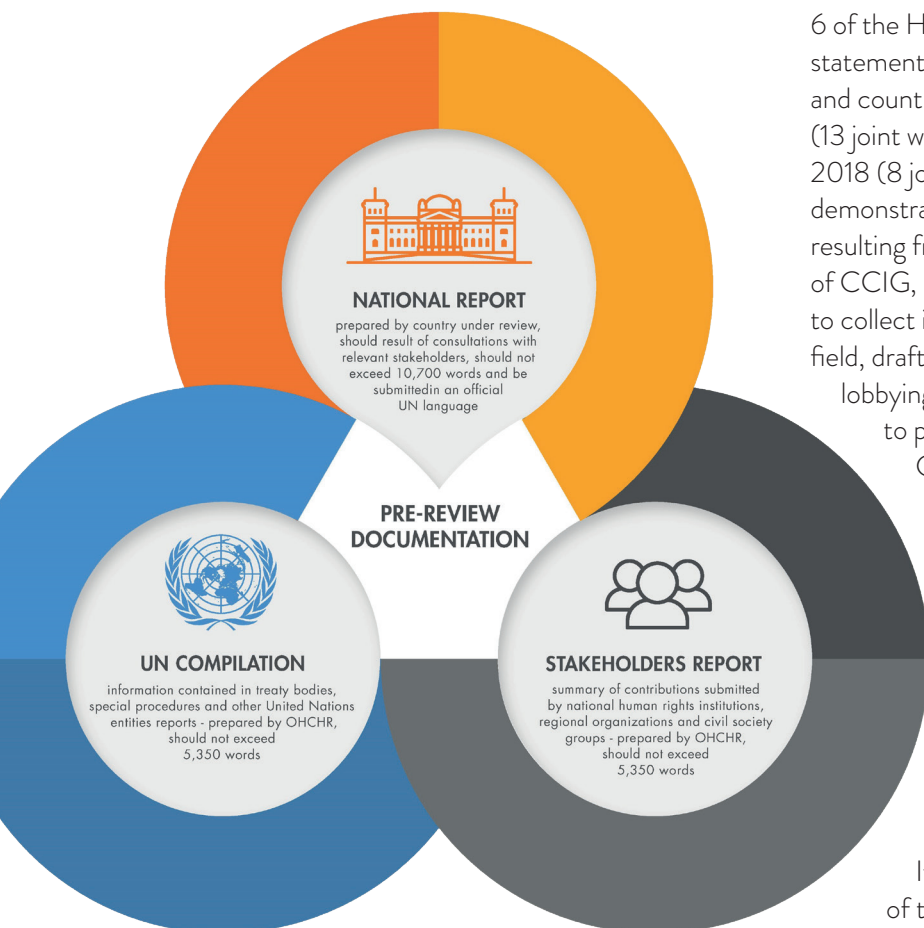
**Budi Tjahjono**  
President of CCIG Board



## SERVICE TO NGOS

### UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) PLATFORM

Since its establishment in 2011, the CCIG's UPR Platform has continued with its initiatives and collaboration among its partners. In 2019, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle proved to be a window of opportunity to call attention to human rights related issues, in particular to the implementation of UPR recommendations at the domestic level. Despite increased challenges due to local and global political tensions and restrictions on financial resources, Civil Society actors have continued to engage with this specific UN mechanism, providing high quality, timely and coordinated contributions. The CCIG was happy to join those efforts through continuing its work with 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.



«The services provided by CCIG complement the training undertaken by members of our network and facilitate our lobbying and awareness-raising activities. It also provides a point of contact with like-minded NGOs for the development of joint UPR submissions or joint statements at the Human Rights Council»

*Edmund Rice  
International,  
CCIG Member*

During 2019, four plenary meetings of the Platform took place to facilitate the joint work of NGOs for the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> sessions of the UPR.<sup>1</sup> Eleven **joint written reports** were submitted to the High Commissioner for Human Rights by members of the CCIG Platform and twelve **oral statements** were delivered under item 6 of the Human Rights Council.<sup>2</sup> These reports and statements, when compared to the number of sessions and countries addressed by the UPR Platform in 2017 (13 joint written reports and 5 oral statements) and 2018 (8 joint written reports and 8 oral statements) demonstrate a significant and steady contribution resulting from the work of the Platform. 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. Currently, the platform is formulating a tool for assessment of advocacy actions undertaken prior to the UPR in order to ensure that key recommendations are made to concerned states by the members of the UPR Working Group.

