

International Secretariat Report - VGM February 2024

Global Greens Congress - Korea 2023	1
Federación de Partidos Verdes de las Américas	3
Global Young Greens	3
Global Greens Women's Network	3
Global Greens Climate Working Group	4
Global Greens Biodiversity Working Group	5
Global Greens Strengthening Democracy Network	5

Global Greens Congress - Korea 2023

The Global Greens Congress took place June 8-11, 2023 in Incheon, Korea, hosted by the Asia Pacific Greens Federation. Over 700 people were in attendance in person and online, representing 80 countries. Alison Lam and Stuart Hunter were the Green Party of Canada (GPC) delegates, with Stuart and Pearson Singbeil Montgomery as the Young Greens of Canada (YGC) delegates to the Global Young Greens Congress which took place simultaneously. There were over 40 sessions and over 30 speakers over the four days; videos of the sessions will be uploaded on the Global Greens [YouTube channel](#). The Korea Declaration and other endorsements and resolutions can be found on [this page](#) of the Global Greens website.

Eighteen resolutions were passed in total on such wide-ranging subjects as nuclear waste, climate migration, violence against women, foreign debt, and animal rights. None of the resolutions went to vote, all were passed by consensus.

Canada was involved in proposing three resolutions that were passed. The first is called, "[We are Nature and Nature is Us](#)". It is based on biodiversity and calls on the Global Greens to support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the biological corridors worldwide. The Global Greens Biodiversity Working Group was launched as a result of this resolution.

The second was an emergency resolution supporting [LGBTQIA+ rights](#). Canada was among the proposers and the resolution calls for the Global Greens to condemn the threat of criminalization, imprisonment and death sentence recently introduced in Ugandan law and support the creation (wherever possible) of LGBTQIA+ liberation (representative) groups within member parties and federations/states.

The final was not proposed by Canada but Alison, a Canadian delegate, was among the authors and proposers in the name of Global Greens Women's Network against [child marriage](#). The resolution calls for the Global Greens to uphold the rights of children, support strategies and campaigns against child marriage, and endorse changes in legislation and policy to end child marriage.

The Global Young Greens (GYG) held four statutory sessions which were integrated in the general Congress agenda. Pearson and Stuart attended all of these.

The only types of proposals that could be brought to the GYG Congress were amendments to the GYG Organizational Principles, although one of the amendments approved was to create a GYG political/policy platform, which will now be set up by the Steering Committee and can be added to by future Congresses.

The other amendments approved were changes to the GYG's structure. The Oversight Committee no longer has an elected Chair, and is therefore regionally balanced (one member from each region, chair selected by and from those four people). The Steering Committee no longer has "main" and "deputy" members from each region, and can now have between 2 and 4 members from each region instead of exactly 2. The Steering Committee has been empowered to figure out hiring two paid staff, which would only come into effect if there are sufficient funds.

Alison was one of the speakers in the plenary session on "COP, UN and the International Impact", where she presented on CBD COP15, the relationship between biodiversity and the climate crisis, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. She also spoke for the resolution "We are Nature and Nature is Us" and called for the formation of a Biodiversity Working Group in time for COP16.

Alison was also the organizer for the Gender Justice in the Asia Pacific panel discussion, featuring women leaders from Pakistan, Korea, and a Ngemba Elder from Australia. This is the second in a series of four panels hosted by the Global Greens Women's Network in 2023 on Gender Justice Around the World, each one featuring one of the four Global Greens Federations. Alison was also invited to give a short talk at the Asia Pacific Greens Federation Women's Network meeting about how she became involved in gender justice.

Finally, Christine Elwell was part of the presentation on Artificial Intelligence that also led to an emergency resolution. Although Canada was not among the proposers, Christine drafted the original document from which the resolution was taken.

The next Global Greens Congress will be in 2028 and hosted by FPVA, although the exact location and date have yet to be selected.

Federación de Partidos Verdes de las Américas

The 24th Assembly of the FPVA was held in Lima, Peru from December 1st to 3rd, 2023. Unfortunately, due to the resignation of our delegate to the FPVA, a representative from Canada did not attend. FPVA meetings are held in Spanish without interpretation, which means that any Canadian delegate would have to be able to speak Spanish.

The business of the 24th Assembly of the FPVA was not concluded in December and a special Assembly was held online on January 18th, 2024. At a recent meeting of the International Secretariat, three new GPC delegates to the FPVA were selected: Maria Rodriguez, Ian Soutar, and Stuart Hunter. Maria and Stuart were in attendance at the special Assembly, as was Adrian Currie who replaced Ian on an interim basis. The only business conducted was electing people to various offices within FPVA, including Maria, who was unanimously elected as coordinator of the Secretariat of Electoral Affairs and Green Party Development of the FPVA.

Global Young Greens

Shortly after the 2023 Congress, the Global Young Greens held elections for its Oversight Committee and Steering Committee.

Stuart Hunter (Canada) was elected as the Oversight Committee member from the Americas, and two Steering Committee members were elected from our region as well (Lois Maldonado from Venezuela and Martín Tinoco from Mexico). This means that there are two vacancies from the Americas on the SC which will need to be filled, so keep an eye out for that...

Like the Global Greens, the GYG sent a delegation to COP28 in Dubai. Their report can be found [here](#).

