



# Connecting & Serving NGOs Beyond Borders

W A N G O WORLD ASSOCIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

## WANGO'S MISSION

The Association's mission is to serve its member organizations, strengthen and encourage the non-governmental sector as a whole, increase public understanding of the non-governmental community, and provide the mechanism and support needed for NGOs to connect, partner, and multiply their contributions to solve humanity's basic problems.

## NGO?

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is considered to be any not-for-profit organization that is not established by a governmental entity or intergovernmental agreement and which is organized on a local, national, sub-regional, regional, or international level.

The World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO) is one of the world's preeminent membership associations for NGOs, with members in over 140 countries. The Association's membership encompasses the vast spectrum of the NGO world, ranging from small non-profits focused on their local communities to major, international organizations with global agendas, from the least developed nations to the richest countries.

## 10 Reasons to Join WANGO

- Tools for NGOs
- Conferences and Symposia
- Publications
- Networking
- Awards Program
- Code of Ethics and Conduct
- Strong Advisory Role
- Unified and Strong Voice
- Helping NGOs Accomplish Their Tasks
- Voting, Holding Office & Guiding the Work of WANGO

## Activities and Programs

WANGO conducts an annual conference, publishes a worldwide NGO directory and private Association membership list, coordinates practical workshops, and produces and disseminates a quarterly newsletter, monthly E-News, and regular educational and training materials. The Association maintains an interactive website with a members-only section, produces updates on the work of NGOs, and plays a valued role in advising governments and intergovernmental bodies. It has gained international renown through its groundbreaking conferences and the prestigious WANGO Awards, which are presented annually to leading NGOs and individuals.

With its global network of NGOs, as well as affiliates drawn from the ranks of governmental and intergovernmental bodies, businesses and universities, WANGO has become an international leader in tackling issues of fundamental importance. Since 2000, WANGO conducted or co-sponsored conferences and seminars in over 133 nations, as well as 12 major, international conferences. Initiated in 2004, the Play Soccer Make Peace! project, aimed at fostering peace and developing character, is organizing youth football tournaments in over 40 nations worldwide. WANGO also spearheaded the development of a Code of Ethics and Conduct for NGOs, a set of fundamental principles, operational principles, and standards to guide the actions and management of non-governmental organizations worldwide.

## Benefits of WANGO Membership

Why is WANGO the world's fastest growing international association of non-profit organizations? Why should your organization become a member of the WANGO family?

Formed by NGOs for NGOs, the Association was established to assist member organizations in accomplishing their vital tasks and to provide the mechanism and support needed for NGOs to better connect, partner, share, inspire, and multiply their contributions to solve humanity's basic problems. WANGO also works to strengthen and improve the non-governmental sector as a whole and to increase public understanding of the non-governmental community.

The Association's active agenda of services and programs advances these objectives on behalf of the NGOs it serves.

### TOOLS FOR NGOS

Membership in WANGO provides access to a wealth of resources that help non-profit organizations better accomplish their missions. Among these are:

**Training Workshops.** WANGO sponsors training workshops with international experts, on such topics as fundraising, new technologies for NGOs, strategic planning, media relations, board development, and other practical issues.

**Member Home Pages.** WANGO provides members their own web page, which they create using a ready-make template. For a small nonprofit that lacks its own web site, or for a large organization that wishes to

highlight a particular program, this offers greater exposure for the organization and its activities and services.

**Practical Information.** WANGO regularly disseminates information to its members on a wide diversity of topics of practical relevance, such as getting grants and asking for money, IRS recognition of foreign NGOs, strategic management of NGOs, new grants opportunities, networking, useful links, developments in the NGO world, and so forth.

**Members-only Section of the Website.** The Association maintains an interactive website, with a members-only section. This component, accessed via a username and password, includes a number of useful features for WANGO members, including the Sharing Resources and Multiplying Resources sections, as well as the Membership List and Global NGO Directory. This section also allows members to update their listing in the NGO directories, create their own home pages, and access archival publications.

**Sharing Resources.** The Sharing Resources component of the members-only section allows members to communicate requests and post information to the worldwide NGO community. An organization may wish to search for a partner for a project, list upcoming events, or elaborate on some activity or area of interest. The WANGO secretariat also occasionally posts information on grants that may be of interest to Association members.

**Multiplying Resources.** The Multiplying Resources component of the members-only section contains information of practical relevance, such as recent papers presented at an WANGO conference or symposia, useful articles on fundraising or networking, and a potpourri of practical tips.

