

Supporting Common Approaches to the World Drug Problem at the National Level

PART I:
How can UN Country
Teams support national
efforts to implement
the Common Position?

PART I of this document was created to guide UN Country Teams in implementing the Common Position on drugs at the national level.

“Supporting Member States in developing and implementing truly balanced, comprehensive, integrated, evidence-based, human rights-based, development-oriented and sustainable responses to the world drug problem, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”
- **UN Common Position, 2018**

How can UN Country Teams support national efforts to implement the Common Position?

CCA & UNSDCF

To support the development and implementation of drug policies, strategies and plans that put people, health and human rights at the centre;

Ensure the respect for the dignity and human rights for people who use drugs in all aspects of drug and social-economic policies;

Technical Assistance

Provide Member States with a necessary evidence base to make informed policy decisions and to better understand the risks and benefits of new approaches to drug control;

Compile, analyse and produce data reflecting UN system-wide practices and lessons-learned in drug-related matters, and produce system-wide data and analysis.

Policy Advice

Assist Member States in implementing non-discriminatory drug policies, including ethnicity, race, sex, language, religion, or other status

Joint Advocacy

Call for changes in drug-related laws, policies and practices that threaten the health and human rights of people, particularly people who use drugs;

Considering drugs in the CCA & UNSDCF

Through the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) to support Member States to consider legal, policy, institutional, and programmatic responses to address the drug problem within a truly balanced, comprehensive, integrated, evidence-based, human rights-based, development-oriented and sustainable approach across the following areas:

Public Health

- Promote a rebalancing of drug policies and interventions towards public health approaches;
- Scientific evidence-based, accessible and affordable recovery-oriented continuum of care based upon prevention, treatment and support, also in prison settings;
- Access to controlled substances for scientific and medical purposes, including morphine for pain relief, and methadone and buprenorphine for drug dependence treatment and naloxone to reverse opioid overdose;
- Access to the comprehensive package of services to prevent the transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne diseases for persons who use drugs.

Criminal Law

- Promote compatibility of the national response to drugs with country's obligation under international human rights treaties;

Criminal Law

- Promote compatibility of the national response to drugs with country's obligation under international human rights treaties;

Inclusion

- Consider people who use drugs and particularly, children, women, people deprived of liberty, migrants, LGBT;

Data & Evidence

- Consider in the assessment extent and patterns of drug use and health consequences, and illicit drug cultivation, production, drug trafficking and drug-related offences;

COVID-19

- Consider the needs of people with drug use disorders and communities vulnerable to illicit drug cultivation and trafficking in post-recovery plans

Output statements in UNSDCF addressing drugs

- Development of legislative and policy frameworks, (including MLA, judicial cooperation and extradition) to counter drug trafficking supported;
- Institutions and capacities for delivery of evidence-informed prevention intervention and effective, affordable and responsive treatment for people who use drugs strengthened;
- Data on drug-use, drug-related health services and reporting in relation to SDGs and other international monitoring frameworks strengthened;
- Institutional capacities of governments at national and subnational levels to plan, implement and monitor drug-related policy frameworks strengthened;
- Human rights-based approach mainstreamed into drug policies

Shared Principals under the Common Position

1

Implement recommendations from the UNGASS

2

Recognize the problem as complex and multi-faceted

3

Underscore need for a comprehensive approach

4

Promote an evidence-based, balanced approach

5

Acknowledge a common, shared responsibility

6

Recognize health, welfare as the foundations of drug control conventions

7

Acknowledge the conventions' flexibility to support national needs

8

Acknowledge conventions, human rights treaties, 2030 Agenda as complementary