[GYG Progress Report 2022-23](#) (from the outgoing Steering Committee, before Congress)

GYG [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Website](#)

Global Greens Women's Network

Alison Lam has been a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Greens Women's Network this past year but stepped down in September, although she remains a member of the Network. She was instrumental in creating the Terms of Reference for the Network and organizing the first ever AGM, which included legitimizing the structure of the organization and electing a new Co-Convenor.

Alison also organized a series of panel discussions on Gender Justice, each one featuring one of the four Federations of the Global Greens. In the [Gender Justice in Africa](#) panel on International Women's Day, speakers gave presentations on the topic from Uganda, Kenya, and Morocco. As mentioned above, the Gender Justice in the Asia Pacific panel took place in-person at the Global Greens Congress in June. Finally, the Gender Justice in Europe panel took place immediately after the GGWN AGM in September and featured speakers from the Green Parties in England, Germany and Italy. The panel discussion on Gender Justice in the Americas that was expected to be held in December has been delayed.

Alison was also among the authors of [a statement issued by GGWN](#) on Indonesia's New Criminal Code, which threatens many basic human rights, particularly those of women.

Global Greens Climate Working Group

The Global Greens Climate Working Group is the group that sets up the mandate, targets, and activities of the Global Greens and its delegates at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP). Every year, the Climate Working Group resets in order to prepare for the upcoming COP; for 2023, the focus was on COP28 in Dubai.

Alison Lam is an active member of the Working Group, with particular emphasis on events, communications and fundraising. For the first in a series of panel discussions, the theme was [Loss and Damage](#). Speakers were invited from each of the four Federations, speaking on Loss and Damage resulting from four different types of climate disaster. Topics covered included the droughts in the Horn of Africa, the floods in the Emilia-Romagna region of Europe, and the typhoons in the Asia-Pacific. Representing Canada and speaking on the Canadian wildfires was Naomi Hunter, leader of the Green Party of Saskatchewan.

The third in the series, called [COP28 Hot Topics](#), had speakers speaking on ecocide and phasing out fossil fuels. Alain Tellier from the Green Party of Canada Shadow Cabinet was the speaker on Global Stocktake for this webinar.

Alison also worked actively with the Global Greens delegates to UNFCCC COP28 on their orientation, onboarding and deliverables. Each delegate was responsible for one of the themes of the program and reported back from Dubai on theme-related events, pavilions and green or blue zone activities. These activities, along with pictures and videos, were posted on the [Global Greens Community Blog](#). Several Canadian Greens were also virtual Global Greens delegates, including several members of the Shadow Cabinet, attending COP online and reporting on outcomes.

As per tradition, there was a Green Breakfast in Dubai between Weeks 1 and 2 of COP, with approximately 70 Green parliamentarians and members in attendance, including GPC Leader Elizabeth May. The breakfast had attendees from all four federations and many members of the Global Young Greens. It was a great opportunity for Greens from around the world to develop

connections, and for those who work together online all year long to meet in person for the first time since Congress.

There was a [webinar](#) to introduce the delegates and their themes before their departure, and there will be one (scheduled for January 9, 2024) to report on their experiences. This webinar will also be launching the Global Greens Strengthening Democracy Network.

Global Greens Biodiversity Working Group

Frederic Guarino, Michael Strumberger and Alison Lam organized a Virtual Green Zone for the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP15) that occurred in December of 2022. Although COP15 was two weeks long, the Canadian hosted Virtual Green Zone lasted over two days, from December 11 to 12. Many different speakers and activities all related to biodiversity around the world, including speakers from Kenya, Indonesia, Europe and the Global Young Greens, discussed such topics as soils and planetary health, how biodiversity relates to climate, reforestation, water and drought resilience, and livestock. The event ended with a keynote address by fantastic speakers from all through FPVA, including Mexico, Peru and Brazil. Canada's very own party leader and longtime parliamentarian, Elizabeth May, was also a speaker on this panel.

Canadians also hosted an in-person Green Family Breakfast in Montreal during the two weeks of COP15.

From this, as well as the aforementioned resolution and plenary presentation on biodiversity at Congress, the Global Greens Biodiversity Working Group was formed. Alison Lam is also a member of the group, which at the time of submission of this report, had put out a call for co-convenors. The group has developed a joint statement with the Climate Working Group for UNFCCC COP28 (with significant contributions from Canadian Greens), as the CBD COP16 originally expected to be hosted by Turkiye had to be postponed due to devastating earthquakes in the region. December 9th at UNFCCC COP28 was devoted to following up on the progress of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. CBD COP16 is now expected to be held October 21 to November 1, 2024; Colombia officially offered to be host.

Global Greens Strengthening Democracy Network

The Strengthening Democracy Network was also formed as a result of the Global Greens Congress. Canadians are well-represented in the Network with Norbert D'Costa and Alison Lam as members. One of the first events of this Network will be a webinar in conjunction with the Global Greens Climate Working Group on the outcomes of COP28. In a subsequent event

following the launch of the Network, Norbert will be one of the speakers on Global Democracy and UN Reform.

There are also several task forces within the Network currently being formed in order to explore different areas of democracy for the Global Greens to focus on and advocate: Summit of the Future task force, Anti-Corruption task force, and Israel-Palestine Democracy task force.

Signed,

International Secretariat

Alison Lam

Stuart Hunter

Pearson Singbeil Montgomery

Maria Rodriguez

Ian Soutar

Jaden Braves