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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**COMMISSION ON
NARCOTIC DRUGS
VIENNA**

**63rd OF THE COMMISSION ON
session NARCOTIC DRUGS 2020**

SIDE EVENTS REPORT

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63rd session OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS 2020

In the framework of the 63rd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, over 100 side events took place, as well as a Youth Forum and an Informal Scientific Network meeting. This report attempts to provide an overview of the broad variety of events organised.

DISCLAIMER: This is an informal report, which did not undergo formal editing. The summaries and pictures were provided by the organizers of the respective side events and compiled by the Secretariat to the Governing bodies.

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Side Events of the 63rd session of the CND

FAMILY-ORIENTED POLICIES IN DRUG PREVENTION

Monday, 2 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction, Pompidou Group/Council of Europe, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch

The side event, UNICRI organised with UNODC, EMCDDA and CoE, discussed the policies, practices and interventions exerting a positive impact on the prevention of drug use within a family context. Evidences from the scientific literature show the role families can play in creating the conditions for drug use, but also in the prevention and recovery strategies.

Structural or social barriers may prevent families from accessing health and social services dedicated to drug use prevention and treatment. Stigmatization and the consequent isolation that often affects families living with substance abuse could be a major deterrent to seeking help. Moreover, little information about available services and lack of adequate financial and socio-cultural resources are other factors that create barriers to families' involvement. More research is needed on the positive role families could play and on the interventions that have proven to be effective and sustainable for family responsive policies and practices.



COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

Monday, 2 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room MOE79

Organized by the International Federation of NGOs for the Prevention of Drugs and Substance Abuse, the Turkish Green Crescent Society and the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association



Focusing on efforts in mobilising the community to support drug prevention and recovery, the speakers shared best practices in working with the youths, people in recovery and their families in preventive drug education and recovery, including the following areas:

- Success stories and approach in recovery, focusing on how communities are mobilised to support the recovery process;
- Drug Prevention efforts in areas of education and rehabilitation; and
- Efforts to help vulnerable communities including families and children of drug abusers.

Answering a question raised by a participant on the Green Crescent Addiction Rehabilitation Model, it was highlighted that although the model was developed according to the Turkish cultural values, there were common intervention processes that could be implemented regardless of the culture of the country, such as creating positive pro-social environment for people using drugs and involving their families in the recovery process.

CHALLENGES IN THE ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT IN DRUG CONTROL POLICIES

Monday, 2 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Press Room

Organized by the Governments of Germany, Peru and Thailand, the Mae Fah Luang Foundation and the UNODC Sustainable Livelihoods Unit

An audience of around 80 delegates attended this side event, which brought into debate the key conclusions of the Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development held in Chiang Rai, Thailand in December 2019. The side event offered a platform to continue the dialogue on the changing nature of alternative development and to explore how development-oriented drug control strategies can be used to address crime in urban areas. The event included remarks by the Director of the UNODC Division for Operations, Ms. Miwa Kato, H.E. Ambassador Gerhard Küntzle (Germany), H.E. Ambassador Eric Anderson (Peru) and H.E. Ambassador Morakot Sriswasdi (Thailand).



The panellists agreed on the need to ensure the inclusion of the private sector in all aspects of project design and delivery in order to successfully promote and market field-generated products. Panellists focused on the importance of the rule of law and governance as being fundamental pillars for development.

DRUG REFORM: FROM A PUNITIVE TO A SUPPORTIVE APPROACH – THE NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL

Monday, 2 March, 1.15 – 2.45 p.m., Conference Room C3

Organized by the Government of Norway, the International Narcotics Control Board, the UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch and the World Health Organization



Minister Høie of Norway said that the intention was to decriminalize use and possession and address drug use with health-orientated measures - without legalizing.

Dr Gerra of UNODC, referring to the publication “From Coercion to Cohesion” conveyed the same message in different words.

Dr Kestrel of WHO stressed that this was at the centre of their work, moving from a criminal justice to a social support approach.

De Joncheere of INCB explained that the Conventions sought to protect human health and safeguard people from criminal responses related to use.

Mahmood of OHCHR stressed a positive step towards a human rights and public health based drug policy – referring to the UN Common Position International Guidelines on Human rights and Drug Policy.

Bridge of VNGOC said, members agreed that greater attention needed to be given to health, human rights and participation from civil society.

Goosdeel of EMCDDA highlighted that there was no clear impact of penalties on use.

Torgersen of the Norwegian Public Committee suggested responses but not punitive sanctions.

Here is more information: <http://cndblog.org/2020/03/side-event-drug-reform-from-a-punitive-to-a-supportive-approach-the-norwegian-proposal/>

THAILAND'S 50-YEAR JOURNEY ON ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Monday, 2 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room M3

Organized by the Government of Thailand



The event offered the opportunity to highlight the Royal Project Foundation's holistic approach to alternative development and to showcase some of the Foundation's successful endeavours, lessons learnt and best practices on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Panellists included the Privy Councilor and Chairman of the Royal Project

Foundation Executive Board, H.E. General Kampanat Ruddit; the Chief of the UNODC Sustainable Livelihoods Unit, Mr. Jorge Eduardo Rios; the UNODC Country Manager in Myanmar, Mr. Troels Vester; and the representative of a farming community of Thailand's Nan Province, Ms. Supan Booranatet. In her presentation, Ms. Booranatet described how the Royal Project Foundation's model helped her community overcome the social, economic, environmental and health problems associated with mono-cropping (i.e. low productivity, poverty, intensive use of chemicals and residue burning) by transitioning to eco-friendly integrated farming practices and working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

SCO AND UNODC IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG THREAT: COUNTERING DRUG TRAFFICKING VIA DARKNET

Monday, 2 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the UNODC Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia

The UNODC-SCO Side event co-organized with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation gathered over 100 people; the delegations of the SCO Member States were represented at the level of the Heads of Delegations, including three (Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) out of eight SCO Member States represented at the level of a Minister / Head of Drug Control Institution. Ms Ghada Waly, Executive Director of UNODC delivered opening remarks on trafficking of illicit drugs and the sale of drug-related chemicals on the darknet.

All the delegations highlighted the growing challenges related to trafficking of drugs via internet, including Darknet, stressing that close to 65% of illicit activity on the Darknet is linked to drug trafficking and further growing. The event highlighted that globally about 4 billion people use internet, among those 71 percent are young people aged 14-25 years old, and criminal organizations often operate unhindered reaching out to the young generation. Participating states highlighted the importance of joint efforts to counter drug trafficking via Darknet.



HEALTH RESPONSES TO THE OPIOID POISONING CRISIS: ON-THE-GROUND EXPERIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Monday, 2 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by the Government of Canada, the Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs, the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation and the International Drug Policy Consortium

Speakers at this side event organized by Canada, Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs (CAPUD), Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, and International Drug Policy Consortium discussed health responses to address the ongoing high incidence of opioid overdose fatalities. Asma Fakhri from the UNODC presented the [UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs](#) and noted upcoming modules including on stigma reduction. Carol Anne Chénard from Health Canada shared Canada's adoption of projects that seek to provide safer, quality-controlled alternatives to the unregulated drug supply to reduce accidental overdose deaths. Frank Crichlow from CAPUD presented on their [safe supply concept document](#) and emphasized racial considerations for such interventions.



Maria Plotko from the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association discussed the limited availability of harm reduction services in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. [Regulation Project](#) is an initiative with Canadian and international organizations.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DRUG PREVENTION IN THE ERA OF CANNABIS DEREGULATION

Monday, 2 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Press Room

Organized by the Governments of Slovenia and Chile, the Institute for Research and Development "Utrip", Movendi International, Planet Youth – Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis, and Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)

The event gathered around 120 participants. The panellists were exploring ways how to make evidence based preventive measures and activities available in different settings. The event also enabled conversation about the role of prevention programmes in the context of cannabis deregulation and explored ways on how cannabis deregulation processes influence implementation of prevention programmes.



During the discussion it was pointed out, that when different proposals and already concrete legislative solutions on cannabis deregulation arise in different societies around the world, major challenges start appearing for policy makers and for service providers in prevention, particularly how to contain possible worsening of the epidemiological picture. The panellists highlighted many lessons that can be learned from the history of tobacco and alcohol regulation, where different phases of legislation evolved in the past century, from very liberal to stricter evidence based approaches. Existing evidence show that those two industries influence also cannabis deregulation processes.

THE CHALLENGES POSED BY CBD PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED FOR WIDESPREAD PUBLIC CONSUMPTION

Tuesday, 3 March, 8.00-8.50 a.m., Boardroom A

Organized by Community Alliances for Drug-Free Youth

This session reviewed the public health issues posed by CBD products on today's open market. Presentations reviewed the danger to youth, US standards set for THC in CBD consumer products and the ramifications of these standards for consumers. In addition, quality control issues in manufacturing and product testing were examined. Clinical trial data related to the safety of CBD was described. Finally, the importance of further research into the therapeutic efficacy of CBD for specific conditions was discussed.

