



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS VIENNA

65th OF THE COMMISSION ON
session NARCOTIC DRUGS 2022

SIDE EVENTS REPORT

14-18 MARCH 2022

65th session OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS 2022

In the framework of the 65th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, over 120 side events took place, as well as a Youth Forum, an Informal Scientific Network meeting and a Demonstration of the UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs. This report aims to provide an overview of the broad variety of events organized.

DISCLAIMER: Views expressed in the report are those of the organizers of the side events and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Secretariat. This is an informal report, which did not undergo formal editing. The text and pictures were provided by the organizers of the respective side events and compiled by the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies.

Contents

SIDE EVENTS OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE CND	1
JOINT CALL – SCALING UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY COMMITMENTS ON IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES	1
CASC NETWORK: FACILITATING INTERREGIONAL JUDICIAL COOPERATION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING FROM THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE	1
ENDING INEQUALITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS: HOW THE GLOBAL HIV RESPONSE CAN TRANSFORM DRUG POLICY (AND VICE VERSA)	2
YOUTH VACCINATION: EQUIPPING TO BUILD YOUTH’S LIFE IMMUNITY TO COPE WITH CHANGES AND RISKY BEHAVIOUR	2
MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE TREATMENT OF DRUG USE DISORDERS	3
IMPACT OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH ON SUBSTANCE USE: INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE DISPARITIES AND IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES	3
RAPID EVOLUTION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE MEKONG	4
SOUTH AFRICA’S CANNABIS POLICY APPROACH	4
DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH GENDER LENSES: WOMEN’S INVOLVEMENT AND IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES	5
POLICE AND DRUG TREATMENT TOGETHER: THE GLOBAL EMERGENCE OF DEFLECTION AS A HUMANITARIAN CRIME REDUCTION APPROACH TO DRUGS	5
LET’S TALK ABOUT DRUGS – SUBSTANCE EDUCATION AMONG THE YOUTH	6
DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT AND REDUCE SUBSTANCE USE THROUGH THE CADCA MODEL FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE	6
PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION: ADAPTING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	7
EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS FOR HIV PREVENTION AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS AND PEOPLE LIVING IN CLOSED SETTINGS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION	7
IN THE SCOPE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE ROLE OF NGOS IN SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT SERVICES	8
COLLABORATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENTS IN DRUG POLICIES	8
INTRODUCING THE ASIA-PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY COMMON POSITION ON DRUGS	9
DATA-DRIVEN PREVENTION PROGRAMMES FOR FAMILIES	9
INCREASING PREVALENCE OF METHAMPHETAMINE USE IN EUROPE AND ASIA	10
LEGALIZING THE DRUG WARS: A REGULATORY HISTORY OF UNITED NATIONS DRUG CONTROL	10
THE GREEN WAVE HITS EUROPE: RECENT CANNABIS REGULATION INITIATIVES IN EUROPE	11

UNDERSTANDING THE STRUGGLES AND SUCCESSES OF FEMALE SUBSTANCE ABUSERS IN THEIR RECOVERY JOURNEY	11
PREVENTION OF OVERDOSES AND DRUG-RELATED DEATHS	12
IMPACT OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION FROM A SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE	12
PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY IN ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: OUTCOMES OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT 2022	13
PROMOTING A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH IN ADDRESSING AND COUNTERING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM	13
STRENGTHENING ANTI-DRUG COOPERATION IN THE SCO SPACE, SUPPORTING GLOBAL DRUG CONTROL	14
REGULATION OF CRYPTOCURRENCIES AND BUILDING CAPACITIES TO COMBAT THE ONLINE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE IN EASTERN EUROPE	14
PERSON-CENTRED INNOVATIONS IN THE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY	15
FEASIBILITY OF AND NEED FOR LIFE AND SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAMMES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 AND LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH THE PANDEMIC	15
PREVENTING AND INVESTIGATING DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT USED IN THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS: GUIDANCE FOR POLICYMAKERS	16
THE HUMANITARIAN APPROACH TO DRUG POLICY: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND HEALTH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS	16
LINKS BETWEEN DRUGS AND THE ENVIRONMENT	17
EARLY PREVENTION: DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PARADIGM	17
LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: THE RIGHTS-BASED AND DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED APPROACH OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO DRUG POLICIES IN COOPERATION INITIATIVES IN CENTRAL ASIA, LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	18
HUMAN RIGHTS: THE RIGHT TO EQUITABLE HEALTH, SOCIAL AND JUSTICE REMEDIES FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS	18
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN PROVIDING LOW-THRESHOLD AND PRIMARY DRUG TREATMENT	19
THE IMPORTANCE OF PURSUING THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME WITHIN THE DRUG TRAFFICKING VALUE CHAIN	19
INCORPORATION OF GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN DRUG POLICIES	20
THE ROLE OF CARICC IN COMBATING DRUG TRAFFICKING, TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED AND ASSOCIATED TERRORISM AT REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL LEVELS WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE NORTHERN ROUTE	20
DRUG POLICIES IN CONTEXT: POVERTY, CRIMINALIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN	21
CURRENT CHALLENGES OF ASIA AS A TRANSIT DRUG TRAFFICKING REGION: IMPACTS ON DRUG USE	21
ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SUPPORT TO CENTRAL ASIAN STATES IN ADDRESSING THE DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING PROBLEM	22
DRUG POLICY IN ASIA: THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES	22
MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION TO PRIORITIZE PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE THROUGH THE CADCA COMMUNITY CHANGE MODEL	23
DRIVING CHANGE FROM A SHRINKING SPACE: CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVE CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN DRUG POLICYMAKING	23
COUNTERING DRUG TRAFFICKING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC – PAKISTAN’S EXPERIENCE	24
STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COUNTERING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND DRUG-RELATED MONEY-LAUNDERING WITH THE MISUSE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES	24
THE DRUG SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN: WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ADDRESS IT?	25
THE INEQUALITIES THAT DRIVE THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS AND PEOPLE IN PRISONS	25
#LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR DISPLACED POPULATIONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN ACUTE AND PROTRACTED EMERGENCIES	26
THE GLOBAL DRUG POLICY INDEX 2021: A GLOBAL TOOL FOR EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY	26
CROSS-CUTTING EVIDENCED-BASED INTERVENTIONS ON DRUGS AND CRIME IN AFRICA FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNODC STRATEGIC VISION FOR AFRICA	27
THE ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL LEVEL IN THE PREVENTION OF DRUG ADDICTION	27
SOCIAL SUPPORT EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESS PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS	28

STIGMATIZATION FACING WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS: THE NEED FOR TAILOR-MADE TREATMENT SERVICES	28
THE EARLY WARNING SUBSYSTEM OF THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC DRUG POLICY – AN INNOVATION OF A FEDERATIVE COUNTRY	29
CAUSE AND EFFECT – MAKING THE CASE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED DRUG POLICY	29
FACILITATING ACCESS TO EVIDENCE-BASED DEMAND REDUCTION SERVICES FOR MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS	30
ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL SYNTHETIC DRUG PROBLEM: UNODC SYNTHETIC DRUG STRATEGY	30
FROM COERCION TO COHESION: INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH-CARE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DRUG USE DISORDERS AND ASSOCIATED MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS IN CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SETTING	31
CHALLENGING STIGMA AROUND ADDICTION AND RECOVERY – STRENGTH-BASED APPROACHES	31
ONLINE TRAFFICKING OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS AND SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS: A GROWING THREAT	32
ON THE ACCESS TO TRAMADOL AND PREVENTING ITS DIVERSIFICATION TO ILLICIT MARKETS IN THE AFRICA REGION	32
CHALLENGING THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY AND MARGINALIZATION IN AFRICA – AND BEYOND	33
MAPPING OF DRUG-ASSOCIATED DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES AND THEIR IMPACT ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: JOINT UNDP-UNODC PERNAMBUCO EXPERIENCE IN BRAZIL AND OTHER SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH	33
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES, TRAINING AND PREVENTION PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCO-TERRORISM	34
LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF INTRA-UTERUS EXPOSURE TO SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS	34
GLOBAL ACCESS TO MEDICINAL CANNABIS: PROGRAMMES, CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS	35
NARCOTICS RIVER: THE FLOW OF “CAPTAGON” AND THE NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE “TROPICAMIDE”	35
PREVENTION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES IN THE CUSTOMS SERVICE	36
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AFTER CANNABIS RECLASSIFICATION: EXPANDING RESEARCH, PROMOTING HIGH STANDARDS AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH	36
THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG OFFENCES: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPACT ON FOREIGN NATIONALS	37
NORDIC DECRIMINALIZATION AND CRIMINALIZATION MODELS – LESSONS LEARNED	37
INCREASING EARLY TREATMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF OFFENDERS WITH DRUG DEPENDENCE	38
WON’T SOMEBODY THINK OF THE CHILDREN? YOUTH WELFARE IN DRUG POLICY	38
THE SHORTCOMINGS AND SIDE EFFECTS OF SUBSTANCE SCHEDULING	39
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PARENTAL DRUG USE: CURRENT GAPS AND PROMISING PRACTICES	39
DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN: IDENTIFICATION AND PROGRAMME SUCCESS STORIES	40
INCREASING AND ENSURING ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL CONTROLLED MEDICINES, INCLUDING DURING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PANDEMIC	40
SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION STRATEGY (COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR) TO STRENGTHEN THE INTERDICTION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND CHEMICAL PRECURSORS: A MODEL TO FOLLOW ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	41
NEW APPROACHES TO NATIONAL NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE CONTROL – WHAT ARE “GENERIC APPROACHES”?	41
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESPONSES IN PAKISTAN TO DRUGS AND CRIME IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT REGIONAL CHALLENGES 2022–2025	42
PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR THE PROHIBITION OF ARBITRARY DETENTION IN THE CONTEXT OF DRUG CONTROL MEASURES	42
PROMOTING EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN COLLABORATION WITH MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	43
DECRIMINALIZATION IN THE AMERICAS: TOWARDS A MORE HUMANE DRUG POLICY	43
GLOBAL RISKS OF CANNABIS COMMERCIALIZATION: LESSONS LEARNED FROM TARGETED MARKETING STRATEGIES TOWARDS WOMEN	44
JOINING EFFORTS TO MAKE BETTER DATA ON DRUGS IN AFRICA A REALITY	44
RESPONDING TO DRUG-RELATED CHALLENGES IN CYBERSPACE: VULNERABILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE CIVIL SOCIETY	45
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR REPORTING CANNABIS AND CANNABIS-RELATED SUBSTANCES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES	45
INCREASING USE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AMONG YOUTH IN THE AMERICA AND EURASIA REGION	46

ACCESSIBILITY TO DRUG MARKETS: INCREASING RISK IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA	46
THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS ON DRUG TRAFFICKING AND SOCIAL IMPACT IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA	47
LESSONS LEARNED FROM COMMERCIAL MARIJUANA	47
THE POSSIBILITIES OF EARLY, PROACTIVE INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DEVELOPING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS: A PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH APPROACH	48
COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED SCIENTIFIC STRATEGY TO COUNTER DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING	48
THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS IN MITIGATING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC/BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	49
CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESS CASE – COLOMBIA	49
UNODC SYNTHETIC DRUG STRATEGY: TACKLING THE GLOBAL SYNTHETIC DRUG PROBLEM THROUGH AIR-CARGO SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	50
IN THE CONTEXT OF ACCESSIBILITY: HOW DIGITAL TOOLS CAN BE USED IN PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES	50
CANNABIS: NEW PREVENTION POLICIES BETWEEN MYTHS AND FACTS	51
PEOPLE IN RECOVERY AND STIGMA: BARRIERS AND STRENGTHS IN THEIR PATHWAYS	51
MITIGATING THE RISKS OF CORPORATE CAPTURE IN EMERGING LEGAL CANNABIS MARKETS	52
OPEN WOUND: EXTRAJUDICIAL DRUG WAR KILLINGS IN 2022	52
MOTHERHOOD AND DRUG USE: EMERGING RESEARCH AND ON-THE-GROUND EVIDENCE	53
RESPONSIBLE LEGAL REGULATION OF DRUGS: A PATHWAY TO GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PLANETARY HEALTH	53
REACHING GLOBAL AIDS TARGETS THROUGH HARM REDUCTION AND REFORM OF RESTRICTIVE DRUG POLICY FRAMEWORKS	54
DRONES, OPEN DATA AND MORE: NOVEL METHODS IN MONITORING ILLICIT CROP CULTIVATION ..	54
PROJECT MEXK54 ILLICIT CROP MONITORING IN THE MEXICAN TERRITORY SYSTEM: ILLICIT CROP MONITORING – 10 YEARS OF MEXICAN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS	55
SHARING THE EXPERIENCES OF BRAZIL AND MEXICO IN SOCIAL PROTECTION AND PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN THE CONTEXT OF DETENTION CONTROL HEARINGS	55
DISPARITIES IN ACCESS TO INTERNATIONALLY CONTROLLED ESSENTIAL MEDICINES IN THE CARIBBEAN	56
SUFFERING IN THE SHADOWS: THE IMPACT OF DRUG-RELATED INCARCERATION ON FAMILY MEMBERS	56
DRUGS AND ELECTIONS: HOW TO ADVANCE DRUG POLICY REFORM	57
WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS: INTERSECTING INJUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY	57
ADDITIONAL EVENTS IN THE MARGINS OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE CND	58
UNODC YOUTH FORUM 2022	58
INFORMAL SCIENTIFIC NETWORK MEETING ON THE TOPIC OF SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT AND CARE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN	58
THE IMPACT OF THE INEQUALITIES ON THE DELIVERY OF HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS	59
DEMONSTRATIONS	60
DEMONSTRATION OF THE UN TOOLKIT ON SYNTHETIC DRUGS	60

Side Events of the 65th session of the CND

JOINT CALL – SCALING UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY COMMITMENTS ON IMPROVING THE AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

Monday, 14 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the support of the UNODC Secretariat to the Governing Bodies



On the opening day of the 65th session of the CND, the Chair of the Commission, Ambassador Ghislain D’Hoop of Belgium, together with the Executive Director of UNODC, Ms. Ghada Waly, the Director-General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and the President of INCB, Ms. Jagjit Pavadia, held a Joint Call to Action to raise awareness for the critical need to improve the availability of, and access to controlled medicines globally, including in emergency situations.



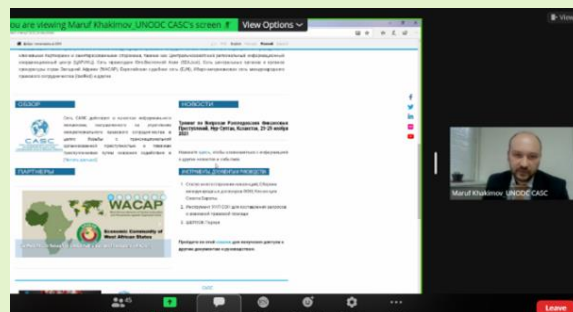
The CND and the UN entities deemed it timely to hold the Joint Call given how recent developments, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, had aggravated the global crisis of lack of access to controlled medicines. National governments and the international community were called upon to honour the international drug policy commitments on improving the availability of, and access to, controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, to ensure that no patient is left behind. #NoPatientLeftBehind

CASC NETWORK: FACILITATING INTERREGIONAL JUDICIAL COOPERATION AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING FROM THE EYE OF THE HURRICANE

Monday, 14 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the UNODC Global Programme for Strengthening Capacities of Member States to Prevent and Combat Organized and Serious Crime with the support of Uzbekistan

The side event was attended by representatives of the Prosecutor General’s Offices of Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, the European Judicial Network and the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP). The event took stock of the achievements and operational results of the *Judicial Cooperation Network for Central Asia and Southern Caucasus (CASC)* in preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus as well as beyond the region. The stakeholders of the meeting presented cases of mutual legal assistance involving illicit drug trafficking that had been facilitated and/or executed with the support of different judicial cooperation networks, including the CASC Network, and advanced recommendations to foster inter-regional judicial cooperation.

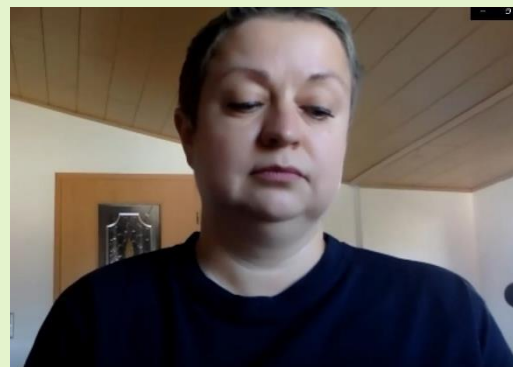


ENDING INEQUALITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS: HOW THE GLOBAL HIV RESPONSE CAN TRANSFORM DRUG POLICY (AND VICE VERSA)

Monday, 14 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Médecins du monde with the support of Australia, the Netherlands, the International Network of People who Use Drugs, UNAIDS and the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section

The side event discussed how new targets on “social enablers” (the 10-10-10 targets) and community-led responses (the 80-60-30 targets) in the Global AIDS Strategy and 2021 Political Declaration could be utilized to inform better approaches to drug policies. Speakers from the community of people who use drugs elaborated on the impact of criminalization, stigma, and discrimination on their everyday lives. Speakers representing UNAIDS and the HIV/AIDS Section of UNODC spoke about the links between the global HIV response and drug policy. Pascalle Grotenhuis, Ambassador for Women’s Rights & Gender Equity for the Netherlands, and Angela Wallbank, Assistant Secretary of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Branch for Australia, shared their respective countries’ commitments to the Global AIDS Strategy and the 2021 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, particularly regarding the central role played by people who use drugs in the response.



YOUTH VACCINATION: EQUIPPING TO BUILD YOUTH’S LIFE IMMUNITY TO COPE WITH CHANGES AND RISKY BEHAVIOUR

Monday, 14 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Thailand

The side event focused on sharing successful endeavours, lessons learned and best practices of the Royal Project Foundation (RPF), Thailand, accumulated over its 50-year experience. Panelists included H.E. General Kampanat Ruddit, the Privy Councilor and Chairman of the RPF Executive Board, followed by interventions from three young farmers from the highlands speaking as catalysts for sustainable development. As childhood was the critical stage of



human development, the panelists emphasized the role of RPF intervention in the Youth Vaccination Program in building strong immunity for drug abuse prevention in highland children and youth. The panel also highlighted the RPF’s firm determination to reduce vulnerability and inequality while strengthening self-reliance, immunity and resilience of the local communities, regardless of age, gender, race and ethnicity, to enable them to handle uncertain difficult circumstances and challenges, in line with the Leave No One Behind principle, driving for the overall achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE TREATMENT OF DRUG USE DISORDERS

Monday, 14 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Sweden with the support of Mexico, and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the World Health Organization

The side event brought together some 70 participants with the twofold aim of discussing, on the one hand, existing gender inequalities in the treatment of drug use disorders, and on the other, violence against women and the increased

risk that female drug users encountered in that respect. According to the statistics presented, women and girls remained underrepresented in drug-treatment programs. That was of serious concern considering the central role that equity in health played in achieving gender equality. All panelists agreed that more needed to be done in that field and that international cooperation was critical, including through sharing experiences between key actors and through starting to use already available tools. The side event was moderated by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations in Vienna, Annika Markovic.

