

CND 62<sup>nd</sup> SESSION  
SIDE EVENTS REPORT  
14-22 MARCH 2019



COMMISSION ON  
NARCOTIC DRUGS  
VIENNA

## Side events 62<sup>nd</sup> Session CND 2019, 14-22 March 2019

In the framework of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies organized a side events programme featuring close to 100 side events. The CND once again hosted the annual Youth Forum in addition to holding a Hearing of the Informal Scientific Network. UNODC organizers kindly provided feedback on the side events as reflect below.

### Side events

#### MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

Thursday 14 March

##### **1:30-3:00 p.m. UNITED NATIONS AND SCO IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS: COOPERATION FOR STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL**

*Organized by the Governments of China, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.*

**Conference Room M2**



The joint side event, the third of its kind, brought together UN Member States, Members of “SCO Family” (comprising of SCO Member States, Observers and Dialogue Partners) as well as partner Organizations. The event, aimed to take stock and advance progress towards addressing and countering the world drug problem, focused on the recently adopted SCO Antidrug Strategy. Speakers included UNODC Executive Director, SCO Secretary-General, Heads of Delegations

of SCO Member States, the Secretary-General of International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the Director of Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC). In their interventions the participants emphasized the importance to further promoting cooperation in the fight against illegal drug trafficking, including in the framework of the SCO Antidrug Strategy and related Programme of Action.

### **3:30-5:00 p.m. HEARING OF THE INFORMAL SCIENTIFIC NETWORK**

*Organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, and the World Health Organization.*

#### **Conference Room M3**



The Informal Scientific Network Hearing was attended by more than 60 participants. The chair of the Hearing, Dr Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and co-chair Dr María Elena Medina-Mora I., Chief Executive Officer, National Institute of Psychiatry Ramón de la Fuente, Mexico presented the latest statement of the Informal Scientific Network on the influence of socioeconomic conditions on substance use disorders. More specifically, the Network identified three top priority areas to address these determinants – prioritizing policies/legislations that aim at minimizing inequalities, ensuring universal access to sustainable, evidence-based, quality services and strengthening social support systems to provide resilience and improve health and social outcomes. This marks an important contribution towards the outcomes of this 62nd CND and is all the more crucial in the follow up on the United Nations Special Session on World Drug Problem 2016 (UNGASS) and in light of Sustainable Development Goals 3.5, 5, 10, 16.

### **Friday 15 March**

#### **09:00 – 09:50 a.m. Opening of the exhibition Each person counts: Stories of the world drug problem in photographs**

*Organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the Government of Viet Nam.*



The exhibition “Each person counts: Stories of the world drug problem in photographs” portrays the complex nature of drug use, treatment and care: it captures the diversity of ways in which people manage their drug dependence and displays how treatment has affected their present. The photographs portray scenes from the challenging environments in which these accounts of struggle with drug issues are rooted. Having direct access to people’s recovery stories provides a personal insight into how rehabilitation can occur. The portraits of individuals who succeed in recovering from drug use disorders with the support of the health care system are a testimony of the efficacy of drug treatment. Success stories advocate for the need for treatment facilities and projects to keep developing and hence

enable more drug treatment stories to be successful. This year, a special emphasis was laid on families of people with drug use disorders, which is a significant asset for recovery, but is not often recognized and utilized properly. The photographs were taken by the renowned photographer Nick Danziger in

Europe, Africa and Asia visiting sites of the UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care Services.

At the opening, Ambassador Le Dung from Viet Nam, Dr Gilberto Gerra, Chief of the PTRS of UNODC and Dr Vladimir Poznyak, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse of WHO spoke about the important impact of drug prevention, treatment and care services on the development of young people and the sustainable development of countries.