The following were speakers at the side event

- John Redman, Chief Executive, CADFY
- Dr Jennifer Triemstra, Cannabinoid Educator, Greenwich Biosciences
- Jaclyn Bowen, Executive Director, Clean Label Project



100 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: EVIDENCE- BASED STUDIES ON WOMEN, MIGRANTS, AND OTHER VULNERABLE PROFILES

Tuesday, 3 March, 8.00-8.50 a.m., Conference Room M3

Organized by EURAD, Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau (Malaysia), the Brazilian Association for the Study of Alcohol and Other Drugs, the Jordan Anti Drugs Society, the Turkish Green Crescent Society, the Recovered Users Network and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section



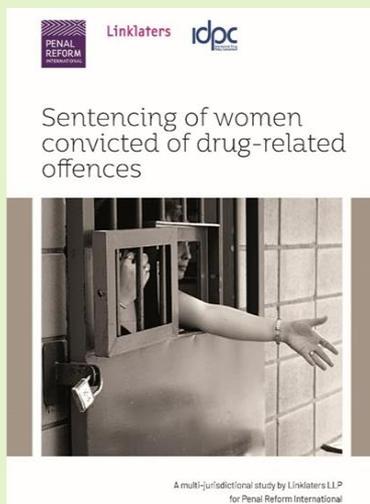
This side event focused on addiction studies and prevention work implemented particularly with vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants, and others. The CEO of Turkish Green Crescent, Mrs. Sultan Işık, summarized the nationwide field researches of substance addiction with women and migrants. Prevalence for both groups in Turkey was shared and factors of substance use disorders and treatment were discussed. Mr. Gilberto Gerra, Chief of UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch, stated the negative effect of stigma in the treatment of vulnerable groups and the vulnerability of adolescents, due to incomplete brain development.

Speakers of Brazil, Jordan, and Malaysia shared the current situation in their country regarding substance use disorders among particular groups, as well as good practices of prevention and further needs.

IMPLEMENTING THE UN BANGKOK RULES: WOMEN AND DRUG POLICIES

Tuesday, 3 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the Government of Canada, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Penal Reform International, the Washington Office on Latin America and WHRIN



2020 marks ten years since the UN Bangkok Rules on women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women were adopted by the General Assembly, which called for alternatives to imprisonment for the case of women, particularly for minor offences. Yet, drug policies continue to disproportionately impact women and their numbers in prison continue to rise, including for minor drug-related offences. The panel explored the key issues for this, including how the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention tackles gender-based discrimination in drug policy. PRI presented new global research on how women convicted of drug related offences are sentenced, noting that in most jurisdictions law and practice are blind to the factors behind women's involvement in drug crime, such as poverty, vulnerability to violence and coercion. Key steps by Canada towards gender equality and tools by UNODC were also presented.

SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE DRUG EDUCATION AND PREVENTION INITIATIVES

Tuesday, 3 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by the Foundation for a Drug-Free Europe, Fundacion Para Mejora De Vida, Cultura Y Sociedad, and the Turkish Green Crescent Society

Fundacion MEJORA and Foundation Drug-Free Europe (FD FE) co-organized with the co-sponsors: City of Padova (Italy), Green Crescent (Turkey), La VIDA (Madrid) and VFV (Austria) a side event during the 63rd CND. The presentations were successively:

- Parents and School Cooperation on Prevention of Children's Abusive Behavior (Dr. Olena Shcherbakova from ICAHCNAMS-Kharkiv Ukraine),
- #DrugFreePadua. Dreamer, yes, but with practical program and tools (Counselor Alain Luciani),
- Green Crescent School Based Intervention Program Within The Perspective of Prevention (Ms. Cigdem Bayram),
- Prevention: Cannabis in all its states (Mr. Robert Galibert – FD FE lecturer)
- The event was moderated by Dr. Christian Mirre, biologist from CNRS/France, expert in The Truth About Drugs campaign.



The emphasis was put on the importance of sustainable drug protection of the youth by prevention education with factual data, cooperation of parents, educators, community leaders and aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child art.33 and International Drug Control Conventions.

BEST PRACTICES OF RECOVERY ON SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Tuesday, 3 March, 8.00-8.50 a.m., Conference Room MOE79

Organized by the Government of Indonesia, the International Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO), and the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association

This event was organized by the Government of Indonesia, Indonesia National Narcotics Agency on Drugs and IFNGO. The latest developments in the field of Treatment and recovery services for people who use drugs on Southeast Asia were highlighted during this side event, which was opened by Dr. Budiyo from the Indonesia National Narcotics Agency, followed by speakers Mr. Tsang Wai Hung, Deputy Commissioner China National Narcotics Control Commission; Mr. Abdul Karim, Executive Director of the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA); and Mr. Augusto Nogueira, President of Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau (ARTM).

The topic of discussion, presented by invited speakers, focused primarily on the improvement and progress of the best practices of recovery in the region; all speakers demonstrated the importance of the cooperation between civil society and governments, with an emphasis on community-based drug treatment and rehabilitation, thereby promoting voluntary treatment and community-based treatment and rehabilitation, as well as alignment with a more comprehensive approach that integrates physical detoxification, psychological rehabilitation, employment support and social integration.



YOUNG PEOPLE USE DRUGS - BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND YOUNG KEY POPULATIONS

Tuesday, 3 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by Students for Sensible Drug Policy



The Paradigma Youth coalition a hosted side event, sponsored by SSDP, and drew attention to the guidelines released during last year's High-Level Ministerial Segment - for centering human rights in the national drug strategies and policies of member states. While the document addresses "children" as a protected group, rarely are the voices of youth and young people who use drugs included in discussions that deeply impact their health, well-being and enjoyment of human rights.

The panel featured youth advocates, community organizers and service providers from Ghana, Nigeria, Portugal, Canada and Ireland who spoke about some of the specific challenges that face young people across the drug supply chain.

Panelists also addressed the involvement of this key population in the crafting of drug policies as ensuring active and meaningful participation of affected marginalized groups can help state actors and UN agencies craft the most effective approach to new and existing challenges posed by drugs with a view to "leave no one behind".

SHOULD POLICE BE LEADING REFORM? DIVERSION SCHEMES, DECRIMINALIZATION AND DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOMS

Tuesday, 3 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Press Room

Organized by Law Enforcement Action Partnership UK and Law Enforcement Action Partnership US

The event addressed the need for law enforcement to respond to the crisis in their communities relating to Drug Related Deaths (DRD), Problematic substance use and related crime. James Nicholls (Transform Drugs Policy Foundation) opened the event discussing the work they have achieved with UK Police services to introduce diversion schemes. Suzanne Sharkey (LEAP UK) presented her life experience on policing and recovery from alcohol and other drugs., emphasizing the need for a compassionate approach and for decriminalisation of people who use drugs. Diane Goldstein (LEAP USA) reiterated the importance of a decriminalisation approach, as well as the impact of drug law enforcement on communities, the importance of harm reduction and LEAPs role in supporting law enforcement. Brendan Cox (LEAD national support bureau) presented on the role of LEAD and its involvement with law enforcement and in helping communities across the country work to reform how systems look at problematic substance use, mental health, and poverty.



EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC POLICY IMPROVEMENT ON DRUG POLICIES: WASTEWATER ANALYSIS IN TURKEY

Tuesday, 3 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Conference Room BR-A

Organized by the Government of Turkey and the Turkish Green Crescent Society

After the opening speech of H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Muhtar GÜN, Permanent Representative of Turkey, Moderator Mr. Ömer ULU, Head of the Smuggling Intelligence Operation and Data Collection Department, informed the participants on the fight against drugs in Turkey.

Mr. Onur AKYAVAŞ from the Ministry of Interior at the Smuggling Intelligence Operation and Data Collection Department (SIODC) Department emphasised, among other issues, coordination studies carried out between the institutions.

The second presentation was made by Ms. Selda MERCAN on behalf of Turkish Green Crescent Society. Dr. MERCAN elaborated the results of the wastewater analysis, conducted by the relevant Turkish authorities.



Biologist Ms. Özge ATALAN LOOMIS from the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency, spoke on “Electronic Coloured Prescription System” and explained in detail how this pioneering system had been successfully applied across the country. The side event was well attended and the audience was highly interested in the topics.

PUBLIC HEALTH, JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTING COMPREHENSIVE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO DRUG POLICY

Tuesday, 3 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by the Government of Mexico, and the Pompidou Group/Council of Europe

By sharing recent innovative initiatives that are relevant for international, regional and national drug policies, this side event was oriented to promote a multi-stakeholder dialogue to enrich and to update our knowledge of the key components for drug policy, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN System Common Position and the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy.

On the basis of an increasing understanding among policy makers and stakeholders that drug policies should prioritize approaches to make the individuals and their rights the centre of the policies, to reduce gender inequalities and to strengthen the access to public health, justice, law enforcement, human rights, social cohesion and development, the discussion offered a framework where the alignment of strategies, actors and indicators is a departing point to effectively innovate public policies.



BARRIERS IN ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND RECOVERY – ISSUES FACED BY WOMEN LIVING WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Tuesday, 3 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by EURAD, Proslavi Oporavak/Celebrate Recovery, Stand & the Western Cape Substance Abuse Forum, the Women's Organizations Committee on Alcohol and Drug Issues and the World Federation Against Drugs

Women living with and affected by addiction are a particularly vulnerable group. One out of three substance users is a woman, while only one out of seven people in treatment is a woman. Women using drugs are later detected than their male counterparts and are more likely to be subjected to violence, face greater stigma in society as well as barriers in access to treatment and recovery services. This side-event, hosted by the World Federation Against Drugs, covered the barriers in access to treatment and recovery, thereby offering an in-depth example of the Western Cape Province in South Africa. The side-event provided a unique platform highlighting the needs and common concerns, while re-visiting the demands made by the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. With a wide-range of speakers, the side-event emphasised the need to focus on women and create gender sensitive approaches to prevention, treatment and recovery.