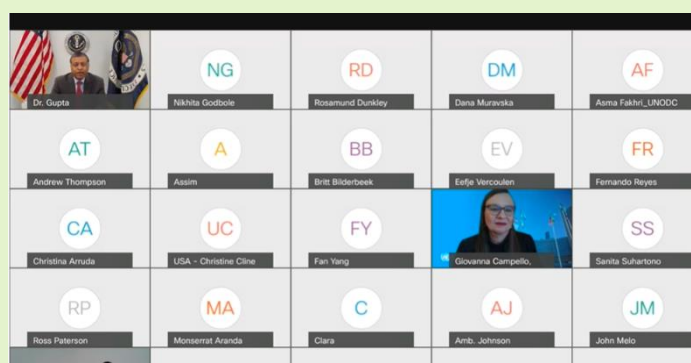


IMPACT OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH ON SUBSTANCE USE: INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE DISPARITIES AND IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

Monday, 14 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the United States with the support of Canada, Chile, and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

In the opening remarks, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy of the United States underscored the critical importance of addressing the risk factors, circumstances, and social contexts that could lead to the development of substance use disorders. Panelists from Canada, Chile, the United States, and UNODC stressed that socioeconomic marginalization was linked to poor health outcomes and mental health challenges, and highlighted relevant effective interventions mentioned in the International Standards for Drug Use Prevention. Panelists also presented efforts to utilize public health data to enhance drug use prevention programs, emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to reducing substance use and expressed the importance of addressing challenges with racial equity in access to healthcare.



RAPID EVOLUTION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE MEKONG

Monday, 14 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by China with the support of Thailand

The side event was opened by the Deputy Secretary-General of China's National Narcotics Control Commission (NNCC), Mr. Xiong Desheng, the Director of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Thailand's Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Mr. Apikit Ch. Rojprasert, and the Regional Representative of UNODC's Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Jeremy Douglas. Delegations from other Member States under the Memorandum of Understanding on Drug Control of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Mekong MOU), representatives from the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and major donors attended the side event as well. The side event provided an in-depth and up-to-date overview of the regional drug situation and key findings from a recent threat assessment conducted along the northeast border of Thailand with Lao People's Democratic Republic, where drug syndicates had quickly adapted to the law enforcement efforts in other parts of the region and moved large shipment to that vulnerable area.



SOUTH AFRICA'S CANNABIS POLICY APPROACH

Monday, 14 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by South Africa



The side event demonstrated South Africa's transparent approach to crafting a responsible Cannabis Policy, following the ruling of the Constitutional Court in September 2018, which had declared the legislation criminalizing the use, possession, purchase and cultivation of cannabis as unconstitutional. The event illustrated South Africa's compliance with the three international drug control conventions in countering the world drug problem while at the same time respecting the decision of the Constitutional Court. South Africa's Department of Justice and Constitutional Development provided a comprehensive update on legal compliance with the court decision through South Africa's Cannabis for Private Purposes Bill. The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority presented on the national Cannabis Regulatory Framework: Licenses, Permits and Products Registration. To further demonstrate South Africa's scientific and evidence-based approach and inclusive policy, the Cannabis Research Institute presented on cannabis and cannabinoid therapy management, and provided an overview of the work undertaken at the Institute.

DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH GENDER LENSES: WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT AND IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES

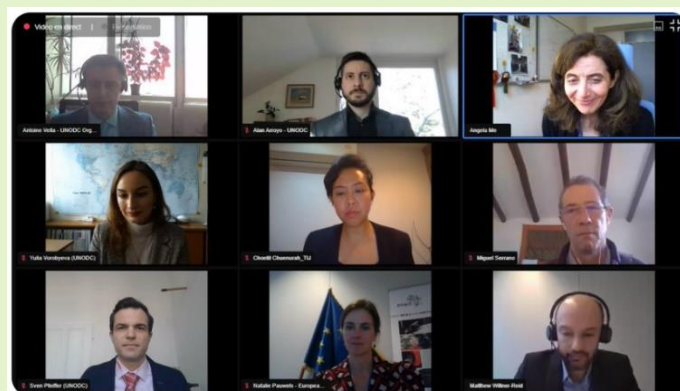
Monday, 14 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Drug Research Section

The event approached the topic of drug trafficking from the recognition that the individuals involved in the drug supply chain were women and men with their circumstances and identities – an approach that called for due attention to the gender dimension and consideration of the specificities relating to women.

The panelists presented perspectives from different world regions and combined presentations of research work with interventions dwelling on policy implications. During the side event, the UNODC research publication “Women in the cocaine supply chain” was launched, the third issue in the UNODC series “Cocaine Insights”.

The event attracted more than 140 participants from a geographically diverse range of countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe. It was organized as part of the UNODC project on "Strengthening Criminal Investigation and criminal justice cooperation along drug trafficking routes" (CRIMJUST), within the framework of the Global Illicit Flows Programme of the European Union.



POLICE AND DRUG TREATMENT TOGETHER: THE GLOBAL EMERGENCE OF DEFLECTION AS A HUMANITARIAN CRIME REDUCTION APPROACH TO DRUGS

Monday, 14 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Chicago Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities Inc. with the support of the Council of Europe – Pompidou Group, the European Institute for Multidisciplinary Studies on Human Rights and Science, the Police, Treatment and Community Collaborative and the Villa Maraini Foundation

The panel described the emerging global movement and field of practice entitled “Deflection”, which created community-based, humanitarian approaches to reduce drug use and drug crime. Deflection initiatives lived at the nexus of police, treatment, and community. Deflection was an “upstream”, preventative strategy that reflected the unique context and culture in which it operated. Speakers from Africa (South Africa), the Americas (El Salvador), Asia (Lebanon), and Europe (Macedonia) discussed the state of practice of deflection in their countries, respectively. Speakers from the international organizations stressed the importance of policy to support deflection’s growth, the critical role of law enforcement in deflection, and how deflection could simultaneously be a crime reduction strategy as well as a humanitarian approach.



LET'S TALK ABOUT DRUGS – SUBSTANCE EDUCATION AMONG THE YOUTH

Monday, 14 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Youth Organisations for Drug Action with the support of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association



During the side event, work methods and perspectives of youth workers and peer educators in the education on the substance use, particularly among the youth, were explored. Speakers shared what they had learned through the project, and which approaches they were using in the work with young people.

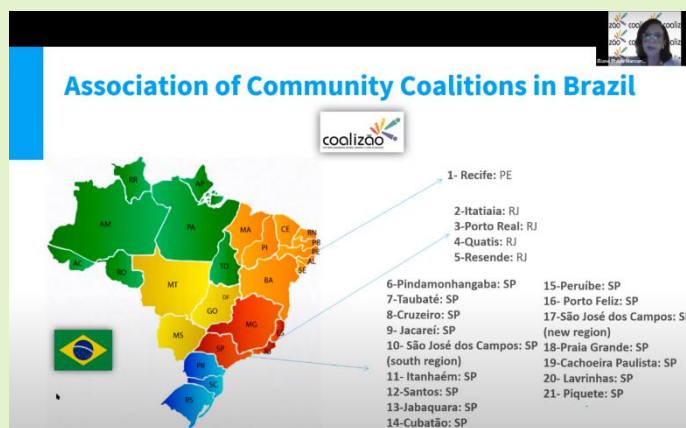
[Recording](#)

DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT AND REDUCE SUBSTANCE USE THROUGH THE CADCA MODEL FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE

Monday, 14 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) with the support of Associação Pró Coalizões do Brasil

The event started with remarks from the International Vice-President of CADCA, Eric Siervo. Fabrizia Barela, the International Manager for CADCA, provided information on key concepts of CADCA's methodology and how it had been applied in various cultural settings to create community coalitions capable of preventing substance use. Eliane Prado Marcondes, Executive Director of the Association Pro Coalitions of Brazil, then presented on her organization and its network of 21 coalitions in Brazil. Case studies were presented focusing on the cities of Pindamonhangaba and Cruzeiro and elaborating on how those coalitions had been formed, had assessed community needs, developed plans and strategies, and had mobilized their communities to bring about sustained community change, which had resulted in the reduction of substance use among the adolescent population.



PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION: ADAPTING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 08.00 - 08.50 a.m.

Organized by Singapore with the support of the ASEAN Training Center for Preventive Drug Education and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

The side event provided a platform for countries to share how they had been adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic to sustain their Preventive Drug Education (PDE) efforts to remain effective in the ‘new normal’.

With close to 90 virtual participants, the speakers presented various aspects of continuing PDE initiatives during the pandemic. Representatives from Singapore’s Central Narcotics Bureau, Ms. Goh Kiat Teng, and the National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA), Ms. Lydia Kung shared information on Singapore’s approach to adapting the PDE strategies to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Kung further shared information about leveraging interactive tools to facilitate meaningful conversations and its collaboration with the right partners to amplify those conversations online.

Dr. Clara Fuderanan from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Training Center for Preventive Drug Education (ATCPDE) presented the approaches taken by different ASEAN Member States to sustain PDE efforts amidst various restrictions and measures undertaken during the pandemic. Ms. Giovanna Campello, from UNODC, shared her experience and best practices for delivering PDE in schools and family settings during the pandemic.

The side event highlighted the importance of continued efforts at various levels to implement PDE initiatives despite the COVID-19 pandemic.



EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS FOR HIV PREVENTION AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS AND PEOPLE LIVING IN CLOSED SETTINGS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 08.00 - 08.50 a.m.

Organized by the UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa

The side event underlined the important progress and implementation of evidence-based HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care among people who use drugs and people living in closed settings.



The Middle East and North African (MENA) region had the lowest HIV prevalence globally (less than 0.1%), with 230,000 people living with HIV in 2020.

Despite its low prevalence, the MENA region had a long road ahead in fully addressing its drug use and AIDS epidemic. The criminalization of drug use and associated law-enforcement practices increased vulnerability of people living with HIV and negatively impacted access to services, and were among the factors driving the epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis C (HCV), and tuberculosis (TB) among people who use drugs.

IN THE SCOPE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE ROLE OF NGOS IN SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT SERVICES

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 08.00 - 08.50 a.m.

Organized by the Udruzenje gradjana Zeleni polumjesec u Bosni i Hercegovini with the support of Enosh – The Israeli Mental Health Association and the Verein Neubeginn

The appearance of the SARS-CoV2 pandemic was unexpected for all people, including government and health professionals, and people who consumed various psychoactive substances or already had symptoms of advanced addiction. The Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations in Vienna, H.E. Sinisa Bencun, highlighting in his opening remarks the significance of the side event. Ms. Liron David from ENOSH, spoke about the experiences her organization faced during the pandemic, as well as about its work model. The last speaker of the side event was Ms. Beyza Kartal from Vereinneubeginn of Austria, who stressed that the immigrants in Austria were the most vulnerable members of the society during the pandemic, and elaborated on how her organization had provided support.

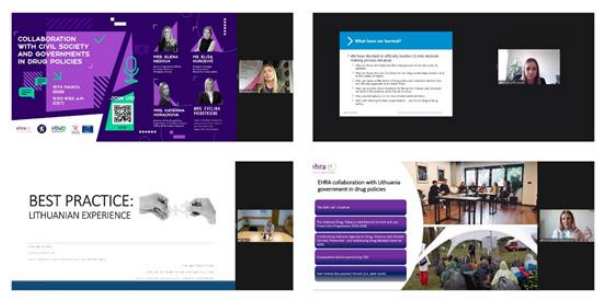


COLLABORATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENTS IN DRUG POLICIES

Tuesday, 15 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by Lithuania with the support of Czechia, and the Council of Europe – Pompidou Group and the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association

During the side event, good practices and the importance of collaboration with civil society and governments in drug policies were presented. “Civil society organizations constitute an important element of the democratic process; they provide citizens with an alternative way alongside those of political parties and lobbies of channeling different views and securing a variety of interests in the policy planning and implementation process”, said Elena Hedoux, Senior Programme Officer in the Council of Europe Pompidou Group.



It was also noted that the civil society input provided an added value to policy considerations, directly contributing to national and EU drugs strategy objectives. The engagement and participation of the public and non-governmental sectors together created the possibilities for discussion, negotiation, re-formulation of policy objectives or areas for their implementation. Continued involvement of civil society and the scientific community was of high importance to the European Union, as they played a crucial role in assessing and addressing the world drug situation.

[Recording](#)

INTRODUCING THE ASIA-PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY COMMON POSITION ON DRUGS

Tuesday, 15 March, 9 - 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs with the support of Australia, and the Associação de Tratamento de Toxicodependentes de Macau, the International Movement for Advancement of Education, Culture, Social and Economic Development, the Pakistan Youth Organization and the UNODC Civil Society Unit

In the context of the side event, the Asia-Pacific Common Position on Drugs, which had been developed to capture a broad consensus among civil society organizations from across the Asia-Pacific region, was presented. The document, supported by roughly 100 organizations, thus, incorporated the perspectives of a wide range of NGOs from across the region and aimed to shape and guide Asia-Pacific civil society and government responses on a long-term basis, serving as a roadmap. A set of recommendations from civil society, mentioning the need for placing human rights, health, and evidence at the center of all drug policies, were introduced by Augusto Nogueira from the Association for Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau and Sana Ullah Rathore from the Pakistan Youth Organization. Moreover, the side event featured diverse voices from the ground by Dr. Kawal Deep Kour from the South Asian Drugs and Addictions Research Council (SADARC) India, Ramli Samad from PENGASIH Malaysia, Ma Inez Feria from No Box Philippines, and Samir Kumar Das from IMASCED India.



DATA-DRIVEN PREVENTION PROGRAMMES FOR FAMILIES

Tuesday, 15 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the Rotarian Action Group Addiction Prevention with the support of Dianova International, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section (PTRS), and the World Federation Against Drugs

During the side event, the Rotary Action Group Addiction Prevention (RAG-AP) presented best practices in prevention for families including the evaluation and measurement of social impact. A toolkit developed by the RAG-AP, which contained each step in qualitative data-driven prevention work for the Rotary Clubs, was also presented. It was mentioned that the city of Maldegem (Belgium) had cooperated with the Rotary on prevention interventions for schools, youth organizations and parents.

Several speakers noted that in the urban slums of Kampala, Uganda, families/parents were vital and the first line of support in creating safety nets and social protection for young people. The Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) adopted a variety of data-driven prevention science interventions to support families and parents.

Dianova International presented the universal prevention program, "Together, We Grow. Families as Health Agents", which aimed to train parents for preventing inappropriate consumption of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, use of technology and risky behaviours.

UNODC PTRS showcased that it supported data-driven prevention projects for families and provided evidence-based programs, especially for families in difficult circumstances.



INCREASING PREVALENCE OF METHAMPHETAMINE USE IN EUROPE AND ASIA

Tuesday, 15 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the Turkish Green Crescent Society (TGCS) with the support of EURAD and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

The side-event reviewed the increasing prevalence of methamphetamine use in Europe and Asia with the moderation of Sedef Erçetin Gençosmanoğlu, the International Cooperation Manager from TGCS. In his opening speech, H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Muhtar Gün, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna, highlighted the significance of meaningful participation of all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels in tackling substance abuse. Prof. Dr. Kültegin Ögel, Consultant of the Green Crescent Counseling Center (YEDAM), emphasized the cruciality of free services provided in prevention and rehabilitation in every region of Turkey by YEDAM. It was also noted that the use of methamphetamine in Turkey was high and most common among people with poor education levels and low income. Giovanna Campello, the Chief of the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, gave a presentation on prevention actions that should be pursued by conveying the global situation in substance abuse. Stig Erik Sorheim from EURAD shared information on the use of methamphetamine as well as treatment options in Europe. The side event was attended by 103 participants.



LEGALIZING THE DRUG WARS: A REGULATORY HISTORY OF UNITED NATIONS DRUG CONTROL

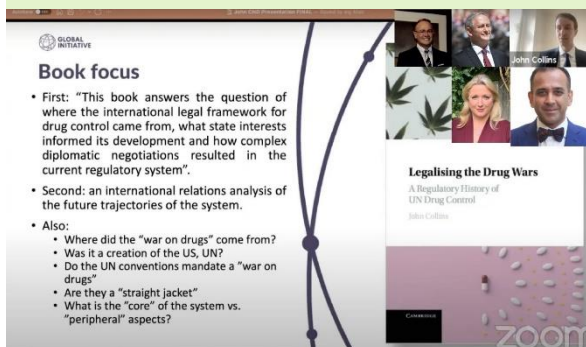
Tuesday, 15 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the World Society of Victimology (WSV) with the support of Mexico, and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC)

Dr. Robert Peacock, WSV President, opened the event by reminding participants of the plight of victims and the need to focus drug policy development on responding to the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups. The GI-TOC Director of Academic Engagement, Dr. John Collins, presented his new book on the history of the UN drug control. In Dr. Collins' book, published by Cambridge University Press, it was argued that the UN drug control system was a far more complex framework than many recognized and that drug policies were becoming more fragmented, with

the system responding by becoming more pluralistic and diverse. That, he argued, would enable the system to evolve and adapt to the future. H.E. Lindsay Skoll, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations in Vienna, praised the system and highlighted the UK's role in the history of the UN drug control system. H.E. Mr. Umej Bhatia, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations in Vienna, praised the book's historical relevance for post-colonial nations and saw it as a reinforcing notion that the system could stand as a bulwark against the global commercialization of the cannabis sector. Mexico's Ambassador Campuzano pointed to the need for greater revisions

of the system and the need to recognize the failings of past strategies.



THE GREEN WAVE HITS EUROPE: RECENT CANNABIS REGULATION INITIATIVES IN EUROPE

Tuesday, 15 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the Forum Droghe Movimento per il Contenimento dei Danni with the support of the Associazione Luca Coscioni, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Transnational Institute (TNI), the Washington Office on Latin America and the Transform Drug Policy Foundation

The event focused on the reform of cannabis policies in Europe and was hosted by Susanna Ronconi (Forum Droghe). Andrew Bonello (reLeaf Malta) highlighted the Malta reform as the first move in Europe, and explained the new decriminalization law, with its merits and shortcomings. Constanza Sanchez (the International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research, and Service) reviewed recent regulatory developments: the Parliament of Luxembourg was considering reforms; the Government of Germany wanted to legally regulate cannabis for non-medical use; in Spain, the experience of the cannabis social club was followed by parliamentary reform initiatives; and in Italy, a referendum on the depenalization of cannabis-related conduct had been proposed but not admitted by the Supreme Court. Tom Blickman (TNI) focused on the international and European frameworks: the cannabis reform had to deal with the international drug control conventions and the European regulations, in particular, Decision 2004/757/JHA. During the Q&A session, Marco Perduca (Associazione Luca Coscioni) presented the European Citizen Initiative that sought to address some of the issues discussed in the event.



[Recording](#) & [Presentations](#)

UNDERSTANDING THE STRUGGLES AND SUCCESSES OF FEMALE SUBSTANCE ABUSERS IN THEIR RECOVERY JOURNEY

Tuesday, 15 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) with the support of the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse and the Turkish Green Crescent Society

The side event discussed experiences and examples that had affected the desistance journey of female substance abusers. The speakers and panelists comprised practitioners in the field of rehabilitation and intervention of female substance abusers, namely Ms. Lowshanthini Panesilvam (SANA), Ms. Evrim Akbas (the Turkish Green Crescent) and Ms. Marta Bucho (the Association Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau).

