

20 February 2012

English only

Commission on Narcotic Drugs**Fifty-fifth session**

Vienna, 12-16 March 2012

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: demand reduction and related matters**Improving the participatory role of civil society in addressing the world drug problem****Note by the Secretariat**

1. Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/11 entitled “Improving the participatory role of civil society in addressing the world drug problem” encouraged Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in the context of its fifty-fifth session, their experiences in working with civil society in United Nations forums and to provide suggestions, consistent with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, Economic and Social Council resolution 1966/31 and the three international drug control conventions, with a view to improving the participatory role of civil society in addressing the world drug problem and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make that information, including suggestions, available to Member States, upon their request.
2. The Secretary-General in his note verbale NAR/CL.2/2011 of 26 July 2011 invited Member States to provide a short report on their experiences working with civil society in United Nations forums.
3. Contributions were received from the following 32 countries: Andorra, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mauritius, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Poland,

* E/CN.7/2012/1.



Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States.

4. Member States reported on their experiences in working with civil society in United Nations forums and at the national level. Some responses included specific proposals to strengthen the participatory role of civil society in support of the work of the Commission and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

5. Thirty-one responding countries reported that civil society play an important role in addressing the world drug problem. It was reported that, through their efforts to raise awareness on the harmful effects of drugs and drug abuse and through the provision of treatment and rehabilitation services for addicts, civil society played a crucial role in combating drug abuse. Closer involvement of civil society in the process of international drug control policy planning, implementation and evaluation was also advocated.

6. Nine countries specifically called for improving civil society participation in the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Several made reference to existing models and proposals for civil society engagement within the United Nations. Particular reference was made to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board as well as to the Human Rights Council as a possible model, and support was also expressed for the proposals made by the NGO community in the resolutions adopted at the "Beyond 2008 forum". Additionally, a few Member States made further suggestions for improving the participatory role of civil society in the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Several Member States reported on the participation of civil society representatives in their delegations to the Commission. Side events by civil society at the sessions of the Commission were welcomed, as they provided opportunities for civil society to have their voice heard, and could be further expanded. In some cases, information provided by civil society was used by Member States to inform their decision-making relating to multilateral projects. The participation of civil society and scientific institutions in the preparation of UNODC publications such as the World Drug Report was also suggested. Some Member States mentioned that they were willing to continue dialogue with UNODC to ensure participation in drug policy forums such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as appropriate and within the rules of procedure of ECOSOC.

7. More than three-quarters of responding countries reported on their experiences working with civil society at the national level. Almost all noted that their experience had been positive and that civil society is an important player in drug related work because of its role in drug abuse prevention and treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug-dependent persons. Three countries reported that civil society was included in national policy making and had participated in or provided input for national drug strategies.

8. The annex contains information provided by Member States, namely relevant excerpts of their experiences with civil society in United Nations forums and a summary of relevant information on their experiences with civil society at the national level. The information was provided under cover of a note verbale from the respective Permanent Missions to the United Nations (Vienna).

9. Pursuant to Commission resolution 54/11, the complete submissions by Member States on their experiences in, and suggestions for, working with civil

society in United Nations forums can be obtained through contacting the Advocacy Section of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Civil Society team (Tel.:+43-1-26060 5583, e-mail: ngo.unit@unodc.org).

Annex

Member States' experiences with civil society in United Nations forums and at the national level

A. Member States' experiences with civil society in United Nations forums

1. The following part quotes the relevant information contained in the contributions provided by nine Member States.

Australia

[Original: English]
[25 November 2011]

CSOs are important providers of established and innovative services for those that use illicit drugs. They are uniquely placed to give voice to communities impacted by drug use and drug policies. In this context, Australia recognises the need for Member States to encourage the efforts of civil society, including NGOs, in addressing problems associated with the use of illicit drugs.

Australia supports efforts to promote the participation of civil society at the CND and encourages Member States to include appropriate civil society representation in their delegations.

As long standing member of the CND, Australian delegations have included representation from civil society. Australia's experiences has been that their participation has contributed to the successful development and adoption of resolutions, notably, CND Resolution 54/6 — Promoting adequate availability of internationally controlled narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse.

Canada

[Original: English]
[23 September 2011]

Traditionally, the Government of Canada has worked closely with NGOs on drug-related issues, particularly in the areas of drug prevention and treatment. In addition, NGOs are invited by the Government of Canada to participate as active members on Canada's delegation to the annual meetings of the CND, providing advice on NGO activities related to illicit drugs.