IMPROVING OUTREACH AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TOWARDS PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS AND PEOPLE IN RECOVERY IN WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES

Tuesday, 3 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Press Room

Organized by the Government of Serbia, Association Izlazak, Preporod/Rebirth, Proslavi Oporavak/Celebrate Recovery and the World Federation Against Drugs

The side event was organized by the Office for Combating Drugs of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. Participants of the side event had the opportunity to hear about the ongoing Regional Balkan Project that has started back in 2015 and which is a joint cooperation between World Federation Against Drugs and three leading civil society organizations in the Balkan region: Izlazak from Serbia, Celebrate Recovery from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Preporod from Montenegro, with the support of all 3 National Drugs Offices.

Throughout the project, they have established Community Counselling Centres with free helplines to be able to reach out to people affected by drug use and those who need social integration. The side event included presentations of the project activities in all three countries with a special focus on a multidisciplinary approach and building cooperation between institutions and civil society organizations, as well as addressing stigma as a major barrier to treatment.



ENGAGING YOUTH IN DRUG USE PREVENTION WORK: NRC'S APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES

Tuesday, 3 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Boardroom A

Organized by the Government of the United Arab Emirates and the UNODC Office of the Gulf Cooperation Council Region



Following the 1st Global Forum for Youth Leaders on Drug Use Prevention (GoForth) Hosted in 2014, the National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) has been following up on some of the resolutions by having Youth Camps for Young Emirati's focusing on a broad range of issues from life skills to addictions. These camps have been well received by young people and have been a success story. A group of Youth Ambassadors has been created. It is recommended that more evaluative research is carried out on these camps and is extended to other Emirates and the Middle East. There will be detailed presentations at the Youth Forum at the International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) 2021 conference in Abu Dhabi.

COMPREHENSIVE AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH IN TACKLING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

Tuesday, 3 March, 1.00-1.50 p.m., Conference Room M3

Organized by the Government of Croatia, the European Union and the UNODC Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs



The side event was chaired by Mr. Lemahieu, Director of the Division on Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC. Executive Director of the UNODC Mrs. Waly and Mr. Horvatić, Croatian ambassador gave welcome speeches.

The event aimed to support the draft resolution, tabled by the EU, about strengthening responses to the world drug problem through better data and evidence. Participants had the opportunity to hear about experiences in implementing evidence-based drug policy from Croatian Ministry of Health State Secretary Mr. Dulibić.

Furthermore, Executive Director of the EMCDDA, Mr. Goosdeel, gave a presentation on 25 years in supporting evidence informed policies and actions in the EU. Mr. Sannes, National Drug Coordinator from Ministry of Health, Netherlands, introduced the content of the resolution tabled by the EU, followed by Mr. Basutu from the African Union, who presented challenges and opportunities of data collection in Africa. Closing remarks were given by Mrs. Me, Chief of Research and Trend Analysis Branch and Mr. Gerra, Chief of Drug Prevention and Health Branch of UNODC.

PREVENTION WITHOUT BORDERS: EFFECTIVE DRUG POLICY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BALKANS

Tuesday, 3 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia, Fondacioni Yesilay (Albania), NGO "Zeleni krst – Zeleni polumjesec" (Serbia) and Udruzenje gradjana Zeleni polumjesec u Bosni i Hercegovini

This side event was organized by the Government of North Macedonia in cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the “Green Crescent” and UNODC and was dedicated to effective drug policy in the context of the Balkans.



The countries of the region were represented at the level of Ambassador, Deputy Minister and State Secretary and were joined by the subject matter experts, the representatives of the national chapters of the “Green Crescent” civil society organization and UNODC.

The discussion focused around the current drug demand reduction initiatives and policies in the region, successful results achieved so far and the way forward. Particular attention was given to the need to put special emphasis on children and the environment in which they grow up. The importance of public health oriented drug policies and impact was underscored by the participants, who also noted the need for continuous education of different groups in the society.

TRIPPIN' THROUGH NIGHTLIFE: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES PREVENTING HARMS AND RISKS OF DRUG USE IN RECREATIONAL SETTINGS

Tuesday, 3 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room MOE79

Organized by the Governments of France, Lithuania and Portugal, and the Pompidou Group (Council of Europe)

The side event was moderated by the Pompidou Group of the European Council. The event included presentations of national experiences in implementing different models of drug policy and measures at recreational settings. The Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department of Lithuania together with Lithuanian NGOs that work in the field of harm reduction, presented the joint educational initiative “Be Safe Lab”, which can be seen as an example of successful and unique collaboration between different sectors (governmental, nongovernmental, volunteers and private sector).

The National Mediator for Youth Festivals of the Ministry of Education and Youth of France presented a new prevention measure, called “Enjoy a pause!”, that proposed to the participants of the famous French festival “The spring of Bourges” welcoming, safe spaces and teams who reach the public.

The topic of the side event attracted many participants, and the discussion aimed to find answers to questions that are relevant for every country.



EFFICIENCY OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION INTERVENTIONS FOR DRUG DEPENDENTS IN PRISON

Tuesday, 3 March, 1.00-1.50 p.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by the Government of Georgia and the European Union



An audience of over 35 delegates attended the side event during which the Government of Georgia and the EU funded project EU-ACT (EU Actions against Drugs and Organized Crime) jointly highlighted the progress done within the cooperation format.

The Side event was focused on the importance of treatment and rehabilitation for drug dependent persons who are placed in the penitentiary establishments and on probation.

Georgia shared with the participants its experience/best practice relating to operational interventions in the penitentiary, crime prevention and probation systems. The event brought to the delegates' attention the importance of adequate responses to drug problems in order to strengthen national and international measures in order to guarantee sustainable treatment and rehabilitation programs. Experts from Georgia delivered presentations on recent developments in country. Presentations were followed by an interactive dialogue with the audience.

STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE ON QUANTIFICATION OF CONTROLLED MEDICINES AND ESTIMATION OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSORS FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES IN NIGERIA

Tuesday, 3 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Press Room

Organized by the Government of Nigeria



The side event focused on sharing the findings of the national survey on quantification and estimation on the need of controlled medicines, psychotropic substances and precursors for medical and scientific purposes in Nigeria, 2019 done as part of the EU funded project 'Response to drugs and related organized crime in Nigeria'.

Speakers from the Permanent Mission of Nigeria in Vienna, UNODC and the European Union Delegation, delivered opening remarks highlighting the importance of an evidence-based approach to this area of work. The main presentation was delivered by speakers from the Federal Ministry of Health and National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control. They described the methodology used, key findings and recommendations from the survey. UNODC presented an update on the integration of rational dispensing of medicines in the Nigerian health curriculum.

The event was well attended with over 70 participants. A robust discussion followed the presentation.

INCB LEARNING

Tuesday, 3 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m. Conference Room C3

Organized by the Governments of Australia, Belgium, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, the Russian Federation and Singapore, and the International Narcotics Control Board

Organized by 14 Governments and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), the side event was chaired by Ambassador Julia Emma Villatoro Tario, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the UN in Vienna. At the well-attended event, INCB President Cornelis P. de Joncheere launched the Spanish versions of e-learning modules developed through the Board's INCB Learning initiative to support Governments in estimating and assessing their needs for internationally controlled substances.



The importance of strengthening institutional capacity to ensure that controlled substances are available for medical use, while not being diverted and abused, was emphasized by high-level speakers from Australia, Belgium, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay, the Russian Federation and the United States. Panelists expressed appreciation for assistance provided by INCB Learning and reiterated their commitment to continue supporting its implementation through contributions, the hosting of activities and active participation in training opportunities.

More information on INCB Learning is available [here](#).

ENGAGING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN DRUG USE DISORDER TREATMENT

Tuesday, 3 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Boardroom A

Organized by the Governments of Indonesia and Japan, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, and the World Health Organization



The side event addressed the UNODC Treatnet Family Intervention approach in drug use disorder treatment and presented the feasibility study undertaken in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2019. The Chief of the National Narcotics Board of Indonesia Heru Winarko, said that it was an honour for Indonesia to be selected as a site for the TFI feasibility study. The approach was very relevant for Indonesia and the government was committed to scaling it up. Dr. Gerra from the PTRS UNODC said that family and community understanding and involvement towards drug treatment is beneficial for a better outcome. Anja Busse from UNODC described the background of TFI, while Dr. Essau as a consultant presented positive results of the feasibility study, such as the decrease of drug abuse behavior. Mr. Hideo from Japan stated his government commitment in supporting TFI in the future, whereas Dr. Poznyak of WHO said organization commitment in supporting technical issues. This session hosted by Dr. Sarasvita.

ADDRESSING THE DETERIORATING SYNTHETIC DRUG SITUATION IN THE MEKONG: A NEW LEVEL OF STRATEGIC COOPERATION

Tuesday, 3 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room M3

Organized by the Government of China

The side event was opened by the Deputy Commissioner of China's National Narcotics Control Commission, Mr. Tsang Wai Hung; the Secretary General of Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Mr. Niyom Termsrisuk, and Executive Director of UNODC, Ms. Ghada Waly. Ministers, Ambassadors, heads of delegations from other Mekong MOU member states, representatives from ASEAN countries and major donors attended the side event as well. An in-depth briefing on the situation covering the latest trends and case-based information, along with an overview of the recent efforts that member states of the Mekong MOU on Drug Control have taken in addressing the situation was provided by UNODC Regional Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Jeremy Douglas.



BEYOND PREVENTION: EMPOWERING YOUTH TO BUILD UP THEIR FUTURE

Tuesday, 3 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by the Government of Italy, the Drug Free America Foundation, EURAD, Movendi International, the San Patrignano Foundation, the Turkish Green Crescent Society, and the World Federation Against Drugs



Opening remarks were made by Ambassador Cortese, Permanent Representative of Italy, who underlined that prevention should be effective and scientific based: Youngsters are the most vulnerable, to improve the future they represent, they need empowerment through providing them with opportunities to develop their talents.