SANA's presentation covered the topic of *Pathways to Recovery: the Journey of Female Drug Offenders*, and it shared the important function of social support in helping female substance abusers maintain their recovery journey. It was mentioned that for female substance abusers, the motivation to desist would be more challenging as compared to male abusers, as barriers to treatment were higher for female abusers considering their role as caregivers. Female abusers also tended to be more reluctant to get treatment because stigmatization of treatment for substance use disorders appeared to weigh more heavily on women. Speakers highlighted that interventions should adopt a gender-sensitive approach to address the unique needs of female substance abusers and minimize their barriers to treatment.



The speakers also shared their perspectives on managing women in recovery in the context of their countries and alluded to the importance of a community-based treatment approach that integrated rehabilitation with employment support and social reintegration.

Close to 95 participants attended SANA's side event.

PREVENTION OF OVERDOSES AND DRUG-RELATED DEATHS

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Netherlands with the support of Czechia, Estonia, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and the European Union

During the session, participants discussed country-specific and relevant developments, projects and measures to prevent and reduce overdose and drug-related deaths as the ultimate harm of drug use. The event featured panelists from the Health Service Executive Addiction Services in Ireland, the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the National Health Institute of Sweden, the National Institute for Health Development in Estonia and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

Drug-related deaths in Europe



Source: EMCDDA European Drug Report 2021. Note: Data refers to the European Union, except where indicated as EU + 2 (EU, Turkey and Norway). Where 2020 data were not available, 2019 or otherwise most recent data were used. Due to methodological differences and potential under-reporting in some countries, comparisons between countries may not be valid.

IMPACT OF CANNABIS LEGALIZATION FROM A SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch with the support of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy



The side event, attended by 150 participants, presented a wide range of evidence on the evolution of cannabis markets in countries where cannabis had been legalized – 20 jurisdictions in the United States, Canada and Uruguay. In the US, cannabis was regulated more as a commercial enterprise, rather than a public health commodity. The regulations currently focused on licensing, store locations and on-site/off-site consumption. It was mentioned during the side event that legalization had led to a diversification of cannabis products with higher potency, and at the same

time commercialization had reduced retail prices. In terms of public health impacts, such changes were likely to increase the frequency of use, including cannabis products with higher potency, which in turn might lead to more adverse effects on users' health and might increase the prevalence of cannabis dependence. It was concluded that the impact of legalization was context-specific, non-unidirectional and that it could be fully assessed only after a long time.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY IN ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT: OUTCOMES OF THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT 2022

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by Germany with the support of Peru, Thailand, and the UNODC Sustainable Livelihoods Unit

The event presented 65 attendees with the results of the sixth Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development held in January 2022. The topics covered were the environmental challenges and opportunities of alternative development (AD) and market access and the commercialization of AD products, as two key elements to enhance AD sustainability. The panelists focused on the challenges of the increased illicit drug crop cultivation in protected areas in Colombia, the opportunities for AD interventions through the alignment with climate change and environmental international agendas, as well as market access for AD sustainability. The event presented the potential of instruments such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), and carbon credits in AD contexts, based on the cases of Colombia and Thailand respectively, including private sector funding for AD through carbon emission offset, and the contribution of those instruments to ensure sustainable livelihoods while enhance environmental protection. The event also presented insights on market access and the commercialization of AD products based on the Peruvian experience.



PROMOTING A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH IN ADDRESSING AND COUNTERING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the World Health Organization (WHO)

The side event was opened by Mariângela Simão, Assistant Director-General, Access to Medicines and Health Products, followed by Gilles Forte who addressed the WHO's role under the international drug control conventions and work for improving access to controlled medicines. Devora Kestel (Director, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Use) provided an update on prevention and management of drug use and drug use disorders, among other topics covering following issues: COVID-19 impact, overdose prevention, the International Classification of Diseases - 11th Revision (ICD-11), and the recent launch of the Interagency Technical Working Group on drug prevention, treatment and care co-led by WHO and UNODC. Meg Doherty (Director, HIV, Hepatitis, STI) updated participants on WHO activities in the area of prevention of HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections, highlighting the need for equitable access to harm reduction and other essential health services for people who use drugs.



STRENGTHENING ANTI-DRUG COOPERATION IN THE SCO SPACE, SUPPORTING GLOBAL DRUG CONTROL

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) with the support of the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, and the UNODC Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia



The side event aimed at discussing the practical implementation of the resolution entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”, adopted by the 75th session of the UN General Assembly on March 25, 2021. The resolution had recognized the significant role of the SCO in countering the world drug problem and welcomed its further cooperation in that area with UNODC.

Participants exchanged views on strengthening and expanding anti-drug cooperation in order to prepare a consolidated response to the global drug problem. In that regard, participants stressed the special importance of the SCO's interaction with UNODC and advocated the continuation of the practice of holding joint events on the sidelines of the UN

Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Representatives of the SCO Member States provided extensive information on the situation and respective national measures in the field of drug control.

Furthermore, participants stressed the importance of further deepening cooperation with all interested States and multilateral structures, including using the potential of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Paris Pact Initiative.

REGULATION OF CRYPTOCURRENCIES AND BUILDING CAPACITIES TO COMBAT THE ONLINE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE IN EASTERN EUROPE

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)



Participants focused on how money laundering, linked to organized crime, had undermined security and stability in the OSCE region, and presented the experience of OSCE and UNODC joint activities in mitigating money-laundering risks of cryptocurrency use. The event looked into available solutions for the regulation of cryptocurrencies and rapid capacity building for supervisors, law enforcement, and anti-money laundering and drug control agencies. During the event, speakers presented some insights on the crypto market and its criminal elements, such as illicit drug trade, as well as tracing and seizure of virtual assets, including their national experiences in the regulation of cryptocurrencies.

PERSON-CENTRED INNOVATIONS IN THE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities with the support of the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association, the Association Proyecto Hombre, Dianova International, the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities, the Federación Latinoamericana de Comunidades Terapéuticas, the Federation of Therapeutic Communities in Asia and the Treatment Communities of America

The event outlined the innovations, networks and connectivity between the therapeutic community (TC) and the larger comprehensive care system, including prevention, intervention, treatment, criminal justice, harm reduction and primary care. It was also highlighted how the TC model had evolved into a person-centered approach, which helped meet the personalized needs of individuals in recovery. The event featured speakers representing TCs across the globe, including the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities (Phaedon Kaloterakis), the Federación Latinoamericana de Comunidades Terapéuticas (Celina Slusselblum), the Federation of Therapeutic Communities in Asia (Martin Infante), the Treatment Communities of America (Edward Carlson), and the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (Gerard Byrne). The side event was moderated by Oriol Esculies from the Association Proyecto Hombre, with additional support from Dianova International.



FEASIBILITY OF AND NEED FOR LIFE AND SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAMMES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 AND LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 12.15 – 13.05

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

The event highlighted the collaboration between UNODC and the Lions Clubs International Foundation's (LCIF) in implementing the social and emotional approach in schools, which had been established across nine countries in Southeast Europe, Central America and West Africa.

The meeting commenced with remarks by Giovanna Campello, Chief of the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and Matthew Kiefer, Global Programme Manager at the LCIF, who discussed the development and expansion of the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence programme (LQSFA). That was followed by presentations on the prioritization of social and emotional learning and early prevention by Wadih Maalouf, Global Programme Manager at UNODC and different field experiences and lessons learned from piloting the LQSFA programme in Croatia and Côte d'Ivoire, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

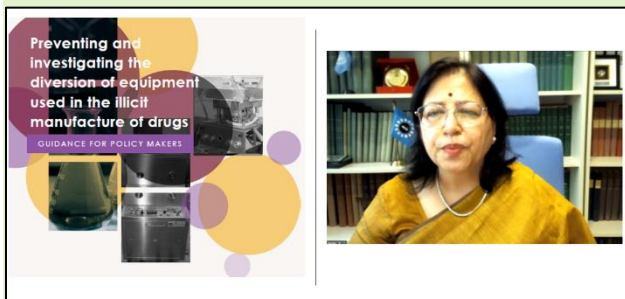


A social pedagogue, presented her experience in expanding the LQSFA programme to other regions in Croatia. One student of the programme, also shared her experience, demonstrating that the LQSFA had been a tremendous help in mitigating stressful situations.

PREVENTING AND INVESTIGATING DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT USED IN THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS: GUIDANCE FOR POLICYMAKERS

Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Precursors Control Section of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) with the support of Canada, Germany, Thailand, the United States and Europol



The event, attended by more than 170 people, was opened by the President of INCB, Ms. Jagjit Pavadia, who launched an awareness-raising and guidance document for policy makers on illicit drug manufacturing equipment and article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (1988 Convention). The document contained various viable options, measures, approaches and tools to guide international policy efforts and action aimed at preventing the diversion of equipment essential for illicit drug manufacture, enhancing the

operational use of article 13 of the 1988 Convention. Moderated by the Chief of the Precursors Control Section of the INCB Secretariat, the event saw experts from the INCB secretariat, Canada, Germany, the United States of America, and Europol showcasing options, good practices and approaches taken to address the use of equipment in illicit drug manufacture.

THE HUMANITARIAN APPROACH TO DRUG POLICY: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND HEALTH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Tuesday, 15 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Italy with the support of the Council of Europe – Pompidou Group, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs

The event, moderated by Flavio Siniscalchi, Head of the Department for Antidrug Policies of Italy, saw the participation of high-level panelists from governmental institutions, international organizations and civil society: Fabiana Dadone, Italian Minister with the mandate for drug policies, Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the UNODC, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group, Massimo Barra of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Joan Mary Marston of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, Mercy Karanja from Kenya, and Ignacia Paéz from Ecuador. The panelists discussed the importance of cooperation between governments, health-based communities and professionals, for the promotion of a humanitarian approach to drug policies that involved civil society, including the experience of the Rome Consensus 2.0. The event showed the existence of a transversal commitment to the implementation of the right to health, granting access to treatment to everyone in need, and avoiding the stigmatization of people who use drugs.



LINKS BETWEEN DRUGS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, 15 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs with the support of France and Germany

Opening remarks were provided by the Director for the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC, Jean-Luc Lemahieu, who emphasized that illicit drug economies were not only a security and development issue but also had significant negative consequences for the environment. Angela Me, Chief of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of UNODC introduced the forthcoming chapter of the World Drug Report 2022, which was dedicated to assessing the impact of drug cultivation, production and trafficking on the environment, as well as the impact of drug policies in general. Presentations also focused on harmful pathways, for example, the bearing of synthetic drug production on wastewater. Approaches to combine environmental and drug policies were also presented. Best practice examples were highlighted, such as the use of carbon credit schemes in Thailand and payment for ecosystem services (PES) in Colombia. The event was attended by 90 participants.



EARLY PREVENTION: DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PARADIGM

Tuesday, 15 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Slovenia with the support of Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Serbia, the European Union, and Institute Utrip and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

During the side event, more than 60 attendees had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest developments in the science of prevention. It was noted that following the publication of the *UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, new perspectives had shown the vital importance of effective evidence-based prevention measures and activities and their contribution to the strengthening of cognitive, emotional, social, and behavioural competency skills of children and youth at every stage of their development.



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: THE RIGHTS-BASED AND DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED APPROACH OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO DRUG POLICIES IN COOPERATION INITIATIVES IN CENTRAL ASIA, LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Tuesday, 15 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Spain with the support of Germany, Paraguay, and the European Union (EU) and the European Union Delegation to Kyrgyzstan

The event focused on the importance of the EU's rights-based and development-oriented approach to tackling challenges related to global drug policies under the modified world's economy and the social context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chaired by Joan R. Villalbí, Government Delegate for the National Plan on Drugs, Ministry of Health, Spain, panelists from Germany, Italy, Paraguay and the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic agreed on the importance and the need for EU-funded international cooperation initiatives to foster drug policies

based on public health, equity, proportionality, development, and human rights. Regional cooperation programmes such as the Cooperation programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD III) and the Central Asian Drug Action Programme (CADAP 7), funded by the EU and led by Spain, were key tools that contributed to establishing evidence-based approaches for effective and balanced drug policies.



HUMAN RIGHTS: THE RIGHT TO EQUITABLE HEALTH, SOCIAL AND JUSTICE REMEDIES FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

Tuesday, 15 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Malta with the support of Canada, Portugal, Switzerland and the Council of Europe – Pompidou Group

The side event, moderated by H.E. Ms. Natasha Meli Daudey, Permanent Representative of Malta to the OSCE, the UN and other International Organisations in Vienna, attracted about 50 participants. It aimed to raise awareness of the importance of a human rights-centred approach to drug policies and to explore ways to better reflect that by offering the necessary remedies to people who use drugs

The speakers included Dr. João Goulão (Chair of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe and National Coordinator for Drugs and Alcohol Problems, Portugal), Dr. Miriam Estrada-Castillo (Chair-Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Detention), Mr. Pavlo Pushkar (Head of Division at the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), Directorate General of Human Rights and the Rule of Law of the Council of Europe (CoE)) and Mr. Thomas Kattau (Deputy Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group).

The discussion focused on the universality of human rights and the importance of ensuring equitable access to judiciary services, health care and social support in order to prevent discrimination against people who use drugs. The event further underscored the necessary shift away from punitive measures and towards harm reduction efforts in the implementation of drug policy. In that respect, panelists concurred that the possession and personal use of drugs should be decriminalized and alternatives to incarceration and appropriate sentences must be ensured, based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT IN PROVIDING LOW-THRESHOLD AND PRIMARY DRUG TREATMENT

Tuesday, 15 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Indonesia with the support of Japan and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section



The side event shared lessons learned in engaging local communities in providing low-threshold simple drug treatment as well as preventing overdose. Information was shared on associated challenges, such as the need to build simple and more technical training modules and also to involve recovering drug users. Interim evaluation showed that the community empowerment programmes had a strong positive output in minimizing the negative impact of drug use. For example, such programmes could increase the quality of life, prevent those at early stage of drug use from progressing into addiction, and prevent mortality among heroin addicts.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PURSUING THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME WITHIN THE DRUG TRAFFICKING VALUE CHAIN

Tuesday, 15 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Colombia with the support of Costa Rica

The side event gathered about 243 attendees from 21 countries around the world. National entities and international stakeholders shared their experiences and best practices on dismantling and disrupting criminal structures and confiscating revenues from drug trafficking and other crimes. The challenges shared by the international community in ensuring more coordinated, articulated and integrated actions by States were reiterated. Speakers underscored the importance of promoting greater judicial cooperation and prioritizing high strategic value objectives against the



various threats arising from the new typologies, features, dynamics and trends of criminal organizations in drug trafficking and money laundering.

Reciprocity was also highlighted as a crucial element in money laundering prevention and for actions aimed at facilitating the exchange of information with the private sector, financial institutions, and other fields. Regarding new threats such as the use of crypto-assets for money laundering, the need to promote international regulatory harmonization for preventing, controlling, and tracing operations was highlighted, which would contribute to the advancement of innovation and technology in countering money-laundering arising from drug trafficking.

INCORPORATION OF A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN DRUG POLICIES

Tuesday, 15 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States (OAS/CICAD) with the support of Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States



The event featured a discussion on mainstreaming a gender perspective into formulating, implementing, updating, monitoring and evaluating drug policies among OAS Member States, to understand how countries were taking necessary action to achieve that important goal. Gender was a core element of OAS/CICAD's Hemispheric Drug Strategy (2020) and its corresponding Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs (2021-2025), which had been approved by consensus by Member States in 2020.

The session provided interesting perspectives and important best practices that contributed to closing the gender gap within the drug policy framework. It also encouraged reflection on current challenges faced in that area and discussions on possible initiatives that would reinforce the inclusion of a gender perspective at all levels of drug policy. Finally, the panelists emphasized the importance of awareness-raising, conducting research, training, and inter-institutional coordination in gender mainstreaming.

[Recordings](#)

THE ROLE OF CARICC IN COMBATING DRUG TRAFFICKING, TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED AND ASSOCIATED TERRORISM AT REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL LEVELS WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE NORTHERN ROUTE

Tuesday, 15 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC)

The side event featured a video and a detailed presentation with information about the activities of the CARICC, its goals, objectives, achievements and long-term plans.

It was noted that in the context of the situation in Afghanistan, the CARICC possessed the potential that could be used at the international level not only in countering the world drug problem, but also in countering transnational organized crime, terrorism, extremism, human trafficking and cybercrime.

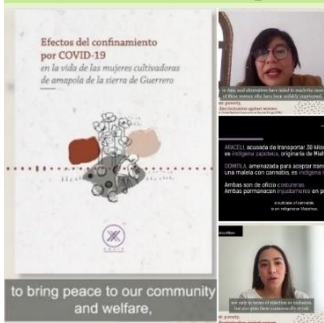
Emphasis was placed on the need for uninterrupted financing of CARICC activities by existing donors and through self-financing by the participating states, as well as through attracting new partners.



DRUG POLICIES IN CONTEXT: POVERTY, CRIMINALIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Wednesday, 16 March, 8 – 8.50 a.m.

Organized by the *Equis: Justicia para las Mujeres* with the support of the Washington Office on Latin America



The side event focused on the consequences of the implementation of a punitive policy against drugs. Based on the voices of three women cultivating poppy, the EQUIS elaborated on some of the biggest impacts of that policy. The testimonies described the relationship between poverty and the practice taught by parents that cultivation was a way of life, a job, and a source of income. Nevertheless, the three women recognized risks such as potential arrest, fumigation of crops and loss of their investments.

Also, the testimony of a woman released from a prison highlighted the difficulties faced to get a well-paid job and apply for scholarships for her children, in the absence of an identification card

EQUIS screened “A song of Liberty”, a short video about two indigenous women who were currently imprisoned for engaging in trafficking in cannabis.

CURRENT CHALLENGES OF ASIA AS A TRANSIT DRUG TRAFFICKING REGION: IMPACTS ON DRUG USE

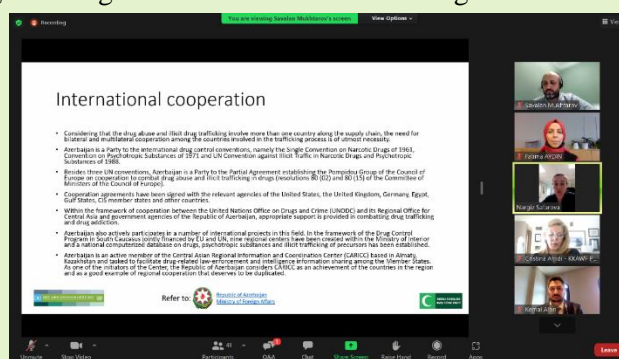
Wednesday, 16 March, 8 – 8.50 a.m.

Organized by *ZƏRƏRLİ VƏRDIŞLƏRƏ QARŞI İCTİMAİ BİRLİYİ* with the support of the *Afghanistan Green Crescent Organization* and the *Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation*

During the side event, Savalan Mukhtarov and Dr. Nargis Safarova provided information on how Azerbaijan had been affected by drug trafficking as a transit country and highlighted what preventive measures had been taken at a government level. The impact of COVID–19 on drug trafficking and drug use was also discussed during the session.

