



CND

COMMISSION ON
NARCOTIC DRUGS
VIENNA

**CND 61st SESSION
SIDE EVENTS REPORT
12-16 MARCH 2018**

Side events 61st Session CND 2018, 12-16 March 2018

In the framework of the 61st session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies organized a side events programme featuring 94 side events. The CND once again hosted the annual Youth Forum in addition to holding a Hearing of the Informal Scientific Network. UNODC organizers kindly provided feedback on their side events as reflect below.

Side events

Monday 12 March

2:20-3:10 Development Oriented Drug Policies: The Future of Alternative Development

*Organized by the Governments of Thailand and Germany. **Conference Room M5***



UNODC's Sustainable Livelihoods Unit co-hosted a side event together with the governments of Germany and Thailand, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Mae Fah Luang Foundation on development oriented drug policies and the future of Alternative Development. Speakers from Peru, Germany, Thailand and UNODC discussed the scope of Alternative Development, specifically the inclusion of alternative livelihoods strategies in urban settings, the strengthening of linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals and the AD's contribution towards the 2019 review process of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

Tuesday 13 March

9:00-9:50 World Drug Report: latest trends and addressing users' needs

*Organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Research and Trend Analysis Branch. **Conference Room MOE100***

This event featured a review by the UNODC of the current issues on drug demand and drug supply that characterize the world drug problem and the way in which they are currently addressed in the World Drug Report. Following through with interventions from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), it provided an opportunity to review the needs of the multiple audiences of the Report and discuss options to increase its usefulness and use by all stakeholders.

2:20-3:10 Understanding the global opioid crisis – from the Americas to Africa



*Organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Laboratory and Scientific Section. **Conference room M5***

This side event presented the multifaceted problem of opioids in the World. The event started with the UNODC providing an introductory presentation, which looked at the problem from a global perspective. This was followed

by presentations from Estonia on the national fentanyl experience, the Tramadol situation in Ghana, and the fentanyl crisis in the United States. It was highlighted that the global opioid crisis is a multi-faceted problem, which calls for a comprehensive response considering regional differences while addressing the global nature of the problem.

Wednesday, 14 March

9:00-9:50 “The Paris Pact Initiative – A Global Forum to Fight Against the Illicit Trafficking of Opiates Originating in Afghanistan to the Region and Beyond”

*Organized by the Governments of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Paris Pact Initiative. **Conference Room M6***



The event brought together partners of the Paris Pact initiative concerned about the alarming figures of opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan. Speakers, who included the Executive Director of UNODC, the Permanent Representatives of France and the Russia Federation, Deputy Minister of Counter Narcotics of Afghanistan and U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for INL, stressed the high relevance of the Paris Pact Initiative and reaffirmed their strong commitment to joining forces based on

the principle of shared responsibility in tackling the problems associated with cultivation, production and trafficking of opiates originating in Afghanistan.

9:00-9:50 Leaving No One Behind: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in UNODC And UNOV

*Organized by the Government of Sweden and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Office of the Executive Director. **Press Room***

At this side event the Director-General/Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC officially presented the new Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women for UNOV and UNODC (2018–2021) to Member States and other stakeholders. UNODC Executive Director, highlighted that the Strategy would advance UNODC's support to Member States to mainstream gender in drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice activities, and work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Permanent Representative of Sweden to the International Organizations in Vienna, Helen Eduards and Senior Advisor of UN Women, Katja Pehrman joined the panel, and delivered remarks. In a video message, the Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka commended the Executive Director of UNODC, UNOV/UNODC senior management and staff for developing a strategy that is fully aligned with the Secretary-General's Strategy on Gender Parity and the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Martina Hanke, Policy Coordination Officer in the Office of the Executive Director provided a brief overview of the objectives and strategic performance areas of the strategy. The side event was moderated by Justice Tettey, Chief of UNODC's Laboratory and Scientific Section, and alternate Focal Point for Women at UNODC.

9:00-9:50 Modus operandi: Rip-on/Rip-off

*Organised by the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme and chaired by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador. **MOE100***



The well-attended event gave the participants an introduction to the concealment method rip-on/rip-off, a method through which criminals smuggle illicit goods taking advantage of an otherwise legitimate shipment. This method is often used for cocaine smuggling and the event also focused on the high number of cocaine seizures reported by Latin American and Caribbean countries over the past years.

1:10-2:40 Treatment and Care of People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment

*Organized by the Government of Bulgaria, the African Union Commission, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Justice and Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Sections, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, the World Health Organization and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. **Conference Room MBR-A***



At this special event, UNODC and WHO launched an advance version of their publication on the topic, which was developed based on contributions from 50 Member States, 3 regional organizations and over 70 individual experts on justice and health issues from 35 countries. In addition to UNODC and WHO, speakers included representatives of Bulgaria, Mexico, the African Union Commission, EMCDDA, OAS/CICAD and the civil society. The panellists exchanged information and views on promising policies and initiatives in providing treatment for people with drug use disorders as an alternative to conviction or

punishment at all stages of the criminal justice system. Key issues included the importance of a close cooperation between health and justice sectors and the need for availability and accessibility of evidence-based treatment services in the community enable effective diversion schemes.

1:10-2:00 The Security-Development Nexus: Exploring Alternative Development and the Need for a Conducive Environment

*Organized by the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Sustainable Livelihoods Unit. **Conference Room M3***



UNODC's Sustainable Livelihoods Unit together with the government of Afghanistan held a side event on the security-development nexus, exploring Alternative Development and the need for a conducive environment for sustainable private sector involvement. The side event served as a platform to discuss specific examples, successes and challenges of Alternative Development interventions in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Thailand. Participants engaged in a dynamic dialogue on the potential and limitations of long-term AD strategies and the conditionalities influencing UNODC's work in the field.