The Drug Free America Foundation (DFAF) presented its online prevention program about marijuana, while Movendi International focused on the promotion of healthy lifestyles to support youngsters avoiding choice that can affect their future severely. GC focused on good practice, including life skills trainings and the importance of including youth in the advocacy.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the San Patrignano representative presented via video message the latest SP initiative in the area of prevention: the project aims to train a number of students per school to become tutor for orientation and prevention, providing them with critical awareness, knowledge about the problem of Drug Use Disorders (DUD) and how it affects young people future, empowering them to become positive leaders in their peer group.

EU DRUG MARKETS REPORT 2019

Tuesday, 3 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room C3

Organized by the European Union

EUROPOL and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, EMCDDA, presented the third state-of-the art overview of the European illicit drug market. Europeans are spending at least EUR 30 billion on drugs each year at retail level, making the drug market a major source of income for organised crime groups in the European Union. The Director of the EMCDDA, Alexis Goosdeel, and the EUROPOL Deputy Executive Director, Wil van Gemert, explained detailed trends along the supply chain from production and trafficking to distribution and sales, and described how the drug market has wide-ranging impacts on both health and security and how a holistic approach is crucial for effective drug control policies.



EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Wednesday, 4 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Boardroom A

Organized by the Government of Spain, Association Proyecto Hombre, Dianova International, the Turkish Green Crescent Society, the UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch, and the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities

Scientific evidence indicates that Substance and Drug Use Disorders are a multifactorial disorder and associated with health problems, poverty, violence, criminal behaviour, and social exclusion.

The UNODC-WHO International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders encourage Member States to consider expanding the coverage and improving the quality of drug treatment systems, interventions and policies based on scientific evidence as an integral part of the health system.



One of the implementation tools based on the International Standards, consisted in developing a quality assurance mechanism and tools for drug treatment, which are applicable globally with a strong contribution from the Government of Spain.

The side event focused on the latest science in the field of drug-dependence treatment and rehabilitation, by exploring significant studies from relevant, international researchers, such as: Dr. Gilberto Gerra, Ms. Azucena Martí, Mr. Fernando González, Dr. Pablo Kurlander, Dr. Mehmet Dinç, Dr. Susha Taylor and Mr. Oriol Esculies.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE BUILDING WITHIN DRUG POLICY REFORM

Wednesday, 4 March 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room M3

Organized by Acción Técnica Social

This interactive and dynamic side event was facilitated by Acción Técnica Social, Instituto RIA and Transform Drug Policy Foundation and began with brainstorming the harms caused by prohibition. Responses included lack of access to medicines and treatment, undermining of institutions, mass incarceration, stigma, forced treatment and arbitrary detentions, criminalization of communities that cultivate psychoactive plants, disproportional impacts on women, children and adolescents, and lack of research.

Brief presentations were given on principles of regulation with a social justice focus, including confronting privilege and oppression, recognizing historically marginalized groups, affirmative actions to level the imbalance of power and resources to repair the harms of prohibition. The side event closed with policies and practices that could be implemented to address the harms identified above. It was concluded that If drug control measures had not met their objectives, consideration was to be given to how drug policy reform, including legal regulation, can be a means to improve development, health and equity indicators.



SCHOOL-BASED PREVENTION STRATEGIES THAT WORK: THE GLOBAL UNODC-LCIF PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 4 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the International Association of Lions Clubs and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

UNODC and the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) held a side event on the effectiveness of the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence (LQSFA) programme. LQSFA promotes social emotional learning skills to prevent or delay substance use and promote healthy development of youth. This collaboration, since 2015, reached 20,000+ students in eight countries (most recently in Croatia, Côte d'Ivoire, and El Salvador) with published impact on preventing substance use. The panel included ambassadors from North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, and representation from Croatia, Guatemala, Serbia, Montenegro, who welcomed this initiative and invited other countries to follow suit.

During the event, UNODC provided an overview of the programme achievements and future directions. Moreover, Ms. Alma Rovis Brandić (Croatia) described the positive experience with LQSFA. The event concluded with the launch of a video showcasing the voices of students, teachers and policy makers in El Salvador and Guatemala who benefited from LQSFA.



THE MEDIA, A KEY ACTOR IN THE FIELD OF DRUGS

Wednesday, 4 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m. Conference Room M7

Organized by the Government of Canada, Association Proyecto Hombre, the Canadian Centre on Substance use and Addiction, Dianova International, the Interest Organisation for Substance Misusers, and the Turkish Green Crescent Society

This side event explored how the media could play a major role in promoting healthy lifestyles, preventing drug use, and reducing the stigma experienced by people who use drugs.

The event gathered experts who addressed this issue from various perspectives. In the first place, Rebecca Jesseman (CCSA) spoke of the importance of language use. Then, Kenneth Arctander (RIO) exposed some examples of stigmatizing language often used in the media. Thirdly, Stephanie Narn (Saint-Justine Hospital, Montreal) explained the youth perceptions of opioids through contemporary media. Lastly, Kristina Stankova (Dianova International) presented the threats and opportunities of social networks and alternative media. The panelists highlighted the need to act proactively in order to effectively harness the power of media to bring about positive impacts as regards drug perception and use.



ANTE-POST MORTEM INFLUENCES ON DRUG AND METABOLITES CONCENTRATION: FALSE FORENSIC CONCLUSIONS. EVIDENCES FROM EUROPE AND AFRICA

Wednesday, 4 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room MOE79

Organized by the Forum for African Women Educationalist (Mozambique)



This event aimed to discuss about relevant determinants affecting analgesics ante-post mortem concentration and the misapplication of the forensic science.

The event highlighted that analgesics prescribed for the treatment of pain are responsible for a massive opioid crisis. A total of more than 450,000 people in the US had died from an opioid overdose since 1999, with 72 per cent of unclassified overdose deaths involving opioids.

It was explained that metabolism and post-mortem interval can affect post-mortem opioid drug concentrations in an unpredictable manner. In the field of post-mortem toxicology, in the absence of other supportive information, it was often challenging to interpret the meaning of drug concentrations. It was now well understood that using ante-mortem clinical studies as guidelines to interpret post-mortem blood concentrations was not advisable. However, this forensic untested practice challenged every day the Courtrooms.

TO NAME, TO REGULATE: POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THINKING 'MEDICAL CANNABIS' VS. 'THERAPEUTIC USE OF CANNABINOIDS'

Wednesday, 4 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m. Conference Room MOE100

Organized by Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma and Stichting International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research and Service (ICEERS Foundation)



This side event discussed the different clinical implications that arise from applying a regulatory approach that considered isolated cannabinoid molecules, as proposed by the INCB, versus an approach that considered the totality of the plant extract to be used in humans, as recognized by the WHO.

The event organized by ICEERS and Latinoamérica Reforma, including among the Speakers Dr Lumir Hanus, Dr José Carlos Bouso, Dr Sergio Sánchez and Mariela Hernández.

THE VOICE OF AFRICA: PREVENTION FOR SUSTAINABILITY, EXAMPLES FROM SIX COUNTRIES

Wednesday, 4 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m. Conference Room MOE100

Organized by Association Nationale AL HIDN (Morocco), the Green Crescent Health Development Initiative (Nigeria), the Moroccan Green Crescent, the Slum Child Foundation (Kenya), the Sudanese Green Crescent Society, the Uganda Green Crescent Society and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

Speakers from 6 African countries shared information on the main issues related to addiction in their home countries along with the prevention activities and programs of their NGOs such as: awareness campaigns, school programs, media and marketing activities, trainings and organization of international and national conferences on addiction, emphasizing the primary role of prevention in reducing the rate of addiction across Africa. Thanks to these experiences, as also demonstrated by UNODC and the Moroccan Green Crescent (MGC) representatives, it was known today what kind of activities were to be encouraged and implemented and what kind of activities were to be avoided due to poor or lack of positive results.

The meeting concluded that it was logical to think about a common solution to enhance cross-border cooperation and empower civil society in the continent: the African Coalition for the Fight Against Addiction.



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THE ROME CONSENSUS 2.0: TOWARDS A HUMANITARIAN DRUG POLICY

Wednesday, 4 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Boardroom A

Organized by the Government of Italy, the C4 Recovery Foundation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Partnership on Substance Abuse (IFRC), the Levenson Foundation, the Police, Treatment, and Community Collaboration, the Villa Maraini Foundation, the UNODC Drug Prevention and Health Branch and the World Health Organization

The aim of the Side Event was to launch the Humanitarian Manifesto: the Rome Consensus 2.0 and establish a new commitment for a humane drug policy reform based on evidence, compassion, free from violence and stigmatization. The event was an opportunity for Members States and CSOs to learn about the humanitarian drug policy as a valid, alternative and viable strategy in the spirit of the Outcome Document UNGASS 2016, promoting health based alternative measures such as harm reduction, pre-arrest deflection programmes, street overdose interventions.



It was mentioned that Even if the UN Agencies and some Member States recommended a move to a more public health approach, the punitive approach to drug problems was still a fact worldwide. The challenge was to make possible a policy reform based on humanitarian principles. The Rome Consensus 2.0 was a call from professionals and beneficiaries to governments to make clear and urgent moves towards a health and rights-based approach.

PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING TO COUNTER DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED FINANCIAL FLOWS

Wednesday, 4 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Conference Room M6

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

This side event served as a platform to share the experience of the ongoing effort for capacity building and regional cooperation to counter illicit drug trafficking and related financial flows in West and Central Asia. The trilateral cooperation between Japan, the Russian Federation and UNODC in support of this area was highlighted as one of the good practices to demonstrate the principle of shared responsibility.



