On **25-27 September 2018**, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs started the fourth round of thematic discussions on the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the UNGASS outcome document. These discussions focused on the practical implementation of joint commitments as well as on furthering preparations for the sixty-second session.

As decided by the Commission on 26 June 2018, each day of these meetings had a particular thematic focus:

- September 25: *Demand reduction and related measures*;
- September 26: *Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion*;
- September 27: *Cross-cutting issues: drugs, and human rights, youth, children, women and communities*.

**H.E. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu**, Chair of the 61st session of the Commission, opened the meetings and moderated the thematic discussions.

They consisted of a **panel discussion** with interventions from the floor, followed by a **thematic debate**. The panels included representatives from the five **Regional Groups**, **UN entities** and other **intergovernmental organizations**, as well as **civil society**. Following general practice, civil society speakers were nominated by the Vienna NGO Committee. Participants who were not able to join the meeting in person could participate through a video-message or videoconference.
25 September 2018

Demand reduction and related measures

For the first discussion, the panel included the following speakers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFRICAN GROUP</th>
<th>Dr. Cassian Nyandini, Drug Control and Enforcement Authority of Tanzania</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA PACIFIC</td>
<td>Mr. Sng Chem Hong, Director, Communications Divisions, Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEG</td>
<td>Ms. Elena Blokhina, Deputy Director of the Institute of Pharmacology of the Saint Petersburg Pavlov Medical University of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEOG</td>
<td>Mr. Alexis Goosdeel, Director, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSTF</td>
<td>Ms. Olga Szubert, United Kingdom, Harm Reduction International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>Mr. Gilberto Gerra, Chief, Drug Prevention &amp; Health Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>Mr. Vinay Saldanha, Director, Regional Support Team Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>Videoconference with Geneva: Mr. Gilles Fortes (WHO) and Mr. Justice Tettey (UNODC)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Gilberto Gerra of UNODC opened the panel discussion with a presentation on the innovative, health-oriented and balanced approach to the implementation of drug conventions and the UNGASS outcome document. The floor was then given to the representative of UNAIDS, Mr. Vinay Saldanha. His presentation was followed by a video-conference with Mr. Gilles Fortes of WHO and Mr. Justice Tettey of UNODC, who delivered their remarks from Geneva. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu then gave the floor to Mr. Alexis Goosdeel of EMCDDA, followed by Dr. Cassian Nyandini/Tanzania and Mr. Sng Chern Hong/Singapore. The last two interventions were made by Ms. Elena Blokhina, representing the Russian Federation, and Ms. Olga Szubert, representing civil society.

Each presentation was followed by a Q&A session, in which Member States actively engaged. During the thematic debate, superseding the panel discussion, 15 Member States made statements:

- Pakistan
- Norway
- Austria on behalf of the European Union
- China
- United States
- El Salvador
- Netherlands
- Czech Republic
- Belgium
- Canada
- Italy
- Argentina
- Algeria
- Australia
- Morocco
After the panel, interventions were made by **Ms. Boi-Jeneh Jalloh** (Foundation for Rural and Urban Transformation/Sierra Leone), additional experts from the EEG (Ms. Yulia Shevtsova, Ministry of Health/Russian Federation) and WEOG (**Prof. Alfred Springer**, Austrian Society for Medical Treatment of Drug addicts and Mr. Hugo Jorge Amaral Faria/Portugal) and a representative of OHCHR (**Mr. Zaved Mahmood**).

The floor was then also given to **Ms. Monica Beg** (HIV/AIDS Section, UNODC), who spoke on prevention treatment and care of HIV, Hepatitis and Tuberculosis among drug users, and to **Ms. Giovanna Campello** (Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, UNODC), who made a presentation on prevention of drug use and treatment of drug use disorders.

Finally, video-messages from the following NGOs were displayed: **ALE "Kazaks Union of People Living with HIV"** (Ms. Oxana Ibragimova/Kazakhstan), **Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs** (Mr. Bikas Gurung/Thailand) and **Dianova International** (Mr. Antonio Jesús Molina Fernández/Spain).
26 September 2018

Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

The panel was composed of the following experts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Expert</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA PACIFIC</td>
<td>Prof. Saman Abeysinghe, <em>Chairman, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Sri Lanka</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRULAC</td>
<td>Mr. Alberto Miguel Guzmán, <em>Director Ejecutivo de Regulación de Estupefacientes, Psicotrópicos y Sustancias Químicas, de la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios (COFEPRIS)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEOG</td>
<td>Dr. Tammam Aloudat, <em>Deputy Medical Director of Medecins Sans Frontieres, Switzerland</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>CSTF</td>
<td>Dr. Lukas Radbruch, <em>Germany, IAHPC/Lancet Commission on Palliative Care and Pain Relief</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>Mr. Gilberto Gerra, <em>Chief, Drug Prevention &amp; Health Branch</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCB</td>
<td>Mr. Stefano Berterame, <em>Narcotics Control and Estimates Section</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICC</td>
<td>Mr. Jim Cleary, <em>Union for International Cancer Control (video message)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Gilberto Gerra of UNODC presented on measures to increase availability of controlled drugs for medical purposes, such as legislative reforms, capacity-building and dismantling of prejudices against pain medication. The floor was then handed over to Mr. Stefano Berterame of INCB, who presented on the Conventions with regard to availability of and access to controlled drugs. He was followed by a video message from Mr. Jim Cleary of the Union for International Cancer Control and then a presentation of Mr. Alberto Guzman/Mexico on the electronic prescription platform enabling easy access for healthcare practitioners to controlled substances.