## REGULAR SEGMENT

Monday 18 March

### 9:00-9:50 a.m. SCALING THE UNODC-LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOLBASED PREVENTION

*Organized by the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, Montenegro and Serbia, the International Association of Lions Clubs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section.*

**Conference Room M2**



An audience of over 70 delegates attended this event where UNODC and LCIF jointly reported on the progress done so far in implementing the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence Programme (LQSFA), a school based social emotional learning intervention, in line with the UNODC WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, targeted at young adolescents to prevent drug use and other negative social outcomes. It was an opportunity to discuss the expansion of the programming of this joint initiative to cover (by order of initiation - from first to most recent): Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guatemala, Croatia, El Salvador and Côte d'Ivoire. The data on implementation of LQSFA, so far availed from Serbia, North

Macedonia and Montenegro, showed a significant impact in preventing alcohol, cigarette and marijuana use as well as reducing intentions to continue using these substances among users. These results are being published in the Prevention Science journal (a peer reviewed journal of the Society on Prevention Research). Two 13-year-old students, Jana and Stefan (from Serbia and Montenegro respectively), spoke on behalf of the over 10,000 student beneficiaries of LQSFA through this joint initiative so far. A video on the joint initiative availing the voices of policy makers, teachers, parents, students and Lions Clubs involved in this initiative in South East Europe was also featured.

For more information:

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/southeasterneurope//LQ\\_wadihMaalouf\\_1.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/southeasterneurope//LQ_wadihMaalouf_1.pdf)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGQj-IOypGw&feature=youtu.be>

**1:30-3:00 p.m. SPECIAL EVENT: EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT AND THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM**

*Organized by the Governments of Greece and Spain, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, the Therapy Center for Dependent Individuals, the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities and Proyecto Hombre Association.*

**Conference Room MBR-A**



An audience of around 120 delegates attended this Special Event that focused on the Therapeutic Communities as an integral part of the health system and the effectiveness of this treatment model, based on science. The UNODC-WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders recommend comprehensive and balanced approaches, and suggest science- and human rights-based treatment modalities such as outreach, outpatient, inpatient and residential treatment programmes. Therapeutic Communities are one of the most common and most widely available treatment models worldwide. A panel covering representatives from the governments of Greece and Spain, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the World Federation of

Therapeutic Communities, University of Ghent, Kethea, Proyecto Hombre, UNODC and VNGOC spoke on the experiences of Therapeutic Communities. The event was also the occasion to present preliminary results of an ongoing joint Kethea, Proyecto Hombre and UNODC study emphasizing the value of patient screening and assessment for treatment planning purposes while using such data merged between different centres to address a series of research questions on associations between family history of substance use, co-occurring mental health disorders, history of emotional, physical or sexual abuse and adversities, and treatment responses and outcome.

**2:20-3:10 p.m. STRENGTHENING EQUITY IN HEALTH AND RESILIENCE: TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND RISK FACTORS FOR NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS AND CRIMINALITY**

*Organized by the Governments of Portugal and Sweden, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Justice Section, and Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section.*

**Conference Room M2**



The side event “Strengthening equity in health and resilience” offered an opportunity for delegates to discuss health promotion in the context of both drug-use and crime prevention. The event saw the participation of a large number of experts and representatives from Member States and civil society and was opened by Ambassador Mikaela Kumlin Granit, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations in Vienna and Ambassador Antonio Almeida Ribeiro, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations in Vienna.

The various expert panellists subsequently highlighted the importance of health promotion and health equity for the prevention of drug-use and crime from different perspectives. Mr. Strandberg and Ms. Eriksson Tinghög from the Public Health Agency of Sweden drew on the Swedish Comprehensive Strategy for Alcohol, Narcotics, Doping and Tobacco and explained how it encourages effective cooperation between the criminal justice system, the education sector and the health sector to prevent drug-use. In this context, they stressed the need to consider gender, age, and socio-economic and demographic factors when designing and implementing prevention measures.

Recognizing the benefits of taking a life-course perspective to crime prevention by minimizing both health disparities and early offender involvement, Ms. Valerie Lebaux, Chief of the UNODC Justice Section spoke about crime and violence as preventable consequences of a range of factors, such as adverse early-life experiences, or harmful social or community experiences and influences. In this regard, she highlighted the need to draw on evidence-based practices for prevention and to stimulate more interaction between the health and criminal justice systems to target causal factors of crime and drug use, including when it comes to offering alternatives to incarceration for people with drug use disorders who are in contact with the criminal justice system.

