



World Federation Against Drugs

# Global Drugs Policies UNGASS 2016 and beyond

ECAD XXII Mayors' Conference  
Building Towards a Comprehensive and Ambitious Drug Policy in Preparation  
for UNGASS 2016

Malta, 11-12 May, 2015

Linda Nilsson, Secretary General  
World Federation Against Drugs



# World Federation Against Drugs

World Federation Against Drugs was founded in Stockholm, Sweden 2009.

WFAD is a multilateral community of non-governmental organizations and individuals. We share a common concern that illicit drug use is undercutting traditional values and threatening the existence of stable families, communities, and government institutions throughout the world. Our aim is to work for a drug-free world.

We have 150 member organizations over the world, in all continents.







# World Federation Against Drugs



## UNGASS 2016

- United Nations General Assembly Special Session on drugs, 19-21 April, 2016
- To assess and debate the World Drug Problem
- Important milestone in achieving the goals set out in the plan of Action 2009-2019
- Preparations started 2014
- High level meetings:
  - May 2015
  - October 2015
  - 59th CND, March 2015

# What is on the agenda ?

- 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs
- 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances
- 1988, Convention Against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances
- Main aim: to take measures against illicit drugs and at the same time ensure adequate supply for medicine and other licit use.



**SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, 1961,  
AS AMENDED BY THE 1972 PROTOCOL AMENDING THE  
SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, 1961**

PREAMBLE

*The Parties,*

*Concerned* with the health and welfare of mankind,

*Recognizing* that the medical use of narcotic drugs continues to be indispensable for the relief of pain and suffering and that adequate provision must be made to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs for such purposes,

*Recognizing* that addiction to narcotic drugs constitutes a serious evil for the individual and is fraught with social and economic danger to mankind,

*Conscious* of their duty to prevent and combat this evil,

*Considering* that effective measures against abuse of narcotic drugs require co-ordinated and universal action,

*Understanding* that such universal action calls for international co-operation guided by the same principles and aimed at common objectives,

*Acknowledging* the competence of the United Nations in the field of narcotics control and desirous that the international organs concerned should be within the framework of that Organization,

*Desiring* to conclude a generally acceptable international convention replacing existing treaties on narcotic drugs, limiting such drugs to medical and scientific use, and providing for continuous international co-operation and control for the achievement of such aims and objectives,

*Hereby agree* as follows:<sup>1</sup>



## 2009-2019 Plan of Action

The drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health safety and well-being of all humanity, in particular youth, our most precious asset.

We are determined to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace.

2019 target date to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably:

- The illicit cultivation;
- The illicit demand and drug related harms and social risks;



## May 7

7 MAY 2015

### **War on Drugs 'Painstaking, Often Thankless, Seemingly Unending' Struggle, General Assembly Hears in Thematic Debate Laying Ground for New Global Approach**

Sixty-ninth General Assembly, Thematic Debate, AM & PM Meetings

GENERAL ASSEMBLY | MEETINGS COVERAGE





## Ad Hoc US Coalition for Global Drug Policy Reform

We, the undersigned US and international non-governmental organizations that work on drug policy issues in the United States, and supporting organizations from other countries, call for a significant shift in global drug policy in line with international human rights standards, and that prioritizes health, including access to medicines, security, and development.

Existing US and global drug control policies that heavily emphasize criminalization of drug use, possession, production and distribution are inconsistent with international human rights standards and have contributed to serious human rights violations. The criminalization of personal drug use and possession for personal use infringes on the right to privacy and basic principles of autonomy on which other rights rest.