Finland

[Original: English]
[3 October 2011]

Finland has good experiences of working with CSOs and considers participation of the civil society a vital part of policy making in Finland. Finland welcomes the contribution of civil society also in CND and supports the closer involvement of civil society to the processes of policy planning, implementation and evaluation.

Dialogue and consultation with civil society and other stakeholders are important because:

When deciding on different policies civil society can help to improve the policy outcome;

Involvement of civil society means enhancing the stakeholders' involvement;

Civil society often has considerable responsibility for implementing actions at local level, especially drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug users;

NGOs and other voluntary groups are good at developing innovative approaches based on a realistic picture of what is actually needed; and

Civil society reaches the most vulnerable groups and has valuable information on how they are best helped.

Finland recognizes that there is a great variety of actors, NGOs and voluntary groups working with the drug problem. This diversity should be acknowledged and we should be willing to hear opinions also from those actors we don't necessarily agree with. Civil society has different philosophies, ideologies and moral and scientific lines and they all might have a valuable contribution to make. Finland expects from different actors that:

They clearly state their agenda, founding and background ideology, and their work is transparent;

Their work is based on scientific evidence or is otherwise tested to involve best practices or policies; and

They regularly evaluate their work.

Finland would also like to encourage dialogue with groups and associations supporting or otherwise representing drug users or their families. There are also many civil society actors who, while not working directly or primarily with drug policy, have a valuable contribution to make, e.g., actors working in areas like HIV/AIDS and those who encounter drug problem in other countries through development work.

Germany

[Original: English]
[18 November 2011]

[...] The comprehensive inclusion of civil society into drug policy at all governmental levels ensures that the large variety of their know-how and experience can be used to advance all aspects of drug policy and the drug relief system. Furthermore, it guarantees that drug policy is pursued with strong consensus among all stakeholders. The necessary coordination processes are based on mutual respect between all stakeholders involved, regardless of occasional differences of opinion.

A stronger involvement of civil society and its know-how and ideas seems to be just as valuable and necessary on the international level as it can contribute to further development of global drug policy. Therefore, the regular participation of civil society should be established within the CND, the UNODC, the INCB, and in other UN forums, analogous to other comparable bodies and UN organisations (such as

UNAIDS, UNFCCC). The Programme Co-ordinating Board of UNAIDS, for instance, includes five permanent members of the civil society. These members alternate and represent different regions. Like the co-sponsors of UNAIDS, the civil society representatives have a non-voting status. Participation of civil society is guaranteed through the right to speak and to make proposals, which are usually used in a constructive manner and lead to greater transparency and acceptance of the decision-making process overall¹

Germany welcomes not only the admission of NGOs as members of the CND, but also the representation of civil society representatives in the national delegations to the CND.

To facilitate a broader participation of civil society in the discussions on international drug policy, Germany would welcome the establishment of a regular consultation mechanism between the Member States, the UNODC, the INCB and NGOs. This mechanism would aim to give NGOs the opportunity to address and discuss issues and questions related to supply and demand reduction with representatives of the Member States, the UNODC and the INCB. Such a consultation mechanism could be set up at the UNODC headquarter. The possibility to do so within the framework of the established “roundtables” during the CND should be explored. However, it should be ensured that no increases in the administrative or budgetary burden for the Member States occur.

Germany would welcome a stronger participation of civil society and scientific institutions in the preparation of UNODC publications, e.g. the drafting of the World Drug Report, situational reports and other documents. This would enable better utilization of the relevant expertise and know-how that civil society and scientific community possess in the area of drug policy.

Netherlands

[Original: English]
[2 November 2011]

The Netherlands has positive experiences in working with CSOs in UN forums and therefore emphatically supports the structural involvement of NGOs at UN level in addressing the world drug problem. The government already perceives an increase of NGO participation for example at high level meetings. The Netherlands welcomes this development and encourages further involvement of civil society, for instance in the meetings of the CND.

The involvement of NGOs in UN forums results in an enriched dialogue. The participatory role of NGOs should therefore be considered to be of essential importance in addressing drug related matters. Furthermore, given that CSOs represent the target groups, the development and implementation of policy addressing the drug problem will be more successful as the input from NGOs is incorporated. Without the involvement of NGOs, the voice of the targeted groups might go unheard.

¹ For further information:
<http://www.unaids.org/en/aboutunaids/unaidsprogrammeccordinatingboard/ngocivilsocietyparticipationinpcb/>.