In addition to the oral statements concerning specific countries, one joint oral statement concerning the functioning of the UPR was submitted by CCIG under Item 6 (General Debate) of the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (HRC). Co-



signed by 16 NGOs, the statement<sup>3</sup> welcomed the positive contribution of the UPR as a mechanism to ensure more effective follow-up and monitoring of recommendations. It also underlined how it “provides opportunities to address emerging human rights issues, offering a space to bring attention to them.” But more importantly, the CCIG led NGO Coalition stressed the complementarity of the UPR mechanism with the work of the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures.

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 2019.<sup>4</sup>

Furthermore, in line with the previous years, the CCIG UPR Platform has continued to find new forms of collaboration with other NGO partners especially UPR-

info, in order to help the realization of joint advocacy priorities. In addition to formal meetings, targeted and specific counselling was provided at the request of CCIG members with regard to specific and punctual actions in the framework of the UPR.

Finally, an evaluation session was conducted with the UPR Platform members to gather their feedback on the services provided by CCIG as well as to receive concrete suggestions and recommendations for future activities.

1. Please see official UPR calendar at: [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR\\_3rd\\_cycle.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR_3rd_cycle.pdf)
2. [http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page\\_id=457](http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page_id=457)
3. The full text of the oral statement is available at: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CCIG-joint-statement-41HRC-Item-6-GD-final.pdf>
4. [http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page\\_id=457](http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page_id=457)

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR SIDE EVENT DURING THE UPR OF SLOVENIA

In conjunction with Slovenia's appearance during the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR, CCIG provided technical and logistical support to the German Commission for Justice and Peace to assist in the presentation of the side event 'Respect for the Dead: Preparing the Path to Reconciliation'. The event was co-organized by Kolping International, the Episcopal Conference of Slovenia, New Slovenian Covenant and Association United at the Linden Tree of Reconciliation, with the support of Renovabis.

The event aimed to highlight how in current day Slovenia, 100,000 persons remain unidentified in more than 750 graves scattered throughout the territory as



a result of events which occurred during the concluding period of World War II.

This event provided the opportunity to expose these atrocities to a broader international audience through the UPR process, and subsequently allowed the

presenters to indicate areas of reform necessary to ensure the dignity of the victims and their families, provide closure for the perpetrators and allow for the healing of the wider Slovenian society. It was hoped that receptive states may formulate substantive recommendations to encourage the State of Slovenia to articulate legislation and policies to address this concern.



## 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.

In 2019, CCIG offered several trainings tailored to thematic priorities and expertise for beneficiaries from all continents.

In March, upon request by the **Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII** (APG23), a one-day training was addressed to six junior advocacy officers to provide an understanding of the UPR Mechanism.



In the framework of its collaboration with the **UNESCO Extea Center for Basque Country**, CCIG facilitated a training on United Nations mechanisms for the promotion and protection of Human Rights, which took place in Geneva in September 24 to 27 in conjunction with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the HRC.

The participants for the said capacity building activity were twelve educators from the Basque Country. They were selected among formal education settings that have proved to be most successful in the Basque Country in implementing innovative education practices for social transformation (e.g. incorporating the Agenda 2030 in regular curricula, initiating solidarity projects in the schools, etc.)