The speakers of the side event provided updated information on their activities for countering illicit trafficking: representatives from Japan, the Russian Federation, CARICC and UNODC briefed about their technical, financial and analytical contributions to the capacity building and regional cooperation, whereas the representatives of Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan explained the tangible results of the recent counter-narcotics operations. The project for the Counter Narcotics Canine Unit in Afghanistan was also introduced as a development of the trilateral cooperation. The participants reaffirmed their readiness to further cooperate in addressing the narcotics threats.

ANGOLAN DRUG ADDICTIVE MODEL

Wednesday, 4 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Conference Room MOE79

Organized by the Government of Angola

The Angolan Drug Addictive Model focused on how the Ministry of Health of Angola strived to prevent and combat drug addictions in the country. The National Institute Anti-Drug Fight (the institute responsible for dealing with drugs) believed that prevention comes first and reported on the workshops and community interventions provided to sensitize families and individuals about the possible causes and consequences of drugs.

As part of the model, people who were already addicted to drugs were encouraged to seek help. Reference was made to the rehab center, which received people addicted to different kind of drugs (licit and illicit). The model finally included work with schools and universities, providing workshops to increase the awareness of the consequences of drugs. So far, the response from the community and individuals that searched for help had been positive.



WORKING TOWARDS EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TREATMENT OF PROBLEMATIC SUBSTANCE USE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Wednesday, 4 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Press Room

Organized by the Governments of Canada and New Zealand, the New Zealand Drug Foundation, Te Rau Ora Ltd, and the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation

The speakers included Tracey Potiki (Te Rau Ora); Maree Roberts, (Ministry of Health, New Zealand); Laurie York (Giizhawaaso Child Welfare, White Earth Nation, US); and Carol Hopkins (Thunderbird Partnership Foundation). The session was moderated by Michelle Boudreau (Health Canada).

The event highlighted how members of the Indigenous communities were disproportionately affected by problematic substance relative to the general population and stressed the importance of family and cultural ties that can contribute to healing. Panelists also suggested that enhancing Indigenous identity, reducing stigma and discrimination, and incorporating holistic treatment that takes into account Indigenous knowledge may be effective approaches. Colonization and intergenerational trauma were mentioned to be interrelated factors to increasing the risk of experiencing drug related harms. It was also suggested that varied approaches must be taken relative to Indigenous populations when addressing problematic substance use and that “one design fits all” treatment does not always work.



EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF SEIZED AND CONFISCATED ASSETS

Wednesday, 4 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the Governments of Brazil, Colombia and Spain



One of the biggest challenges in combating organized crime was to efficiently manage seized and confiscated assets. With the increase in convictions for drug trafficking and other crimes, several countries faced particular challenges due to the lack of a legal and effective management structure for these assets.

During the Side Event, Brazil, acting as organizer, presented the main advances in the country’s legislation that allowed a more effective management of the assets, generating, even, an increase in the collection and the possibility of returning these resources to society. Spain and Colombia, acting as Co-organizers, also shared their best practices in adopting strategies to improve the management of seized and confiscated assets.

The participants agreed that the exchange of experiences with other countries was fundamental, as it allowed each one to evaluate its current management practices in addition to viewing improvement actions in line with the best practices adopted by agencies worldwide.

HUMAN RIGHTS: QUALITY IN FORENSIC SCIENCE MATTERS

Wednesday, 4 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by the Government of Finland and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section



This fully interactive side event was organized by the government of Finland and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section. Chaired by UNODC DPA Director Jean-Luc Lemahieu and opened by H.E. Ambassador Pirkko Hämäläinen (Finland), the event highlighted the value of quality laboratory performance and its importance in ensuring effective and comprehensive forensic science investigations, and as a consequence, protecting fundamental human rights.

In conjunction with this event, the 25th anniversary of the UNODC International Collaborative Exercises (ICE) programme was celebrated. The ICE programme currently supports more than 290 national drug testing and toxicology laboratories in 89 countries worldwide to improve and ensure effective quality management in forensic science services. During the event, the participants were also able to have some hands-on experience in preliminary drug testing and engaged with the staff of UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section.

YOUTHS-AT-RISK: TARGETED INTERVENTIONS FOR YOUTHS WHO ABUSE DRUGS

Wednesday, 4 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Press Room

Organized by the Governments of Peru and Singapore, the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section



The side event provided a platform for sharing of experiences in the rehabilitation and reintegration of youths who abuse drugs, showcasing a variety of interventions which helped prevent youths from relapsing into drug abuse through counselling, casework, family support, skills upgrading, personal development and promotion of healthy lifestyle.

Addressing an audience of over 50 delegates, representatives from Singapore's Central Narcotics Bureau and the Ministry of Social and Family Development shared information on Singapore's approach through structured and co-ordinated rehabilitation programmes for youth.

The representative from the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme presented on the importance of involvement and mobilisation of youths in drug prevention work while the speaker from Peru shared information on the national strategies undertaken to reduce the use of controlled substances through prevention and treatment of adolescents at risk. The speaker from UNODC's PTRS Section presented tools to engage youths at risk, including family therapy to reduce drug use and delinquency.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE TREATMENT OF DRUG USE DISORDERS – PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Wednesday, 4 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room C3

Organized by the Government of Sweden, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, and the World Health Organization



The event presented the results from field testing of the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders, as well as tools to facilitate their implementation. UNODC Executive Director Ms Waly encouraged Member States to take appropriate and immediate actions to end stigma and discrimination, replacing them with support, social cohesion and a recovery perspective to protect future generations, particularly the most vulnerable.

Ambassador Kumlin Granit (Sweden), highlighted the importance of the Standards and national challenges.

Ms Pastorek (Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare) presented the revised National Guidelines, focusing on opioid substitution and psychosocial therapy. Professor Torrens (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), spoke about psychiatric comorbidities and patients with dual diagnosis. Dr Gerra (UNODC) expressed his aspiration for donors' support in advocating and implementing the Standards. Then Dr Poznyak (WHO) presented the revised Standards. Ms McBride (Vienna NGO Committee) underlined that human dignity should be the core of all treatment standards.

UNODC OPIOID STRATEGY: SECURING THE POSTAL TRADE

Wednesday, 4 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the Government of Canada, the Universal Postal Union, and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section

At this side event, the UNODC Opioid Strategy, together with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and Public Safety Canada discussed ways to make the global supply chain safer from illegal drugs, especially synthetic opioids. Postal security is key to preventing illegal trafficking, including trafficking of tramadol and other synthetic opioids.

This side event was chaired by Asma Fakhri, Programme Management Officer and UNODC Opioid Strategy Coordinator.



Experts from the UPU Postal Security Programme, the UPU Postal security Group, the UNODC/WCO/ICAO Container Control Programme, the UNODC CRIMJUST programme, and Public Safety Canada shared their know-how and presented solutions to help Member States to make postal services and postal workers more secure from the threats posed by trafficking in synthetic opioids.

Through its Opioid Strategy, UNODC is leading the global response to the opioid crisis, collaborating with several existing UNODC programmes, as well as other international organizations, such as WHO, INCB and UPU.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2wo9fnM>

HARM-REDUCTION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME FOR INMATES IN PRISONS WITH MENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DISORDERS DUE TO USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES – SPAIN AND UKRAINE COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 4 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by the Governments of Spain and Ukraine, and the European Union

The side-event was co-chaired by Ms. María Azucena Martí, Delegate of Government for National Plan on Drugs of the Ministry of Health of Spain and Mr. Andrii Semyvolos, First Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine. Other speakers included Mr. Javier Nistal Buron, Head of Penal Execution, and Social Rehabilitation General Directorate, within Penitentiary Institutions of the Ministry of Interior of Spain, Mr. Serhii Vasyliiev, Director of the State Institution "Health Center of the State Criminal-Executive Service" of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and representatives of the EU.

They presented the Rehabilitation Program for inmates in prisons with mental and behavioral disorders due to use of psychoactive substances. This Rehab Program is implemented as a pilot in five Ukrainian prisons. The speakers also put in context the activity of their institutions with the attention to inmates and the relevant cooperation with NGOs in this regard. Finally, they underlined the fruitful collaboration between Spain and Ukraine and how Ukraine can successfully adopt an EU best practice in a third country. More than 70 persons attended the event.



BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES - PAKISTAN'S RESPONSE TO UNGASS 2016 RECOMMENDATIONS

Wednesday, 4 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by the Government of Pakistan

The side event was chaired by Ms Ghada Waly, Executive Director UNODC; Mr Shehryar Khan Afridi, Federal Minister of Narcotics-Control of Pakistan; Mr Sijjeel Haider, Director International Cooperation Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) and Mr Jeremy Milsom, UNODC's Representative in Pakistan. Mr Haider briefed about Pakistan's achievements, including in building safer communities and responding to UNGASS 2016 recommendations. The ED recognized and commended Pakistan's successful counter-narcotics experiences and its continuing serious efforts to curb illicit trafficking and consumption of narcotics drugs.



She expressed confidence that this side-event would give an insight into the challenges faced by Pakistan and its strategy to counter imminent threats more effectively, both in the context of drug supply and demand reduction.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Shehryar Afridi thanked the ED and praised UNODC Pakistan for close support to the Government to pursue its national interest and achieve its international obligations, as well as building partnership within the regional and international counterparts.