To stress the relevance of NGOs in UN forums, the Netherlands would like to take this opportunity to provide two positive examples of NGO involvement at the level of the UN regarding drug related matters: Firstly, two NGOs from the Netherlands have ECOSOC consultative status, namely AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW) and the Centre for Culture and Leisure (COC). Due to this configuration, AFEW and COC are able to make meaningful contributions to the endeavours and objectives of this particular UN organ. Secondly, the Netherlands is of the opinion that the engagement of NGOs in UNAIDS, which is almost on an equal footing with the Member States, can serve as a template for the involvement of CSOs in other UN bodies. The strong role of NGOs here is derived from their participation in both the preparatory process of the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) of UNAIDS and the PCB itself. For instance, Health Connections International (HCI), was part of the creation of the UNAIDS Task Force on HIV prevention among injecting drug users in Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS. The collaboration between UNAIDS and civil society is effective at the level of governance, as well as at the level of implementation. This structure could serve as a reference for enhancing the role of CSOs in other UN forums such as the CND. A similar need for improvement of the role of NGOs can also be seen within the World Health Organization. Although collaboration between WHO and CSOs is already established at the level of implementation, NGO's have less influence on policy making and no influence in terms of governance.

Since the Netherlands considers the role of NGOs as valuable and advisable, CSOs should be involved in UN forums where possible and relevant. The CND is one of the forums where civil society and NGO involvement is relevant. To conclude, the Netherlands proposes some suggestions for improving the participatory role of civil society in UN forums, where applicable:

In order to stimulate concerted (and sustained) participation by NGOs, Member States could consider to support and provide the resources for the installation of national NGO Boards or Networks that enable a more structured national consultation and formal feedback process;

To accomplish widespread participation of NGOs, we should seek ways to establish and support the participation of NGOs from developing countries, where civil society is often relatively weak;

The linkage between Resolution 54/11 and 54/13 should be emphasized through stronger political wording in order to support the critical role civil society plays in reducing the infections of HIV among (injecting) drug users;

The participatory role of civil society should be incorporated at all dialogues concerning the world drug problem, including the most sensitive issues such as human rights and harm reduction.

New Zealand

[Original: English]
[18 October 2011]

New Zealand's experience in terms of civil society participation in United Nations drug control has largely been with NGOs. New Zealand has engaged with international CSOs (as part of preparation for and participation in CND meetings)

including the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs prior to the 2009 high level meeting, the International Drug Policy Alliance, International Harm Reduction Association (now Harm Reduction International), and the Beckley Foundation.

New Zealand officials participated as observers in the Australia and New Zealand NGO Regional Consultation Beyond 2008 Regional Report. New Zealand has included an NGO representative in its delegation to CND since 2009 and also for the 2008 open-ended working groups on demand reduction and ATS and precursor substances.

Relevant lessons can also be learned about civil society participation in UN processes by considering the UN Joint Secretariat on AIDS (UNAIDS). The UNAIDS governance body, the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), includes five representatives and five alternates from civil society. During the period, 2008-2009 New Zealand chaired its constituency grouping and actively campaigned for civil society engagement in policy setting and decisions taken by the PCB. In addition, the New Zealand delegation to the biannual meetings during this period included a civil society delegate.

The New Zealand experience has been positive. The NGO community appears to have a genuine desire for international action to deal positively, realistically, humanely and justly, and in a culturally and socially sensitive way, with problems caused by drug use, using evidence of effectiveness as its yardstick. The focus of NGO concern is on demand reduction rather than supply reduction because of its strong links with communities and more specifically the treatment of individuals with drug related health concerns.

The Vienna NGO Committee set out a number of suggestions for improving the participatory role of civil society in the UN drug control context. In particular, objective 2 of the Beyond 2008 declaration² was to review best practices related to collaboration mechanisms among NGOs, governments and UN agencies in various fields, and to propose new and improved ways of working with the UNODC and CND. New Zealand is supportive, in principle, of many of these suggestions including:

Calls for the CND to:

A) Review consulting mechanisms which have been developed by other UN entities and establish mechanisms for both ongoing and recurring civil society participation, including affected and stigmatized populations, at the CND, including participation in plenary discussion and thematic debate to stimulate informed discussion and proposals for collective action;

B) Commission a review of the level of engagement and expenditure attributed to NGO activity by other UN entities and consider and approve proposals arising from

² The "Beyond 2008" is the global NGO forum that took place in Vienna on 7-9 July 2008, which reviewed progress made since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. The outcome of this forum was the Beyond 2008 Declaration and resolutions that were adopted by NGO consensus on 9 July 2008. The declaration and resolutions gave recognition to the important contribution of civil society towards the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Illicit Drugs (UNGASS) targets, and enabled them to express opinion and speak with a unified voice.

such a review which can enhance the involvement and contribution of NGOs and further develop the role of the UNODC Civil Affairs Office.

