



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**COMMISSION ON  
NARCOTIC DRUGS  
VIENNA**

**64<sup>th</sup> OF THE COMMISSION ON  
session NARCOTIC DRUGS 2021**

**SIDE EVENTS REPORT**

**12-16 APRIL 2021**

[cnd.unodc.org](http://cnd.unodc.org)



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

# 64<sup>th</sup> session OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS 2021

In the framework of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, over 100 side events took place, as well as a Youth Forum and an Informal Scientific Network meeting. This report aims to provide an overview of the broad variety of events organized.

**DISCLAIMER:** Views expressed in the report are those of the organizers of the side events and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Secretariat. This is an informal report, which did not undergo formal editing. The text and pictures were provided by the organizers of the respective side events and compiled by the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies.

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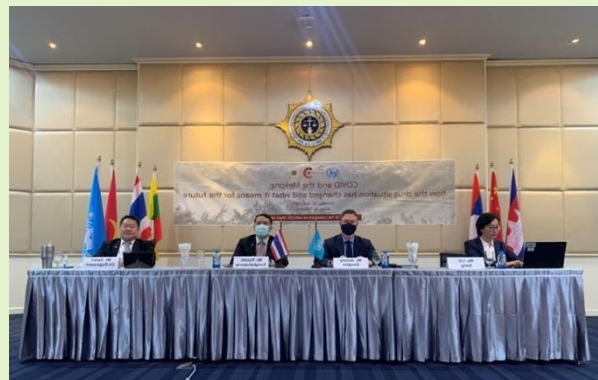
### Side Events of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the CND

#### COVID AND THE MEKONG: HOW THE DRUG SITUATION HAS CHANGED AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE FUTURE

Monday, 12 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the Government of Thailand*

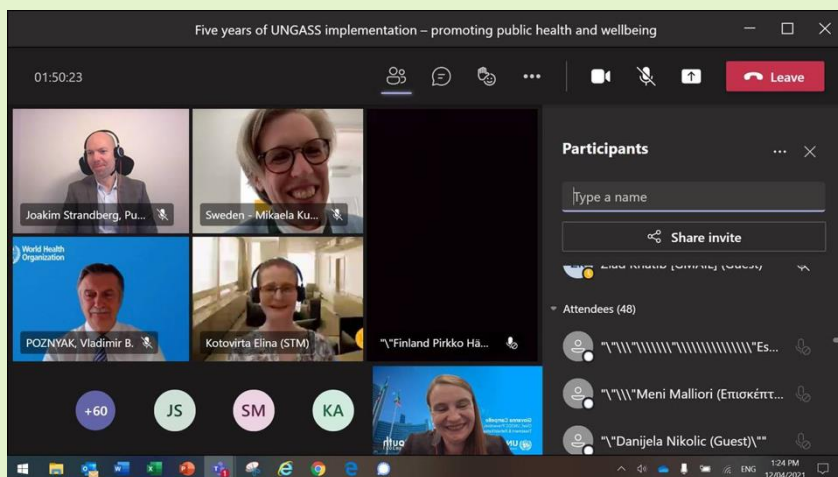
The side event was opened by the Deputy Secretary General of Thailand’s Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Pol. Lt. Col. Paisith Sungkahapong, the Secretary General of Cambodia’s National Authority for Combatting Drugs, Pol. Gen. Meas Vyrith, Deputy Secretary-General of China’s National Narcotics Control Commission, Ms. Ma Yanchun, and Regional Representative of UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Jeremy Douglas. Heads of delegations from other Member States under the Mekong Memorandum of Understanding, representatives from the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and major donors attended the side event as well. The Regional Drug Researcher Mr. Inshik Sim provided an in-depth and up-to-date overview of the regional drug situation, in particular the changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications to the region. Mr. Apikit Ch. Rojprasert, Director of Foreign Affairs Bureau of Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) Thailand presented the efforts and challenges the six Member States faced during the Joint Operation 1511 in 2020.



#### FIVE YEARS OF UNGASS IMPLEMENTATION – PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Monday, 12 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by Sweden with the support of Denmark, Finland, Norway, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the World Health Organization*



Following a brief welcome by the Permanent Representative of Sweden, Ambassador Mikaela Kumlin Granit, the Permanent Representative of Norway, Ambassador Kjersti E. Andersen, talked about the shared Nordic public health perspective to drug policy. The Swedish Public Health Agency presented a new report on how national actions in Sweden in the drug field relate to the operational recommendations in the 2016 UNGASS outcome document. Moderated by Elina Kotovirta from the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the panel discussion on the successes and challenges

in implementing the UNGASS recommendations brought together Giovanna Campello (UNODC/PTRS), Vladimir Poznyak (WHO), Gabriel Wikström, Swedish national 2030 Agenda Coordinator, and Jan Gunnar Skofstedalen from the Norwegian Addiction Federation.