HUMAN RIGHTS TOOLS: INCORPORATING INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND TARGETED SANCTIONS INTO DRUG POLICY

Thursday, 5 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room M3

Organized by DRCNet Foundation and Associazione Forum Droghe, Movimento per il Contenimento dei Danni



The event entitled "Human Rights Tools" discussed international responses to human rights crimes and their applicability to drug policy. Co-moderator David Borden, Executive Director of DRCNet Foundation, reviewed the continuing situation of extrajudicial killings in certain regions of the world, filling in for Phillip Sawali, Chief of Staff for imprisoned Senator Leila de Lima, who was taken away by an urgent situation; and summarized actions taken by governments imposing entry bans on certain officials. Chino Obiagwu of the Nigeria Coalition for the International Criminal Court discussed the process to be expected if the ICC Office of the Prosecutor requested to open an investigation into the situation, and related issues. Mohammad Ashrafuzamman of the Asian Legal Resource Centre discussed the spread of extrajudicial drug war killings in various countries. Co-moderator Marco Perduca, former Senator of Italy, provided insights from his past work.

COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO PRIORITIZE PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE THROUGH CADCA'S COMMUNITY CHANGE MODEL

Thursday, 5 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)



In several countries throughout the Americas, Africa, Central and Southeast Asia the drug prevention community coalition movement had developed its own unique strategy which had been adopted in 28 countries following CADCA's Model for Community Change. Participants explored how communities throughout the Metropolitan Area of Lima, Provinces East of the Andes and coastal communities in Peru had created partnerships between local governments and civil society through the community coalition strategy for the purpose of preventing substance misuse. Through this experience communities in Peru had determined local actionable data to assess problems, develop strategic plans, build capacity and mobilize communities through civic engagement.

They had formed multi-sector community coalitions by recruiting and organizing local youth; speaking publicly about local drug and alcohol misuse; working with local authorities; and assumed responsibility in taking action to be agents of change in their respective communities.

PARTNERSHIP OF POLICE, HEALTH AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SECURITY IN EECA

Thursday, 5 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by the European Union and the UNODC Regional Programme Office for Eastern Europe

An audience of around 50 delegates attended the side event that focused on partnerships between the law enforcement sector and other relevant sectors, including public health, social welfare, civil society and community-based organizations. The UNODC and EU-ACT programme in the Eastern European region aimed to facilitate enabling wide access to evidence-based health services for people who use drugs and for people in prison settings, which in turn helped to reduce crime and increase community trust in law enforcement agencies. During this event, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus and Ministry of Health of Ukraine shared lessons learnt, exchanged experiences and initiatives in their countries on:



- the algorithm of referral scheme facilitating access of key populations to health care and social support services, including HIV prevention and care programmes available in the community (Ukraine and Belarus);
- the developed unique informational resource consolidating state and CSO efforts to address the prevention, treatment/rehabilitation and HIV services in Belarus.

SOCIAL NORMS AND RITUALS, INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE SELF-REGULATION STRATEGIES IN CANNABIS USE - WHAT RESEARCH AND ALTERNATIVE PRACTICES CAN TELL TO CANNABIS POLICY REFORM

Thursday, 5 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room MOE79

Organized by Società della Ragione ONLUS, Associazione Luca Coscioni, Associazione Forum Droghe, Movimento per il Contenimento dei Danni, the International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research and Service, the International Drug Policy Consortium, Science for Democracy, and the Transnational Institute

The event focused on the consolidated social process of normalization of cannabis use which offered to drug policies the opportunity of a “social government” of the phenomenon, in which knowing, valorising, and supporting social norms, rituals and self-regulation strategies should be a part of the development of an alternative cannabis policy model.



Since the 1970s, a vast scientific literature had offered a substantial knowledge on this topic: this research represented an extraordinary source to support the shift from a model of criminal control to a socio-cultural one. Participants discussed this perspective and presented results of the project New Approaches in Harm Reduction Policies and Practices (2016-2019), supported by the EU, which included research on individual cannabis use strategies of self-regulation, the role of collective strategies as Cannabis Social Clubs and the role of local communities and municipalities.

Here is the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yyy7k5UUGvQ>

TRANSFORMATION OF OPIUM POPPY ECONOMIES: CRISES, BOOMS AND FUTURE OF DRUG POLICIES

Thursday, 5 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by México Unido Contra la Delincuencia, Open Society Foundations, Transform Drug Policy Foundation and Transnational Institute

The upsurge in fentanyl use and production during the last few years, had impacted the dynamics of opium poppy cultivations. This was having a dramatic effect on the prices offered for raw opium in rural areas, affecting thousands of farmers in different producer areas.

This event aimed to explore the status of this phenomena, its consequences in some economies, to generate a conversation on the global context of this problem and to provide alternatives under the International Drug Control System and comparative experience, thereby including the voice of the growers.



ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY IN HIV INTERVENTIONS AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

Thursday, 5 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Press Room

Organized by the Government of Brazil and the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section



This side event highlighted the need to strengthen gender-responsive health-care services, including harm reduction, for women who use drugs. It was chaired by Mr. André Veras Guimarães, Director of the Department of Security and Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil and Gilberto Gerra, Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch, UNODC. Monica Ciupagea and Ehab Salah from the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section presented international standards and technical guidelines for addressing the specific needs of women who use drugs and women in prisons. Judy Chang, Executive Director of INPUD, discussed the role of community in scaling up gender-responsive services, while Clarissa Habckost Dutra de Barros, from the Ministry of Health, Brazil, and Dr Nanda Myo Aung Wan, from the Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar, shared their respective countries' experiences in overcoming barriers in the provision of and access to comprehensive services for women who use drugs.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE PROGRAMS: SUPPORTING PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Thursday, 5 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Conference Room MOE79

Organized by Drug Free America Foundation, Inc., San Patrignano Foundation, the Slum Child Foundation and the Turkish Green Crescent Society

This event highlighted the important role that drug-free workplaces (DFWP) play in supporting prevention, treatment and recovery. Drug Free America Foundation provided statistics on the effects of substance use on the work environment and discussed the benefits of DFWPs, including the components of effective programs and how to implement them. Slum Child Foundation shared their work training programs that provide young women with sustainable skills, an income, and the tools to resist substance use. San Patrignano presented on their community philosophy and the programs available to persons in treatment and recovery. Finally, participants heard from the Turkish Green Crescent regarding several of their important workplace programs including the Work Life Improvement program that educates and helps workers refrain from substance use. Their Green Flag Project provided DFWPs for university employees and students who would be in the workforce in the near future.

**NEXT STEPS FOR DATA COLLECTION ON DRUGS: EXPERIENCES FROM UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES**

Thursday, 5 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Press Room

Organized by the Governments of Mexico and Switzerland, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, the European Union, the Global Drug Policy Observatory (Swansea University, United Kingdom), the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Health Organization



This side event highlighted the ways in which the new version of the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ), adopted by the CND in March 2020, can be complemented with datasets from other stakeholders, including other UN agencies, UN human rights bodies and civil society.

Several speakers highlighted that the [UN System Common Position](#) on drugs included a commitment to compile, analyse and produce data reflecting UN system-wide practice and lessons-learned. The UN Task Team could be an appropriate mechanism for that.

The new version of the ARQ had been the result of significant effort and consultation. However, it still had shortcomings in capturing the unintended consequences of drug policies. CSOs would have a key role in covering these gaps. Beyond the ARQ, some speakers pointed out that the UNODC should reach out to other UN agencies, including the OHCHR, when compiling information for the World Drug Report and other reporting.

MODERN APPROACHES IN COUNTERING NEW CHALLENGES AND THREATS IN THE SPHERE OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Thursday, 5 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the European Union



Side event co-organized by the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the EU delegation gathered about 64 people. The delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic was represented at the level of the Head of Delegation Mr. Oleg Zapolskii and also included Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UNOV, Ambassador H.E. Mr. Bakyt Dzhusupov.

The side event was dedicated to the best European practices introduced by EU-supported projects in Kyrgyzstan in the sphere of countering illicit drug trafficking.

In particular, Kyrgyz authorities, as well as EU-ACT project representatives presented the successful implementation of such initiatives as: Intelligence-led-policing in Kyrgyzstan, transnational operations on countering drug trafficking as well as Atlantis and Clean Zone rehabilitation programmes in prisons.

REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION FOR RELEASED PRISONERS INCLUDING ENSURING CONTINUITY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Thursday, 5 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the Governments of Qatar and Zambia, the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section and the UNODC Justice System

The CND side event co-organized by the Republic of Zambia, the State of Qatar and UNODC was held to showcase the important work and the ongoing partnership between the Zambia Correctional Service (ZCS) and the Prisoner Reintegration Empowerment Organization (PREO) with the support of the Global Programme for the Implementation for the Doha Declaration.

The importance of supporting the social reintegration of prisoners, in addition to their rehabilitation, was highlighted by the Zambian Drug Enforcement Commissioner. The two facilities supported by UNODC in Zambia contributed to the organization and the promotion of assistance to offenders during their incarceration as well as post-release support.

The side event also touched on the importance of uninterrupted access to health care services on admission to prison, during inter-facility transfer and upon release. The Permanent Representative of Qatar emphasized that it is important to display achievements such as these in order to encourage other Member States to follow them.



PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSES TO THE NON-MEDICAL USE OF CANNABIS

Thursday, 5 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room MOE79

Organized by the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch



The side event focused on recent developments regarding cannabis policies and public health responses to non-medical use of cannabis. Angela Me, Chief of UNODC's Research and Trend Analysis Branch, gave an overview of the global cannabis market and its impact on health. Vladimir Poznyak, Head of the Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours Unit, WHO, addressed public health risks associated with non-medical cannabis use and cannabis use disorders.

