

**Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common
and shared responsibility**
U.S. Contribution

The United States is a strong supporter of the work that the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) does to provide technical assistance to member states on the entire spectrum of drug policy issues. The international community should encourage implementation of UNGASS outcomes by Member States and across UN entities, with particular focus on increased collaboration between UN agencies on drug policy and programs within their respective mandates, with UNODC in the lead.

- UNODC and the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) should serve as a clearing house/coordinating body for drug policy and programs undertaken within the UN system. Meanwhile, UN entities and specialized agencies should be encouraged to undertake implementation of UNGASS aspects within their respective areas of competence and, in turn, share such efforts and programming with the CND and UNODC.
- One way to expand this collaboration would be to increase the evidence base around the value of public health approaches by requesting the World Health Organization and UNODC to jointly develop recommendations through a “Comprehensive Public Health Action Plan to Address Substance Use Disorders,” to guide countries and UN agencies. Such an Action Plan could provide background information and specific evidence-based recommendations for leadership and policy development in the areas of prevention, treatment, recovery, stigma and discrimination, and resources/budgeting.
- The United States also supports a variety of existing platforms for information exchange, such as the Paris Pact Initiative, that bring together Member States to share information and coordinate action on complex drug control issues.

- We strongly support programs aimed at regional cooperation in Central Asia and urge other nations to consider funding support to the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Center (CARICC), in Almaty, Kazakhstan, as well as UNODC's Container Control Program's work in Central Asia and the Caucasus, the regional Border Liaison Office program and the Global Program against Organized Crime's work on developing networks in Central Asia and the South Caucasus.
- The United States provides funding to support the International Narcotics Control Board's Project Cohesion (focused on heroin and cocaine) and Project Prism (related to Amphetamine-type stimulants) that facilitate information exchange among participating countries on trafficking in these drugs and their precursors.
- The United States also supports efforts to strengthen central authorities to enable countries to more effectively provide mutual legal assistance. This support includes funding for the West Africa Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime Program.
- The United States also sponsored a resolution on strengthening central authorities at the 2016 UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime Conference of Parties