Mr. Tammam Aloudat/Switzerland spoke on the problems with availability of and access to controlled medicines in humanitarian settings. The floor was then handed over to Mr. Lukas Radbruch of the Lancet Commission on Palliative Care and Pain Relief, who spoke on the report of the Lancet Commission that provides recommendations on how access to controlled substances can be improved. Finally, a video-message from Mr. Saman Abeysinghe/Sri Lanka was displayed.

Each presentation was followed by a Q&A session, which opened the floor for interventions from Member States. During the thematic debate, superseding the panel discussion, 7 Member States shared their statements:

- Norway
- Austria on behalf of the European Union
- Australia
- United States
- China
- Ecuador
- Belgium
The floor was also given to a UNODC representative: **Ms. Giovanna Campello** (Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section); and to additional experts: **Ms. Lauren Deluca** (Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group dba CIAAG/USA) and **Ms. Rumana Dowla** (Bangladesh Palliative and Supportive Care Foundation).

At the end of the thematic discussion, video messages from civil society were displayed: **Mr. João Batista Garcia** (Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones para el Estudio del Dolor/Brazil) and **Mr. Mark Mwesiga** (Palliative Care Association of Uganda).
27 September

Cross-cutting issues: drugs, and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

The panel was composed of the following experts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFRICAN GROUP</th>
<th>Ms. Ana da Conceição dos Passos Mamede Graça, Director General, National Institute to Fight Against Drugs, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Angola</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA PACIFIC</td>
<td>Ms. Pabasara Weerasinghe, Assistant Director (Scientific Research), National Dangerous Control Board, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRULAC</td>
<td>Dr. Adele Benzaken, Ministry of Health of Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEOG</td>
<td>Ms. Carol Anne Chénard, Health Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSTF</td>
<td>Ms. Dayana Vincent, India, Foruth Wave Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>Ms. Valerie Lebaux, Chief, Justice Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Mr. Zaved Mahmood, Advisor on Human Rights and Drug Policy, Rule of Law and Democracy Section</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ms. Valerie Lebaux of UNODC, accompanied by her colleagues, opened the panel discussion, followed by the representative of OHCHR, Mr. Zaved Mahmood, who spoke on the recommendations contained in the 2018 OHCHR report on implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights.

The floor was then given to Ms. Ana da Conceição dos Passos Mamede Graça/Angola and to Ms. Pabasara Weerasinghe/Sri Lanka, who both presented on national practices and lessons learned in addressing the emerging threats.

Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu handed over the floor to Ms. Carol Anne Chénard/Canada, who spoke on the Canadian strategy to tackle the drug problem, before proceeding to the panellist representing civil society, Ms. Dayana Vincent. Finally, a video-message from Dr. Adele Benzaken/Brazil was displayed.

Each panel presentation was followed by a Q&A session, which opened the floor for interventions from Member States. 11 Member States shared their statements during the thematic debate:

- Russian Federation
- Austria on behalf of the European Union
- United States
- Norway
- Belgium
- Switzerland
- Australia
- Colombia
- Portugal
- Iran

http://cnd.unodc.org
@CND_tweets
www.instagram.com/cnd_unodc
www.ungass2016.org
@ungass2016
Additionally, the floor was given to UNODC representatives: Ms. Giovanna Campello, presenting on gender-responsive services to address mental health disorders, social marginalization and substance-use disorders, and Ms. Monica Clupagea, informing of the relevant activities of UNODC’s HIV/AIDS Section; as well as to civil society: Ms. Orsolya Feher (Students for Sensible Drug Policy), who spoke on “A better Tomorrow for the World’s Youth”.

The third, and final, day of the thematic discussions ended with video messages from NGOs: Ms. Corina Giacomello (EQUIS Justicia para las Mujeres/Mexico), Ms. Cara Lavan (Transform Drug Policy Foundation/Anyone’s Child/United Kingdom) and Wongayi Nyahuye (Youths against Alcoholism and Drug Dependency/Zimbabwe).

This round of thematic discussions was closed with concluding remarks from Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu, who thanked the participants for their presentations and the delegates for their valuable contributions. Ambassador also informed that presentations of the panellists and experts will be posted on the Commission’s website dedicated to the preparations for 2019: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/2019/2019-high-level-ministerial-segment-preparatory-process.html#September_ISM.