

Report on October intersessional meeting

(22-24 October 2018)



On **22-24 October 2018**, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs continued 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:

- October 22: *Supply reduction and related measures;*
- October 23: (i) *Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats;* (ii) *Eliminating or reducing significantly and measurably the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors;*
- October 24: (i) *Alternative development;* (ii) *International cooperation on eradicating the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;* (iii) *Crop control strategies.*

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.

22 October 2018

Supply reduction and related measures

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

AFRICAN GROUP	Mr. Mohamed Abdou Benhalla, <i>General Director of the National Office for Combating Drugs and Addiction (ONLCDT) of Algeria</i>
ASIA PACIFIC	Police Major General Chayapoj Hasunaha, <i>Commander of Narcotics Intelligence Division, Narcotics Suppression Bureau, Thailand</i>
GRULAC	Mr. Juan Francisco Espinosa Palacios, <i>Viceminister on Policy for Crime and Restorative Justice of the Minister of Justice and Law, Colombia – video message</i>
EEG	Mr. Konstantin Gobrusenko, <i>Deputy Head of Directorate on Countering Money Laundering of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation (Rosfinmonitoring)</i>
WEOG	Mr. Brian Donald, <i>EUROPOL</i>
CSTF	Mr. Daniel Joloy, <i>Amnesty International</i>
UNODC	Ms. Loide Aryee, <i>Chief, Organized Crime & Illicit Trafficking Branch</i>
OHCHR	Mr. Zaved Mahmood, <i>Human Rights and Drug Policy Advisor</i>
INTERPOL	Ms. Lisa Garin-Michaud, <i>Criminal Networks Policy Analyst</i>



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[Ms. Loide Aryee](#) of UNODC, accompanied by her colleague Mr. Alen Gagula, opened the panel discussion with a presentation on UNODC's work on transnational organized crime and the Container Control Programme. The floor was then given to the representative of OHCHR, Mr. Zaved Mahmood, speaking on law enforcement measures and human rights. His presentation was followed by [Ms. Lisa Garin-Michaud](#) from INTERPOL, who provided an overview of organization's activities

against illicit drug trafficking. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu then gave the floor to [Mr. Mohamed Abdou Benhalla](#)/Algeria, who reported on the national efforts to reduce



supply of drugs. Next, [Mr. Brian Donald](#) of EUROPOL presented on the work of EUROPOL coordination centres and their services provided to Member States. The floor was then passed to Mr. [Konstantin Gobrusenko](#)/Russian Federation, speaking on the national experience in detecting the financial component of drug business.



The last two interventions were made by [Mr. Juan Francisco Espinosa Palacios](#)/Colombia, who addressed the

floor through a video message, and [Mr. Daniel Joloy](#) of Amnesty International.



Each presentation was followed by a Q&A session, in which Member States actively engaged. During the thematic debate, superseding the panel discussion, 11 Member States made statements:

- [Netherlands](#)
- [Austria on behalf of the European Union](#)
- Pakistan
- Norway
- Canada
- Colombia
- El Salvador
- Morocco
- United States
- Nigeria
- Italy

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After the panel, interventions were made by representatives of UNODC: [Ms. Simonetta Grassi](#), speaking on the linkage of firearms trafficking to multiple threats, [Mr. Luis De Jorge Mesas](#), who presented on regional judicial cooperation, and [Ms. Anja Korenblik](#), speaking on eliminating or reducing significantly illicit cultivation.

Finally, video-messages from the following NGOs were displayed: [UNIDOS](#) (Mr. Belarmino Carlos Langa/Mozambique), [Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales](#) (CELS) (Ms. Juliana Miranda/Argentina), [Penal Reform International](#) (Ms. Olivia Rope) and [Observatory of illicit crops and crops producers OCCDI global](#) (Mr. Carlos Humberto Romero Vergara/Colombia).