1:10-2:00 Improving the quality and coverage of data on drugs: the way forward

*Organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Data Development and Dissemination Unit
Conference Room M6*

The event was held in upon to Resolution 60/1 of March 2017, in which the CND asked UNODC to reflect on how to strengthen existing data collection tools to provide the international community with more, better and more comprehensive data on drugs and on how to support countries to improve their statistical capacity.

The side event - which follows the Expert Consultation held on 29-31 January 2018 which was attended by experts from 52 countries and 5 international organizations - offered another opportunity to discuss ways to improve the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) and to identify sustainable strategies to support national capacities to produce data on the drug problem.

2:20-3:10 Trafficking of Afghan opiates along the northern route

Organized by the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Drug Research Section. Conference Room MOE100



This event provided a preview of the upcoming UNODC report on Afghan opiate trafficking along the northern route. UNODC provided an overview of the main trends and key findings of the report and briefly reviewed the latest trends from the Afghan opium survey, speaker from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation shared their views and discussed policy implications with the audience.

Thursday 15 March

1:10-2:40 Special Event: Taking Action to Increase Access to Controlled Drugs for Medical Purposes while Preventing Diversion and Misuse

Organized by the Governments of Australia, Belgium, Lithuania, Mexico and the Russian Federation, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Drug Prevention and Health Branch, the International

*Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs. **Conference Room MBR-A***

This special event raised awareness of, and support for, the critical work being done to increase access to controlled medicines around the globe post-UNGASS. The significant amount of co-sponsors demonstrates the strong support for work in this area from Member States and civil society, with opening remarks delivered by long-standing partners in this work and technical speakers highlighting work at the national level in the area of policy, estimation and electronic tracking systems.

1:10-2:00 Modern forensic technologies to support national drug control efforts

*Organized by the Government of Finland and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Laboratory and Scientific Section. **Conference Room M5***



This fully interactive side event organized by the Government of Finland and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section was dedicated to the rapid and simple identification of drugs and precursor chemicals. Opened by H.E. Ambassador Hannu Kyröläinen from Finland and the UNODC Director DPA Jean-Luc Lemahieu, the event showcased new drug detection technologies and tools available to forensic laboratories and law enforcement officers. Handheld and benchtop field drug identification instruments were shown in a live demonstration. The important role of drug analysis laboratories, as part of

national drug control systems was stressed, as well as the value of laboratory results and data to criminal justice systems, law enforcement and health authorities, and policy makers.

2:20-3:10 Forensic activities to address emerging drug challenges, including NPS

*Organized by the Government of Brazil and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Laboratory and Scientific Section. **Conference Room M7***



The side event explored the role of forensic laboratories in generating data and evidence in the context of law enforcement activities, as well as in other areas, such as the development and enhancement of national legislation and early warning systems. The event was organized by the Government of

Brazil and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section. Opened by H. E. Ambassador Ricardo Neiva Tavares from Brazil several successful experiences and good practices from Brazil, Hungary and Finland were presented that highlighted the successful exchange of information and cooperation in forensic science.

1:30-3:00 Special Event: Strengthening the Global Prevention response: International Standards for Drug Use Prevention (Second Updated edition), Listen First Campaign and Strong Families Programme

*Organized by the Governments of France, Norway and the United States of America, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Drug Prevention and Health Branch, and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs. **Press Room***



This Special Event was chaired by H.E. Maria Jahramann Bjerke, Deputy Minister, ministry of Health and Care Service, Norway. An audience of over 110 delegations attended presentations from UNODC and WHO on the importance of evidence based prevention as summarized in the newly launched joint UNODC-WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention (Second Updated Edition). Panellists from France, US and Norway also addressed the role of

evidence based prevention in strengthening the global response while NGC representatives emphasized the role of civil society in supporting evidence based prevention. The special event also served as a platform to launch the new UNODC STRONG FAMILIES prevention programme for families in low and middle income countries (including refugee families) as well as the release of the UNODC Listen First campaign's first new video for 2018.

2:20-3:10 Launch of the Bulletin on Narcotics, Special Issue on Alternative Development, Practices and Reflections

*Organized by the Government of Germany and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Programme Development and Management Unit. **Conference Room MOE100***

At this event, the special issue of the Bulletin on Narcotics on Alternative Development: practices and reflections, was launched. This special issue was part of a broader process that the UNODC had undertaken to develop a thematic field of research on alternative development. All of the speakers at the side event presented the key findings of the article that they had authored or co-authored. Some focused on a more general analytical perspective, examining some of the principles and conceptual underpinnings of alternative development and possible ways forward. Others offered a programmatic perspective, distilling lessons learned and best practices from projects and programmes implemented in various countries and contexts. The latter included discussions about the link between illicit drug-crop cultivation and access to land, integrated development with coca in Bolivia and a quantitative analysis on building resilience to opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. The new Bulletin can be found at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/bulletin/index.html>.

OTHER EVENTS

14th March UNODC Youth Initiative Forum 2018



Under the UNODC Youth Initiative Programme, 34 young leaders from 26 countries engaged in drug prevention initiatives at the national level gathered at the UNODC Youth Forum 2018 to voice the need for evidence based prevention and the importance of positive youth engagement in drug policy discussions at the local, national and global level. Guided by the UNODC-WHO International Standards on Drug

Use Prevention, these young leaders spent 2.5 days of workshop session exchanging their experiences and learnings, discussing reasons, consequences and solutions for addressing the challenges posed by drug use. Presenting their conclusions through a powerful statement addressed to the CND Plenary, the Youth Forum called on Member States to implement evidence based prevention and actively engage youth in drug policy discussions.