The pool of resource speakers was made up of Ms. Maria D'Onofrio from the CCIG, Ms. Elena Ippoliti of the OHCHR, Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe of Arigatou International and Ms. Elisa Gazzotti of NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Training. An important highlight of the training was the timely presentation of the HRC Resolution 42/7 (A/HRC/RES/42/7) which makes the youth the focus group of the Action Plan for the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

Their training was complemented by their attendance at some sessions of the 42<sup>nd</sup> UN HRC and in a Side Event on “Promoting a Safe and Empowering Environment for All Children and Youth: Best practices for Child and Youth Protection and Participation through Human Rights Education,” organized by CCIG Members IIMA and VIDES International. More details of the training are available at the CCIG Website.<sup>5</sup>

5. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=2482>





## BOLIVIA PROJECT: 'STRENGTHENING BOLIVIA'S CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2019 UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)'

With the support of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and Adveniat, this year-long project was developed by the CCIG, Edmund Rice International (ERI) and Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI) as well as **an eighteen civil society member coalition situated in Bolivia.**<sup>6</sup> The project, titled 'Strengthening Bolivia's civil society in the context of the 2019 Universal Periodic Review (UPR)' commenced in January 2019 and aimed to provide an avenue for the key human rights issues of the coalition to be brought to the attention of the international community on the occasion of the UPR. After consultation with regional members, Bolivia was nominated as the focal State of this project after the successful completion of the 2015-2016 project 'Training program for Children's Rights Defenders in Latin America' due to its extremely precarious situation of women's, youth and child rights.

*« It was a very good learning experience to have worked with you. I am also grateful for continuing in what I am passionate about, working for Human Rights and more specifically for the most vulnerable populations, such as children, young people and women. This does not end here. I hope we continue to be in contact to work in the future too. »*

Mauricio Siñaniz, Children's Rights Defender, Bolivia



The scheduled appearance of Bolivia at the 34<sup>th</sup> UPR session was identified as a platform of engagement to reinforce children's rights in the Country and, therefore, as the pivotal point of the project. This allowed the CCIG and its partners to utilize their specific expertise on the human rights mechanism. The project consisted of four activities, three of which were accomplished prior to the 34<sup>th</sup> UPR session.



The first involved action within Bolivia, establishing cooperation from Civil Society Organizations (CSO) with a focus on children, youth and women's rights, coordinating this involvement and logistics, and identifying the methodology to be undertaken in the drafting of the UPR submission. This culminated with two single day **in-country consultations** organized in February 2019 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Cochabamba, with several CSOs invited to compare information gathered and finalize the UPR submission, consisting of recommendations to be presented to the government of Bolivia. Four topics were chosen to present recommendations on: child and youth participation, child labor, child psychological, physical and sexual abuse and violence against women.

The second activity featured **lobbying activities in Bolivia** through bilateral meetings with Embassy representatives in La Paz. In addition to these meetings, two press conferences were held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Cochabamba to raise awareness of the issues presented in the joint submission.

The third activity took place in October 2019. This activity mirrored those undertaken in Bolivia and featured similar bilateral meetings with Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva. Priority was given to States from the Latin American region as well as those that made recommendations on related topics during the previous UPR. Two representatives from the Bolivian coalition,

Ms. Manuela Isabel Urbina Ramirez and Mr. Mauricio Rodrigo Siñaniz Zambrana participated in these meetings, supported by staff from the CCIG, ERI and FMSI. In total, twenty-one meetings took place. In addition to these bilateral meetings, Ms. Urbina Ramirez was part of the panel of the UPR Pre-session organized by UPR Info on 8 October 2019. Ms. Urbina Ramirez was able to present the joint submission to twenty-five Permanent Missions as well as to other civil society organizations. Great efforts were made to ensure that Permanent Missions who were unable to engage in a bilateral meeting still received a copy of the submission and its summary.



The fourth activity and the conclusion to this project was the side event 'Addressing Implementation: Safeguarding the Rights of Children, Youth and Women in Bolivia' held on 6 November 2019 in the Palais des Nations, which provided the opportunity to highlight relevant recommendations directed to Bolivia, focusing on implementation. Co-organized by CCIG, ERI and FMSI, the event took place in conjunction with Bolivia's appearance at the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR and was co-sponsored by VIVAT International, Franciscans International, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and Ñañope Foundation. Panelists Ms. Paulina Beltran Rocha and Mr. Andres Canaviri Alanoca (video message)<sup>7</sup> from the Bolivian NGO coalition, along with Ms. Maria Magdalena Moser of Fundación Ñañope and Ms. Nicoletta Zappile of UPR Info, demonstrated detailed knowledge on children, youth and women's rights issues in Bolivia as well as in the Latin American region and contributed to placing the issues in the wider global context. The breadth and depth of experience of the panel ensured both a focused and expansive analysis of the issues currently existing in Bolivia and provide an open dialogue to monitor the 34<sup>th</sup> UPR session recommendations addressed to the state and identify future action to be taken. CCIG also facilitated various bilateral meetings for Ms. Beltran with