Calls for UNODC to:

A) Implement the spirit and priorities of the General Assembly as it pertains to NGO engagement;

B) Work within the framework provided by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and in line with global political declarations, in collaboration with co-sponsors, to develop and strengthen civil society participation, including participation of affected and stigmatized populations, to match such involvement in other UN agencies and programmes;

C) Explore means to establish national NGO focal points to promote two-way communication, using as a model the structures established by UNAIDS.

and calls for INCB to:

A) Broaden the scope of key informants used in their analysis by systematically including NGOs and affected groups in that process;

B) Continue meeting with representatives of civil society, including affected and stigmatized populations, when conducting in-country assessments in order to have the benefit of their input and incorporate their perspectives, as foreseen in Article 14 of the Single Convention;

C) Establish a mechanism for NGOs to request clarification of statements made in the INCB Annual Report;

D) Publish reports on substantive discussions and outcomes from their meetings with Governments and NGOs.

The Beyond 2008 declaration also called for the relationship between UNODC, CND and NGOs to be monitored and evaluated for the results achieved every two years by each party and through a joint monitoring, consultation and planning group, with NGOs. This evaluation should be results-based and reported to the CND as well as the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board for further action.

Switzerland

[Original: English
[1 December 2011]]

Switzerland benefits from civil society involvement in different United Nations forums. For example, CSOs play a central role in the Human Rights Council's review mechanism, the Universal Periodic Review; a mechanism that Switzerland strongly supports. Another example is the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), where Switzerland has continuously supported CSOs, inter alia, by providing funding to the UNCAC Coalition. We also pressed for a stronger role of CSOs in the context of UNCAC's Implementation Review Group during the recent Conference of the States Parties in Morocco. In the particular case of the CND, Switzerland favours a close involvement of CSOs as well. The challenges that the CND deals with are immense. We would therefore like to benefit from all relevant available sources of information and knowledge, including from CSOs. We also consider it crucial to benefit from local and regional perspectives that CSOs

could provide so that global solutions negotiated in the context of the CND do not prove impossible to implement due to local and regional idiosyncrasies.

As to particular experiences, Switzerland has in the past benefitted from CSOs in the context of our involvement in multilateral forums dedicated to drugs. Switzerland has generally fostered a regular dialogue with important CSOs in the field. In some cases, we have accepted representatives from CSOs in our delegations. In other cases, we have used information provided by CSOs to inform our decision-making relating to multilateral projects on the issue. Our close cooperation with actors from the civil society both in general and in relation to specific policy projects have proven very fruitful and we are interested in expanding the cooperation wherever it is conducive to our decision-making. We are sure that such an inclusion can be achieved without hampering the intergovernmental character of the CND. In sum, for the reasons mentioned above and in conformity with our positive experiences Switzerland favours the inclusion of CSOs in the works of the CND. We are open to discussing different modalities and ways of including and/or consulting CSOs.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]

[2 November 2011]

The UK believes that more meaningful participation by civil society in the Boards of multilateral organizations leads to better decision-making and more accountable use of resources. The UK has a long and proud tradition of including civil society in our negotiations in many UN forums. At CND, our delegation has worked closely with members of civil society for the past 4 years and has found their contributions invaluable, as they have a depth of expertise and an institutional memory that is hard to equal. Particular benefits of greater involvement of civil society are:

The reach, experience and knowledge of issues on the ground that civil society representatives bring to discussions. CSOs have practical experience of what works that usefully informs decision-making;

CSOs give a voice to groups affected by policy decisions of the Board — ensuring a range and diversity of perspective that would otherwise be lacking in the Board's discussions;

CSOs also play a very productive role as watchdogs, helping to ensure that government and international actors are accountable to the people and communities they serve. This includes accountability for spending resources in a way that gives value for money.

The UK regards the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board as a good model of how civil society can be engaged. NGOs serve on this Board, in a non-voting capacity. Our consistent experience is that these delegates bring a fresh and enlightening perspective to discussion and mean the work of the Board remains rooted in the reality of people's lives.