23 October 2018

- (i) *Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats*
- (ii) *Eliminating or reducing significantly and measurably the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors*



The panel was composed of the following experts:

GRULAC	Ms. Camilla Gomes, <i>Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency</i> and Mr. João Carlos Ambrosio, <i>Brazilian Federal Police</i> (video message)
EEG	Mr. Anton Khazaridi, <i>Head of Division on Countering Trafficking in Synthetic Cannabinoids and New Potentially Dangerous Psychoactive Substances, General Directorate on Drug Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation</i>
WEOG	Mr. Brian Harris, <i>Director, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, United States</i>
CSTF	Ms. Ola Byelyayeva, <i>Eurasian Harm Reduction Association CEECA</i>
UNODC	Ms. Angela Me, <i>Chief, Research and Trend Analysis Branch</i>
INCB	Ms. Barbara Remberg, <i>Senior Technical Advisor</i>
<i>Additional experts</i>	
WEOG	Mr. Olivier Onidi, <i>Deputy Director General of DG HOME</i>
WEOG	Mr. Anton Luf, <i>Medical University Vienna</i>

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[Mr. Barbara Remberg](#) of INCB presented on the importance of the international precursors control. Her intervention was followed by a series of presentations by UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch on: (i) recent trends in the opium and coca cultivation ([Ms. Angela Me](#)), (ii) latest updates on new psychoactive substances ([Mr. Martin Raitelhuber](#)) and (iii) the use of the internet and drug markets ([Ms. Chloé Carpentier](#)). These introductory remarks were followed by a [video message](#) from Ms. Camilla Gomes/Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency and Mr. João Carlos Ambrosio/Brazilian Federal Police. The floor was then handed over to [Mr. Anton Khazaridi](#)/Russian Federation, who presented on the structure of national seizures in 2017, new substances under the national control and the specifics of internet drugstores in Russia, including their dismantling.



Mr. Brian Harris/United States then presented on new challenges in detecting and controlling illicit synthetic drugs, followed by Mr. Oliver Onidl/DG Home, speaking on the measures to address the growing threat of darknet and the emergence of new substances. The floor was then given to [Ms. Olga Belyaeva](#) of Eurasian Harm Reduction Association CEECA,



presenting on lessons learnt from national processes in Estonia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Lithuania, and to [Mr. Anton Luf](#) of Medical University Vienna, who reported on Checkit! – a cooperation programme between the City of Vienna, the University of Vienna and the Ministry of Health of Austria that, inter alia, conducts drug screening.

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, 6 Member States shared their statements:

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- China
- Canada
- Colombia
- [Austria on behalf of the European Union](#)
- [Singapore](#)
- El Salvador



The floor was also given to [Ms. Tania Ramírez](#) (México Unido Contra la Delincuencia [MUCD - Mexico United Against Crime]), who presented findings of the research on medical cannabis policies and practices around the world, and [Mr. Martin Horton-Eddison](#) (Global Drug Policy Observatory/United Kingdom), speaking on crypto-drug markets. They were followed by [Mr. Hernan Epstein](#) (UNODC), sharing an update on the development of statistical methodology in the implementation of CND 60/1 Resolution, as well as by two video messages from [Mr. Lul Admasachew](#) (Higher Education Leadership) and [Ms. Gretchen Burns Bergman](#) (A New PATH [Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing]).

24 October

- (i) *Alternative development*
- (ii) *International cooperation on eradicating the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance;*
- (iii) *Crop control strategies*



The panel was composed of the following experts:

ASIA PACIFIC	Ms. Ramrada Ninnad, <i>Chief Development Management Officer, Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage, Thailand</i>
GRULAC	Mr. Alvaro Salcedo, <i>First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations</i>
WEOG	Ms. Sofia Krauss, <i>German International Cooperation Association (GIZ)</i>
CSTF	Mr. Martin Jelsma, <i>Transnational Institute nominated by the Vienna NGO Committee</i>
UNODC	Mr. Jorge Rios, <i>Chief, Sustainable Livelihoods Unit</i> , and Mr. Jean-Christophe Galland, <i>Malongo Coffee Company</i>
UNDP Afganistán	Mr. Jamshed Khoshbeen (video message)
<i>Additional experts</i>	
ASIA PACIFIC	Prof. Abeyasinghe Saman, <i>Chairman of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka</i>
ASIA PACIFIC	Associate Prof. Dr. Unaroj Boonprakob, <i>Royal Project Foundation, Thailand</i>