Dr. Hakimullah Salih, representative of the Afghanistan Green Crescent Organization provided information on the current situation of Afghanistan in terms of drug use, drug production/cultivation and drug trafficking.

Ms. Cristina Afridi, founder of the Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation, focused on the rising trend of drug use worldwide, including in Pakistan.



ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SUPPORT TO CENTRAL ASIAN STATES IN ADDRESSING THE DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING PROBLEM

Wednesday, 16 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by France with the support of Kazakhstan, CARICC, the European Union, INTERPOL and the Paris Pact Initiative of the UNODC Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia

The side event gathered high-level panelists from international and regional organizations involved in countering illicit drug trafficking in Central Asia and was attended by more than 70 persons. The panelists presented their respective organizations' assessments, priorities and actions taken on the ground. The idea was to bring together policy and operational realms to the same table and address the evolving situation in the region following the recent



developments in Afghanistan. The side event highlighted the necessity of increased coordination among a wide variety of international institutions to efficiently address the drug problem and its impact on the Central Asian states and, to some extent, Europe. Coordination among law enforcement and intelligence agencies appeared to be a key instrument to promote knowledge-gathering, investigation, and enforcement on the ground. The panelists cited a holistic approach as an effective tool to adapt to the uncertainty and dynamic challenges in the region.

DRUG POLICY IN ASIA: THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific with the support of the Health and Opportunity Network, the International Drug Policy Consortium and Persatuan Insaf Murni Malaysia

The side event discussed the impact of drug policies on intersectional communities in Asia. Yatie Jonet, Communications Officer from the Persatuan Insaf Murni Malaysia presented their research on women, transgender people, sex workers, spouses and youth who use drugs, and youth with parents who use drugs. Yasir Ali Khan, Founder of the HIV Buddies in Pakistan, spoke about the lack of support and access to drug treatment services for men who have had sex with men and transgender people who use drugs. Thissadee Sawangying, the founder of the Health & Opportunity Network in Thailand, presented the challenges faced by LGBTQI+ people and sex workers who use drugs, during their work to prevent and counter stigmatization, discrimination and human rights abuses. Vashti Rebong, Programme Officer of the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, moderated the discussion.

[Summary of the recording](#)

DRUG POLICY IN ASIA: THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

65th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs - ONLINE SIDE EVENT - REGISTER: bit.ly/3SLC699
Wednesday, 16th March 2022, 9:00 - 9:50 (CET - Vienna)

Co-sponsored by International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, Health Opportunity Network, Insaf Murni Malaysia and the International Drug Policy Consortium

The impacts of drug policies are not the same for every person. They can differ according to ethnicity, gender, sexuality, citizenship and socio-economic status. Throughout Asia, these differing impacts are seen in the higher rates of incarceration for women, the disproportionate number of people of a particular group targeted by law enforcement operations and on death row, and the dire lack of access to harm reduction services for women and LGBTQ+ people. At this side event, civil society representatives will present on their progress in adopting intersectional perspectives in their advocacy relating to drug policy, with a specific focus on gender, sexuality and citizenship status.

Speakers:

- Yatie Jonet, Communications Officer, Persatuan Insaf Murni Malaysia
- Yasir Ali Khan, Founder, HIV Buddies, Pakistan
- Thissadee Sawangying, Founder, Health & Opportunity Network, Thailand

Moderator: Vashti Rebong, Programme Officer, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific

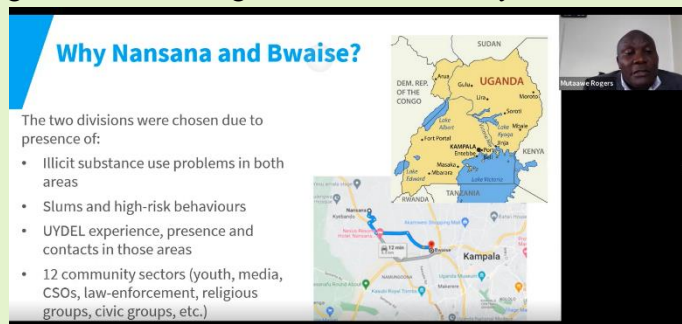


MULTI-SECTOR COLLABORATION TO PRIORITIZE PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE THROUGH THE CADCA COMMUNITY CHANGE MODEL

Wednesday, 16 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) with the support of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)

The Executive Director of UYDEL, Rogers Kasirye, delivered opening remarks and welcomed over 70 attendees to the event. During the event, CADCA's Senior Manager, Ewelina Wojno, introduced CADCA's Coalition Model for Community Change. UYDEL's Senior Program Manager, Mutaawe Rogers, shared the story of coalition development in Uganda and the work that UYDEL had done to support coalitions in their efforts to reduce substance use in their communities. Nakanjako Hajara, Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the Bwaise Drug Free Coalition, and Nakintu Grace, Chairperson of the Planning Committee of the Nansana Division Coalition Against Drugs, then presented the work of their coalitions and how they had applied CADCA's Model to achieve community-level change.



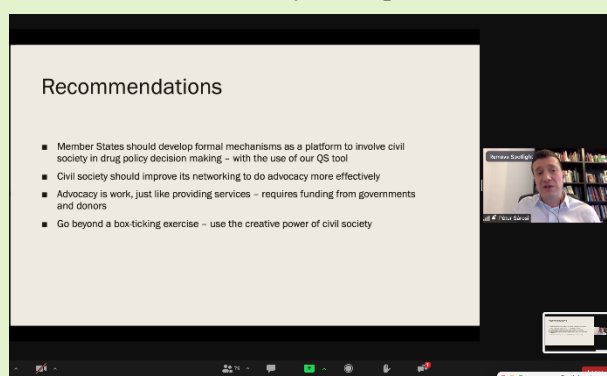
DRIVING CHANGE FROM A SHRINKING SPACE: CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVE CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN DRUG POLICYMAKING

Wednesday, 16 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the Brussels Federation of Institutions for Drug Addicts with the support of Czechia, the Civil Society Forum on Drugs in the EU (CSFD), the Council of Europe – Pompidou Group, the European Union and the French NGO Platform on Drug Policy (EuroNPUD)

The side event underscored that the participation of civil society and communities was essential to ensure that drug policies were effective, based on evidence, health and human rights. After a few words by the representative of the European Commission expressing support for the civil society, Peter Sarosi (the Rights Report Foundation), opened the debate by presenting the CSFD report on [Quality Standards for Civil Society Involvement in Drug Policy](#), and also reflected on the different ways in which the space for civil society was shrinking in the European context. Matej Kosir (the Institute UTRIP and the Vienna NGO Committee) shared his thoughts concerning the impact of COVID-19 on advocacy at the international level, whereas Joana Canedo (the Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos & the EuroNPUD), urged policymakers to provide funding for drug responses grounded on peer work, adopting an intersectional approach. The event was finalized with closing remarks by the Czech Republic and the Pompidou Group.

[Summary](#) & [Recording](#)

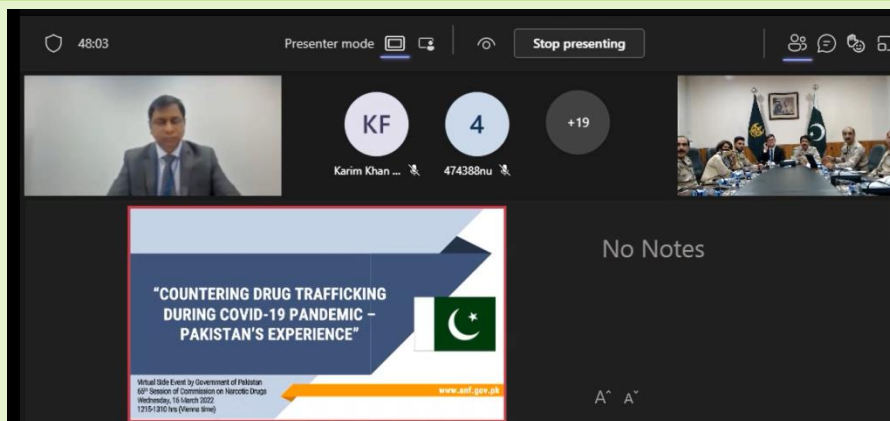


COUNTERING DRUG TRAFFICKING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC – PAKISTAN'S EXPERIENCE

Wednesday, 16 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by Pakistan

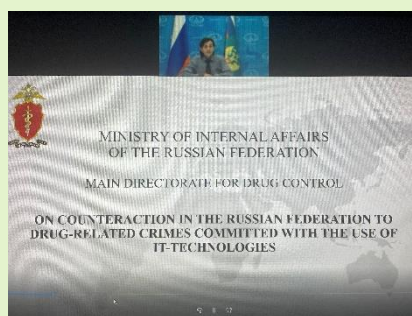
The event highlighted Pakistan's experiences that had led to effective interdiction of illicit drugs with record seizures, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative of the UNODC Country Office in Pakistan, underscored the strong partnership between the Government of Pakistan and UNODC. A presentation was made by Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan reflecting the major counter-narcotics challenges, particularly the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; the initiatives by the Government of Pakistan to address those challenges; and the outstanding dividends achieved through concerted efforts. The drug seizure statistics for pre-COVID and during COVID, i.e., 2018-19 versus 2020-21, had amply resonated that despite multiple challenges, the law enforcement agencies of Pakistan had addressed trafficking in illicit drugs in an outstanding manner. The event was concluded by Major General Ghulam Shabeer Narejo, Director General ANF Pakistan who resolved that Pakistan would continue its wholehearted efforts in a befitting manner to shoulder its responsibilities in stemming the menace of drugs from the region as well as from the world.



STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COUNTERING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND DRUG-RELATED MONEY-LAUNDERING WITH THE MISUSE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

Wednesday, 16 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Russian Federation with the support of China and the UNODC Organized Crime Branch



During the side event, experts from Russia, China, South Africa and UNODC presented their vision of current challenges and best practices in countering relevant crimes. It was acknowledged that during the COVID-19 pandemic, criminals had been increasingly misusing not only postal services, but also electronic platforms, the Internet and Darknet. Cyberspace presented an attractive opportunity for drug

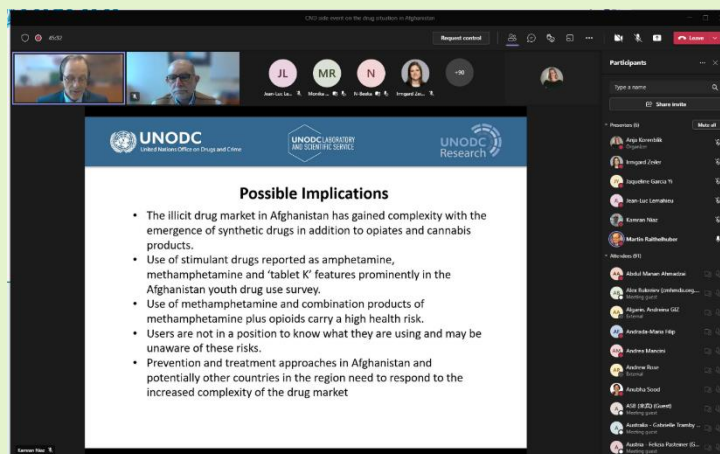
traffickers because there were no geographic impediments in reaching customers. At the same time the communication through the Internet and communication technologies was regarded as anonymous, the detection rate was assumably low and the costs for online shipments to be paid by virtual assets were relatively low. The side event stressed the urgent need to develop international cooperation in that sphere.

THE DRUG SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN: WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ADDRESS IT?

Wednesday, 16 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Programme Development and Management Unit of the UNODC Research and Analysis Branch

The event was chaired by Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director, Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC and attended by some 100 people. Presentations by UNODC research experts focused on the drug use situation in Afghanistan, highlighting that although data were not comprehensive, drug use levels were relatively high, including among youth. Especially the use of Tablet K was worrying as forensic analysis had showed that it might not necessarily contain any MDMA but a range of controlled substances, including methamphetamine, heroin and tramadol. The side event also covered drug supply issues: opium cultivation and production, opiate and methamphetamine trafficking and the impact of alternative development. It was also noted that the lessons learned from past alternative development interventions had provided a basis for improving ongoing and planned interventions to address the drug situation in Afghanistan in a sustainable manner.

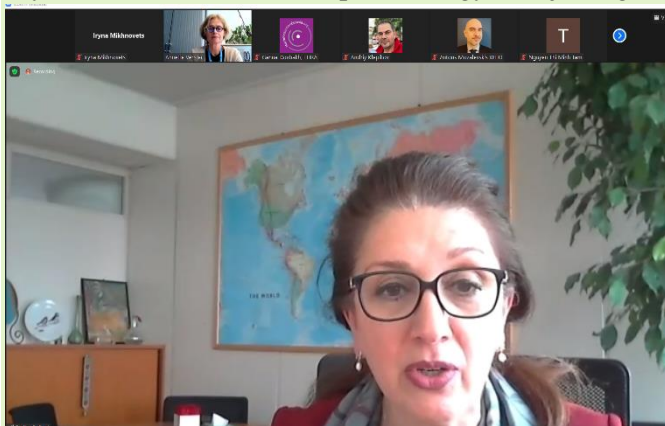


THE INEQUALITIES THAT DRIVE THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS AND PEOPLE IN PRISONS

Wednesday, 16 March, 12:15-13:10

Organized by the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section with the support of the International Network of People who Use Drugs, UNAIDS and the World Health Organization

During the side event, it was noted that the new HIV infections had been reduced by 52% globally since the peak in 1997. Despite the noteworthy progress made, entrenched inequalities remained, especially among the key population and thus, stood in the way of further progress against AIDS and left the world vulnerable to future pandemics. The side event was opened by Fariba Soltani, Chief of HIV/AIDS Section and Global HIV Coordinator, UNODC and moderated by Monica Ciupagea, Expert, Drug Use and HIV, UNODC. The presentations focused on the global systematic reviews of the epidemiology of injecting drug use and HIV; the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the implementation of HIV prevention, treatment, and care services among people who use drugs (PWUD) and people in prisons; and innovative drug treatment and recovery delivery systems in response to COVID-19 in order to promote efficient, accessible and durable opportunities for treatment and recovery. In the presentation from a community perspective in Nepal on the COVID-19 pandemic and community initiatives, the need was stressed for relevant actors to work together with the community in order to bridge the gaps of inequality faced by the key population. The side event gathered over 60 participants and reflected discussions from the dedicated multi-stakeholder consultation conducted on 8-9 March 2022.

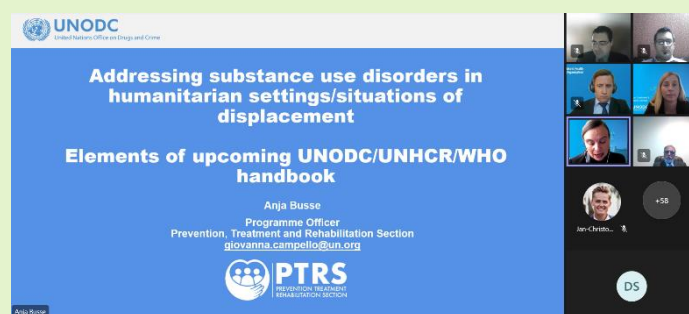


#LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR DISPLACED POPULATIONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN ACUTE AND PROTRACTED EMERGENCIES

Wednesday, 16 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section with the support of Ecuador, the United States, and the New York NGO Committee on Drugs, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and the World Health Organization

The event focused on presenting UNODC's handbook on "addressing substance use disorders in humanitarian settings", which had been developed in coordination with the World Health Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to support humanitarian actors in their efforts to identify relevant needs and resources to address substance use disorders in humanitarian contexts. The event also discussed policy frameworks and effective treatment approaches in humanitarian settings, which were rapidly increasing in significance across the



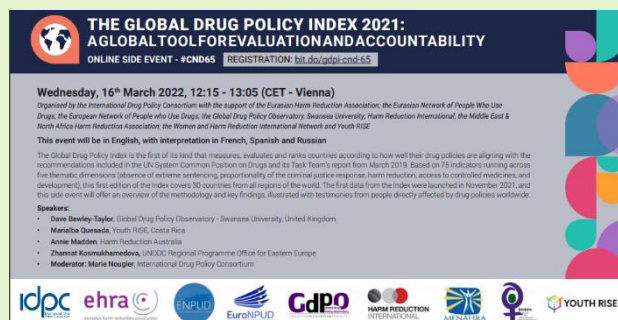
world. Member States and civil society organizations shared national and regional examples and initiatives on the challenges and achievements of providing substance use disorder prevention and treatment services in displacement. The event brought together 65 participants, emphasizing a strong interest in providing effective, accessible, and human rights-based services for people with drug use disorders and the need for continued coordination for access to substance use disorder treatment services in humanitarian settings.

THE GLOBAL DRUG POLICY INDEX 2021: A GLOBAL TOOL FOR EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Wednesday, 16 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the International Drug Policy Consortium with the support of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, the Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs, the European Network of People who Use Drugs, the Global Drug Policy Observatory, Swansea University, Harm Reduction International, the Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association, the Women and Harm Reduction International Network and Youth RISE

The side event introduced the [Global Drug Policy Index \(GDPI\)](#), the first-ever index that documented and compared national drug policies against their alignment with the drug policies promoted by the [UN Common Position on drugs](#). Matt Wall (the Global Drug Policy Observatory) presented the Index, explaining the methodology that underpinned its first iteration. Marialba Quesada (the Youth Rise) highlighted the key takeaways of the Index, with a particular emphasis on the results regarding Costa Rica and Latin America. Annie Madden (the Harm Reduction Australia) shared some insights on how advocates and governments could use the Index to improve their drug policies. Zhannat Kosmukhamedova (UNODC) explained the historical roots of the UN Common Position on drugs and highlighted the importance of obtaining reliable and relevant data on drug policies in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The event was closed by Zaved Mahmood (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), who underscored the value of GDPI in promoting rights-based drug policies.



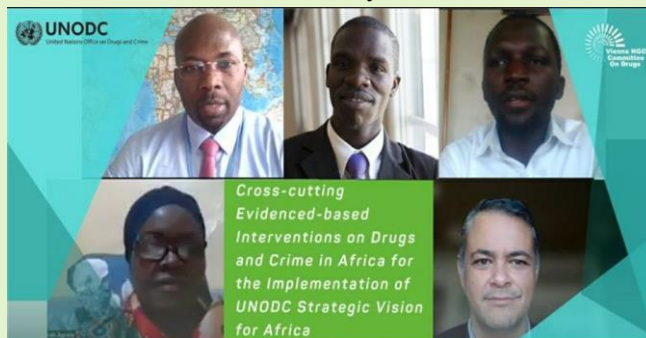
[Summary](#) & [Video](#)

CROSS-CUTTING EVIDENCED-BASED INTERVENTIONS ON DRUGS AND CRIME IN AFRICA FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNODC STRATEGIC VISION FOR AFRICA

Wednesday, 16 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Slum Child Foundation with the support of the UNODC Civil Society Unit and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs

The side event presented on the outcome of the *Africa Conference on Drugs and Crime: Civil Society Perspective on Promoting Evidence-based Interventions on Drugs and Crime to Foster African Development*, held in February 2021 with a focus on crime and drug prevention among youth as well as on preventing and combatting illicit trafficking and cybercrime. The event recalled the widespread consensus on the need for civil society to raise their voices, as only through acquiring visibility, they could be considered by governments for policy outputs. [The Conference Outcome Document](#), which analysed the interlinkages between drug and crime issues in Africa and provided seven forward-looking recommendations for civil society organizations, UNODC and Member States, would thereby serve as a long-term, open-ended strategic plan that civil society could implement together with UNODC and African governments to ensure crime and drug prevention on the continent, in the context of the UNODC Strategy for Africa 2030.