The UK would also like to draw the Secretariat's attention to models for the involvement of civil society developed by the following global partnerships:

The Global Fund - Civil society and private sector organizations have proved effective members of the Global Fund Board, where they hold equal voting rights alongside donor and recipient governments, and Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), where they represent the needs of those affected by the work of the Fund and improve the implementation of programmes and services;

GAVI - The unified GAVI board brings together development agencies, developing countries (5 seats), CSOs (1 seat), Vaccine Industry Developing Countries, Vaccine Industry Industrialized countries, Independent individuals (9), Gates Foundation, Research and Technical Health Institutes, Donor Countries (5), the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO. It decides on strategy and policy, approves country grants, and commissions work;

UNITAID - UNITAID has a similarly inclusive governance structure to the Global Fund, and also has a consultative forum. This seeks to expand the dialogue on UNITAID's mission and practice among stakeholders. UNITAID funds CSO participation and coordination at Board meetings, and it is also supporting a pilot project where Communities living with the diseases covered by UNITAID discuss with policy makers in-country whether or not UNITAID is having the impact its implementing partners say it is having, and promote UNITAID's objectives.

Finally, the UK has some specific suggestions to put forward to the Secretariat for consideration:

Civil society representatives could be used as "expert witnesses" in the negotiation of resolutions. For instance, they could be called on to express an opinion as to the accuracy or viability of some of the proposals made in CND;

Civil society have become much more prominent in CND with their side events these last few years and the lunch time events highlighting specific issues in much more detail than we hear in the board room. The UK would encourage the Secretariat to support and expand that function;

At the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, civil society are represented by region in the thematic debates and in the deliberations of the decisions. The CND should consider a similar arrangement.

There should be a representative of Civil Society on the Bureau.

United States of America

[Original: English]
[3 November 2011]

During the 54th CND, the U.S. was pleased to support the adoption of UNODC resolution 54/11 [...] For the last several years, groups of NGOs have briefed government officials on their policy positions in advance of the annual CND in Vienna. The government meets with a wide range of NGOs, including both those who are critical of U.S. drug policy and those who are supportive. The U.S. has found that keeping these lines of communication open with all organizations with expertise in drug policy is helpful in developing and implementing our drug control policy.

[...] In addition to providing a range of assistance to States working to counter the drug threat around the world, the U.S. recognizes the value of increasing cooperation and exchanges in bilateral, regional, and multilateral forums. The annual CND has made great progress in recent years in providing opportunities for accredited NGO observers to have their voices heard, including through the many side events that take place at the CND each year. These meetings and informal discussions help governments to stay apprised of the important work that CSOs conduct around the world. The U.S. encourages Member State delegations to attend any of these helpful events when their schedules allow. In addition, we appreciate the work of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) which facilitates collaboration between NGOs from around the world.

The U.S. fully supports UNODC efforts to improve the participatory role of civil society in addressing the world drug problem. Towards this end, the U.S. would encourage UNODC to work to ensure that a wide variety of mainstream organizations are represented at the CND and to welcome their participation in the CND, as appropriate and within the prescribed ECOSOC rules of procedure. The U.S. looks forward to continuing to partner with UNODC and Member States in ensuring participation of NGOs in drug policy forums such as the CND. The U.S. is grateful for UNODC's leadership on this important issue and would be pleased to continue the dialogue on this important subject.

B. Member States' experiences with civil society at the national level

2. The following part summarizes the information provided in the responses from Member States on their experiences working with CSOs at the national level.

Andorra

[Original: Spanish]
[31 August 2011]

Andorra reported that CSOs undertake different awareness-raising projects and initiatives in the area of drugs. The "SENY-NIT" Project, for example, is an information campaign on the risks of drug use that aims to prevent and reduce the risks of consumption.

Belarus

[Original: Russian]
[6 October 2011]

Belarus reported that there has been an increase in the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and drug dependency since the beginning of the 1990s. To combat these negative developments, the Council of Ministers approved a State Programme of Integrated Measures to Counter Drug Addiction, Drug Trafficking and Related Crimes (2009-2013). Point 44 of the State Programme provides for the support of NGOs and youth organizations working in the fields of drug abuse prevention, and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]

[11 October 2011]

Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that many NGOs have participated in the drafting of strategic documents including the National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2009-2013, and the National Action Plan for Fight Against Abuse of Narcotic Drugs 2009-2013. The Ministry of Security, in accordance with the National Action Plan, is required to cooperate with civil society in the fight against abuse of narcotic drugs. Cooperation with civil society in the country is progressing as compared to the situation three years ago.