Finally, Mr. Gilberto Gerra and Ms. Giovanna Campello from the UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch referred to the UNODC WHO International Standards on Treatment of Drug Use Disorders and the UNODC WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention that underline an etiological model for vulnerabilities to be addressed that orbit around an interactive model combining individual factors, micro-level influences and macro-level influences. They indicated that when addressing such vulnerabilities, responses address not only substance use, but also violence and many more social outcomes. The concept of social inequalities both in the sense of differential exposure to these vulnerabilities as well as differential outcomes of the use and disorders was also addressed.

During the question and answer session, an expert noted that interventions targeting at-risk youth through life skills training are needed in both school- and non-school settings to reach the most vulnerable in society, and that sport offers a vehicle to do so.

## Tuesday 19 March

### 9:00-9:50 a.m. STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE ON DRUG USE IN NIGERIA

*Organized by the Government of Nigeria and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Country Office for Nigeria.*

**Conference Room M6**



With the support of the UNODC implemented and European Union funded project “Response to Drugs and Related Organized Crime in Nigeria”, the Government of Nigeria has carried out large scale research to develop a comprehensive understanding of drug use to inform policy responses. Foremost has been the finalization of Nigeria’s first ever national drug use survey in 2018.

The event was well attended with well over 50 delegates attending. The opening remarks by H.E. Ambassador Vivian Okeke, Permanent

Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the International Organizations in Vienna, Ms. Miwa Kato, Director, Division of Operations, UNODC and Mr Lambert Schmit, First Counsellor of the

European Union, set the scene for the presentation on the drug use survey. They each highlighted how for the first time Nigeria had evidence of the scale of the drug use issue in the country and that a concerted effort was needed to address the issue, particularly given the growing population of Nigeria.

The main presentation by Professor Isidore Obot was on the key findings from the 2018 Nigeria Drug Use Survey, which found that 14.4% of the population between the age of 15 and 64 had used a drug in the past 12 months, which is particularly alarming when compared to the global average of 5.6%.

Robust discussion followed the presentation with delegates discussing what issues should be prioritized highest in responding to the issue. The event was considered a success, highlighting the drug use issue in Nigeria and issues associated with its response.

### **1:10-2:00 p.m. HANDLING DANGEROUS OPIOIDS: KEEPING OUR OFFICERS SAFE!**

*Organized by the Governments of Estonia and Finland, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Laboratory and Scientific Section.*

#### **Conference Room M3**



This fully interactive side event, organized by the governments of Estonia and Finland, and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section, was dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by frontline officers in handling and disposal of potent opioids, such as fentanyl. Chaired by UNODC DPA Director Jean-Luc Lemahieu and jointly-opened by H.E. Ambassador Toomas Kukk (Estonia) and H.E. Ambassador Pirkko Hämäläinen (Finland), the event highlighted the importance of personal protection in handling dangerous opioids and their environmentally safe disposal. The advantages of using non-intrusive techniques

such as Raman devices to identify these drugs were also shown. The participants of this event were able to have some hands-on experience in this lively demonstration and engaged freely with the staff of UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section.

### **1:10-2:00 p.m. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO USE STIMULANT DRUGS**

*Organized by the Government of Brazil, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, HIV/AIDS Section, and the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section.*

#### **Conference Press Room**



A side event on *Comprehensive Health Services for People who use Stimulant Drugs* was conducted on 19 March 2019 in frames of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on

Narcotic Drugs 2019 in Vienna. This side event was organized and chaired by the Government of the

Federative Republic of Brazil and co-chaired by UNODC. The latest developments in the field of comprehensive health services for people who use stimulant drugs were highlighted during this side event, which was opened by Ms. Rafaela Batista from the International Affairs Office of the Ministry of Health of Brazil, and a chief of UNODC HIV/AIDS Section Dr. Monica Beg.