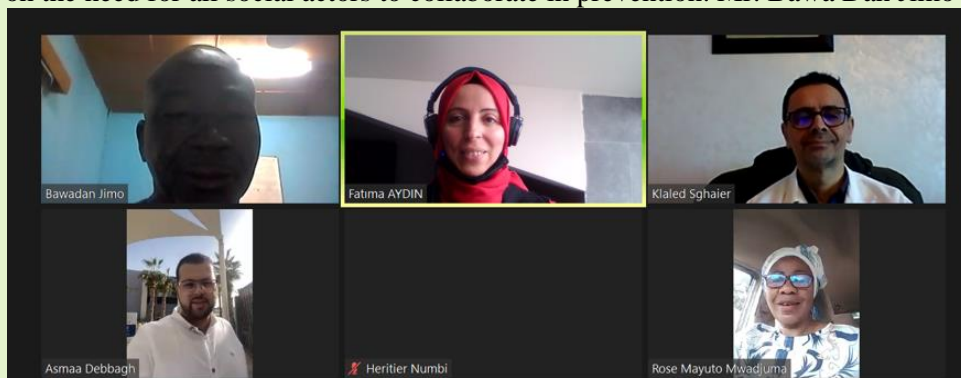


THE ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL LEVEL IN THE PREVENTION OF DRUG ADDICTION

Wednesday, 16 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by Madinaty with the support of the Green Crescent of Congo, the Moroccan Green Crescent and the Stardom Association

During the side event, Dr. Khaled Sghaier from Tunisia pointed out that drug addiction was on the rise among students, and prevention must be mainly oriented towards the school environment, by raising awareness of the risks, and promoting social and cultural commitment, to develop students' skills, assertiveness and self-esteem. Dr. Asma Debbagh, from the Moroccan Green Crescent, stressed the importance of psychosocial development programs within schools, as well as cultural and sports activities, to fill the free time of adolescents. Mr. Héritier Numbi from the Green Crescent of Congo, insisted on the need for all social actors to collaborate in prevention. Mr. Bawa Dan Jimo from the Croissant Vert Nigérien insisted on the importance of educational reform to establish cultural training. Ms. Yasmine Sabih from the Stardom Association of Lebanon emphasized the role of the awareness raising games in preventing drug addiction among children.



SOCIAL SUPPORT EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESS PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

Wednesday, 16 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Rebirth Charity Society with the support of the European Treatment Centres for Drug Addiction and Mental Health and the World Federation Against Drugs



It was mentioned during the side event that social reintegration was one of the most significant components of treatment and rehabilitation for substance use disorders. Homeless drug users, due to their lifestyle, suffered from many psychosocial and socioeconomic issues which needed to be appropriately responded to and met. On the other hand, the existing programs needed to be recognized and promoted to be culturally, economically and socially tailored for each nation to tackle the issues to the extent possible. Dr. Ramin Radfar presented social support programs for homeless people who use drugs, addressing several facts regarding homeless drug users. Dr. Thomas Legl highlighted the mutual benefits and results of collaboration with local, regional and international organizations for the integration of the target group. Regina Mattsson introduced the Celebrate Recovery Project in the Balkan region, together with its achievements, challenges and outcomes. Finally, Mulka Nisic spoke on the project highlights and key activities, including improving the capacities of counseling centres, establishing free helplines and producing public opinion research, publications and media promotions.

STIGMATIZATION FACING WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS: THE NEED FOR TAILOR-MADE TREATMENT SERVICES

Wednesday, 16 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by Pertubuhan Bulan Sabit Hijau Malaysia with the support of the Green Crescent Foundation (Maldives), the Turkish Green Crescent Society and the Women's Organisations Committee on Alcohol and Drugs Issues (WOCAD)

The event was attended by around 40 people from multiple countries. H.E. Ambassador Mr. Ikram Bin Mohd Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations in Vienna, delivered the opening speech by highlighting a few important key points, including that women who used drugs faced challenging issues in many countries. Dr. Mohd Fadzli Mohamad Isa, an addiction psychiatrist and member of the Green Crescent Malaysia talked about the treatment options available in Malaysia. Ms. Janina Engstrom from the WOCAD, Sweden, highlighted the stigma mainly faced by women who used drugs. Ms. Sedef Ercetin Gencosmanoglu shared on the Turkish Green Crescent's work. The closing speech was delivered by Ms. Sarah Ahmad, the Child Protection and Welfare, Government of Punjab, Pakistan.



THE EARLY WARNING SUBSYSTEM OF THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC DRUG POLICY – AN INNOVATION OF A FEDERATIVE COUNTRY

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Brazil

The side event focused on the SAR (Primeiro Informe do Subsistema de Alerta Rápido Sobre Drogas) established by Brazil in 2021, its drug early warning mechanism (EWS), as part of its national system of drug policy. Brazil had had some particularities that made the SAR different from the usual EWS, so its implementation had been quite an advancement in terms of federative public policy. It had allowed Brazilian authorities to identify patterns and trends on new drugs and drug trafficking, as it had provided an anticipated knowledge of risks, which had in turn enabled effective responses. The SAR has been supported by a robust normative framework, epidemiological research, and the work of the Brazilian Drugs Observatory. It has been managed by a Technical Committee, supported by two working groups that had provided reports and alerts on trafficking in terms of trends and substances. Since Brazil had numerous law enforcement agencies and various other agencies involved in the Brazilian EWS, the SAR was a complicated task, but the first steps had been duly taken.

CAUSE AND EFFECT – MAKING THE CASE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED DRUG POLICY

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Fields of Green for ALL NPC with the support of the Veterans Action Council

The side event focused on three perspectives: the international drug control conventions and scheduling process; cannabis situation in rural South Africa; and the story of how Kratom had been nearly listed in the schedules and a plea for evidence to be heard around the traditional Coca plant.

[Recording](#)

FACILITATING ACCESS TO EVIDENCE-BASED DEMAND REDUCTION SERVICES FOR MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Canada with the support of Finland, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay and the European Union



Panelists shared their perspectives and personal experiences with regard to facilitating access to demand reduction services for marginalized populations. The event was moderated by Jeffrey Copenace, Chief of the Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation in Canada, who spoke about his personal experience of accessing demand reduction services as an indigenous person. Dr. Hagit Bonny-Noach presented an ethnographic study conducted in the largest open drug scene in Israel, while Dr. Marilyn Clarke emphasized the importance of prioritizing a gender perspective when facilitating access to demand reduction services. Further, Dr. Hans Wolff shared details on prison needle and syringe exchange programs in Switzerland, while Gabriela Olivera spoke about Uruguay's approach to facilitating access to demand reduction services for marginalized populations.

ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL SYNTHETIC DRUG PROBLEM: UNODC SYNTHETIC DRUG STRATEGY

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service with the support of Canada and the United States

Chaired by Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC, the high-level event featured keynote addresses by Ms. Ghada Waly, UNODC Executive Director; Ms. Jagjit Pavadia, INCB President; Dr. Mariangela Simao, WHO Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines and Health Products; Dr. Rahul Gupta, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, USA; and Ms. Jennifer Loten, Director General at Global Affairs, Canada. The event highlighted international efforts to tackle the global synthetic drug problem through the [UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy](#), which was based on four spheres of action: multilateralism, early warning on emerging drug threats, science-informed health responses, and counternarcotic interventions to disrupt trafficking. The panelists from Canada and the US both expressed their countries' strong support for the UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy and stressed the importance of international cooperation to preserve the health and safety of the global community.



FROM COERCION TO COHESION: INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH-CARE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DRUG USE DISORDERS AND ASSOCIATED MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS IN CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SETTING

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Justice Section with the support of Indonesia, Kenya, the United States, and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, the African Union Commission, the New York NGO Committee on Drugs, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and the World Health Organization



Attended by around 100 participants, the side event highlighted the importance of health and justice collaboration, including through the sharing of national and regional good practices to ensure continued access to evidence-based health and social services for people with drug use disorders in the criminal justice setting, with a view to leaving no one behind.

CHALLENGING STIGMA AROUND ADDICTION AND RECOVERY – STRENGTH-BASED APPROACHES

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Proslavi Oporavak with the support of the Aspire – Drug and Alcohol Service Doncaster, the Drug Free America Foundation, the Recovery Connections, the San Patrignano Foundation, the University of Derby and the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD)

The event was introduced by Mulka Nisic (the Proslavi Oporavak), moderated by Chantelle Pepper (the Western Cape Government, South Africa), and closed by Regina Mattsson (the WFAD).

The event explored and provided examples and evidence of mechanisms that created connections and social capital for people to support their recovery journeys. It showed how pathways into housing, employment, reintegration and management of self-stigma had been addressed by people in recovery. Speakers provided meaningful insight into innovative models and research and examined how community organizations changed perceptions and attitudes among people and practitioners. The event, attended by 87 delegates, contributed to partnerships aiming at overcoming stigma and strengthening the inclusion of people in recovery.

[Recording](#)

ONLINE TRAFFICKING OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS AND SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS: A GROWING THREAT

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime with the support of Canada, the United States and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service

The side event aimed to discuss, present, and launch the report that provided an introductory analysis of the threat that online trafficking of synthetic drugs and synthetic opioids posed to the Latin American and the Caribbean region. The event was attended by more than 90 participants and moderated by Mariana Kiefer from UNODC. Opening remarks were presented by Asma Fakhri, Coordinator for the Opioid Strategy, UNODC and Alan Piracha, Foreign Affairs Officer from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. The event continued with a presentation by Prof. Hernán Blanco from the Austral University, Argentina, who spoke on how transactions and cryptocurrencies in cybercrime were trending in Latin America. The event concluded with the presentation and launch of the report: “The online trafficking of synthetic drugs and synthetic opioids in Latin America and the Caribbean” by Gabriel Juárez from UNODC, who addressed key aspects of findings and future challenges.



ON THE ACCESS TO TRAMADOL AND PREVENTING ITS DIVERSIFICATION TO ILLICIT MARKETS IN THE AFRICA REGION

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Tanzania Green Crescent Community with the support of the African Union Commission, the Green Crescent Health Development Initiative, the Institute of Leadership and Development and the Rwanda Youth Impact

Over 40 people from 19 countries joined the event. Prof. Johan Strijdom from the African Union started the event, talking about the tramadol policies of the African Union. The second speaker, Dr. Bakari Ali Muhammed from the Tanzania Green Crescent Community made a presentation about the tramadol policies in Tanzania and the illicit market data in the country and the African region. Mr. Luqman Usman from the Institute of Leadership and Development highlighted the relevant data in Ghana and how they addressed substance use disorder as an NGO. The last speaker, Ms. Memory Usaman made a presentation on the tramadol use in Rwanda.



CHALLENGING THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY AND MARGINALIZATION IN AFRICA – AND BEYOND

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Penal Reform International with the support of Ghana, the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)

The side event sought to reflect on the different initiatives that were emerging across Africa to advocate for the decriminalization of petty offences, including drug possession for personal use. After the opening remarks of H.E. Ambassador Philbert Johnson of Ghana, who presented the [important reform](#) of drug laws adopted in Ghana, Commissioner Maria Teresa Manuela (the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights) outlined the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in [encouraging](#) the decriminalization of petty offences, highlighting their disproportionate impact on marginalized populations. Happy Assan (the Tanzanian Network of People who Use Drugs) and Maria-Goretti Loglo (IDPC) reflected on the harms brought about by criminalization, from stigma and discrimination to police violence and abuse. Janelle Mangwanda (the University of Western Cape) introduced the work of the [Regional Campaign for the Decriminalization of Poverty and Status](#), highlighting its potential as a transformative tool that could bring change across the continent.

[Summary](#) & [Video](#)

What can you do?

Join the Campaign
Share the information
Urge AU institutions to promote decriminalisation of petty offences
Engage with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Pan-African Parliament, the AU Summit and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

<https://pettyoffences.org/>

info@pettyoffences.org

Petty Offences - Poverty is Not a Crime

@pettyoffences

CSO Task Force Petty Offences



MAPPING OF DRUG-ASSOCIATED DISORDER TREATMENT SERVICES AND THEIR IMPACT ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: JOINT UNDP-UNODC PERNAMBUCO EXPERIENCE IN BRAZIL AND OTHER SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH

Wednesday, 16 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the United Nations Development Programme with the support of Brazil and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

The side event presented the methodology and results of research for “Mapping of Drug-Associated Disorder Treatment Services”, carried out within the scope of the Pernambuco Cooperation, an innovative partnership established between the Pernambuco’s state government, UNDP, UNODC and UN-Habitat. Furthermore, the results of additional facility surveys conducted in Latin America in the context of UNODC’s project “Quality Assurance for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders in Latin America” were presented. Cloves Benevides, representing the government of Pernambuco, presented the overview of that innovative technical cooperation. Anja Busse, Antonio Lima and Olga Devia, from UNODC, presented different UNODC research experiences at the national and international levels, related to the subject. The session, featuring 510 participants, was moderated by Moema Freire from UNDP.



OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES, TRAINING AND PREVENTION PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCO-TERRORISM

Thursday, 17 March, 8 – 8.50 a.m.

Organized by Turkey

During the side event, four presentations were delivered by the experts, providing an overview of Turkey's multidisciplinary experience and best practices in addressing and countering the drug problem. The presentations mainly focused on;

- Operational activities and best practice case studies that reflected the national law enforcement capacity and dedicated international cooperation,
- Training activities to enhance national capacity and support international efforts,
- Prevention projects conducted by law enforcement agencies that reflected the different perspectives to engage the community in countering the drug problem
- The link between drug trafficking and the financing of terrorism.

A total of 53 people from various countries participated in the event.







LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF INTRA-UTERUS EXPOSURE TO SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

Thursday, 17 March, 8 - 8.50 a.m.

Organized by the UNODC Liaison Office in Geneva with the support of Canada and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service

The event highlighted the need for multidisciplinary responses to the neonatal abstinence syndrome related to the impact of synthetic opioid use on pregnant women and their children. Three specialist practitioners, two from the USA and one from Australia, discussed the long-term health, social, educational and legal needs of infants born with prenatal exposure to synthetic opioids. In addition, Ms. Lauren Dicaire, a psychotherapist and clinical social worker from the USA, delivered an address from the perspective of her own lived experience of being born with the neonatal abstinence syndrome. Remarks were also given by Ms. Carol Anne Chenard, Director of the Health Canada's Office of Controlled Substances, who stressed the critical importance of addressing the multiple public health consequences of the synthetic opioid crisis, including the impact on infants and the need for comprehensive international guidelines to respond to that issue.

			
SIDE EVENT: 65th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs			
Long-Term Effects of Intra-Uterus Exposure to Synthetic Opioids			
Organizer: UNODC Liaison Office in Geneva	Opening remarks	Panelists	
Co-Sponsors: Canada UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service (LSS)	Ms. Carol Anne Chenard Director of Office of Controlled Substances, Health Canada	Dr. Ju-Lee Oel Professor, University of Sydney, Australia	
Moderator: Ms. Asma Fakhri, Programme Management Officer, LSS, UNODC Ms. Elizabeth Sáenz, Liaison Officer (UNODC-WHO) Geneva		Dr. Mishka Terplan Scientific Advisory Council, FOR Foundation & Friends Research Institute, United States of America	
Dr. Hendrée Jones Professor, University of North Carolina, United States of America			
Ms. Lauren Dicaire Clinical Social Worker, United States of America			
Leaving no infant behind in the shadow of the opioid crisis - Addressing the need for comprehensive, multi-disciplinary responses to neonatal abstinence syndrome related to prenatal exposure to synthetic opioids. Join us for an engaging expert discussion on the health, educational and legal needs of infants born with neonatal exposure to synthetic opioids.			

GLOBAL ACCESS TO MEDICINAL CANNABIS: PROGRAMMES, CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Thursday, 17 March, 8 – 8.50 a.m.

Organized by the European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies with the support of the Veterans Action Council

The event gave an overview of the situation with regard to access to cannabis plant medicines around the world and discussed the impact of the United Nations' decision to remove cannabis from Schedule IV of the Single Convention on Narcotics of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol.

Dr. Ethan Russo explained [the state of the art of cannabis therapeutics today](#); Dr. Pavel Pachta spoke on the change in the treaty status of cannabis; Michael Krawitz gave an overview of [the World Health Organization's cannabis review history](#); and the perspective of the cannabis patients was shared by Bryan Buckley and Carola Perez. Etienne Fontan, an expert on medicinal cannabis, moderated the discussion.



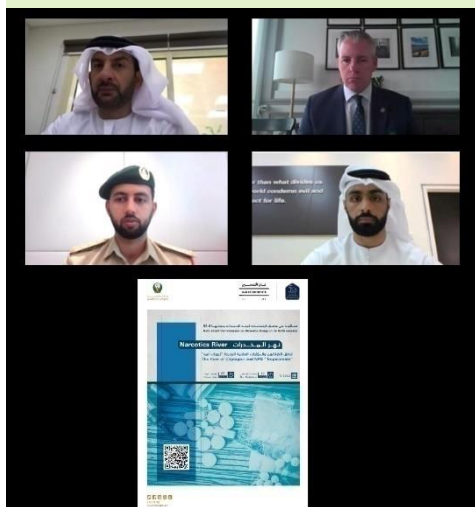
[Recording.](#) & [Additional information.](#)

NARCOTICS RIVER: THE FLOW OF “CAPTAGON” AND THE NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE “TROPICAMIDE”

Thursday, 17 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the United Arab Emirates

The side event emphasized the concern over the safety and security of societies and the necessity to strengthen the means to combat trafficking in drugs and the activities of gangs involved therein. The side event also reviewed the most important topics related to combating drug trafficking and enhancing international cooperation to implement international commitments in that field, and introduced the recommendations of the World Health Organization regarding the placement of some new narcotic substances under international control.



During the side event, Brigadier Abdul Rahman Al Owais, Deputy Director-General of Anti-Narcotics, and Captain Dr. Muhammad Al-Tamimi, of the UAE, and David Konter, Head of the Anti-Narcotics Division, INTERPOL, spoke about important definitions related to new psychotropic substances. The speakers also discussed the existing methods of trafficking in Captagon, and the means and efforts exerted by the competent authorities to combat its trafficking and to prevent the involvement of gangs therein.

PREVENTION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES IN THE CUSTOMS SERVICE

Thursday, 17 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

The side event highlighted that corruption in the customs services enabled the activities of criminal organizations involved in illicit drug trafficking. While only specific areas/regions specialized in the production of drugs, their consumption had spreaded worldwide, which brought the customs services to the forefront of the international community's efforts to prevent and detect illicit drug trafficking.