Canada

[Original: English]

[23 September 2011]

Canada reported that NGOs play a key role in addressing illicit drug use, particularly in the areas of drug prevention and treatment. NGOs bring a demonstrated experience and knowledge in the provision of a broad range of services from primary prevention, early intervention, outreach, peer outreach and low threshold services for treatment, rehabilitation and recovery services and the development of the capacity of those engaged in these services. Canada also indicated that there are around 2,000 drug-related NGOs in Canada.

Croatia

[Original: English]

[2 November 2011]

Croatia reported that there have been no such experiences with civil society in the country.

Czech Republic

[Original: English]

[29 September 2011]

The Czech Republic reported that it has very good experiences cooperating with civil society. Many NGOs, on national and regional levels, are providers of drug services and programmes. In some regions, NGOs are the only ones providing drug services. The state cooperates with NGOs on a regular basis, and NGOs are represented in the advisory bodies and commissions as well as members of working groups. The Czech Republic also reported on a number of good practices with CSOs including outpatient facilities, therapeutic communities, needle and syringe exchange component, and care for imprisoned drug users, services which are mainly provided by NGOs.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]

[11 October 2011]

Ecuador reported that civil society plays an important part in addressing the drug problem by contributing to the implementation of the National Police's 1800 DRUGS complaints system. By providing information, through the National Anti-Narcotic Drugs Directorate, civil society helps drug control authorities intervene swiftly and effectively. The system, operating in civil society, has enabled information received to be used to optimum effect, leading to the development of preventive actions targeting different social groups, and contributing to the planning and implementation of social prevention campaigns and programmes.

Egypt

[Original: Arabic]

[26 August 2011]

Egypt reported that CSOs play an effective role in combating drug abuse through efforts in prevention and treatment and rehabilitation. CSOs undertake awareness-raising among youth on the harmful effects of drug abuse, and provide psychological and social rehabilitation to help addicts completely overcome drug abuse or addiction. The National Council formulates addiction control and treatment policies. It promotes and supports all civil society institutions fighting addiction, and evaluates the role that such efforts play in the context of the complementary roles of the network of official and non-official entities in the State. Further, the Egyptian Ministry of Interior supports the efforts made by other civil society sectors, both governmental and non-governmental, in matters of mutual concern related to combating drugs.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]

[7 December 2011]

El Salvador reported briefly on activities that both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health undertook with NGOs in the recent years.

Germany

[Original: English]

[18 November 2011]

Germany reported that cooperation with civil society is based on the principle of subsidiarity which has been applied in German social policy since 1880. According to this principle, the State is in charge of implementing concrete social services only if they cannot be carried out by a CSO. This principle also holds for demand reduction efforts in Germany. It was reported that inpatient and outpatient drug counselling and therapy services are mainly provided by voluntary welfare agencies. Germany reported that there is widespread cooperation with civil society at the local, Länder, and Federal level.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]

[12 October 2011]

Guatemala reported that the Executive Secretariat of the Commission on Drug Addiction and Trafficking (SECCATID) is currently carrying out 15 drug prevention programmes and five treatment and rehabilitation programmes. The prevention programmes aim to prevent drug use and violence among the Guatemalan population specifically targeting children, young persons, parents, teachers, youth leaders, community leaders, and workers. The treatment and rehabilitation programmes target children, young people, adults, and vulnerable populations like street dwellers, persons living with HIV/AIDS, and detainees (juveniles and adults). SECCATID also has a Strategic Communication Unit with the objective to raise awareness among and provide guidance and information to the Guatemalan people regarding drug-use prevention and treatment through different social communication strategies.