## Signatories

### Businesses

The ArcView Group  
Berkeley Patients Group (CA)  
Denver Relief Consulting (CO)  
Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps  
4Front Advisors



### Out of the Shadows. Into the Light

*Cannabis innovation, activism, medicine, and compassion.*

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COMMUNITY

ABOUT

*“Clean, large, open, efficient and well-run....how compassionate care clinics ought to be. My script is from my oncologist, the real deal because my cancer is real. Thanks, Harborside, for being real, too.”*



## Civil Society Task Force

- To serve as the official liaison between the United Nations and civil society in the preparatory process of and at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the world drug problem in 2016.
- To ensure a comprehensive, structured, meaningful and balanced participation of civil society during this process.
- 30 members:  
6 affected population, 18 regional representatives, 2 global voices and 4 in steering committee)

## Members of CSTF





## Activities of CSTF

- Working closely with the UNODC Civil Society Team, the CSTF will (i) identify speakers and participants for all relevant UNGASS 2016 preparatory events; (ii) lead regional consultations; (iii) host a fourth VNGOC Civil Society Hearing during the 58th session CND and (iv) co-host with the Chair of the CND and/or the President of the General Assembly an Interactive Civil Society Hearing for all stakeholders prior to the UNGASS, whose conclusions would be an officially recognized document of the UNGASS preparatory process.

# Importance of the civil society

- *“Partnership should be more enhanced between States and civil society organizations in the implementation of policies, this is still not the case in most African countries, and I believe that this can be discussed at the UNGASS 2016.”*
  - Treatment center, Senegal
- *“We believe that the participation of the civil society is also crucial in order to generate a comprehensive and balanced dialogue on the world drug problem.”*
  - CIJ, Mexico

# Hearing the grass-root experts

- *"...bring to the attention of the world all effective solutions that have been implemented in different parts of the world, along with studies that demonstrate their quality and repeatability, not only in the area of recovery, but also in the alternative development, as well as alternative sentencing, primary prevention etc."*  
- San Patrignano, Italy

# Hearing the grass-root experts

- *“When making a drug policy especially in treatment and rehabilitation area, we need to take the knowledge and experiences of recovered substance users . ... If their experience and knowledge can be gathered together at a global level, it may be used to gain more results in treatment work.”*  
- Mithuru Sevana Drug Rehab Centre, Sri Lanka



## Development, SDG

- *“The vicious cycle of the lack of education, poverty, illiteracy, and violence and insecurity fueling and supporting the highly patriarchal society, and even fundamentalism and militancy, continues to exist in today’s Afghanistan. Breaking the cycle will take great resolve and courage, as many Afghan women and men have demonstrated, sometimes paying with their lives.”*  
- Afghanistan Women Saffron Association

# Sustainable Development Goals

- *“Drug Fight Malawi would like to see that the issues of drug control are fully considered and incorporated into the Sustainable Development Goals”*
  - Drug Free Malawi
- *“paying attention the correlation between underdevelopment in social & economical aspects with expansion of drug cultivation, production and smuggling and transit routes”*
  - CUDRAS, Iran

## Cooperation

- *“It is also an opportunity to discuss the North South Partnership not in terms of states, but in terms of community organizations fight against drugs. We do this in the various Federations we share but I believe that we must go beyond that and it would be nice to put the debate during the UNGASS even possible to generate recommendations in this regard.”*
  - Treatment center, Senegal

## Gender issues

- *“The trends in violence against girls and women are especially discouraging and worrying. Reforming the laws and penal codes, improving the judiciary, building awareness of the plight of girls and women, and facilitating attitudinal shifts toward a more gender balanced society are all imperative.”*
  - Afghanistan Women Saffron Association



## No to legalization

- *“Legalizing drug use will lead to increased rate of addiction among the youth which will result in more youth dropping out of school. For these reasons and others we would want you to highlight the dangers of drug legalization and vehemently oppose it.”*
  - Greenwealth Initiative, Nigeria
- *“We would also like WFAD to encourage country members to stop legalizing cannabis.”*
  - GRANAT, Indonesia