The side event highlighted different ways of limiting and detecting corruption in customs and presented the relevant international and regional practices. The participants focused on relevant initiatives concerning anti-corruption education, capacity building, and technical assistance.

The event was opened by Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Dean and Executive Secretary of the IACA, and moderated by Mr. Pawan Kumar Sinha, IACA Director of Academic Programmes. The panel was formed by Ms. Nicole Quijano-Evans, Crime Prevention Expert, UNODC, Ms. Andrea Hampton, Manager of the World Customs Organization's Anti-Corruption and Integrity Promotion Programme for Customs, and Mr. Anthonius Huitema Timber-Trafficking & CITES Expert with 40 years experience in the Customs Service of the Netherlands.



[Recording](#)

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AFTER CANNABIS RECLASSIFICATION: EXPANDING RESEARCH, PROMOTING HIGH STANDARDS AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Thursday, 17 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth

During the side event, speakers mentioned that while still remaining in Schedule I of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, removing cannabis from Schedule IV did not indicate that the crude plant material itself had a medical use. It did, however, acknowledge the potential of cannabis-based medicines to help patients around the world. Speakers further pointed out that if the potential was to be unlocked, it would be imperative that standardized cannabis-based products were subject to the same evidentiary and quality standards as all other prescription medicines. Only through doing so, the risks/benefits of each product could be properly understood and ultimately be turned into modern medicines.

The Challenges Posed by CBD Products Manufactured for Widespread Public Consumption

<p>Moderator</p> <p>John Redman</p> <p>Executive Director CADFY</p>		
<p>Speaker</p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Marlo-Tremestra, MS, PhD</p> <p>Associate Director Cannabinoid Education Jazz Pharma</p>	<p>Speaker</p> <p>Rachel Farrell</p> <p>Consultant Neurologist, NHNN, UCLH Honorary Associate Professor, UCL</p>	

THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG OFFENCES: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPACT ON FOREIGN NATIONALS

Thursday, 17 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by Harm Reduction International with the support of Australia, Austria, Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the Council of Europe – Pompidou Group and the European Union and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Speakers at the side event discussed the application of the death penalty for drug offences. Opening remarks were delivered by the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants through a pre-recorded video, emphasizing the vulnerability of migrant workers facing the death penalty for drug offences worldwide. During the panel discussion, a representative from the Harm Reduction International shared some updates from the Death Penalty for Drug Offences: Global Overview 2021, which showcased an increase in the number of drug executions and death sentences in 2021. Two speakers from the National Human Rights Institutions from Nigeria and Indonesia, respectively, talked about the challenges that they faced in advocating for the lives of their nationals who were facing death penalty for drug offences abroad. Lastly, a representative from the Justice Project Pakistan shared some lessons learned from providing legal assistance for individuals sentenced to death for drug offences. The side event was closed with a remark from Australia, stressing the importance of continuing to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.



NORDIC DECRIMINALIZATION AND CRIMINALIZATION MODELS – LESSONS LEARNED

Thursday, 17 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the Foreningen for Human Narkotikapolitikk with the support of the Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)

The event provided an overview of some effects and experiences of drug policies in the Nordic region, highlighting some of the legislation alternatives, including proposals of decriminalization that were currently being discussed. The event was introduced and moderated by Marie Nougier, (IDPC). Veronika Honkasalo, Youth Researcher Ph.D. and Member of Parliament of Finland, highlighted the current political climate and the need for human rights to be central in reform efforts. Arild Knutsen, the Association for Humane Drug Policy (FHN), described the positive but unexpected results of the Norwegian reform process and how society had started to rethink drug policy legislation. Henrik Tham, Professor Emeritus of the University of Stockholm, presented the work “Retreat or Entrenchment. Drug policies in the Nordic countries at a crossroads”, illustrating the effects and shortcomings of drug policies. Svala Jóhannesdóttir, a harm reduction specialist and advocate from Iceland, outlined how harm reduction and grassroots advocacy were at the core of decriminalization efforts.

[Summary](#) & [Recording](#)

INCREASING EARLY TREATMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF OFFENDERS WITH DRUG DEPENDENCE

Thursday, 17 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the United Kingdom with the support of Australia, Mexico, Portugal and Singapore

The event brought together experts to discuss and consider approaches being taken around the world with regard to programmes that aimed to increase the proportion of drug-related offenders engaged in early treatment and engagement with support.

The event was moderated by Ms. Rachael Millar, Deputy Director of the UK Joint Combating Drugs Unit, who briefly spoke about the new UK Drug Strategy. Presenters from the UK (Mr. Jason Kew, the Centre for Justice Innovation), Singapore (Ms. Grace Yim, the Ministry of Social and Family Development), Australia (Ms. Celia Street, First Assistant Secretary of the Population Health Division), the USA (Mr. Terrence Walton, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals) and Mexico (Dr. Gady Zabicky Sirot, National Commissioner against Addiction) discussed the approaches being taken in their respective countries. Presentations focused on community-based rehabilitation programmes, diverting offenders away from the criminal justice system and into treatment and support, and drug courts.

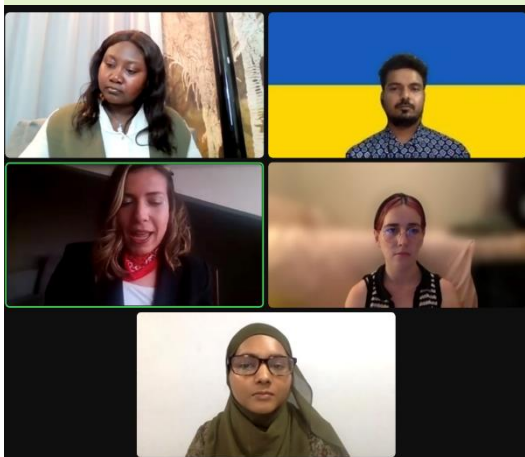


WON'T SOMEBODY THINK OF THE CHILDREN? YOUTH WELFARE IN DRUG POLICY

Thursday, 17 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by Students for Sensible Drug Policy with the support of Canada, Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy and Youth RISE (Resource, Information, Support, Education) Limited

Following a brief welcome by Benedicta Apuamah, a youth advocate from Nigeria, speakers gave their insights on the role of young people in drug policy and the challenges policymakers needed to address in national and international forums. Hajar Seiyad (Canada) and Keelin O'Reilly (Australia) drew on their experiences as Youth Forum delegates, calling on country delegations to meaningfully incorporate youth engagement in their activities. As civil society representatives embodying different policy orientations, Mayank Singh (the YouthRISE) and Meryem Nagehan Ulusoy (the Turkish Green Crescent Society) stressed the importance of viewing young people not only as policy beneficiaries, but as stakeholders in their own right. Iulia Vatau, the Global Fellow of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, closed the session by summarising key recommendations from the discussion and subsequently drawing attention to the civil society *Open Letter on Youth Engagement* addressed to the UNODC Executive Director.



THE SHORTCOMINGS AND SIDE EFFECTS OF SUBSTANCE SCHEDULING

Thursday, 17 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the HIV Legal Network with the support of Canada, the Netherlands, and the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Transform Drug Policy Foundation and the Transnational Institute

Speakers considered the limitations and consequences of substance scheduling. Martin Jelsma (the Transnational Institute) explained that many internationally controlled drugs had [never been subject to a scientific review](#), and thus the scheduling principles of similarity and convertibility risked perpetuating racial and colonial biases. Nazlee Maghsoudi (the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation) shared information on the synthetic opioids detected in the unregulated market by [Toronto's drug checking service](#), suggesting that scheduling without appropriate sequencing increased harms and that expanding [low-threshold access](#) to pharmaceutical-grade alternatives to the unregulated market (i.e., [safer supply](#)) would be more effective. Maria-Goretti Ane (the International Drug Policy Consortium) highlighted the [research](#) finding that tramadol filled a critical gap in treating pain across Africa where there was an acute shortage of opioid analgesics due to scheduling-related barriers. Wim Best (the Utrecht University) suggested that national laws were more relevant than international conventions or scheduling in fostering the rise of new psychoactive substances or insufficient access to medicines.

[Summary](#) & [Video](#).

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PARENTAL DRUG USE: CURRENT GAPS AND PROMISING PRACTICES

Thursday, 17 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by Dianova International with the support of Croatia, Italy, and the Association Proyecto Hombre, the Council of Europe – Pompidou Group and the San Patrignano Foundation

The side event, attended by about 140 participants, focused on the invisible situation of children affected by parental drug use, and provided concrete recommendations and interventions for improving their situation. The event was moderated by Florence Mabileau.

Corina Giacomello presented the study conducted by the Pompidou Group in that regard, highlighting the main recommendations for Member States and substance use treatment services. Moreover, Jadranka Ivandić Zimić focused on the Croatian experience in providing care for children whose parents use drugs. Useful insights about how to estimate prevalence, identify risk and protective factors and effective programs as well as on databases and learning portals were provided by Catherine Comiskey. Furthermore, Gisela Hansen focused on how to address children's rights in drug treatment services. Finally, Monica Barzanti presented an intensive-care programme to prevent out-of-home placement for vulnerable families that was being implemented in Italy.



DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN: IDENTIFICATION AND PROGRAMME SUCCESS STORIES

Thursday, 17 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Drug Free America Foundation with the support of the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, the Turkish Green Crescent Society and the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD)

During the side event, speakers noted that globally, children who lived in families where a parent or other adult misused drugs or alcohol were at risk. Identifying youth at risk required cultural knowledge, understanding, awareness, and empathy. The event featured Scott Henderson, Executive Director at the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, who shared examples of how to identify a drug endangered child and highlighted how the organization trained law enforcement officers, teachers, and other community stakeholders to refer children and families to programs in their communities that could assist them. The event also featured Derya Eryigit, the Green Crescent Life Skills Training Program of the Turkish Green Crescent and Dandy Yela, Country Representative of the World Federation Against Drugs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who highlighted their work in engaging youth in programs that defended against possible substance abuse and empowered them to make decisions based on physical and mental health wellness.



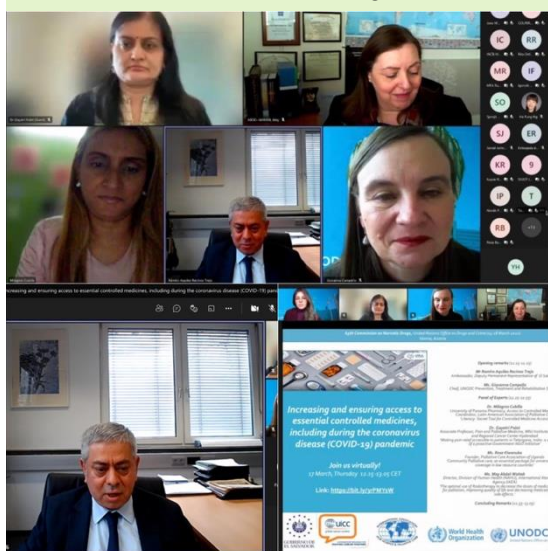
[Recording](#)

INCREASING AND ENSURING ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL CONTROLLED MEDICINES, INCLUDING DURING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

Thursday, 17 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by El Salvador with the support of the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, the Union for International Cancer Control, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the World Health Organization

The side event brought together 60 experts and participants from Uganda, Panama, India and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to highlight the need to increase and ensure access to essential controlled medicines, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In line with the UNODC, INCB and WHO joint call launched at the 65th Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United



Nations in Vienna called for Member States to accelerate activities that ensured that patients have access to medicines containing controlled substances, including in emergency settings such as the COVID-19 pandemic, while preventing their diversion and non-medical use. The panel focused on: regional experiences, in-field challenges encountered during the pandemic as well as best practices in community palliative care in low-resource countries (Ms. Rose Kiwanuka, the Palliative Care Association of Uganda); increasing literacy as an effective tool for controlled medicines (Dr. Milagros Cubilla, the Latin American Association of Palliative Care); making pain relief accessible to patients through proactive Government-NGO initiatives (Dr. Gayatri Palat, the MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Center Hyderabad); and the optimal use of radiotherapy to decrease the doses of medication needed for palliation, improving quality of life and decreasing medication-related side effects (Dr. May Abdel-Wahab, Director, IAEA).

SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION STRATEGY (COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR) TO STRENGTHEN THE INTERDICTION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND CHEMICAL PRECURSORS: A MODEL TO FOLLOW ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Thursday, 17 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by El Salvador with the support of Colombia

The side event panel featured Her Excellency Julia Villatoro, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations in Vienna; Juan Manuel Nuñez, advisor to the Ministry of Justice and Law of Colombia; Marcela Ortiz, Deputy Director of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs; Eduardo Loyola, Executive Director of El Salvador's National Antidrug Commission; and the Coordinators of the UNODC Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme, Juan Ricardo Gómez Hecht and Martin Raithelhuber. The speakers outlined the elaboration process and content of the strategy and the three countries' national experiences. Information was also shared on how that strategic policy achieved a common front against trafficking in drugs and chemical precursors, enriched, and contributed to, a regional vision of that phenomena and became a platform for the exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned, which merged perfectly with other international efforts like the Early Warning Systems and the UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy.



NEW APPROACHES TO NATIONAL NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE CONTROL – WHAT ARE “GENERIC APPROACHES”?

Thursday, 17 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Japan with the support of the United Kingdom, the United States and the International Narcotics Control Board

The side event gathered over 150 attendees to examine “generic approaches” to national control over new psychoactive substances (NPS) through the experiences of the three co-organizing Governments in implementing innovative NPS legislation.

The event was opened by Dr. Daisaku Sato, Director of the Compliance and Narcotics Division of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan, who commended spearheading the adoption of generic approaches by the three co-organizing Governments.

Ms. Jagjit Pavadia, the INCB President, provided an overview of three typical approaches – the substance-class approach, the effect approach and the analogue approach.

Mr. Daisuke Takeuchi from the MHLW, Japan, briefed the audience on Japan's generic scheduling introduced in 2013 and updated in 2015.

Mr. Sam Hardy from the Home Office, UK, explained the Psychoactive Substances Act of 2016 and its impact.

Dr. Michael Van Linn from Drug Enforcement Agency, USA, showcased the analogue approach and the temporary scheduling of fentanyl-related substances as a class.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RESPONSES IN PAKISTAN TO DRUGS AND CRIME IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT REGIONAL CHALLENGES 2022–2025

Thursday, 17 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Country Office Pakistan with the support of Pakistan

This online side event engaged almost 70 participants from the international community and the civil society. Dr Jeremy Milsom, Representative of the UNODC Country Office in Pakistan (COPAK), highlighted the current and emerging national and regional challenges related to drug trafficking and other transnational organized crimes and Pakistan's efforts to address those crimes more effectively.



Ghulam Shabeer Narejo, Major-General and Director-General of the Anti Narcotics Force talked about UNODC's Country Programme III (2022-25), signed in December 2021. He apprised the participants of the government policy framework, counternarcotics measures, achievements, and the way-forward for the next four years.

A joint presentation by UNODC and the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) of Pakistan was delivered, with the formal launch of COPAK's Country Programme III before the international partners and prospective donors. UNODC highlighted the problem analysis and recommended solutions to the risk and challenges related to drug trafficking and transnational organized crime under the new programme. Speakers also discussed the policy directives and countermeasures under the framework of Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Policy.

PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR THE PROHIBITION OF ARBITRARY DETENTION IN THE CONTEXT OF DRUG CONTROL MEASURES

Thursday, 17 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the support of Canada, Ghana, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the Commission of Human Rights of the Philippines, the European Union, Harm Reduction International, the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the International Network of People who Use Drugs, the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria, Penal Reform International, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, UNAIDS and the World Health Organization

The event discussed the recent UN Study on arbitrary detention relating to drug policies ([A/HRC/47/40](#)), [the UN Common Positions on Drugs \(2018\)](#) and [Incarceration \(2021\)](#), and avenues for implementation. Helen Clark (the Global Commission on Drug Policy) opened the side event with a call to release people arbitrarily detained and to ensure proportionate sentencing. Elina Steinerte (the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention - WGAD) discussed the WGAD's study, examining how drug policies might lead to human rights violations, and shared recommendations for the decriminalization of drug use, alternatives to imprisonment, harm reduction and the closure of compulsory drug detention centres. Transgender activist, Kenya Cuevas (the Casa Hogar Paola Buenrostro), expressed concerns about the victimization by punitive state policies, including drug use. Philipp Meissner (UNODC) discussed how the UN Common Position on Incarceration influenced a human-rights-driven response to drug control. Stephan Klement (the European Union) closed the event with a reminder of the global commitment towards human rights-compliant drug policies in the [UNGASS 2016](#).



[Recording](#)

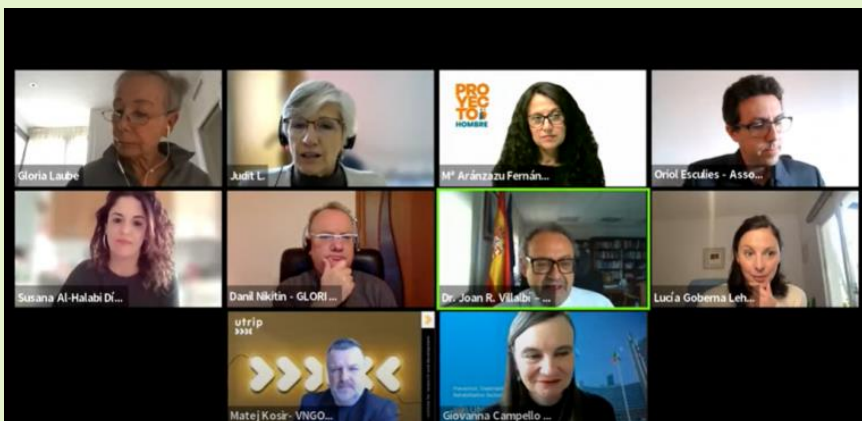
PROMOTING EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN COLLABORATION WITH MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Thursday, 17 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Association Proyecto Hombre with the support of Spain, Uruguay, and Dianova International, the Global Research Institute Foundation, the Red Iberoamericana ONGs que trabajan en Drogas y Adicciones, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC)

During the side event, moderated by Oriol Esculies (the Asociación Proyecto Hombre), the latest initiatives on collaborative prevention, treatment and harm reduction interventions and research were shared in an attempt to scale up and improve the quality of evidence-based drug services.

Dr. Joan R. Villalbí (the National Plan on Drugs, Spain) acknowledged the importance of the civil society in that field, followed by interventions by Ms. Giovanna Campello (UNODC) and Mr. Matej Kosir (the VNGOC). Aránzazu Fernández (the Association Proyecto Hombre) and Susana Al-Halabí (University of Oviedo), shared how the evaluation of a school prevention programme in Spain had been designed. Lucía Goberna (the Dianova International) presented on the implementation of the Cooperation Programme between Latin America, Caribbean and the European Union on Drugs Policies (COPOLAD)'s quality management system for the Uruguayan Drug Treatment Network. Danil Nikitin (the Global Research Institute GLORI Foundation) shared the results and insights from community-based studies on overdose prevention and self-diagnosis of hepatitis virus among people who use drugs in Kyrgyzstan and other countries.