Japan

[Original: English]

[10 August 2011]

Japan reported that it has established cooperation and shared information with civil society in order to address the drug problem. Japan and NGOs have had opportunities to exchange their opinions properly, and there is an upcoming opportunity at the 54th CND in March 2012. One of the most important and best practices in Japan to improve the participatory role of civil society is the “Dame! Zettai!” general public campaign. “Dame! Zettai!” means “No! Absolutely No!” and aims to prevent drug abuse in Japan and foreign countries. Japan reported that the Drug Abuse Prevention Center (DAPC), a Japanese NGO, continues to organize a nationwide fund-raising project in a campaign to support UN anti-drug programmes. Japan further noted that government/NGO projects have demonstrated a synergistic effect among them, and are good examples that a governmental campaign is improving participatory role of civil society.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]

[30 September 2011]

Jordan reported that the Anti-Narcotics Department implemented many programmes with official and non-official civil society entities in spheres of prevention of the plight of drugs and awareness-raising on drug hazards. Jordan stated that cooperation is maintained with many CSOs in reducing the incidence of drugs through awareness-raising.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]

[23 September 2011]

Lebanon reported that CSOs, most notably volunteer societies, are very active in the country, and that the relationship between Internal Security Forces, the Drug

Control Bureau, and CSOs is pervaded by an atmosphere of consistent and transparent cooperation.

Madagascar

[Original: French]
[15 September 2011]

The Commission Interministérielle de Coordination de la Lutte contre la Drogue (CICLD) reported that it has always collaborated with civil society in the framework of prevention in the fight against drugs. The CICLD reported on activities undertaken with two NGOs (“Ny Sahy” and Blue Cross of Madagascar), and stated that collaboration with NGOs is greatly needed as NGO representatives are the most motivated and in touch with the most vulnerable people in society.

Mauritius

[Original: English]
[15 December 2011]

Mauritius reported that the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) has developed close collaboration with NGOs in an effort to confront the challenges posed by the drug problem in Mauritius. Mauritius reported that collaboration with NGOs has proven beneficial, particularly in the areas of drug abuse prevention and treatment. ADSU encourages the participatory role of civil society in increasing demand reduction efforts, mainly with education-oriented strategies, and has been working with NGOs for over five years on educational campaigns. ADSU supports civil society in rehabilitation and reintegration strategies and trains NGOs to help sensitize drug addicts on the negative effects of drugs. Mauritius reported that the principle of joint and shared responsibility in tracking the drug problem is definitely gaining momentum.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[23 November 2011]

Panama indicated that they accept the challenge of joining forces to strengthen drug prevention and fight a problem causing so much damage to society. This problem needs to be tackled in a comprehensive and balanced manner taking a shared responsibility with civil society. Examples of projects with NGOs (Cruz Blanca Panamena, PRIDE foundation, the Catholic church, and the National Association of Journalists) were described.

Poland

[Original: English]
[10 October 2011]

Poland reported that the most important contributing factors in combating drug addiction are the inclusion and collaboration with civic society, especially NGOs. Poland stated that harm reduction actions are most effective when implemented by NGOs, and for this reason, harm reduction programmes are commissioned to them.

The Polish National Bureau for Drug Prevention holds annual meetings with NGOs dealing with harm reduction issues.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[15 November 2011]

Portugal reported that the country has granted necessary space to the civil society institutions, and stated that an integrated approach between different governmental sectors (from central to local administration) and civil society actors is fundamental to tackling the drug phenomenon. According to the report, the Portuguese Action Plan seeks to strengthen the involvement of civil society, viewed as fundamental to complement the public treatment network and to ensure responses at the prevention, risk and harm reduction and reintegration levels. Portugal also reported that the Institute on Drugs and Drug Addiction (IDT) has an active partnership with civil society, which fosters knowledge of the national drug phenomena and enhances the possibility to implement better field responses, with less costs and shared responsibilities.

Romania

[Original: English]
[7 November 2011]

Romania reported that the National Anti-Drug Agency (NAA) provides a great importance in maintaining and promoting partnerships with civil society. NAA has signed partnerships with 35 non-governmental organizations involved in the drug demand reduction field with the main objective of developing common programmes or activities in preventing illicit drug use in the community including drug information campaigns and educational activities. In 2010, 58 activities in preventing illicit drug use with the NGO partnerships were conducted. Among the National Anti-Drug Strategies' priorities for 2012 is the increasing of civil society involvement and local public authorities in managing the problem of illicit drug use.

Qatar

[Original: English]
[5 December 2011]

Qatar reported that the Drug and Alcohol Committee has adopted, since its inception, a key principle of activating the role of charities and CSOs to do their part in educating members of the community on drug prevention, rehabilitation and aftercare for drug addicts. The Committee has conducted several courses for the rehabilitation of the staff of these associations and institutions in the field of drug demand reduction. The Committee has also included these organizations in its National Strategy for combating drugs in Qatar as one of the executive bodies of the strategy.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: Arabic]

[18 October 2011]

Saudi Arabia reported that the General Directorate for Drug Control has worked with government authorities and CSOs in the implementation of awareness programmes and campaigns this year in order to support work on the dangers of drugs. Saudi Arabia further reported that the Ministry of Health runs a number of rehabilitation programmes which specialize in the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. CSOs and businessmen are involved by supporting these programmes in the care and follow-up of those recovering from drug addiction.