**ONE WINDOW SOLUTION - PROVIDING SPECIALIZED CLINICS FOR DIAGNOSES AND TREATMENT OF HIV, HCV, HBV VIRUSES IN ALL ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION TREATMENT**

Monday, 12 April, 13.10 -14.00

*Organized by Egypt*

Through this side event, the pioneering Egyptian experience in providing integrated services for addiction patients was presented - namely through providing specialized clinics for diagnosis and treatment of HIV, hepatitis C virus (HCV), and hepatitis B virus (HBV) in all addiction treatment centers of the General Secretariat of Mental Health and Addiction Treatment (GSMHAT). That ensured that all treatment services that patients need can be provided by a single server, without waiting in additional queues. Furthermore, implementation steps were presented with some statistics, as the service was provided to about 4,000 patients within 5 months. Future plans included providing HBV vaccines and opioid substitution therapy (OST).



**LEARNING FROM THE CRISIS – RECOVERY WORK DURING THE PANDEMIC**

Monday, 12 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by EURAD – Europe for Action on Drugs with the support of the San Patrignano Foundation, the Turkish Green Crescent Society and the World Federation Against Drugs*



In the past year, everyone has been, in some way, affected by the pandemic. Yet, people in recovery are especially vulnerable in times of crisis. This side event showcased the challenges of the crisis, the adaptation by NGOs, and what had been learned for the future. The first speaker, David Best, presented research focussing on the recovery in pre-and post-pandemic phases. Second, Petra DeBoer highlighted the challenges to shift to online meetings within the Narcotic Anonymous fellowship. Third, Huseiyn Djemil showcased the innovative ways of ‘Towards Recovery’ to support people in recovery during the pandemic from a distance while still being connected. Lastly, Anna Olló shared the importance of social and labour integration for people in recovery, even during the pandemic, and the projects organised by the Association Proyecto Hombre.

[Recording](#)

## DRUGS, COVID AND THE MOST MARGINALIZED

Monday, 12 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies with the support of Release*

International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies (IDHDP) hosted a virtual side event on Monday, 12th April. Over 50 people from 24 countries joined the event. Wilson Box from Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network, Dr Atul Ambekar from the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and Kassandra Frederique from Drug Policy Alliance discussed how COVID-19 increased the marginalisation of people who use alcohol and other drugs and caused a surge in drug overdoses and alcohol withdrawal. At the same time, the lockdowns also meant that healthcare providers and harm reduction agencies were able to raise the profile of the people who use their services. This encouraged innovation in treatment, such as expanded take-home OST provision and more telemedicine. In some places harm reduction agencies and treatment providers also provided vaccinations, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other support, for these marginalised communities.



[Recording](#)

## PLACING HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE HEART OF DRUG POLICIES – THE POMPIDOU GROUP’S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Monday, 12 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the Council of Europe with the support of Poland and Portugal*



As part of its 50-year anniversary programme, the Council of Europe’s Pompidou Group organised a side event on 12 April focusing on ‘Placing human rights at the heart of drug policies’.

In his opening remarks, João Goulão, Portuguese Chair of the Pompidou Group, recalled the circumstances that gave birth to

the Group 50 years ago, notably the rising problem of transnational drug trafficking which incited French President George Pompidou to establish an international platform for tackling trafficking in drugs. Piotr Jabłoński, Director of the National Bureau for Drug Prevention of Poland, stressed the importance of training drug policy managers for developing and sustaining humane drug policies and introduced the Pompidou Group’s International Drug Policy Academy launched in 2021. The Group’s ongoing work on building a self-assessment tool enabli states to assess the human rights compliance of their drug policies was highlighted by Richard Muscat, Chairperson of the National Addiction Advisory Board of Malta. Finally, Pompidou Group Executive Secretary Denis Huber talked about the [ongoing revision process](#) of the Group’s founding statute which paves the way for its future work on shaping drug policies.

## LEGAL REGULATION OF DRUGS THROUGH A DEVELOPMENT LENS

Monday, 12 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Health Poverty Action with the support of Instituto RIA and the International Drug Policy Consortium

The side event brought together civil society from across the world to underscore how legal regulation can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Health Poverty Action made clear that, if legal regulation is not approached through the lenses of the SDGs, legally regulated markets will mimic the perverse dynamics of other global drug markets like tobacco or coffee.

Both Instituto Ria and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) have recently developed sets of principles for the legal regulation of drugs, which aim to ensure that legal markets repair the harms brought by prohibition on oppressed communities. This was echoed by Umzimbutu Farmers Network (South Africa), who emphasised that cultivating communities must be consulted early and throughout the regulatory process. Lorenzo Uribe (Colombia) provided a detailed account of the new bill on the legal regulation of the coca leaf in Colombia, and explained how it would contribute to SDG1, SDG3, SDG15, and SDG16.