*«It is good to see that what we started dreaming more than three years ago became a solid process of advocacy and has strengthened Bolivian civil society. May it serve as a stimulus and encouragement for those who continue the work of defending the most vulnerable.»*

Alvaro Sepulveda  
FMSI representative, CCIG Member

the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations in Geneva and the relevant OHCHR Desk officer.

CCIG published the Spanish<sup>8</sup> and English<sup>9</sup> versions of the UPR Submission along with its corresponding summaries.<sup>10</sup> An *Executive Summary of the Side Event* was also published.<sup>11</sup>

As a result of this project, key recommendations of the local coalition supported by CCIG were put forward in the UPR session of Bolivia. A total of 28 recommendations incorporating the coalition's main concerns were addressed to Bolivia by 17 states, following the organization of bilateral meetings and dissemination of relevant documents by CCIG and its partners. In effect, these UPR recommendations provide local actors with a powerful tool for monitoring and following up on the actions to be undertaken by the Bolivian Government toward a better implementation of human rights for children, youth and women in the country.



6. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UPR-Submission-Bolivia-EN-final-light.pdf>

7. [http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ANDRES\\_CANAVIRI\\_DISCURSO.mp4](http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ANDRES_CANAVIRI_DISCURSO.mp4)

8. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UPR-Submission-Bolivia-SP-final.pdf>

9. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UPR-Submission-Bolivia-EN-final-light.pdf>

10. English version: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Bolivia-Summary-of-UPR-submission-EN-final.pdf>; Spanish version: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Bolivia-Summary-of-UPR-Submission-ES-final.pdf>.

11. English version: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Rapport-side-event-Bolivia-EN.pdf>; Spanish version: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Rapport-side-event-Bolivia-ES.pdf>



## EXCHANGES AND AWARENESS-RAISING

ADVANCING ADVOCACY  
ON DECENT WORK –  
CCIG BREAKFAST MEETINGS



On the occasion of the 108<sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019, two Breakfast Meetings were organized by CCIG and the German Commission for Justice and Peace (GCJP) / Kolping International on “**Informal Work along Global Value Chains**” (June 14) and “**Social Dialogue as a Public Good**” (June 17, 2019), with the support of the World Council of Churches. The main objectives were to present the results of workshops held in the last years as a contribution to the debate around the report of the Global Commission on Future of Work; to create a space for dialogue and exchange with Member States’ Representatives; and to help in identifying advocacy priorities for future engagements at the ILC.

Representatives from various NGOs and trade unions gathered on both days. These included the International Coordination of Young Christians Workers (ICYCW), International Young Christian Workers (IYCW), World Movement of Christian Workers (WMCW), Migrant Forum Asia (MFA), World Solidarity Movement (WSM), International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth (MIJARC), Pax Romana, International Catholic

«Migration, as a subject of global discussion, has never been this critical. With the ever growing movement of people for different purposes and causes and with the significant number of migrants falling into the informal economy, where they are beyond the reach of State’s protection and regulation, it is essential that migration be looked at from a holistic perspective.»

Key Action Point  
*Breakfast Meeting on Social Dialogue as a Public Good*



Migration Commission (ICMC), Caritas Internationalis, StreetNet International and Women in Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). Representatives from the Permanent Missions of Belgium, Germany and Spain were present on June 17. Both meetings were moderated by Ms. Hildegard Hagemann (GCJP / Kolping International).

The discussion and exchange highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by domestic workers, youth, migrants, digital platform workers, women and workers in the agricultural and informal sector. Good practices on the betterment of workers' rights along local, national, regional and international advocacy were also shared.