# Big Pharma, Big Marijuana

- *“In Canada, and I suspect in the USA as well, more kids are wrecking their lives on prescription medicines than all other substances combined. Many of these sanctioned drugs are strongly urged by their doctors and psychiatrists. The kids soon become addicts. ...This dreadful Emperor's Clothes story needs to be put in the public arena for serious debate and reform. Drug prevention network of Canada ”*
  - Drug Prevention Network of Canada
- *“Increased abuse of prescription drugs in the western world. Need strategies and tools to fight this.”*
  - Lifeloc Technologies, USA

## Advocate for Drug-free goal

*“Focus on the vision of “drug-free” – for prevention and treatment. “Recreational” drug use is a major health and safety threat regardless of the drug. That means prevention focuses on no-use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs by youth and treatment focuses on abstinence from the use of these drugs. That does not mean rejecting or incarcerating those who do use drugs but it means prevention and treatment hold high the goal of “drug-free” and actively discourage recreational drug use.”*

- Institute for Behavior and Health, USA

# Child Centered Approach

- *“Protecting against illicit drugs is unquestionably a human rights issue. ... How can a harm reduction policy, which legalizes drugs, be able to protect children? ... State Parties must adopt national drug policies directly promoting a “drug-free society” in order to create the protective environment for children that CRC prescribes.”*  
- Nada India



# Youth Empowerment

- *“To empower and connect youth from around the globe to become active in their schools, communities and youth groups for the prevention of substance abuse.”*  
- Beacon Youth Initiative, Nigeria
- *“How we can protect children from forced sexual abused from streets will also how we would retract drug users children who are 24 hours living on the streets without any protection.”*  
- LEEDO, Bangladesh

# Prevention First

- *“It is the most cost-effective, the most sustainable, the most people-empowering, and the most humane policy option, particularly in the context of protecting and assuring the best interests of the world’s children. ...We urge governments to follow UNICEF’s Child Protection Strategy 2009, which has determined prevention as the first priority for child protection.”*  
- Nada India

## Reintegration/Recovery

- *“In our opinion the most important issue for you to highlight internationally is the problem of reintegration in society of the rehabilitated addicts and the state institutions' response.”*  
- Preporod, Montenegro
- *“WFAD should highlight that we have to respect that every drug user should have given a fair chance to stop their use if they want. And the facilities should be available to drug users to quit and stop use whenever they want.”*  
- ADIC, Sri Lanka

## Balanced approach

- *“Unfortunately in most African countries the balanced approach exists in name only and I think it would not hurt to take this point to come up with strong recommendations during the UNGASS 2016 because repetition is educational.”*  
- Treatment center, Senegal
- *“the most important issue for WFAD to highlight internationally is a balanced policy more highlighting recovery, prevention and treatment. It is very important that you as an organization advocating this, and in this way help further and better development of drug policy.”*  
Celebrate Recovery, Bosnia Hercegovina

## Keep the conventions

- *“Naturally it’s important to defend the UN conventions from ongoing attacks and keep up the struggle for a restrictive global drug policy.”*  
- SLAN, Sweden
- *“To protect the International Conventions on narcotic drugs and to strengthen the preventive work among children and youth.”*  
SIMON, Sweden

## Leadership

- *“We see that leaders and powerful Nations of the world make compromises on the issues related to drugs for political purposes. ... There is a need of a solid commitment to control Drugs Mafias and smuggling of Drugs. The young people are becoming vulnerable to the drugs a special attention need to protect the young generations of the world.”*  
- RISE Pakistan
- *“It should be the focus on Governments to have political will ... How the member states make political declaration and plan of action into actual action to the grass root level.”*  
- Ahmed Ali Foundation, Pakistan



## The future

*"In a rapidly urbanizing world, drug control will be won, or lost, in the cities ... The cartels undermine security and development, causing some people to make dangerous wager in favour of legalization. This malaise is not the fault of the founding fathers of the drug control. It is an inescapable result of inadequate implementation of existing crime control agreements ... History will judge us severely unless we protect more effectively health, security and development"*

Antonio Maria Costa, 2009



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**Thank you for  
your attention!**

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