Speakers Nara Denilse de Araujo from the Ministry of Health in Brazil, a community representative Rajiv Kafle from the Asian Network of People who use Drugs, professor Le Minh Giang from Hanoi Medical University, chief of UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch Dr. Gilberto Gerra, and expert on drug use and HIV from UNODC HIV/AIDS Section Ms. Monica Ciupagea participated in the session. The topics of discussion, presented by invited speakers, focused primarily on frequently overlooked HIV and hepatitis C prevalence rates among people who use stimulant drugs, and the needs to develop and implement specific strategies to address HIV and hepatitis C among this key population group. Side event's main presentations included Brazil's and Vietnam's country response to stimulant drug use, response by the community in Asia on stimulant drugs and HIV, presentation of UNODC Discussion Paper on the treatment of stimulant use disorder, and UNODC guidance and training package on HIV prevention, treatment and care among people who use stimulant drugs.

### **2.20-3.10 p.m. DRUG SCHEDULING: FORENSIC CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING A GENERIC CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

*Organized by the Governments of Brazil, Singapore and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Laboratory and Scientific Section.*  
**Conference Room MOE100**



The side event included presentations of national experiences, as well as a presentation by UNODC. The Defense Science and Technology Laboratory and the Home Office of the United Kingdom presented an overview of the UK Forensic Strategy for implementing a blanket ban on New Psychoactive Substances.

The Health Sciences Authority of Singapore presented forensic laboratory's strategies to support drug legislation, with a focus on enhancing staff competency, enlarging technical capability, and engaging stakeholders. The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency provided information about the approaches adopted to promote better understanding and effective implementation by forensic laboratories of the generic system of drug scheduling. The UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section presented the United Nations toolkit on Synthetic Drugs and its resources for forensic and toxicology drug testing laboratories to address challenges in the analysis and identification of NPS.

**2.20-3.10 p.m. SPECIAL EVENT: NO QUALITY = NO MARKET: THE IMPERATIVE LINKS FOR ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

*Organized by the Governments of Germany and Myanmar, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Sustainable Livelihoods Unit.*

**Conference Press Room**



UNODC's Sustainable Livelihoods Unit co-hosted a side event together with the governments of Germany and Myanmar on the imperative links for alternative development. Speakers were Miwa Kato (Director of Operations/ UNODC), H.E. Mr. San Lwin (Ambassador from Myanmar), Sara David (GIZ), Erlend Falch (UNODC Lao), Jean-Christophe Galland (Malongo), Sai Han Myo Aung (Green Gold Coffee), Khun Maung Htee (Green Gold Coffee), and Nang Htwe (Green Gold Coffee), who discussed the need to ensure that AD field projects are designed in such a way that quality and market access are

at the forefront. The recent partnership between the Malongo Coffee Company and the UNODC AD project in Shan State, Myanmar, was presented as a clear example of how both public and private interests merge to benefit small farmer communities, by providing them with the opportunity to move away from cultivating opium poppy, as well as to ensure a good quality product for international business. This special event was followed by the launch of the Shan Mountain Coffee that the attendees had the opportunity to taste.

**Wednesday 20 March**

**1:10-2:00 p.m. OPIOID CRISIS: TRAMADOL IN WEST AFRICA AND OTHER REGIONS**

*Organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Research and Trend Analysis Branch.*

**Conference Room MOE100**



The Research and Trend Analysis Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime organized a side event of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that addressed a specific aspect of the opioid crisis that we are facing at global level: the issue of tramadol trafficking and its non-medical use, which affects particularly countries in Africa and the Middle East. The event, which took place on Wednesday 20 March 2019, featured presentations from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization. It was a unique opportunity to discuss the state of knowledge and latest research regarding the medical and non-medical use of tramadol use as well as trafficking routes and

modus operandi. Interactions with the audience addressed the challenge of ensuring wide access to pain medication such as tramadol while preventing its misuse and trafficking.

