

Operational recommendations on cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: Evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments.

Thank you Chair, thank you delegates and distinguished audience. I am Monica Barzanti and represent the San Patrignano Foundation, in Ecosoc Status since 1997. Founded in 1978, San Patrignano Community has provided over 25,000 people with a home, medical and legal assistance, education and job training, social reintegration, completely free of charge. 72% of those who completed the program, fully reintegrated into society, remain drug-free. We also welcome people with special needs: offenders in alternative sentencing, as well as minors, pregnant women and mothers with kids.

Over the last decades most countries have experienced an increase in the use of cannabis, cocaine, prescription drugs and new synthetic substances, while the use of heroin remains stable or increases, as it is happening in US, which is facing an heroin epidemic. It is necessary to find solutions to the social, economic and cultural threats that this new trend constitutes, as it affects all social classes, highly advanced countries as well as developing countries, particularly impacting poor and marginalized populations, making them poorer and more marginalized

The complexities surrounding the global drug problem requires an equally complex approach, based on public health, with a human rights perspective: individuals, families and societies need help to reduce the impact that problematic drug use has on them.

We suggest these Actions Points

- Treatment services should provide a full and complete range of opportunities
- These opportunities should be provided to all and everyone, free of charge or at an affordable cost
- Special attention should be devoted to those serving prison sentences, fostering the opportunity of an alternative to incarceration, in full respect of human rights
- Best practices should be identified through the research, and made available to Governments, Institutions and NGOs working in this field.

We totally support the UN Conventions, the relevant international human rights conventions and charters, and the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document that reads: “We reaffirm the need to address the key causes and consequences of the world drug problem, including those in the health, social, human rights, economic, justice, public security and law enforcement fields, in line with the principle of common and shared responsibility, and recognize the value of comprehensive and balanced policy interventions, including those in the field of promotion of sustainable and viable livelihoods” Thank you