**NGO Directories.** The WANGO NGO membership list and the NGO worldwide directory provide a window to NGOs and their diverse activities. All WANGO Members have free access to the private WANGO membership list and NGO worldwide directory.

### CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA

WANGO is unique in regularly bringing together a prestigious, international leadership of NGOs representing diverse nations, perspectives, and realms of activity. In addition to its annual conference, WANGO conducts regional conferences, symposia and roundtables.

WANGO's flagship event is the Annual Conference, the world's leading meeting for NGOs dedicated to the ideals of service, world peace, and global well-being. WANGO members and other NGO leaders gather from throughout the world for this event, which provides a unique crossroads for representatives of civil society to meet, share innovative ideas and practices, attend training workshops, and build strategic partnerships that can help NGOs better fulfill their missions.

Special interactive sessions with government officials from numerous nations also allow discourse on finding common ground for these two sectors, the non-governmental and governmental, to develop a new compact of working together to tackle humanity's problems, in areas in which cooperation would be appropriate and beneficial.

WANGO members receive substantially reduced rates to attend the Annual Conference, with part of their attendance being supported by the Association.



## PUBLICATIONS

WANGO's publications offer a great service to the WANGO membership and to the world community and are made available to the membership at reduced or no cost.

**Beyond Boundaries.** WANGO's quarterly newsletter, *Beyond Boundaries*, provides insightful information on the NGO community worldwide, offers general and practical articles of relevance to non-profits, and brings greater exposure to the work of the Association's members, with select member organizations featured in each issue. A subscription to *Beyond Boundaries* is included free of charge to WANGO members.

**WANGO E-News.** The monthly E-News provides timely articles on current affairs, United Nations news and updates, and practical resources, such as articles on micro-financing, computers for Africa, and budgeting for small NPOs. Member organizations are encouraged to submit information on their upcoming activities for posting on the E-News. A subscription to the WANGO E-News is included free of charge to WANGO Members.

**Conference Proceedings.** The proceedings of WANGO sponsored and co-sponsored conferences are also made available to WANGO members, at reduced cost, including *The Millennium Declaration of the United Nations: A Response from Civil Society*, *Culture of Responsibility and the Role of NGOs*, and *Development, Social Justice and the Role of NGOs*.

**Special Monographs and Reports.** WANGO occasionally produces special publications, which are available to the WANGO membership, such as the monograph *Multilateral Treaties on Terrorism: 1963-1999*.

**Archival Materials.** Archives of all of WANGO's newsletters and E-News are kept on the Members-only section of the website, and can be accessed free of charge by WANGO members.

## NETWORKING

Networking with other NGO leaders is an indispensable resource for advancing the mission of an NGO, finding resources, establishing partnerships, and promoting professional and personal development. WANGO provides a unique forum for networking among key leaders of diverse and influential NGOs, as well as leaders of affiliated intergovernmental and governmental organizations, universities and businesses. The Association fosters dialogue between grantmakers and grantseekers, facilitating the grantmaking process and making it more comprehensible and effective. In addition, members in various nations develop their own national WANGO chapters, which can focus on issues of specific interest to the membership in those areas.

WANGO's neural network, international and regional conferences, and sharing resources section facilitate networking and WANGO's Global NGO directory and Membership Lists are a particular valuable resource

for networking and partnering among NGOs.

## AWARDS PROGRAM

WANGO's award program honors NGOs from throughout the world that demonstrate exceptional effort, service, innovation and excellence. These are presented not only to large, well-known NGOs, but also to smaller NGOs in less developed regions, whose valuable work may have slipped wider visibility.

Awards have been presented in such categories as Peace & Security, Environment, Human Rights, Family & Peace, Interreligious Cooperation, and Education, Media and the Arts. The Awards Banquet is typically held at the time of the WANGO Annual Conference.

WANGO members may nominate NGOs for awards, and a number of WANGO members have also been recipients of these prestigious awards. Among those NGOs who have been honored with WANGO Awards are Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, Inuit Circumpolar Conference (Canada), and Bahrain Women's Society. Dr. Federico Mayor, former Secretary General of UNESCO, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, and former Zambia President Kenneth Kaunda were recipients of the Universal Peace Award, WANGO's highest award to individuals. In 2003, WANGO recognized the Green Belt Movement of Dr. Wangari Maathai with an NGO Award, the year before she received the Nobel Peace Prize.

## CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

As part of the Association's effort to strengthen and improve the non-governmental sector as a whole, WANGO spearheaded the development of a Code of Ethics and Conduct for NGOs. Formulated by an international committee representing the wide spectrum of the non-governmental community, and including input from NGO leaders from over 100 nations, the present Code of Ethics and Conduct for NGOs identifies 7 fundamental principles and over 100 specific standards to guide the actions and management of NGOs worldwide. This Code, which took over two years to develop and is continually being improved, serves as a centerpiece for NGO certification.

## VOTING, HOLDING OFFICE & GUIDING THE WORK OF WANGO

WANGO is a membership organization. It is the members that guide the work of the Association, and identify ways in which the organization can best serve the membership. Members provide a vital role in formulating the direction and work of WANGO through voting and holding office in the Association. Regular and Senior Organization Members have the right to vote for officers of the organization and to hold office, with

“WANGO's activity contributes to future development, leads to positive impacts on human development and consequently increases people awareness. Topics of your annual conferences are always actual and timely and they always ensure steady long-term development of relations, enrich with information, and broaden world outlook and wide understanding of vital problems.”

**Reyhan Huseynova**  
**Baku, Azerbaijan**



Senior Organization Members having two voting representatives. All members have the right to propose and vote for Declarations to guide the work of the International Council and to advance the goals of the organization.

## STRONG ADVISORY ROLE

WANGO plays a key role in advising governments, intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations, and regional bodies. The proceedings of WANGO conferences and symposia, and resolutions emanating from the membership, are distributed to world leaders and the heads of international and intergovernmental organizations, and WANGO plays a direct role in providing counsel and partnering with such leadership.

## UNIFIED AND STRONG VOICE

WANGO helps NGOs worldwide to offer a strong, unified voice in advancing conflict resolution and moral solutions to pressing global, national, and social problems. The Association provides information on

the importance of NGOs and confront challenges to the NGO community. Nonprofit organizations are heavily affected by public policies. As an infrastructure organization, WANGO provides a “voice” for nonprofit organizations in the enactment and revision of laws and regulations.

## HELPING NGOS ACCOMPLISH THEIR TASKS

Overall, WANGO assists NGOs by providing support and access to information and resources that can aid them in accomplishing their own missions relative to creating a better society and world: economically, socially, environmentally, politically, and morally. The Association also provides a means of identifying “best practices” and circulating information about these best practices. In order to better accomplish their tasks, it is important for NGOs to be recognized by the public, donors, beneficiaries and potential partners. WANGO features NGO members and their activities in its literature, conference presentations, web site, and E-News in order to give them this greater visibility.

## ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

**Regular:** Regular Organization Membership is available to NGOs. Regular members receive all membership benefits, including the right to vote and hold office.

**Senior:** Senior Organization Membership is the highest membership class to which an organization can apply for membership. Senior Organization Membership can be awarded only to an NGO which either has chapters or full-time offices in four or more nations, or which has more than 10,000 individual members, or which is an association representing at least 100 institutions or organizations, or which is a university or college. Senior members receive all membership benefits and have two voting representatives.

**Affiliate:** Affiliate Organization Membership is available to organizations other than NGOs, such as governmental and intergovernmental bodies and businesses, which are engaged in functions consistent with the purposes of the Association. Affiliate members receive all membership benefits except the right to vote or hold office.

“Our participation [WANGO Annual Conference 2004] has been most stimulating and interactive which accorded us the opportunity to meet and share ideas with other NGOs from all over the world. The knowledge and experience acquired at this forum has enriched us individually and collectively and will be utilised in advancing our cause. We are indeed happy and proud to be part of the WANGO family.”

Dr. (Mrs.) Maryam Babangida  
Founder/ Executive Chairman  
Better Life Programme for the African (Rural) Woman  
Former First Lady, Nigeria

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

**Associate:** Individual Membership is available to persons whose interests and/or activities are consistent with the purposes of the organization. These receive all membership benefits except free access to the NGO membership list and the right to vote and hold office.

**Fellow :** The class of Fellow recognizes unusual distinction and is conferred only by invitation of the International Council upon a person with an excellent record of accomplishments in areas of relevance to the Association. WANGO Fellows have the right to participate fully in the Association’s meetings and activities, including the right to vote and hold elective office.

There are also categories of honorary membership for organizations and individuals, which are conferred by resolutions of the Association.

## WORLD ASSOCIATION OF NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (WANGO)

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