In conclusion, the meetings proved to be complementary in conjunction with the ongoing ILC activities. Concretely, the dialogue and exchange of current realities and potential courses of action are hoped to have improved and enriched each of the respective organizations' strategies in their own advocacy for Decent Work and the Future of Work. More details are available in the *Summary of Key Concerns and Action Points*.<sup>12</sup>

## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY – CCIG SUPPORTS MEMBERS' INITIATIVES DURING THE 41<sup>ST</sup> SESSION HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

On June 26, CCIG co-sponsored the side event "Climate Change: it is happening here, it is happening now: Fighting Climate Change through International Solidarity" organized by Associazione Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23), a member of CCIG, in Palais des Nations during the 41<sup>st</sup> HRC Session.

The event highlighted that Climate Change is undoubtedly one of the greatest global challenges that our world is facing today because of its devastating impact on all life, of how it threatens perpetuation of all that is living and how it aggravates the existing inequalities among countries and vulnerabilities among communities and peoples.

It focused on the environmental, human and social cultural impacts of climate change and the need to create synergy with all stakeholders in an integrated and coherent way, enabling States to achieve their objectives under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable



Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. It aimed to give emphasis on the need for an urgent and immediate response which reflects the spirit of a new international solidarity.

Guillermo Kerber, a member of CCIG Board, participated as a speaker in the panel. The event was co-sponsored by other CCIG members like IIMA, VIDES International, Teresian Association, and the Company of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. For further details, please read relevant article<sup>13</sup> in the CCIG website.

## CCIG ADVOCATES FOR PRIORITIZING FUNDS FOR UN HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

CCIG and several of its NGO members signed onto a letter entitled "Open NGO letter regarding the critical funding gap affecting UN human rights mechanisms and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights," which expressed concern over anticipated budgetary cuts for UN treaty bodies. Serious concern was expressed that these budgetary cuts may lead to the cancellation of several autumn 2019 Treaty Body sessions. NGOs are troubled by the worrying trend of budget cuts and failure of states to pay their assessments to the UN and the effect of these cuts on the promotion and protection of human rights. They called upon UN member states to prioritize the funding for the UN's human rights pillars and funding for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The full text of the letter can be found here<sup>14</sup>.

12. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CCIG-Key-Action-Points-Report-final-1.pdf>

13. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=2404>

14. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Open-NGO-letter-on-budget-challenges-for-UN-expert-bodies-final-for-publication.pdf>



## ADMINISTRATION

### STRUCTURE OF CCIG ACTIVITIES

In 2019, the Board held five meetings at CCIG headquarters and in Lausanne in order to ensure coherence and adequate realization of all activities as well as the development of fundraising efforts. This year, Alvaro Sepulveda, FMSI Representative, resigned from the Board. We greatly thank him for his valuable contribution to make CCIG a more effective and dynamic organization, especially through capacity building and advocacy efforts undertaken in the framework of the Project in Bolivia.

The CCIG also submitted its Quadrennial Report to the United Nations in June 2019 as required by its ECOSOC status.

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 from March to December, Ilse Meiler as intern in the first semester, Adrienne Ringin, Patrick Cooke and Bradley Murphy in the last trimester 2019. A special thanks to Maria Lilian S. Espedilla, ODN for her precious support throughout the year.



#### KEY POINTS RELATED TO FUNDRAISING

- The Project for Children's Rights Defenders in Bolivia was approved by Adveniat as well as the Republic and Canton of Geneva.
- Other activities such as the side event on the UPR of Slovenia and the UNESCO Extea Training were financed by respective partners.
- We also thank all those who made a donation to CCIG in 2019.



#### MEMBERS OF CCIG BOARD (UPDATED ON DECEMBER 31, 2019)

- Budi Tjahjono — President
- Diana Duarte Rizzolio — Vice-President
- Felix Wertli — Treasurer
- Brian Bond — Secretary
- Larry Kohler — Member
- Guillermo Kerber — Member
- Sophie de Rivaz — Member



### FINANCIAL STRATEGY

In 2019, 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 ones.

In addition to the continued and appreciated support of Action de Carême (Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund), CCIG has, in 2019, confirmed its partnership with the German Commission for Justice and Peace and UNESCO Extea.

Moreover, the approval by Adveniat as well as the Republic and Canton of Geneva of the project for children's rights defenders in Bolivia, has been an important outcome of CCIG fundraising efforts.



**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2019**

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