Professor Caitlin Hughes from Flinders University touched upon public health policy options and regulation to minimize public health risks. The session was moderated by Kamran Niaz, epidemiologist at UNODC. Some of the key points that emerged during the discussion concerned the challenge of maintaining a public health centred approach in the presence of a powerful business sector and the emergence of increasingly diverse and potent cannabis products on the market, which pose a series of challenges to ensure compliance with regulations.

FORCED TREATMENT, PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

Thursday, 5 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by *Equis Justicia Para Las Mujeres A.C.*, the *International Drug Policy Consortium*, and the *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*



The panellists focused on access to treatment and harm reduction within the framework of the right to health. The presentation of WHO showed the impacts of harm reduction in terms of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and reduction of mortality, also underlining the lack of access to harm reduction services for most people who use drugs. Other presentations gave account of the severe violations of human rights that take place in compulsory treatment centres under current punitive drug policies.

The presentation from Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) stressed on the lack of access to harm reduction services and treatment for people who use drugs in general and women in particular. The event was moderated by the Vice Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which was very pertinent given that compulsory treatment is a form of illegal deprivation of liberty by semi-legal actors. The audience actively participated with comments and questions.

“VOICES OF THE QUCHAQBAR” – UNDERSTANDING OPIATE TRAFFICKING IN AFGHANISTAN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Thursday, 5 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Press Room

Organized by the Government of Afghanistan, and the UNODC Programme Development and Management Unit

The Side Event was attended by over 40 attendees including H.E. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Austria and the UN and began with opening remarks of Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director, Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC and Mr. Mohammad Hashim Aurtaq, Deputy Minister on Counter Narcotics, Minister of Interior (MOI), of I.R. of Afghanistan and head of the Afghanistan delegation. The Side Event presented the key findings of the report, “Voices of Quchaqbar- Understanding Opiate Trafficking in Afghanistan from the Perspective of Drug Traffickers” which was based on interviews with 41 drug traffickers in Afghanistan.



The research and preparation of this report was undertaken by the UNODC Afghan Opiate Trade Project (AOTP) of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch. During the Side Event, the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA) presented a summary of the organization’s achievement on counter narcotics over the last decade.

ACCELERATING SUPPORT FOR INCREASING ACCESS TO CONTROLLED MEDICINES WHILE PREVENTING DIVERSION AND NON-MEDICAL USE

Thursday, 5 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room M3

Organized by the Governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, El Salvador and the Russian Federation, the European Union, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, the Union for International Cancer Control, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, and the World Health Organization



The Permanent Mission of Australia and the Permanent Mission of Belgium organized a side event to highlight the importance of a balanced global approach that addresses the global disparity in access to controlled medicines and ensured patients around the world to have access to medication needed for their medical condition while addressing non-medical use. They appealed to Member States to support the UNODC-WHO-UICC Joint Global Program to increase access to controlled medicines while preventing diversion and non-medical use. Through high-level welcoming remarks and strong substantive speakers, the event demonstrated the strong partnerships built between UNODC, WHO, INCB, IAEA and civil society partners to ensure a consistent and comprehensive, patient-centered approach is taken by Member States, at the National level.

ADDED VALUE OF THE EU FUNDED TWINNING PROJECTS WITH A VIEW TO ENHANCING NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION CAPACITY IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE DRUG POLICIES

Thursday, 5 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the Governments of Romania and Turkey, the European Union and the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch

The joint side event aimed at promoting the opportunities offered by the EU within the instrument for institutional cooperation between Public Administrations of EU Member States and of beneficiary or partner countries. It also presented a clear example on developing the national online model to collect data in the field of drugs, with a view to substantiating anti-drug policies at national, regional and international level.

Ambassador GÜN (Turkey) and Ambassador ISTRATE (Romania) delivered opening speeches, expressing their satisfaction for the cooperation between their countries.



Mr. SARIGÜZEL, from the Turkish National Police and Beneficiary Country Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) counterpart and Mr. NEGOI-NIȚĂ, Member State RTA in Turkey, moderated the event.

Ms. Me, from UNODC and Ms. RUIZ, from the European Commission delivered speeches on the importance of cooperation and data collection regarding the fight against drugs.

Lastly two videos on TNP-Counter Narcotics Department achievements in 2019 and the twinning project were presented.

MONITORING ILLICIT CROPS USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Thursday, 5 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by the UNODC Programme Development and Management Unit



The side event organized by the UNODC Programme Development and Management Unit, Research and Trend Analysis Branch (RAB), Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs (DPA), was attended by some 40 delegates. UNODC introduced the topic and explained how illicit crop monitoring helped Governments in their policy development and in planning how to tackle illicit cultivation. The monitoring systems supported by UNODC were tailored to the national contexts and were based on remote sensing and geospatial technologies.

While illicit crop monitoring methodologies had improved greatly over the years, the human factor - in the form of visual interpretation- was still essential for achieving reliable estimates

Senior experts from Cranfield University, UK, illustrated how the increased availability of satellite imagery and geospatial technologies, as well as the fast developments in the area of AI, offered an opportunity for using automation and machine and deep learning in crop monitoring. They presented some promising results using AI for illicit crop monitoring and highlighted the potential of 'Deep Convolutional Neural Networks'.

GOOD PRACTICES IN CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION: CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT IN POLICYMAKING IN EUROPE

Thursday, 5 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room MOE79

Organized by the Governments of Finland and Spain, the Civil Society Forum on Drugs in Europe, Correlation – European Harm Reduction Network, the European Union, Foreningen for Human Narkotikapolitikk, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Rights Reporter Foundation, and Youth Organisations for Drug Action



The event participants focused on two levels of participatory policymaking. The European dimension showcased the work of the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs – an expert group of the European Commission. Iga Kender-Jeziorska (CSFD) presented the Forum’s activities, while Elina Kotovirta (Finnish Ministry of Health) highlighted how a strong, trusting relationship was developed between the EU and the CSFD. The national-level case study focused on the ongoing drug policy reform in Norway, with the constant involvement of the Association for Humane Drug Policies (FHN) representing people who use drugs. Carl-Erik Grimstad (Norway’s Standing Committee on Health and Care Services) highlighted the important of the “Nothing about us without us” approach in policymaking and his motivations for pushing for reform. Arild Knutsen (FHN) shared how his long and bumpy road in advocacy resulted in positive outcomes in Norwegian drug policy and the meaningful involvement of PWUD in policymaking.

SMOKABLE COCAINE STUDY REPORT LAUNCH

Thursday, 5 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by Intercambios Asociación Civil



For more information visit:

<https://www.tni.org/en/smokable-cocaine>

Over the past 5 years a group of researchers had collected information and research on smokable cocaine, its market and users in ten different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The results of this research had been laid down in the report presented at this side event. From Mexico to Argentina the report described how the market of this drug had been in every country for at least 30 years, and there had not been many policies that helped to control and reduce its risks and harms to user, community and society as a whole. Main findings and policy recommendations from the study were presented and discussed with the audience. The event was moderated by Pablo Cyerman from Asociación Civil Intercambios, and included presentations by Pien Metaal from the Transnational Institute (TNI) and Ernesto Cortés from Asociación Costarricense de Estudios e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID).

FAMILY SKILLS, LIFE AND SOCIAL SKILLS: INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT SUBSTANCE USE AND REDUCE VIOLENCE, CRIME AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, 5 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., Press Room

Organized by the Governments of Bangladesh and El Salvador, and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

In a well-attended event, Bangladesh, El Salvador and UNODC advocated for initiatives to prevent substance use. UNODC's work presently reached 150,000+ families with such skills in 40 countries+. The most recent UNODC family-skills programme (Family UNited) was presented as an open-sourced programme for low-income countries (supported by Japan and first piloted in Indonesia and Bangladesh). The Permanent Mission of Bangladesh presented their experience with Family UNited, the governmental appreciation for it and their keenness to expand to benefit those in difficult circumstances (including refugees or displaced populations). H.E. the Ambassador of El Salvador presented on UNODC's family-skills collaboration and the ongoing life-skills (Lions Quest) activities nationally. This was a model featured in the recent INSPIRE initiative to end violence against children for Central America, held in San Salvador. The global UNODC experience on family- and life-skills in line with the UNODC/WHO International Standards was a main focus.



EXPLORING THE REGULATION OF CANNABIS MARKETS IN LATIN AMERICA

Friday, 6 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Elementa DDHH, México Unido Contra la Delincuencia, and the Washington Office on Latin America

Latin America had been one of the most violent regions in the world, with some of its violence related to drug trade and illegal markets. The regulation of Cannabis markets came as an alternative policy that sought to bring up to the surface one of the major markets of illegal substances in order to introduce state controls and regulations. The event aimed to show that for Latin American countries this could also have positive consequences in terms of public safety. This side event explored the existing initiatives in Argentina, Colombia and México. While Mexico was already debating a bill in the Parliament, Colombia and recently Argentina were initiating public debates and campaigns on the matter. The event discussed the human rights implications of a regulated market, the security dimension and the impact on the actors and the victims of current illegal markets.

Exploring the Regulation of Cannabis Markets in Latin America

March 6
8:00 > 8:50 am Room M6
Vienna International Centre, UN.

Panelists

Tania Ramírez
MUCD, Mexico

John Walsh
WOLA, USA

Luciana Pol
CELS, Argentina

Adriana Muro
Elementa,
Mexico-Colombia

The regulation of cannabis allows state control in one of the most massive illegal markets worldwide. This, in Latin America, could bring positive consequences for public security.