### Recording

## UNCOVERING SUBSTANCE USE-RELATED STIGMA FOR POLICE SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Monday, 12 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by Canada with the support of Belgium, Honduras, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland and Uruguay, the Community Addictions Peer Support Association (CAPSA), and the UNODC Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Section



Panellists shared their personal experiences (including loss of family members’ lives) and perspectives regarding the negative impact of stigma as a barrier to accessing help. Police Chief Peter Muyschondt and Retired Lieutenant Diane Goldstein shared their experiences of family members struggling with substance use, and Sergeant Joe Brownrigg and Former Police Officer Suzanne Sharkey shared their own experiences with substance use. In addition to the panellists’ presentations, Gord Garner from the Community Addictions Peer Support Association highlighted the importance of engaging community and “leaving no one behind”, and Jennifer Saxe shared some recent actions taken by the Government of Canada to raise awareness and highlighted ways to address stigma. Following the panellist presentations, a representative of Switzerland made a brief intervention from the floor to acknowledge some of the unique job-related challenges that police service members face, and expressed support for this side event.



## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT IN DRUG CONTROL POLICIES

Monday, 12 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the governments of Germany, Peru and the UNODC Sustainable Livelihoods Unit*

The event presented the conclusions of the recent Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development (March 2021) to an audience of 55 attendees. The speakers highlighted some of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic to alternative development (AD), such as increasing inequality, disproportionate negative effects on already-vulnerable groups in rural areas, and the potential re-allocation of funds away from drug control measures. The event emphasized that responsive and dynamic AD measures are more urgent than ever to help mitigate these vulnerabilities. The event also focused on the impacts of illicit cultivation of drug crops on protected natural areas, and the importance of including responsible environmental management in drug control measures. Finally, the discussion touched upon the opportunities and challenges of applying AD approaches in non-traditional and urban settings, illustrated by using the Thai experience, and the need for continuing the discussion on the opportunities and limitations of applying AD measures in the field of cannabis cultivation.



## COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM: NEW CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

Monday, 12 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the Russian Federation with the support of Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Singapore, Sweden, Tajikistan and Thailand, the European Union, the International Narcotics Control Board, and the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch*



The side-event, organized by Russia with broad support from different regions, the European Union, the INCB and the UNODC, gathered 150 participants and focused on sharing experiences in addressing and countering the world drug problem during the pandemic. The discussion built on the joint statement issued by the CND and highlighted the importance of global solidarity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its impact included increased sale of drugs via the Darknet, shortages of drug medications and changing drug production, trafficking and misuse patterns. Innovative solutions in data-collection and strengthening the capacity of law-enforcement and public health systems to make them better prepared for future pandemics were discussed. The speakers included the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov; the Chairperson of the 64th CND session, and Permanent Representative of Poland, Dominika Krois; UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly; INCB President Cornelis de Joncheere and heads of regional organisations (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission).

[Recording](#)

**COMMUNITY FIRST: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMID COVID-19**

Monday, 12 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by Enosh – The Israeli Mental Health Association with the support of Israel, and ELEM Youth in Distress, the Jewish Child & Family Service Chicago, the World Health Organization and the Youth Advocate Programmes*

This side event focused on the vital intersection of mental health and substance abuse and highlighted the need for a wide variety of community-based services, especially amid COVID-19. The CEO of Enosh, the Israeli Mental Health Association with the support of Israel, Dr. Hilla Hadas described the need for a holistic approach in mental health to support vulnerable groups. Hila Bochan presented the innovative programs of Enosh to help people who cope with substance abuse and are in the recovery process. Ms. Nava Barak, President of Elem, and Roy Homri presented data on youth and drug use in Israel during COVID-19 and the proactive approach of Elem to tackle these problems. The panel of speakers moderated by Liron David focused on the global work of the WHO; state-level directives and policies presented by the Israeli Ministry of Health; and examples of services in the community from Israel and the USA, which highlighted the need for community support. More than 90 participants from around the world attended the event.



[Recording](#)

**NEW OAS HEMISPHERIC DRUG STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION 2021-2025**

Monday, 12 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (ES-CICAD)/Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States (OAS) with the support of Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, St. Lucia and the United States*



The side event served as a platform to present the new Hemispheric Drug Strategy of the Organization of American States (OAS) and its corresponding five-year Plan of Action 2021-2025.

Within the framework of these documents, speakers discussed the ongoing efforts of OAS Member States to effectively address the global drug problem in the Americas.

The event also highlighted the impact of the pandemic on the drug problem, including new trends and dynamics that affect both the supply and demand of drugs, and emphasized the importance of the Strategy and the Plan of Action in addressing the current situation.