Serbia

[Original: English]

[6 October 2011]

Serbia reported that civil society plays an important role in the country, and that there are many examples of good practice in government and non-governmental partnerships. The civil sector has participated in drafting strategic documents such as the National Youth Strategy. Serbia has also allocated funds to the financing the NGO sector. Ministries actively cooperate with civil society and provide support for different projects (aimed at health promotion and disease prevention with a focus of drug abuse prevention). The importance of the civil sector is emphasized in the drug demand reduction field and recognized in community actions, harm reduction, and rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Spain

[Original: English]

[29 August 2011]

Spain is of the view that problems posed for society by drug use cannot be solved by State agencies alone, and therefore, collaborates with a range of non-profit organizations involved in service providing for drug-dependent persons, training practitioners/voluntary personnel, and prevention campaigns. Spain reported that the importance of civil society participation in resolving the drug problem is a guiding principle in the country's National Drug Strategy for 2009-2016 and Plan of Action (2009-2012). Spain has a two-pronged approach to ensure that civil society participation is effective: 1) Financial assistance for non-profit organizations (subsidies); and 2) Society against Drugs Forum. National private non-profit organizations engaged in specific programmes are granted subsidies. The Society against Drugs Forum provides a permanent forum for exchange between governments and organizations representing families, youth, media, businesses, trade unions and entities involved in drug abuse prevention and the social reintegration of drug addicts.

Switzerland

[Original: English]

[1 December 2011]

Switzerland reported that it generally advocates a strong role of CSOs on both national and international levels. Based on national experiences, Switzerland considers the involvement of CSOs crucial for three reasons: 1) As complex problems need to be assessed from as many perspectives as possible in order to find successful and feasible solutions, the CSO perspective has the potential to improve authorities' decision-making by rendering it better informed; 2) CSOs can contribute their local and regional knowledge to decision-making processes. For bodies working at the national level, it is imperative not to lose sight of local and regional specificities, since it is often at these levels that solutions will be implemented; and 3) in Switzerland, CSOs are often partners in the implementation of national policy, therefore, by associating CSOs during the policy generation stage, the government secures the early involvement of important implementation partners. In sum, based on national experiences, Switzerland considers a close involvement of CSOs crucial.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: Arabic]

[5 December 2011]

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) reported that the country's strategy for fighting drug abuse consists of two elements: 1) Minimizing the offer of drugs on the market; and 2) minimizing drug demand. UAE believes that in order to fight drug abuse, the government and civil society should work together to spread the culture of refusing drugs among youth. UAE reported that they use all available methods and creativity to show the harms of drugs to all levels of society. There is coordination between specialized institutions working with families to fight against drug abuse, as the UAE believes that strong families can help fight drug abuse and support children. The message of the harms of drugs is spread by all forms of the media, and the cooperation between institutions and civil society is improving each year, helping youth to stay on the right path.

United States of America

[Original: English]

[3 November 2011]

The U.S. reported that in developing the annual National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS), the U.S. has begun with a "listening tour", in which representatives of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) consult with stakeholder organizations from around the country to hear their ideas, concerns, critiques, and suggestions. These organizations range from locally-run community groups which advocate for the underprivileged in their community, to very large NGOs with a broad national or international focus. In order to ensure that as many voices could be heard as possible, ONDCP used a wide range of mechanisms to conduct the consultations through in-person meetings/roundtables in Washington and around the country, teleconferences, webinars, and a website. While organizations expressed diverse and sometimes conflicting viewpoints, the U.S. appreciated that each group is deeply committed to their cause, and is dedicated to

making our world a better place. The U.S. found that hearing the totality of these views results in a much better informed policy-making process. Generally, the U.S. reported it was possible to identify areas of common ground even among those from civil society who were strongly opposed to aspects of U.S. drug policy. Inputs from these organizations were integrated into the NDCS, which yielded a balanced and comprehensive document designed to reduce drug use and its consequences from the ground up. In addition to the NGO engagement in pre-*Strategy* consultations, different U.S. government drug control and public health agencies regularly meet with NGOs in Washington to discuss topics of interest.