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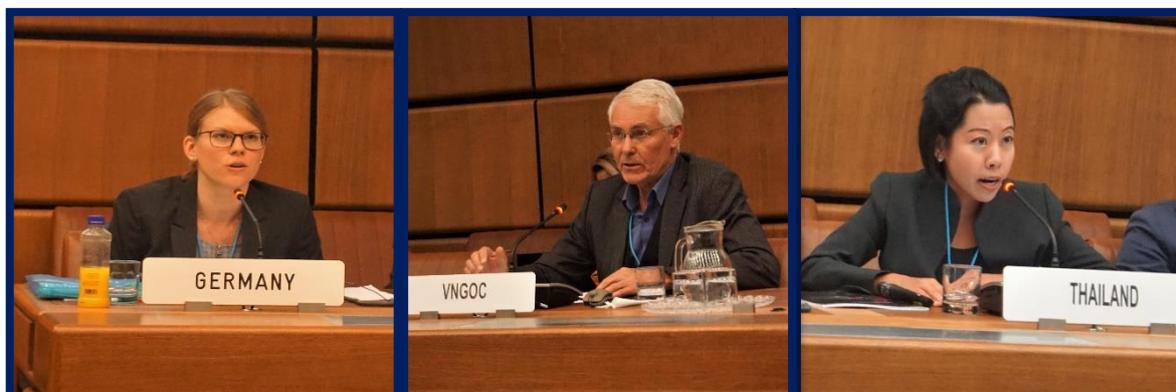


[Mr. Jorge Rios](#) of UNODC provided an overview of the concept of alternative development, also in relation to the three policy documents: the 2009 Political Declaration, the 2014 Joint Ministerial Statement and the 2016 UNGASS outcome document, as well as the 2013 Guiding Principles on Alternative Development. He was accompanied by [Mr. Jean-Christophe Galland](#) of Malongo Coffee Company, who introduced the joint programme supporting farmers in Myanmar in breaking their dependency on opium poppy

cultivation through commercialisation of their coffee harvests under fair-trade conditions. [Mr. Jamshed Khoshbeen](#) of UNDP Afghanistan then addressed the floor through a video message, followed by [Mr. Alvaro Salcedo](#) of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the UN in Vienna, sharing the outcome of the expert group meeting on alternative development that was held in July 2018.



The floor was then handed over to [Ms. Sofia Krauss](#) of the German International Cooperation Association (GIZ), who spoke on the evolution of alternative development vis-à-vis environmental protection, gender aspects and human rights. Ms. Ramrada Ninnad/Thailand spoke on the importance of integrating a people-centred approach to alternative development while respecting rule of law and reflecting socio-economic and cultural aspects, whereas [Mr. Martin Jelsma](#) of the Transnational Institute presented the key conclusions of organization's new report on human rights, illicit cultivation and alternative development. Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu gave the floor to [Prof. Saman Abeyasinghe](#)/Sri Lanka, who spoke on the national strategies to address the issue of increasing number of cannabis users, and to Associate [Prof. Dr. Unaroj Boonprakob](#) of the Royal Project Foundation, who presented on the on-going programme on improving livelihoods of highland people.



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

- Colombia
- Russian Federation
- Ecuador
- China
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Morocco
- [Austria on behalf of the European Union](#)

Additionally, the floor was given to UNODC representatives: [Ms. Anja Korenblik](#) (Research and Trend Analysis Branch), who presented findings of the latest research on alternative development, as well as to [Ms. Anubha Sood](#) (UNODC Afghanistan) and [Mr. Bo Mathiesen](#) (UNODC Colombia), delivering their remarks through video messages.



Finally, two video messages from NGOs were displayed: [Mr. Nang Yon](#) (Myanmar Opium Farmers Forum/Myanmar) and [Ms. Roxana Argandoña](#) (Andean Information Network/Bolivia).

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#October> ISM.