

# UPDATE

## UNODC

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 62 Session  
Ministerial Segment 2019, 14-15 March 2019

The IFRC is grateful for the opportunity given to contribute to such an important debates on renewed collective commitments to address global drug issues.

The IFRC and 190 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are one of the first organisations to call for human, evidence based prevention, harm reduction and treatment policies for people who use drugs. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are uniquely placed to assist. Our volunteers are drawn from the communities, in they serve and our National Societies enjoy a privileged relationship with governments as auxiliaries in humanitarian and health-related matters. So we have a big and legitimate voice in area.

We welcome to join the process of developing the road ahead towards creating an enabling environment for sustainable development and Universal Health Coverage in a way that promotes and supports the aspiration, rights and dignity of people who use drugs.

This can only be done if we recognise and directly address in the renewed global drug control strategy for the next decade, extreme levels of vulnerability faced by people who use drugs. It includes right to life, right to access to health, free from torture and discrimination, rights of children and women.

# STAGNU

Stigma, abuse and specifically fear or arrest, are still significant barriers to access essential health services. The global drugs control strategy must recommend that all people who use drugs should have access to evidence based age, gender and culturally appropriate prevention, harm reduction and treatment in the communities, removal of punishment against people who use drugs. This recommendation will be very important for humanitarian service providers including Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies throughout the world.

We hope, in the future humanity and authorities in every country will understand this concepts better then in the past.