

#### Chapter 4: Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

Int. Network of People Who Use Drugs(INPUD)	Ms. Judy Chang
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Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

I, Judy Chang, am making this intervention on behalf of (INPUD) the International Network of People who use Drugs, as a Board Member.

I would like to thank the Chair, Ambassador of Portugal and the CND for this opportunity.

INPUD is a global peer based organization seeking to promote the health and protect the human rights of people who use drugs. We achieve this through international level advocacy, whilst supporting people who use drugs at regional and national levels.

We have welcomed the operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues; drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities. We welcome member states commitment in paragraph 4 to work towards drug policies that respect the human rights, fundamental freedoms, and inherent dignity of all individuals, including people who use drugs, and to cooperate with relevant UN agencies including those with mandates relevant to human rights, and with civil society to realise these goals.

The operationalisation of the recommendations of the UNGASS on drugs, human rights, women and communities is critical. A regression in human rights and drug policy is underway, under the umbrella of the three drug control conventions.

Our communities are subject to: -

- the scale up of compulsory drug detention centres
- attempts to reinstate the death penalty for drug offences
- an epidemic of preventable drug overdose deaths, where globally over 200,000 people die each year.
- 6000 state sanctioned killings of people who use drugs in just over six months in the Philippines.

To operationalise Paragraph 4 of the UNGASS Outcome Document effectively, we urge member states to:

1) Invest in Community Systems Strengthening, so that communities can build

- resistance and resources in order to protect our human rights.
- 2) Invite community members – and national networks of people who use drugs where they exist - to policy and programming decision making forums at the national level. People who use drugs bring many resources to these processes. We can advise on what works; and what is acceptable, feasible and realistic for our communities.
  - 3) Allow human rights observers access to monitor national programmes to ensure that they are aligned with the UDR, the ICCPR, and the ICESCR to which many countries here have both signed and ratified; and to report on human rights to the CND pursuant to operational recommendation 4(e)
  - 4) Cross- share information and lessons learned on best practices of progressive drug policy reform, and to create platforms in which to do so.
  - 5) We urge progressive national, bilateral and multilateral states and agencies to continue to pressure, and use economic and political means at their disposal to halt the continued human rights violations on people who use drugs.

Cross cutting issues of drugs, human rights, youth, women and communities is not optional. It is critical for our survival. We are valuable citizens who can use our knowledge and skills to contribute to drug policy reform and to society. Finally, we must move towards the decriminalisation of drug use, as the most effective and surest way of realising the human rights of people who use drugs.

In closing I'd like to sincerely thank the Chair for giving myself and the International Network of People who use Drugs the floor.