

# Way Forward:

## Split the UNODC:



think & do tank  
www.FAAAT.net  
Forum Drugs  
Mediterranean  
& the Cannabis Embassy

- 1) **DRUGS:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Controlled substances (UNODC)
- 2) **CRIME:** United Nations Office on Crime Prevention (UNOCP)

Sustainability merges sense, good faith, and rationality.

Although it is evident that part of drug-related issues is also crime-related, most of the concept of “crime” falls out of the scope of any matter linked to drugs. From robbery, terrorism, human or organ trafficking, tax evasion, child pornography, to copyright violations, nothing rational or systematic links these crimes to drugs.

The *drugs & crime* issue only arises as a nuclear topic when the system has failed to put “health and welfare” at its core. The primary work to be undertaken at international level regarding drugs must fundamentally articulate around health, care, and prevention.

**Reaffirming the drugs issue not only as an “illegal drugs” issue is key to understand new challenges or to ensure availability of controlled medicines among the planet.**

In its Article 17, the Single Convention mandates a “*special administration*” to oversee international drug control. Although the tasks of this “*special administration*” were first carried out by a UN Secretary General’s Division on Narcotic Drugs, and then entrusted to the UNDCP, they eventually merged with Crime and Justice issues onto the UNODC twenty years ago. In consequence, we recommend:

- At first, to refocus the UNODC as a **United Nations Office on Drugs and Controlled substances**, with exclusive responsibility for providing effective leadership for all the UN drug control activities, for ensuring coherence of actions as well as coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of activities across the United Nations system, and thoroughly implementing CND resolutions;
- Secondly, the creation of a **UNOCP (United Nations Office on Crime Prevention)** that would implement CCPCJ resolutions, and efficiently focus on preventing delinquency and tackling, among others, criminal organizations that smuggle with controlled drugs.

In this renewed context, the reinforced and refocused UNODC could assume its legitimate role of mediator and transversal actor, in particular, creating or strengthening cooperation with:

- The **High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**,
- the United Nations Development Program,
- the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,
- the International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines,
- the United Nations Environment Program,
- and the United Nations University.

In this context, we wish to suggest the following text for a potential draft resolution:

**Draft resolution submitted by [country].**

**Enhancing United Nations system-wide coherence on drugs matters and efficiency on crime issues.**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* that the Preamble to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, states that the Parties to the Convention are "concerned with the health and welfare of mankind" or are "conscious of their duty to prevent and combat" drug addiction, but does not address crime;

*Recalling also* the Article 17 of that Convention, which mandates a "special administration" to oversee international drug control;

*Recognizing* that the international drug control treaties address drug control as a matter of public health, and are mainly aimed at establishing a positive framework that regulates the medical and scientific uses of drugs, and do not consider criminal outputs only in the exceptional cases of non-compliance with the treaties obligations;

*Acknowledging* that part of the drug-related topics are also linked to crime, while recognizing that most of the human activities that fall under the concept of "crime" are in no way linked to drugs;

*Realizing* that drug possession, drug consumption (whether for an use under prescription or for self-medication, recreational, traditional, religious, or whatever other end), drug cultivation or transformation, particularly for one's own purposes, are to be addressed by democratic policies focused on welfare, health, care, access to medicines, as well as the prevention of blood-borne diseases, abuse, misuse and harms;

*Mindful* that the critical and necessary work to be undertaken regarding crime concerns police and criminal justice reform matters, community safety as well as effective delinquency, violent crime and insecurity reduction programs, or counter-terrorism; and aware that all these tasks are worth and important enough being handled by a specialised agency;

*Recalling* the ECOSOC Resolution 1997/37 establishing an expert group to identify any measures necessary to strengthen UN drug control, taking into account the work of the task force on reform of the United Nations established by the Secretary-General and the ability of the United Nations system to perform its increasing tasks in the light of existing mandates;

*Recalling also* the document A/51/950, part two, section V, dated 14 July 1997 which established the current UNODC under the name of "Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention", in accordance with the Secretary-General's reform programme of the United Nations;

*Recalling further* the Outcome Document adopted by global leaders at the 2005 World Summit in New York, that calls for much stronger system-wide coherence across the United Nations, and that specifically invites the Secretary-General to "launch work to further strengthen the management and coordination of United Nations operational activities", while calling for such work

to be focused on ensuring the UN maximizes its contribution to achieving internationally agreed development goals;

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015, adopting an Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular its goals 16 and 17 and its targets 16.6 (Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels) and 17.14 (enhance policy coherence), and reaffirming the Outcome Document of its thirtieth Special Session, adopted in its resolution S-30/1 that emphasizes the centrality and complementarity of the sustainable development agenda to the UN drug control activities;

*Underscoring* the value of objective, scientific, balanced and transparent assessment by Member States of the global progress achieved and of the difficulties encountered in meeting the goals and targets set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session;

*Taking note* of the remarks of Secretary-General António Guterres on taking the oath of office, on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, where he acknowledged that "the challenges are now surpassing our ability to respond" and that "the United Nations must be ready to change";

*Noting with appreciation* inside the United Nations a desire to pass on the baton to a gender, generation and geographically renewed crew;

*Noting also* the thematic debate at its fifty-first session on the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set for the years 2003 and 2008 in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session;

*Recognizing with appreciation* the valuable work done by the UNODC along its two decades of existence, in raising awareness, collecting data and providing technical assistance to Member States;

*Welcoming* the clear-sightedness of the UNODC, that adapted to new threats and challenges by updating and improving its praxis and mainstream the sustainable development agenda on a day-to-day basis;

*Convinced* that these efforts of the UNODC deserve a final push and a benevolent monitoring from above;

1. *Resolves* to establish two new Offices of the United Nations to relieve the mandate of the UNODC:

(a) a United Nations Office on Drugs and Controlled substances to take care of the drug control program and activities,

(b) a United Nations Office on Crime Prevention and criminal justice to take care of the mission of peace and security;

2. *Decides* that the Office on Crime Prevention will remain in Vienna and the Office on Drug and Controlled substances will be headquartered in Geneva;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor these changes, and report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 68th session on the improvements and achievements in terms of UN system-wide coherence on drug-related and crime-related topics.