



We, the 31 entities from 11 countries in Latin America and Spain that make up the RIOD, want to contribute to the international efforts for a fairer and human-centered approach to the drug phenomenon, in full conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Drug policies must guarantee comprehensive care for the people who use drugs and the communities that are affected by them, with social development, inclusion and attention to the most vulnerable groups as the main focus; while often, the actions derived by States from United Nations conventions have contributed to the increase of violence and the violation of human rights of broad sectors of Latin American societies and especially of minority and more vulnerable groups.

Therefore, RIOD entities advocate to understand the use of drugs as a social and public health issue, separate from the field of criminal justice, which guarantees the right to health, to self-determination and free movement, and the fight against stigma; with measures in which comprehensive, integrated, and integrative care treatment prevails from the socio-health field over the penal one.

We advocate for the development of regulatory frameworks that end the disproportionality of penalties, and the search for alternative measures to imprisonment for micro-trafficking and possession for personal use and for restorative justice measures. We also call for efforts to improve prison conditions and provide the necessary resources for the proper treatment of people imprisoned with problematic consumption.

We work by incorporating into our actions and programs elements of integral and sustainable development, which assume and incorporate views from the perspective of human rights, public health, social justice and gender equity, always within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. We commit ourselves, to the best of our ability, to evaluate our approaches incorporating indicators of sustainable development and appropriate to the changes and new needs detected in our environment.

We demand drug policies and strategies that accelerates contribution to the SDGs. Actions and measures that prioritize people and communities in situations of vulnerability, empowering them to be the driver of their own development, and allowing them to be involved in the design of these policies.

We draw the attention of governments to their responsibility for priority investment in policies addressing social inclusion, aimed at vulnerable individuals and their communities, without diminishing the commitment of our organizations to seek a sustainability that allows us to continue developing our interventions.

We denounce the connection that continues to be projected in the media between substance use and violence, which encourages stigmatization. We believe that raising awareness of other realities and taking care of messages from public administrations and the media, raising opinion awareness of the reality of the drug phenomenon; would be a major factor in combating stigma, improving access and adherence to treatments and also a factor in prevention.

We also advocate the promotion of specific legislation targeting adolescents and young people. We have detected, in our work, the increase in consumption among this population and the growing direct relationship between consumption and behavioral disorders due to substance abuse and other addictions.

Finally, from RIOD we advocate for a greater presence and participation of civil society organizations in international decision-making spaces, and we call for greater support from public administrations to enable us to strengthen our capacities for data collection and systematization of information, that allows us to improve our approach and coverage of the phenomenon of drugs and the treatment of problematic consumption.