[Recording](#)

DECRIMINALIZATION IN THE AMERICAS: TOWARDS A MORE HUMANE DRUG POLICY

Thursday, 17 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the México Unido Contra la Delincuencia with the support of Mexico, and the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, Elementa DDHH, the HIV Legal Network and the International Drug Policy Consortium

The side event brought together activists and experts on drug policy from Colombia, Mexico and Canada to discuss the concrete experiences of their countries in decriminalizing the drug use. First, they summarized the most harmful

effects of criminalizing drug use, as well as how the three countries had attempted to decriminalize it. Next, they discussed the performance of those policies regarding minimizing human rights violations and the contact of users with the criminal justice system. Furthermore, issues with the implementation of those laws were discussed, such as whether and how to determine thresholds for possession and the limits those policies might have on health issues. Finally, the speakers gave some of their inputs on how they had approached the main stakeholders, such as legislators and the constitutional courts, to push for change, as well as the essential steps to push for decriminalization of drug use.



GLOBAL RISKS OF CANNABIS COMMERCIALIZATION: LESSONS LEARNED FROM TARGETED MARKETING STRATEGIES TOWARDS WOMEN

Thursday, 17 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD) with the support of the Drug Free America Foundation, Movendi International, Smart Approaches to Marijuana and the Women's Organisations Committee on Alcohol and Drug Issues

The side event aimed to highlight the importance of discussing the commercialization of cannabis besides legalization. It was mentioned that the commercialization of alcohol and tobacco had led to strong marketing strategies targeting women globally, and that the cannabis industry was following that trend as well. It was further noted that whereas women were first regarded as part of the marketing strategy to sell products, they were now interesting targets due to their increased purchasing power. The interlinked cannabis and alcohol industries had jumped on the trend and designed products specifically for women to be used throughout the day, normalizing and changing the culture of cannabis consumption. With an existing lack of appropriate access to prevention and treatment services for women, speakers noted the trend as extremely worrying. It was hence emphasized that awareness should be raised through education and events; women and girls should be empowered; and gender-centred policies should be designed.



[Recording](#)

JOINING EFFORTS TO MAKE BETTER DATA ON DRUGS IN AFRICA A REALITY

Thursday, 17 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the African Union Commission with the support of the UNODC Data Development and Dissemination Section and the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa

The side event gathered more than 100 participants to discuss various reasons behind scarce data availability at the continental level. Participants agreed that coordinated data collection at the international level, synchronized networks of national experts, and joint capacity building activities were priority actions required. Through engaging with experts on drugs from different countries in Africa, the African Union and the UNODC made a commitment to States that they would work towards harmonizing data collection to reduce the data gap in Africa and ensure that policymakers have knowledge of the extent of drug use, dependence, and illicit trafficking to facilitate review of legislative, policy and operational responses.

RESPONDING TO DRUG-RELATED CHALLENGES IN CYBERSPACE: VULNERABILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE CIVIL SOCIETY

Thursday, 17 March, 12.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Civil Society Unit with the support of Switzerland, and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs

It was mentioned at the side event that civil society was an important partner in addressing criminal misuse of information and communications technologies for illicit drug-related activities. Consequently, it was discussed how civil society could effectively contribute to addressing crime and drug-related challenges in cyberspace and how



strong partnerships could be leveraged to effectively address those challenges. Dr. Kawal Deep Kour from the South Asian Drugs and Addictions Research Council (SA-DARC), Jorge Herrera Valderrabano from Instituto Ria, and Ian Tennant from the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime presented integrated responses to drug-related challenges in cyberspace, including the need to involve the private sector, with a view to shining a light on promising practices and opportunities for actions to address current challenges in cyberspace settings.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR REPORTING CANNABIS AND CANNABIS-RELATED SUBSTANCES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

Friday, 18 March, 8 – 8.50 a.m.

Organized by the INCB Narcotic Control and Estimates Section with the support of Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Israel, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the African Union Commission, the European Union and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service

The side event presented on the outcome of the latest discussions between the INCB Secretariat and Member States, and the progress made in the elaboration of the common reporting and monitoring standards. The INCB President, Ms. Jagjit Pavadia, emphasized that collaboration between the INCB, Member States and international organizations, had enabled the Board to advance from the draft document that initially had served as the basis for discussions to the development of a set of minimum common standards for monitoring and reporting. That progress had been possible due to the ongoing process of gathering comments and contributions from Member States and international organizations. Furthermore, the panelists from the National Competent Authorities of Japan, Mr. Ryuichi Komuta; USA, Mr. Andrew Thompson; Germany, Mr. Hendrik Greve; South Africa, Ms. Daphney Mokgadi Fafudi; UK, Ms. Angharad Thomas and Ms. Katie Walton; and New Zealand, Ms. Andrea Eng elaborated on the importance of having common standards for the reporting and monitoring of cannabis and cannabis-related products, and on how the development of common standards could provide a way forward to a common approach while making an impact at a national level. Additionally, Mr. Conor Crean of the UNODC Laboratory and Science Service, updated participants on the UNODC's newly published manual on recommended methods for the identification and analysis of cannabis and cannabis-based products.

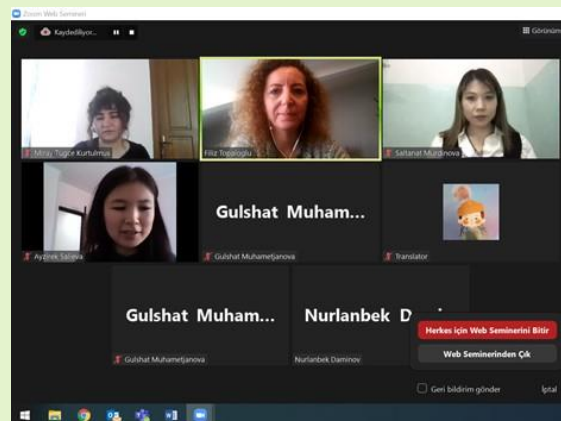


INCREASING USE OF NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AMONG YOUTH IN THE AMERICA AND EURASIA REGION

Friday, 18 March, 8 – 8.50 a.m.

Organized by the public association “Green Crescent Society Kyrgyzstan” with the support of Kyrgyzstan, and the Green Crescent Georgia and the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University

Over 30 people from 16 countries joined the event. Ms. Saltanat Omurdinova from the Republican Center of Psychiatry and Narcology of Kyrgyzstan started the event by talking about the official data related to the young people of Kyrgyzstan, state treatment services and training programs. The second speaker, Ms. Miray Tugce Kurtulmus from the Green Moon Georgia made a presentation about the youth in Georgia, in particular how they reached drug markets and what her organization was doing to address addiction. The third speaker, Ms. Gulshat Muhammetjanova from the Public Association Green Crescent Society Kyrgyzstan made the closing speech by elaborating on the work of her NGO to address addiction and its cooperation with the government, as well as sharing relevant best practices.



ACCESSIBILITY TO DRUG MARKETS: INCREASING RISK IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA

Friday, 18 March, 8 – 8.50 a.m.

Organized by the public association “Zhasylai” with the support of the Community Alliances for Drug Free Youth (CADFY)

The online side-event discussed changes in the drug market and drug consumption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Ms. Amina Zhemeny from the Public Association “Zhasylai” gave an overview of the drug market, particularly the synthetic drug trade in Kazakhstan. Moreover, she elaborated on how digital tools were used by drug dealers. Dr. John Redman (CADFY) explained how the COVID-19 pandemic had affected the changes in the trafficking routes with the development of online markets. Dr. Alex Da Silva from the University of Mississippi Medical Center gave an overview of drug trafficking and the increase of new psychoactive substances. In conclusion, Dr. John Redman highlighted the importance of prevention.

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS ON DRUG TRAFFICKING AND SOCIAL IMPACT IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Friday, 18 March, 8 – 8.50 a.m.

Organized by the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse with the support of the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau, Persatuan Mencegah Dadah Malaysia and the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association

Mr. Jeremy Douglas, Regional Representative of UNODC for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, gave an up-to-date overview of the regional drug situation, in particular, with regard to the changes that had occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications for the region, mainly with the increase of the production of methamphetamine in the region. Mr. Cheung Lik Hang from the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau's Treatment Centre (ARTM) and Mr. Tajudin Ningall from the Pemadam Malaysia presented on the social impact of the COVID-

19 restrictions on the communities, for example the increase of trafficking and consumption among the minority communities. It was mentioned that migrants who lost their jobs became vulnerable to organized crime and an easy target to be manipulated due to the necessity of making a living.

Last, Ms. Nsirah Binte, from the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) focused on the substance abuse prevention and recovery efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

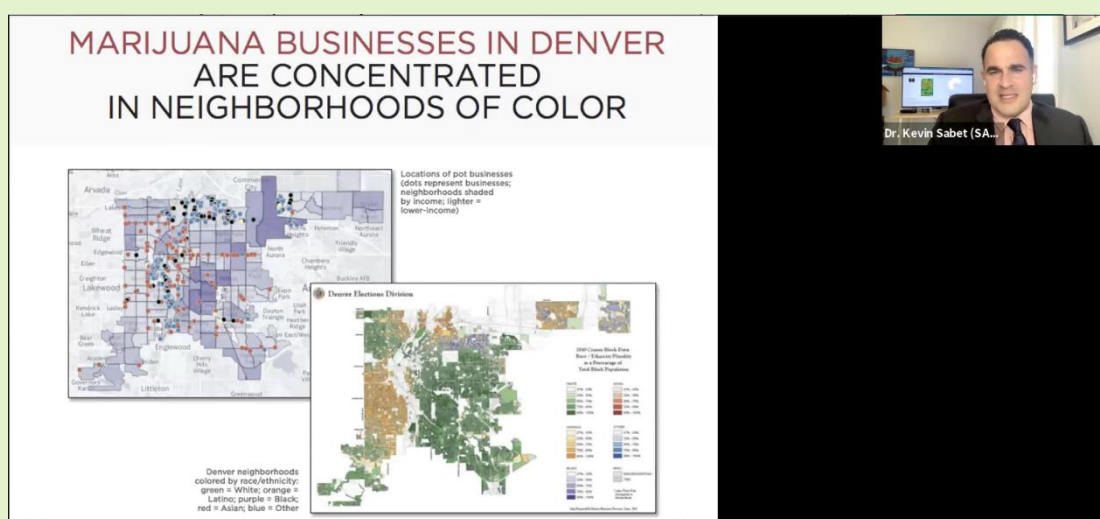


LESSONS LEARNED FROM COMMERCIAL MARIJUANA

Friday, 18 March, 8 – 8.50 a.m.

Organized by Smart Approaches to Marijuana

The side event featured a record-level attendance. Participants learned about breakdowns in the drug legalization framework and received the latest institutional data on the addictiveness of marijuana and related public health harms.



THE POSSIBILITIES OF EARLY, PROACTIVE INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DEVELOPING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS: A PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH APPROACH

Friday, 18 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by Belgium with the support of Japan, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the European Federation of Addiction Societies, the European Psychiatric Association, the International Society of Addiction Medicine and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section



The side-event aimed to raise awareness of the importance of early interventions to prevent and reduce the risk of substance use disorders. To counter the development of those substance use disorders, it was vital to avoid early childhood adversity. Four speakers from respectively Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada and the United Kingdom elaborated on that issue. They emphasized the need to prevent and reduce childhood violence and abuse; stressed the necessity to normalize and implement essential life skills programs, including self-regulation and social skills in the pre-/elementary school curriculum; and proposed new approaches and tools to address the widespread risks and to inform young people about their use.

[Recording](#)

COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED SCIENTIFIC STRATEGY TO COUNTER DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING

Friday, 18 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by Sri Lanka

The side event was attended by 35 participants representing INCB, UNODC, the competent national authorities, the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) of Sri Lanka and its stakeholder agencies. Ms. Anusha Munasinghe, National Program Coordinator of UNODC Regional Office for South Asia based in Sri Lanka, opened the event. Dr. (Mrs.) Priyangie Amarabandhu, Chairperson of the NDDCB presented science-informed, comprehensive and coordinated strategies and best practices implemented in Sri Lanka to overcome the challenges of drug-impaired driving. Dr. Shyamika Samarasekera, Chief Medical Officer of the National Transport Medical Institute of Sri Lanka, emphasized the importance of proactive prevention and effective actions implemented to address drug-impaired driving. Scientific evidence-based practices used for assessment and evaluation of drug-impaired driving were shared by Mrs. D.P.P. Weerasinghe, Assistant Director (Scientific Research) of the Narcotics Laboratory of the NDDCB.



THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS IN MITIGATING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC/BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Friday, 18 March, 9 – 9.50 a.m.

Organized by the UNODC Regional Programme Office for Eastern Europe

During the side event, featuring over than 120 participants, law enforcement officers expressed serious concerns over the COVID-19 lockdown and related restrictions. It was noted that effective and humane responses to epidemics and pandemics, access to needed therapy and treatment including necessary medications, and legal aid – all required protection of the rights of key communities.

The panel featured presentations on the changing role of law enforcement during the pandemic, and strategies to strengthen the capacity of police as they were called upon to provide frontline support to the community during the crisis. Panelists emphasized that police agencies needed to identify and develop working relationships with relevant stakeholders, and community engagement strategies needed to focus on drug treatment and recovery, being sensitive to the context of communities, utilizing engagement and explaining strategies. It was highlighted that awareness-raising campaigns were essential to ensure effective COVID-19 prevention and occupational safety among law enforcement forces, to ensure continuity and effectiveness of HIV and drug treatment and recovery services for people who use drugs and people in prisons.



CONTAINER CONTROL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESS CASE – COLOMBIA

Friday, 18 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the UNODC Colombia with the support of Colombia

The side event was attended by delegates from national authorities that carried out customs, anti-narcotics, sanitary and phytosanitary controls in port terminals. The event presented the achievements of the implementation of the program which aimed to strengthen capacities to improve risk management, structures and processes to prevent illicit

trafficking in drugs, psychotropic substances and their chemical precursors, arms trafficking, currency trafficking, trafficking in biological, radioactive or nuclear materials (CBRN), and illegal trade in protected timber, flora, fauna and wildlife.



In Colombia, with 10 Port Control Units, the program strengthened coordination, planning and articulation mechanisms: risk management, basic and specialized training and practices, and information exchange with technological tools of the World Customs Organization.

[Recording](#)

UNODC SYNTHETIC DRUG STRATEGY: TACKLING THE GLOBAL SYNTHETIC DRUG PROBLEM THROUGH AIR-CARGO SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Friday, 18 March, 12.15-13.05

Organized by the Universal Postal Union with the support of Canada, and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service

The event focused on the importance of international cooperation in the framework of the UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy to address the trafficking of synthetic drugs through air cargo. Representatives from the UNODC Global Scientific and Forensic Services, the Universal Postal Union's Postal Security Programme, the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, the UNODC-WCO-INTERPOL AIRCOP project, the UNODC CRIMJUST global programme and the Transport Canada's Air Cargo Security Program discussed various aspects of that issue. Expertise was shared on how to leverage science and technology to strengthen counternarcotics capacity and support international operations to disrupt synthetic drug trafficking through air cargo.

Organizer: Universal Postal Union

Co-sponsor: Canada, UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service (LSS)

Moderator: Ms. Asma Fakhri, Programme Management Officer, Laboratory and Scientific Service, UNODC

Panelists

Mr. Conor Crean
Scientific Affairs Officer, Laboratory and Scientific Service, UNODC

Ms. Dawn Wilkes
Security Program Manager, Universal Postal Union

Mr. Kell Otterson
Senior Programme Coordinator, UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, UNODC

Mr. Cristian Fanelli
Law Enforcement Expert, UNODC-WCO-INTERPOL AIRCOP, UNODC

Mr. Glen Prichard
Law Enforcement Expert, Implementation Support Section, CRIMJUST, UNODC

Mr. Stan Martens
Senior Programme Officer, Air Cargo Security, Transport Canada

International cooperation is key to tackling the global synthetic drug problem. Join us to hear from a distinguished panel of speakers to learn more about how to leverage science and technology to strengthen counternarcotics capacity and support international operations to disrupt trafficking of synthetic drugs through air cargo.

IN THE CONTEXT OF ACCESSIBILITY: HOW DIGITAL TOOLS CAN BE USED IN PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

Friday, 18 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Green Crescent Indonesia Foundation with the support of the Association of Non-Profit Organizations to Facilitate Drug Prevention and Socially Dangerous Behavior, ELEM – Youth in Distress and the Turkish Green Crescent Society

Moderated by Muhammad Ridha from the Green Crescent Indonesia Foundation, the panel discussed the success and challenges in encouraging the use of digital devices in efforts to prevent addiction around the world, which was easy, cheap, and accessible by all.



Following a brief welcome by the Chairperson of the Green Crescent Indonesia Foundation, Mr. Era Catur Prasetya, the Elem Youth in Distress representative, Mr. Roy Homri, talked about how digital tools could address many addiction problems among the youth in Israel. Mr. Hari Nugroho from the Green Crescent Indonesia Foundation presented a new report on how digital tools had been used in Indonesia and their pros and cons in the drug field. Mr. Kemal Altin from the Green Crescent Turkey mentioned that digital tools could increase drug abuse. The session was closed by Maxim Polyatus from the National Antidrug Union, elaborating on how digital tools were used to address many problems in Russia.

CANNABIS: NEW PREVENTION POLICIES BETWEEN MYTHS AND FACTS

Friday, 18 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Jordan Anti Drugs Society (TJADS) with the support of Jordan, and Institute Utrip, the Turkish Green Crescent Society and the World Federation Against Drugs

Over 65 people from 21 countries joined the event. H.E Rana Abida, on behalf of H.E Lina Al Hadid, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations in Vienna, opened the event. Erik Leijonmarck from World Federation Against Drugs talked about prevention - science as a practice, and the Icelandic Prevention Model. Matej Kosir from the Institute Utrip discussed the distinguishment of cannabis policies in the context of Slovenia, and the global general trends in legalization and decriminalization of cannabis. Zeynep Temel from the Turkish Green Crescent highlighted

Turkish experiences on cannabis policies, policy implementation and the way forward. Dr. Mousa Daoud from Jordan discussed the differences between cannabis policies, how the new policies could affect cannabis usage in communities, and how TJADS had supported and advocated for evidence-based strategies to promote public health, safety and the well-being of society, including those addicted to drugs and their families.



PEOPLE IN RECOVERY AND STIGMA: BARRIERS AND STRENGTHS IN THEIR PATHWAYS

Friday, 18 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the San Patrignano Foundation with the support of Italy, and the Aspire - Drug and Alcohol Service Doncaster, the Drug Free America Foundation, EURAD, the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States (OAS), the NHS Addictions Provider Alliance, Proslavi Oporavak, the University of Derby and the World Federation Against Drugs

H.E. Ms. Fabiana Dadone, Italian Minister of Youth Policies, underlined in her opening remarks the impact of substance use disorder (SUD) on public health and the need to fight stigma so that people could access treatment.

H.E. Ambassador Namm talked about the good collaboration with Italy and the San Patrignano, and the OAS commitment to reduce stigma. Patrick Kennedy shared his personal experience with SUD and the weight of stigma, highlighting the need for peers and family support. Other speakers, including experts in the field of SUD with some sort of lived experience – personal or of their relatives – underlined how substance use disorder was the most stigmatized condition. It was a barrier to housing, employment and access to treatment. It was noted that connections, hope, identity, meaning, empowerment (C.H.I.M.E) were the five elements that contributed to starting and maintaining a stable recovery, as recovery happened in the collectivity, among people, that should be welcoming and not stigmatizing.