DRUG TRAFFICKING, DEMAND AND USE PATTERNS IN AFRICA, AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Friday, 6 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Conference Room M7

Organized by Enabling Africa's Response to Transnational Organised Crime (ENACT)/Institute for Security Studies, and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

The trafficking of heroin was a crucial component of urban politics and development in East and Southern Africa. The heroin economy had shaped the growth of small coastal villages, border towns and megacities along the Southern Route – a network moving Afghan drugs south across the Indian Ocean and onward through Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique to South Africa. Rapid and dysfunctional urbanisation, the migration of low-skilled youth throughout the region, unemployment and the inability of local governments to cope with service delivery needs had contributed to the spread of the drug, building fortunes for a few 'big fish' and promoting corruption among police and politicians.



Chaired by the European Commission, this event discussed the findings of the latest report which analysed case studies of how heroin markets developed in 18 towns and cities, ranging from megacities to border towns, across East and Southern Africa.

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) REGIONAL POLICY ON PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

Friday, 6 March, 8.00 – 8.50 a.m., Press Room

Organized by the African Network of People Who Use Drugs, the East African Community Secretariat, the International Drug Policy Consortium, KANCO and Médecins du Monde (France)



The side event was aimed at creating awareness to government delegations, CSOs and other advocates in the East African and African region that the EAC drug policy was humane and health oriented and could be used to advocate for review of national drug policies to be more humane and health oriented.

DRUG CRYPTO MARKETS BEYOND 2020: POLICY, ENFORCEMENT, HARM, AND RESILIENCE

Friday, 6 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the Government of the Netherlands, Asociación Bienestar y Desarrollo (Energy Control), the Global Drug Policy Observatory and the International Drug Policy Consortium

The event afforded an opportunity to engage on evidence-based perspectives presented by a panel of academics and experts. Specifically, the Global Drug Policy Observatory (GDPO) presented relevant UN mandates, the effectiveness of current law enforcement strategic practice, personal and social harm considerations, market resilience, current technologies, and supply-side innovations. Energy Control (EC) evidenced drug-checking results of drugs bought and sold on the markets. Both the GDPO and EC reiterated the markets' illegality, but noted cryptomarkets' capacity to reduce some of the harms associated with offline drug supply. Both cautioned against a blanket 'takedown' approach; citing evidence that showed that taking markets offline may have sub-optimal consequences such as accelerating market innovations and fragmentation. Recommendations were made to consider targeting only the most injurious of substances and the most pernicious unregulated vendors and markets to slow the rate of market innovation, and to most effectively deploy often scant enforcement resources.

Transcript available: <http://cndblog.org/2020/03/side-event-drug-crypto-markets-beyond-2020-policy-enforcement-harm-and-resilience/>

HEROIN AND IBOGAINE ASSISTED TREATMENTS IN THE ERA OF THE OPIOIDS CRISIS

Friday, 6 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by the European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies, and Nonviolent Radical Party Transnational Transparty

The side-event was organized by the European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies and the Nonviolent Radical Party Transnational Transparty.

Enrico Fletzer, president of Encod introduced the session. Professor Christopher Hallam, who worked on the RIOTT trials in the UK, explained that Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) is more effective with respect to methadone for very problematic specific heroin users.

Professor Carla Rossi quoted the OECD study widely reporting the recovery of the heroin epidemic in western countries, as Portugal and Sweden for example.



Such recovery was not felt in other countries where the endemic trend continued due to the standard application of HAT for very problematic heroin users, as data sets showed. Dr. Maja Kohek explained the therapy potential of Ibogaine, the active ingredient of the Tabernanthe Iboga, reporting about ongoing clinical trials concerning the subjective acute effects of ibogaine, and the use of ibogaine as a methadone substitute.

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS IN POLICY AND PROGRAMMING FOR DRUG PREVENTION AND HIV/AIDS

Friday, 6 March, 9.10 – 10.00 a.m., Press Room

Organized by the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section, the UNODC Independent Evaluation Section, and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section



The side event facilitated an active discussion on challenges in monitoring and evaluation. Dr. Katharina Kayser, Chief, IES, opened the event by positioning evaluation in the larger context, in particular, national evaluation capacities (NEC).

Dr. Gambo Aliyu, Director General, National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) in Nigeria, shared lessons learned in developing national M&E systems, highlighting the need to better collect, interpret and use data.

Dr. Patrick Herminie, Secretary of State, Agency for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation (APDAR), elaborated on challenges in establishing an M&E Department in the Seychelles, including NEC.

UNODC's services in supporting M&E systems in drug prevention were presented by Ms. Giovanna Campello, Officer-in-Charge, PTRS. Finally, Mr. Riku Lehtovuori, Adviser M&E, HAS, shared experience of M&E trainings related to HIV/AIDS, before the audience engaged in an open dialogue with the panellists.

MAKING DRUG PREVENTION MORE EFFECTIVE IN EUROPE: SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING. CAN WE DO IT TOGETHER?

Friday, 6 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room M6

Organized by the Government of Poland, A.Li.Sa. / ASL2, the European Union, and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section



The side event "Making Drug Prevention More Effective in Europe: Systems Analysis and Professional Training. Can We Do It Together?" organized by the National Bureau for Drug Prevention (Poland), A.Li.Sa./ASL2 organization (Italy), European Commission and UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section was led by Ambassador Ms Dominika Krois who fulfilled the role of the vice-chairperson of the CND.

During the side event, three members of "Building effective drug prevention results across Europe, based on prevention systems analysis and widespread professional training (ASAP)" project delivered presentations for 40 attendees from around the world.

Ms Rachele Donini from Italy, ASAP project coordinator, presented a detailed overview of the trainings system in the field of prevention. Mr Artur Malczewski presented the findings of two international studies under the ASAP project (<http://asap-training.eu>). Ms Giovanna Campello (UNODC) in her presentation emphasized the importance of the standards and competent personnel as necessary factors for implementing effective drug prevention programmes.

MYANMAR DRUG POLICY REFORM AND CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE

Friday, 6 March, 1.00 – 1.50 p.m., Conference Room MOE100

Organized by the Government of Myanmar and the Transnational Institute



In 2018 the Myanmar government had adopted a new national drug policy and reforms in drug legislation. The new national policy recognised the importance of human rights principles, decriminalised the use of drugs and promoted a development first approach towards farmers. Myanmar was the first ASEAN member state to align its national drug control policy with the 2016 UNGASS outcome document. In this panel discussion the five pillars of the new policy were presented, and current challenges as well as desired effects on the ground, were discussed.

The Side Event was organized by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and the Transnational Institute in collaboration with the Myanmar Drug Policy Advocacy Group, the Myanmar Opium Farmers Forum and Medecins du Monde.

WERE YOU REALLY RAPED OR DID YOU JUST NOT GET PAID? – ADDRESSING STIGMA AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS

Friday, 6 March, 2.10 – 3.00 p.m., MOE79

Organized by the UNODC Regional Office for Southern Africa



“We need people to hear their stories and to take action in whatever way they can. People need to be aware of what is happening and take accountability for their role in actively or passively, intentionally or unintentionally letting this happen”, said Angela MacBride from South African Network of People Who Use Drugs (SANPUD), as she presented the key findings of the assessment of the needs of women who use drugs (WWUD).

Assessment revealed insufficient access to health services, abuse of human rights and high levels of trauma and sexual violence among WWUD. Mathuto Motumi from the National Department of Social Development provided an overview of the government programme on reducing violence against women and services available for the victims of Gender-based Violence (GBV). The session concluded that while the Government was taking action to address GBV in general, the WWUD were left behind due to widespread stigma of drug use.

Additional Events in the margins of the 63rd session of the CND

INFORMAL SCIENTIFIC NETWORK MEETING ON THE TOPIC OF PSYCHIATRIC COMORBIDITIES

Monday, 2 March, 8.30 a.m. – 17.00 p.m., Conference Room C6

Organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the World Health Organization, with the generous support of the Russian Federation



In line with the UNODC Resolution 58/7 the Informal Scientific Network (ISN) was successfully established in 2015. Within the framework of CND 2020, an ISN Meeting was held with more than 30 leading scientists. The meeting, chaired by Dr Marta Torrens, Head of the Addiction Programme at the Institute of Neuropsychiatry and Addictions, Hospital del Mar, Spain, focused on discussing strategies to link science, policy and clinical practice to further enhance management of psychiatric comorbidities in drug use disorders. At the meeting, scientists reached an agreement on fourteen key recommendations, specifically underlining the importance of non-discriminative approach, 'no wrong door' principle, high-quality and scientific base of services as well as thorough support from policymakers. These recommendations were communicated by Dr. Marta Torrens at the CND 2020 Plenary. As a follow-up, a guidance document on evidence-based strategies to address comorbidities in drug use disorders will soon be published.

UNODC YOUTH FORUM 2020

2-4 March, Conference Room C2

UNODC Youth Initiative

The UNODC Youth Initiative was launched in 2012 to promote a health-centred and evidence-based perspective for prevention of drug use, health promotion and youth empowerment, and actively contributes in achieving the SDG 3.5. One aspect of the Youth Initiative is the annual Youth Forum held at the margins of the CND. The youth learn from each other as well as from the global scientific and political discussions, which allows them to make their opinions and visions available to the delegates at the CND.



The 39 Youth Forum 2020 participants represented 32 countries and interacted with one another over the course of 3 days through a series of discussions and group work in order to jointly develop and deliver a statement in the CND Plenary. The youth, age 14 – 23, shared their experiences, passions, and visions on how to achieve a safer and healthier future for their peers.