



PERMANENT MISSION OF
URUGUAY



SIDE EVENT - UNGASS 2016

"Human Rights in the World Drug Problem"

Tuesday, 19th April, 2016 1 p.m.
Conference room 11, UNHQ, New York

Concept Note

1. PRECEDENT

Even though historically, the topic of drugs has been centralized in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna, for the last few years, the promotion and protection mechanisms of universal human rights have influenced the subject of drugs by introducing the human rights perspective. In this regard, in 2010, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health called for the decriminalization of the possession and use of drugs, as did the World Health Organization and UNAIDS, considering that this penalization implicates an obstacle for the realization of basic individual rights, especially the right to health.

The passing of time has demonstrated that even though there are several countries that continue to have a traditional stance regarding the control of drugs and that they wish for this aforementioned topic be treated exclusively in Vienna, the visions stemming from some States, including Uruguay along with non-governmental organizations, have consolidated through substantive messages the discussion on the necessity to include the human rights' dimension in relation to the world drug problem.

This is the case of the Human Rights Council (HRC), which has not only used the contributions of States to generate the report A/HRC/30/65 (Contribution of the HRC to UNGASS 2016), but also included for the first time, a panel to discuss the impact of drugs in the enjoyment of human rights in its 30th session in 2015.

2. URUGUAY'S ROLE

Uruguay has been a protagonist in the international community. Since 2008, it has promoted the integration of international law to the international audit system as well as manifested the need to create an open dialogue that will surpass the moralistic and dogmatic focus that no longer accepts revisions.

Uruguay is a center of attention due to the decision to progress in the regulation of the cannabis market that generates respect, hope and scientific, social and political follow-up. The comprehensive and balanced approach of its National Strategy along with the important contributions made to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to OHCHR and to the Preparatory Meeting of UNGASS 2016, make it a key player in the continuation of the campaign to reaffirm the need to change the vision of the topic of drugs.

3. OBJECTIVE

Realizing a side event in the context of UNGASS 2016 to continue the campaign to promote the inclusion of the human rights perspective in the debate on the world drug problem, given that the facts have demonstrated that national drug treatment policies directly impact the enjoyment of individual human rights, especially the right to health.

4. DATE

Tuesday, 19 April at 1 p.m. (after the aperture of UNGASS and before the beginning of the work programme).

5. ORGANIZERS

The event is organized by the Government of Uruguay with the support of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).