[Recording](#)

MITIGATING THE RISKS OF CORPORATE CAPTURE IN EMERGING LEGAL CANNABIS MARKETS

Friday, 18 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the Transform Drug Policy Foundation with the support of the Global Drug Policy Observatory, Health Limited, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Transnational Institute and the Washington Office on Latin America

The side event highlighted that as more jurisdictions explored and implemented legal regulation of cannabis for medical and non-medical uses, concerns had grown about corporate capture, in which commercial entities could distort policy-making processes to prioritize profits over public health, social justice, or wider sustainable development goals in emerging domestic and international markets.

Official side event for the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Mitigating the risks of corporate capture in emerging legal cannabis markets

As more jurisdictions explore and implement legal regulation of cannabis for medical and non-medical uses, concerns have grown about corporate capture, in which commercial entities can distort policy making processes to prioritize profits over public health, social justice, or wider sustainable development goals in emerging domestic and international markets. This side event explores the nature of this risk and considers mitigation strategies in policy design and advocacy.

Speakers

- Steve Rolles, Founder Drug Policy Foundation
- Lisa Sanchez, Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia
- Shaleen Title, Parabola Centre
- Benoit Gomis, Simon Fraser University

Date: Friday March 18th, 2022
Time: 12:15 - 13:05 (CET Vienna)
Join: Free online-only event
Register: <https://bit.ly/3KXDoN>

Logos: Gdpo, tni, TRANSFORM Drug Policy Foundation, HEALTHY POLICY ACTION, idpc, WOLA

The event explored the nature of that risk and considered mitigation strategies in policy design and advocacy. Steve Rolles (the [Transform Drug Policy Foundation](#)) provided an overview of corporate capture within the current cannabis policy landscape. Benoit Gomis (Simon Fraser University) spoke about [lessons learned from illegal tobacco markets that could be applied for cannabis regulation](#). Shaleen Title (the [Parabola centre](#)) explored [practical legislative approaches](#) to preventing the emergence of monopolies in cannabis markets. Lisa Sanchez ([Mexico Unido Contra Delincuencia](#)) described recent experiences in Mexico with corporate influence undermining effective policy design.

[Recording](#)

OPEN WOUND: EXTRAJUDICIAL DRUG WAR KILLINGS IN 2022

Friday, 18 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by the DRCNet Foundation with the support of the Asian Human Rights Commission, the Associazione Luca Coscioni and the Forum Droghe

The side event featured the following speakers: Karen Gomez-Dumpit, Commissioner on the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines; Zaved Mahmood, Human Rights and Drug Policy Advisor of the OHCHR; Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman, Programme Coordinator at the Asian Human Rights Council; and Cristiano Avila Maronna, Board Member of the Brazil-based Justa Project. The event, moderated by David Borden and Marco Perduca, featured 55 participants representing civil society groups, UN agencies and the European Union. Speakers provided updates on extrajudicial killings and an overview of the issues at stake globally.

Facebook Live Video: Open Wound: Extrajudicial Drug War Killings in 2022

Hosted by DRCNet Foundation and StopTheDrugWar.org, with the support of the Asian Human Rights Commission, the Associazione Luca Coscioni and the Forum Droghe.

Speakers: Karen Gomez-Dumpit, Commissioner on the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines; Zaved Mahmood, Human Rights and Drug Policy Advisor of the OHCHR; Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman, Programme Coordinator at the Asian Human Rights Council; and Cristiano Avila Maronna, Board Member of the Brazil-based Justa Project.

Event details: 76 Views, 185 reactions, 6 comments, 76 shares.

[Recording](#)

MOTHERHOOD AND DRUG USE: EMERGING RESEARCH AND ON-THE-GROUND EVIDENCE

Friday, 18 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by Corporación ATS Acción Técnica Social with the support of Instituto RIA

Side event speakers expressed concern that women who use substances, especially mothers, were highly stigmatized. The all-female panel noted that a positive drug test did not demonstrate whether a parent was good or bad. Speakers stressed the urgency to dismantle structural systems of oppression that harmed families and communities. The panel indicated that child-rearing was complicated when family values of respect, acceptance, and responsible consumption clashed with the punitive, prohibitionist systems. Survey data and research regarding women and drug use were shared.



[Recording](#)

RESPONSIBLE LEGAL REGULATION OF DRUGS: A PATHWAY TO GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PLANETARY HEALTH

Friday, 18 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by Health Limited with the support of Instituto RIA and the Transnational Institute

During the side event, Neil Woods, former undercover police officer from the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP), Europe, identified the far-reaching harms of prohibition, in particular as a vessel for enabling the excursion of power by state and non-state actors whose agenda was not climate mitigation, but rather government fragility and weakness.

Romina Vazquez from Instituto RIA in Mexico presented mechanisms that could be leveraged through the new regulatory models to strengthen governance and social justice.



Responsible Legal Regulation:
A Pathway to Good Governance
& Planetary Health

18th March 12:15 - 13:05 CET
Side event at the 65th Session
UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

SPEAKERS
Neil Woods - LEAP Europe
Clemmie James - Health Poverty Action
Sylvia Kay - Transnational Institute
Romina Vázquez - Instituto RIA
Thomas Cai - Health Poverty Action, Cambodia

Logos for HEALTH POVERTY ACTION, LEAP EUROPE, tni, and INSTITUTO RIA are displayed at the bottom.

Thomas Cai, from the Health Poverty Action in Cambodia, elaborated on the programs that became possible when multiple stakeholders collectively sidestepped prohibitionist policies to achieve health-based lifesaving harm reduction services.

Lastly, Sylvia Kay from the Transnational Institute presented the opportunities for environmental protection, safeguarding and justice through the legal regulation of drugs.

REACHING GLOBAL AIDS TARGETS THROUGH HARM REDUCTION AND REFORM OF RESTRICTIVE DRUG POLICY FRAMEWORKS

Friday, 18 March, 12.15 – 13.05

Organized by UNAIDS with the support of Harm Reduction International, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the International Network of People who Use Drugs and the World Health Organization

During the side event, it was underscored that the 10-10-10 targets had been passed by a majority of Member States in the new Global AIDS Strategy and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS 2021, along with the 80-60-30 targets on community-led responses. The side event was the pathway to further discussions on achieving those targets and how UNAIDS, as the Joint Program, could support countries in their journey towards the 90% coverage of harm reduction and towards removal of punitive sanctions for the possession of small quantities of drugs.

It was also discussed that the Strategy had ambitious harm reduction targets, which were never going to be reached as long as the experiences of health care for people who use drugs remained unwelcoming and hostile.

A number of recommendations was mentioned during the side event, e.g.,

- The 10-10-10 targets, signed on to by the majority of Member States, committed the world to work towards the decriminalization of drug use and possession, the removal of punitive laws and policies, reducing stigma and discrimination against people living with and affected by HIV and towards gender equality.
- Community-led responses - Governments must act now and invest to meet the targets for community-led organizations to deliver 30% of testing and treatment, 80% of HIV prevention, and 60% of programs to support the achievement of societal enablers. Community participation in policymaking – should be funded and actively supported.

DRONES, OPEN DATA AND MORE: NOVEL METHODS IN MONITORING ILLICIT CROP CULTIVATION

Friday, 18 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Country Office Bolivia (Plurinational State of) with the support of the UNODC Country Office Nigeria, the UNODC Programme Development and Management Unit and the UNODC Programme Office in Kyrgyzstan

During the side event, the UNODC Country Office in Bolivia presented on the use of drones in Bolivia to validate the coca crops eradication. Information was provided on how those devices were used in the field to gather information, as well as on the products generated (geotagged pictures and mosaics). The UNODC Global Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (ICMP) in Vienna presented the results of using open data to optimize the monitoring of opium poppy in Mexico, through the geostatistical analysis of satellite imagery and aerial pictures. Finally, the ICMP presented the results of the first cannabis monitoring Survey in Nigeria, where the identification and quantification methods had been described for that crop.



PROJECT MEXK54 ILLICIT CROP MONITORING IN THE MEXICAN TERRITORY SYSTEM: ILLICIT CROP MONITORING – 10 YEARS OF MEXICAN GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

Friday, 18 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by UNODC Mexico with the support of Mexico

During the side event, the UNODC Illicit Crops Monitoring (MEXK54) Project was presented to the international community.

Representatives of the Secretary of National Defense (SEDENA), the Secretary of the Navy (SEMAR), Attorney General's Office (FGR) and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs (SRE) of Mexico shared their experiences, covering namely: main challenges and perspectives from the field and the merging of technology and data science which had led to unprecedented inter-institutional collaboration. Discussions also revolved around the strengthening of technological capacities in Mexico and the sustainability of the project after 10 years of collective efforts.



SHARING THE EXPERIENCES OF BRAZIL AND MEXICO IN SOCIAL PROTECTION AND PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN THE CONTEXT OF DETENTION CONTROL HEARINGS

Friday, 18 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Brazil with the support of Brazil

The side event showcased strategies and practices implemented in Brazil and Mexico, which sought to address social protection in the context of detention control hearings and aimed to identify social and health needs among pre-trial detainees, and to provide referrals to the social services networks when released, with a focus on demands related to drug use disorders. A brief background on the implementation of the detention control hearings in both countries, Brazil and Mexico, was presented by the Brazilian National Council of Justice and by the Superior Justice Court from Chihuahua State, Mexico. Then representatives from social protection technical teams provided data and information about the “Corra para o Abraço” service from the Brazilian State of Bahia, and the Mexican experience of the “Servicios Previos al Juicio” were presented, regarding the identification and providing referrals for demands related to drug use presented by pre-trial detainees.

The side event was moderated by Ms. Nara de Araujo, from the UNODC Liaison and Partnership Office in Brazil and Ms. Moema Freire, from UNDP Brazil.

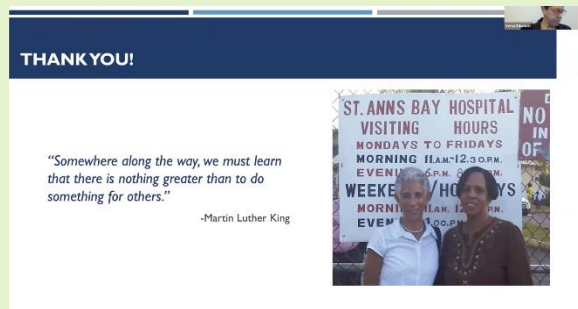


DISPARITIES IN ACCESS TO INTERNATIONALLY CONTROLLED ESSENTIAL MEDICINES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Friday, 18 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) with the support of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

The [event](#) featured opening remarks from H.E. Ms. Cheryl Spencer, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, presentations by three palliative care providers in the Caribbean, including IAHPC Board member Dr. Dingle Spence, and closing remarks by Sir George Alleyne. The



presentations on accessibility or lack thereof in their home countries by the three palliative care providers from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana, were followed by a perspective from the regulatory division, represented by Ms. Verna Edwards, the Pharmaceutical & Regulatory Affairs Department, the Standards & Regulations Division, the Ministry of Health and Wellness of Jamaica. The highlight of the event was a short video of a cancer patient discussing the therapeutic and pain-relieving effects of morphine.

SUFFERING IN THE SHADOWS: THE IMPACT OF DRUG-RELATED INCARCERATION ON FAMILY MEMBERS

Friday, 18 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Washington Office on Latin America with the support of Mexico, and the Church World Service, the International Drug Policy Consortium, Plataforma NNAPES and the Red Internacional de Mujeres Familiares de Personas Privadas de la Libertad

Panelists discussed their lived experiences as family members of incarcerated people during the side event. In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Luis Javier Campuzano Piña, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in Vienna, emphasized the need to hold governments accountable for the harm incarceration enacts on families and women, and how the event would raise awareness of that “cruel reality.” Panelists shared their personal experiences of visiting incarcerated family members and their rejection of the prison system that targeted small drug charges instead of “drug kingpins.” Another central theme was the incarceration of women and the detrimental effects on their children, family members, and their health. The speakers hoped to create greater protections for those groups in situations of vulnerability, use other strategies to reform drug laws and promote alternatives to incarceration.

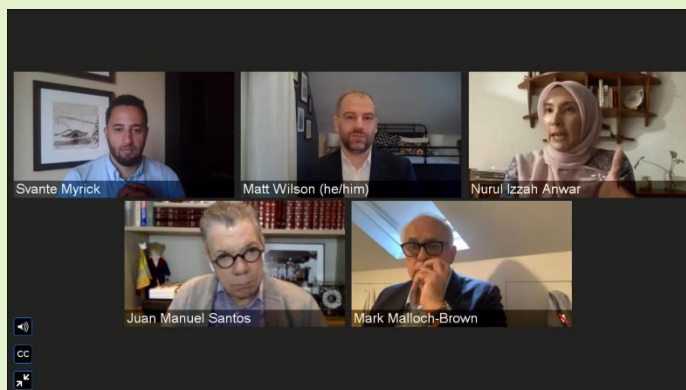


DRUGS AND ELECTIONS: HOW TO ADVANCE DRUG POLICY REFORM

Friday, 18 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Open Society Institute

In his opening remarks, Open Society President Mark Malloch-Brown emphasized how prohibitionist drug policies served as a proxy for regimes with authoritarian tendencies, resulting in human rights violations. Former Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, Malaysian Member of Parliament Nurul Izzah Anwar, and former Mayor of Ithaca, New York, Svante Myrick spoke at the side event. They described the harm caused by the drug war in their respective contexts and shared some thoughts and offered personal reflections on how to ensure that drug policies were based on human rights, public health, and evidence. They recognized the challenges of broadening the constituency for drug policy reform. They also emphasized that failing policies should not be allowed to continue, and politicians' leadership and perseverance were essential in leading for change.



WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS: INTERSECTING INJUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY

Friday, 18 March, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by UN Women with the support of Australia, and the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section and the Women and the Harm Reduction International Network (WHRIN)



Gender inequality, punitive drug policies and other social and structural issues created intersecting inequalities for women who used drugs and faced challenges in realizing their rights to health. The side event explored the challenges and highlighted opportunities for reform. [An advocacy brief](#) was launched by the WHRIN, with inputs from UN Women, calling for repealing punitive responses towards women who used drugs to end stigma, discrimination, violence and other human rights violations, promoting meaningful engagement of women who used drugs, including those living with HIV, and strengthening gender-responsive HIV prevention, treatment and care and harm reduction services.

Recordings [1](#) and [2](#) & [keynote](#) by H.E. Ms. Christine Clarke, Ambassador of Australia for Women and Girls

Additional Events in the margins of the 65th session of the CND

UNODC YOUTH FORUM 2022

Monday, 28 February to Friday, 4 March 2022

Organized by the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

The UNODC Youth Forum is an annual event organized within the UNODC Youth Initiative, aiming to gather young people from around the globe to connect with each other, learn and share perspectives on evidence-based drug use prevention, and be empowered to be active in their communities for substance use prevention and health promotion. The Youth Forum 2022 in an online format welcomed the highest-ever number of participants, with 74 young people from 43 countries.

Youth participants embraced key messages on evidence-based drug use prevention and imagined how they would like to see the positive change reflected in their communities. The youth jointly created a [Youth Statement](#), which was conveyed to global policymakers during the 65th session of CND, urging Member States to continue to invest in evidence-based prevention and to more actively engage with youth in prevention efforts.



[Event Timeline](#) & [Video](#).

INFORMAL SCIENTIFIC NETWORK MEETING ON THE TOPIC OF SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT AND CARE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN

Thursday, 10 March and Friday, 11 March 2022, 13:00-17:00 (Vienna time)

Organized by the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the World Health Organization

The UNODC-WHO Informal Scientific Network (ISN), a platform for academia to be in dialogue with policymakers on how to counter the world drug problem, was reconvened to develop a [statement](#) on “Substance Use Prevention and Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Care for Girls and Women”. Guided by the Chairs Dr. Volkow (USA) and Prof. Zhao (China), and with the support from UNODC/WHO, more than 30 leading scientists agreed on key recommendations during two virtual sessions held on 10 and 11 March. On 17 March, during the 65th CND Plenary session, Dr. Volkow, [presented](#) key points of the ISN statement, highlighting the following recommendations for girls and women with substance use disorders: eliminate all forms of discrimination and stigma; enhance workforce development, implement effective prevention and health promotion; avail adequate resources for effective prevention and treatment in a gender-/age-responsive manner; and promote and evaluate gender-sensitive policies for the provision of human-rights based treatment interventions.



THE IMPACT OF THE INEQUALITIES ON THE DELIVERY OF HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

Tuesday, 8 March, 9.00 – 13:10 and Wednesday, 9 March, 10.00 – 14:15

Organized by the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section in collaboration with the International AIDS Society (IAS), International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS

At the margins of the 65th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, a two-day pre-CND multi-stakeholder consultation was held to establish a close dialogue between academia and the community of people who use drugs. Organized for the second year in a row, the consultation provided space for academia and the community of people who use drugs to express their opinions on the most urgent and crucial issues with regard to the impact of inequalities on the delivery of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support among people who use drugs.

Renowned scientists discussed and identified together with the community representatives the key strategies that were required to link science, policy, and clinical practice, as well as to eliminate stigma, discrimination and marginalization of people who use drugs. Country examples from Nepal, Georgia, Ukraine, Vietnam, Egypt and Kyrgyzstan were presented during the event, which was attended by over 50 participants. The dialogue between the academic experts and the community during that meeting helped to produce a statement that highlighted the existing gaps in the delivery of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support among people who use drugs and the core approaches needed to address such inequalities. Accordingly, the President of the International AIDS Society, Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman, addressed the Plenary of the 65th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 17 March and shared with the delegates the main outcomes of the pre-CND consultation.



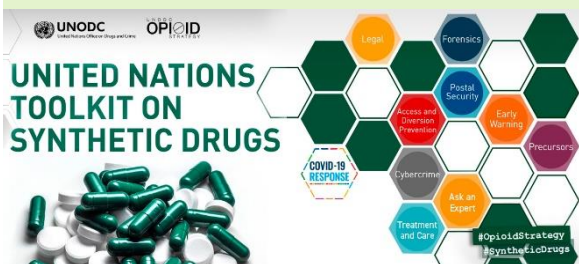
Demonstrations

DEMONSTRATION OF THE UN TOOLKIT ON SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Tuesday, 15 March, Wednesday, 16 March, and Thursday, 17 March, 16.10-16.30

Organized by Laboratory and Scientific Service

Three live demonstrations showcased the features and content of [the UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs](#), an online platform that gathers multidisciplinary resources related to synthetic drugs from across the UN system. The Toolkit was created in response to CND Resolutions 61/8 (2018) and 62/4 (2019) which called on UNODC, WHO, INCB and the international community to develop new and innovative approaches to address the international threats posed



by the non-medical use of synthetic drugs. The Toolkit brings together specialized content covering areas such as forensics, precursors, early warning, legal responses, treatment and cybercrime. Coordinated in the framework of the UNODC Synthetic Drug Strategy, it is now available in five UN official languages and contains over 300 cross-cutting tools and resources to help build capacity to address challenges related to synthetic drugs.