**2:20-3:10 p.m. TRILATERAL PARTNERSHIP IN SUPPORT OF COUNTER-NARCOTICS EFFORTS OF AFGHANISTAN**

*Organized by the Governments of Afghanistan, Japan and the Russian Federation, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia.*

**Conference Room M3**



In line with the outcome document of UNGASS on the World Drug Problem and its recommendations, especially related to the principle of common and shared responsibility to ensure an integrated approach and coordination among the international community, this high-level side event provided a platform for the involved partners to share their strategic vision and operational perspectives from this partnership, in capacity of donor and recipient, and emphasized the mutual

benefits of this cooperation: best practice at regional and global level. The event also illustrated the progress made in the delivery of training by the Russian Federation to counter narcotic police officers at the all-Russian Advanced Training Institute of the Ministry of the Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, alias the “Domodedovo Training Centre,” implanted with the financial and technical support of Japan. A presentation on the newly launched project on the establishment of the Counter Narcotic Canine Unit (K-9) in Kabul was also delivered. An update the trafficking situation, the interdiction efforts and recent seizures in Afghanistan was provided. The need for a continuous inclusive and collective approach in addressing counter narcotics at all levels: national, regional and global was reaffirmed.

**2:20-3:10 p.m. ENGAGING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN DRUG USE DISORDER TREATMENT**

*Organized by the Governments of Indonesia, Japan and Viet Nam, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, the World Health Organization, and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.*

**Conference Room M2**



An audience of around 100 delegates attended the side event that focuses on family and community involvement for the treatment for adolescents with drug use disorders that are facing grave challenges as they often find themselves without appropriate support and without access to evidence-based drug use disorder treatment, in particular in low- and middle-income countries. UNODC in cooperation with WHO, launched an advance version of their training package on UNODC family therapy for youths with drug use disorders, including those in contact with criminal justice system (UNFT). The

training package was pilot-tested in 3 different Asian regions, where 82 experts from 16 countries

were trained and provided inputs for its further improvement and cultural adaptation. In addition to UNODC and WHO, speakers included representatives from Indonesia, Japan, Viet Nam, USA and the civil society. The panellists exchanged experiences and initiatives in providing family and community-based treatment in their own countries.

**2:20-3:10 p.m. LAUNCH OF UNODC-VNGOC CIVIL SOCIETY GUIDE ON UNGASS OUTCOME DOCUMENT AND SDGS**

*Organized by the Government of Sweden, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Civil Society Team and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.*

**Conference Room M7**



The event featured the launch of a conference edition of a civil society guide titled “Working Together – Drugs and Sustainable Development: A Guide for Civil Society” which aims to (i) familiarize NGOs with the UNGASS Outcome Document, (ii) highlight the potential for civil society participation in the implementation of the UNGASS operational recommendations, and (iii) show linkages between the Outcome Document and the SDGs. The guide was developed jointly by UNODC Civil Society Team and the VNGOC with the financial support from the Government of Sweden. The event also provided the opportunity to showcase grass-root best practices from India, Kenya, and Brazil in addressing the world drug problem in the framework of UNGASS and the SDGs.

**Thursday 21 March**

**13:30 – 15:00 p.m. INCREASING THE ACCESS TO CONTROLLED MEDICINES: ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL DISPARITY IN PAIN RELIEF**

*Organized by the Governments Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, France, Kenya, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, the International Narcotics Control Board, the European Union, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and the Union for International Cancer Control.*

**Conference Room MBR-A**



On 21 March 2019, Ambassador Ghislain D’hoop, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN in Vienna, moderated a successful special event in the margins of the 62nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) on “Increasing access to controlled medicines: addressing the global disparity in pain relief” (13:30 – 15:00, Conference Room MBR-A).

The speakers and panellists were selected for their substantive expertise and insights into the challenges and best practices in addressing this problem. The well-balanced, diversified and very

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interesting group of speakers included UNODC's Executive Director Yury Fedotov and INCB's President Viroj Sumyai, amongst others.

Speakers made a call to take concrete action and support the cause increasing access to controlled medicines, especially for pain relief, within a strong control system that protects patients and healthcare workers. The three core areas education and awareness, systems strengthening and integration, and supply chain management were addressed. Furthermore, the importance of the realization of both the recommendations of the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document and SDG target 3.8 (to achieve universal health coverage) were stressed.

Some 170 interested participants attended the much-acclaimed special event.