



Opening Remarks

10th National Drug Control System (NDS) User Group Meeting
3-5 October 2017, Bern, Switzerland



Statement by Dr. Alain Nkoyock
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It is a great pleasure to join you for the 10th National Drug Control System (NDS) User Group Meeting here in Bern, Switzerland.

I would like to thank all of you for being here; and to extend our gratitude to Swissmedic for its generosity in hosting this meeting and, thereby tangibly demonstrating its support for NDS.

Thank you also for providing us with these wonderful conference facilities.

Today, I would like to share with you a few interesting developments in ICT at the UN, which have an impact on NDS and you, our clients and partners.

UN Secretariat ICT Reforms

The global ICT strategy ([A/69/517](#)) proposed by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the General Assembly ([A/RES/69/262](#)) established the Enterprise Application Centre in Vienna (EAC-VN) within the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) in the Department of Management (DM).

Within EAC-Vienna, the Software Products for Member States (SPMS) Section continues to provide services to Member States in alignment with the digital transformation agenda of the Secretary-General and the approved global ICT structure ([ST/SGB/2016/11](#)).

To implement the strategy, the role of the Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) leads the development of Secretariat-wide information and communications technology strategy, governance, policy and standards, which strengthen the Office's ability to support not only the United Nations, but also government entities of Member States.



In close collaboration with INCB and the user community, SPMS/EAC-VN will continue to support drug control IT innovations including the NDS suite and I2ES. We value this tripartite relationship.

Most of you have noticed new SLA templates in line with the strategy. I would like to assure you that these changes will only strengthen our ability to provide services to you as IT managers in the same manner as you are accustomed to.

Innovations around NDS Suite and I2ES

NDS has now been used more than 20 years, and has grown from a basic application to a program suite with several packages. Latest amendments are the fully automated data exchange between countries using secure web services and I2ES. This is especially important for large trading countries with high volume and workload.

NDS has grown from a standard tool to a programme suite covering all aspects of domestic and international drug control for national authorities. Yet we still see opportunities for continued growth, including exchanging data with other agencies such as law enforcement or customs authorities that would mutually benefit all parties.

SPMS will continue working to align goPortfolio with the digital agenda of the United Nations, to strengthen ICT and ensure the UN and its Member States can better leverage technology to meet the SDGs and fulfill key mandates. I will present on this in more detail on Thursday.

We also seek to better align the goPortfolio suite of products to the needs of Member States. For this reason, our engagement here can serve two clear purposes:

- a) continuing discussions around the provision of NDS Suite and I2ES;



- b) exploring the possibility of developing innovative tools to facilitate exchange of information and data that, for example, can provide strategic insights on the relationship between transnational drug trade and money laundering. (The transnational drug trade is worth up to \$400 billion a year and accounts for about 8% of all international trade.)

We have recently supported the new German FIU with Zollkriminalamt in Cologne to connect goAML to various operational databases for tactical and strategic analyses. We can do the same for you by engaging in another exciting experiment in international cooperation.

Again, I would like to thank Swissmedic for bringing us together in this beautiful city of Bern, which is my pleasure to visit again.

Let me conclude by wishing all of us a very constructive and fruitful meeting, building partnerships and innovating around this critical topic.