In the framework of the 60th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies organized a side events programme featuring 96 side events. The CND once again hosted the annual Youth Forum in addition to holding a Hearing of the Informal Scientific Network.

**United Nations and Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the fight against drugs and financing of terrorism: common threats and joint actions**

The event, which was dedicated to the threats of and inter linkages between illicit drugs trafficking and financing of terrorism, was attended by about 100 delegates, including ministerial level delegations from SCO member states. The event was another demonstration of the strong partnership between UNODC and the SCO, which is rooted in the MoU between the two organizations, signed in 2011.

**Broadening the Scope of Development within the UN Drug Policy Framework: Feedback from the Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development in Bangkok**

Speakers from Colombia, Mexico, Germany and Thailand discussed the scope of Alternative Development, specifically the inclusion of alternative livelihood strategies in urban settings. The event served as a follow up to the Expert Group Meeting held in Bangkok in November 2016 and served as a platform to fully discuss the implications of the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document.
**Special Event: The Post-conflict Stage in Colombia and the Strategies to Address Illicit Crops**

In this event the participants from Colombian presented the new national strategy to reduce and eliminate the illicit crops in Colombia in concordance with the peace agreements with the FARC. This plan seeks to eliminate 100 thousand hectares of coca crops in 2017, of which 50 thousand hectares through alternative development programmes. To achieve that, the Government of Colombia has created a new institutional structure to fight the illicit crop which will report directly to the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia and coordinate the Government agencies around a single purpose.

**Treatment and Care of People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment**

This side event aimed at providing an update on the UNODC-WHO initiative launched at the CND in 2016. Within two hours of discussion the experts exchanged information and views on possible approaches to broaden the use of non-custodial measures, including treatment and care, to persons with drug disorders, in appropriate cases and in different stages of criminal proceedings. Overall, it was highlighted the importance of a close cooperation between health and justice sectors, including to ensure that despite possible criminal justice measures, States offer treatment in a continuum of care to patients with use disorders.

**New Initiatives in Prevention: Strengthening the Global Prevention Response**

This side-event, opened by the Chair of the 60th CND, H.E. Bente Angell-Hansen and UNODC Director DO Aldo Lale-Demoz, discussed evidence and experiences from prevention programmes serving populations where previously prevention science had nothing to propose (including the internally displaced, refugees out-of-school youth).

**A Roadmap for Improving Drug Statistics**

The UNGASS outcome document indicates a number of areas where statistical work is needed. This side event discussed experiences to improve measure of drugs and drug use at country level; furthermore, the Roadmap to improve the availability and quality of statistical data on drug and drug prepared for the Statistical Commission was presented.
Schools as Valuable Social Institutions for Prevention and to Build Socio-emotional Skills

The event presented results from successful and promising initiatives from different countries, with a special focus on the school setting. A new UNESCO-UNODC-WHO guide on prevention targeted to the education sector was launched at the event, and among other initiatives attention was drawn to the results of the longstanding and successful collaboration between Lions Quest Program and UNODC in disseminating skills based school prevention programmes in South Eastern Europe.

Health Responses to New Psychoactive Substances

In front of an audience of around 80 participants, Ambassador Leigh Turner, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, introduced the topic emphasizing the need for a balanced response to face the challenges posed by the rapid emergence of new psychoactive substances, including national and international efforts to strengthen treatment systems.

Monitoring and measuring impact of Alternative Development: developing a measurement framework in line with the Sustainable Development Goals

The event was well attended (40-50 people) and focused on the development of new metrics for measuring the success of alternative development programmes and the opportunities brought by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The speakers discussed the strategic, technical and operational aspects linked to the development of such measurement framework. UNODC presented concrete examples from Afghanistan and Myanmar for measuring the development gap between opium poppy growing and non-growing communities.

Shared Responsibility in Addressing the Cocaine Threat along the Supply Chain

The side event brought together a panel of experts from different countries to review recent trends in cocaine cultivation, production, transit and trafficking consumer markets together with impacts on security, economy, development and public health. The discussion highlighted the increased need for shared responsibility and a global monitoring of the cocaine market.
Special Event: International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Disorders - Each person counts, leaving no one behind -

This Special Event, which was opened by the UNODC Executive Director and addressed by Ambassador Pedro Moitinho de Almeida, CND Facilitator post-UNGASS matters, provided an update on the plans for field testing of International Standards, as well as progress made in the developer accompanying tools in support of Member States interested in developing assurance and accreditation mechanisms based on the international standards.

Follow up to UNGASS: Establishment of the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Drug Epidemiology

The working group, recently established by WHO and UNODC on epidemiological data on drugs, aims at strengthening the coordination and harmonization of international efforts on drug epidemiology data through discussion and review of methodological issues and by exploring ways to complement existing statistical activities, including data collection and capacity building activities. The event is an opportunity to present the objectives of the group to member states and interested parties and receive feedback on priority areas.

The S-O-S Initiative: Emergency Community Management of Heroin Opioid Overdose Including Interim Naloxone

This Special Launch Event was organized under the main sponsorship of the Government of Estonia, in partnership with UNODC, WHO, VNGOC/NYNK EMCDDA, the Governments of Norway, UK, and USA. In response to the 2016 General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem and CND resolution 55/7 UNODC in collaboration with WHO are preparing a comprehensive multi-country study to better estimate the public health impact of the community management of opioid overdose, including the use of naloxone. Furthermore, UNODC and WHO launched a new initiative to enhance adequate access to naloxone, a lifesaving medication. This side event, which opened by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia in Vienna presented the multi-country study protocol to Member States and launched the new global initiative, the S-O-S initiative: Stop-Overdose-Safely.
Special Event: Increasing Access to Controlled Drugs Post-UNGASS

This special event raised awareness of, and support for, the critical work done to increase access to controlled medicines around the globe post-UNGASS. The significant amount of co-sponsors demonstrates the strong support for this area from Member States and civil society, with opening remarks delivered by H.E. Bente Angell Hansen, Chair 60th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

National and Regional Approaches to Synthetic Drugs

This side event highlighted the specific challenges with regards to an expanding synthetic drugs market and new psychoactive substances faced by countries and the responses at the national and international level developed by them.

Implementing HIV Programmes for and with People who Inject Drugs

The session highlighted that the number of new HIV infections among people who inject drugs has increased by 33% (compared to the UNGASS reduction target); illustrated through examples from government and CBOs; the critical role community in raising awareness on emerging health issues; how governments can the efficacy of their response through social-contracting CSOs and CBOs for better implementation; allows to introduce the participants to the soon to be published guidance: "Implementing Comprehensive HIV and HCV Programmes with People who Inject Drugs: Practical Guidance for Collaborative Interventions".

Other events

Hearing of the Informal Scientific Network

During the event, the two chairs of the Hearing, Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and Jallal Toufiq, Director of the Moroccan Observatory on Drugs and Addictions, and Member of the INCB outlined latest statement of the Informal Scientific Network, which outlines the urgent and crucial issues with regard to the science of drug prevention, addiction medicine, treatment and care of drug dependence and co-morbid disorders presented how the Network can instrument the commitments to implement recommendations made in the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document.
Youth Forum 2017: "Together we build a better future."

This year the UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch gathered more than 40 young people from more than 30 countries to participate at the Youth Forum 2017. This annual event offers participants an opportunity to learn from each other and gain a deeper insight into policy discussions at a global level. In the course of 2.5 days these young people exchanged their ideas and visions on how to better protect the health and wellbeing of their peers and jointly developed a statement, which was delivered to the delegates participating in the CND.