## SYNTHETIC DRUGS – WHY WE NEED TO WORRY

Monday, 12 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section, co-sponsored by the United Kingdom.*

The online event was organized by the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section and co-sponsored by the United Kingdom. The event was moderated by Zahi Sulaiman, of the Science Secretariat of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs of the United Kingdom. Over 200 participants learned about the most recent global developments of synthetic drugs in the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe.

The synthetic drugs market is unique due to the simplicity, flexibility and scalability of manufacture; and the availability of a wide variety of precursors and synthetic routes. The number of synthetic drugs on the market is growing rapidly, amounts trafficked are on the rise and more countries get targeted. Experts including Ben Olde Engberink (Chief Inspector, Dutch National Police), Jason Eligh (Senior Expert, Global Initiative Against Transnational Crime), Martin Raitelhuber (Illicit Synthetic Drug Expert, UNODC) and Inshik Sim (Illicit Drugs Researcher, UNODC) discussed ways to respond in a comprehensive way to this complex and growing synthetic drug problem.



## PROMOTING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN THE AREA OF DRUG CONTROL

Monday, 12 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the UNODC Co-financing and Partnership Section with the support of Canada, Japan and the United States*



On the opening day of the 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the UNODC Co-financing and Partnership Section organized a side event on “Promoting public-private partnerships in the area of drug control” to discuss best practices in drug supply and demand reduction. The event, attended by more than 60 people, was moderated by the Director of the UNODC Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs.

The Chargé d’Affaires of the Permanent Mission of the United States to International Organizations in Vienna

emphasized that expertise from the private sector is needed in three main areas: to counter the ease of purchase of narcotics online; to identify non-scheduled chemicals that are being diverted for illicit purposes; and to expand treatment programmes for drug addiction.

Experts from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and a US-based NGO, Overdose Lifeline, presented their experiences in public-private partnerships in drug supply and demand reduction.

**PROCUREMENT, PRICING, AND ACCESS TO CONTROLLED MEDICINES DURING COVID-19**

Monday, 12 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care with the support of Australia, Belgium, Dejusticia, Harm Reduction International, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the World Health Organization*

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care ([IAHPC](#)) hosted a side event on “Procurement, Pricing, and Access to Controlled Medicines During COVID-19” to address how the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed catastrophic weaknesses in global supply chains for pharmaceutical products and inefficient procurement and administration mechanisms for essential medications regulated under the three international drug control conventions. The [Joint Statement on Access to Medicines](#) issued by the INCB, the WHO and UNODC in August 2020, challenged UN

Necessity...the mother of innovation



- Team working in shifts
- Walking to work
- Manufacture of cloth masks
- Appeals for PPE
- WhatsApp groups & Zoom meetings
- Pursuit of car stickers
- Liaison with government ambulances for hospital transfers
- Clinical telephone hotlines and increased phone consultations
- Bodaboda as medicine couriers
- Pre-agreed drop-off centres

Organisations to use the pandemic “as an opportunity to strengthen cooperation with a view to ensuring availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing diversion.” Panelists showcased leadership in ensuring balance in access to controlled medicines during the pandemic; specifically sharing lessons learned in ensuring access to controlled medicines for treatment of pain, palliative care and drug dependence. His Excellency Ambassador Ghislain d’Hoop, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, chaired the side event. Among speakers were INCB Board Member Dr. Zukiswa Zingela; UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health Tlalang Mofokeng; WHO Essential Medicines Programme Officer Christophe Rerat; Competent Authority of El Salvador Chief Licenciado Jose Luis Reyes; Dr. Eddie Mbewesa of Hospice Africa Uganda; and CEO of Harm Reduction International Ms. Naomi Burke Shyne.

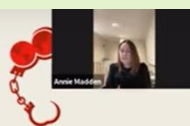
**Recording**

**“WE ARE THE EVIDENCE” – COMMUNITY-LED RESPONSES ON DECRIMINALIZATION, COVID-19 AND HARM REDUCTION**

Monday, 12 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the HIV Legal Network with the support of Norway, and the International Network of People who Use Drugs, and UNAIDS*

Recommendations



1. That all models of decriminalisation must fully decriminalise people who use drugs (removing all administrative sanctions, mechanisms of monitoring/surveillance, coercion and punishment for use & possession of drugs – incl. ending compulsory detention);
2. That people who use drugs and their community-led organisations must be involved in all stages of the reform process incl the design process and the provision of accessible and credible information to community on any reforms/changes;
3. That full decriminalisation must also include specific strategies to end stigma and discrimination among people who drugs and ensure adequate funding for such interventions;
4. That full decriminalisation must include scale-up and expansion of access to harm reduction and social care for people who use drugs relevant to the local context and needs; and
5. Once full decriminalisation is adopted, it should only be as a step on a continuum that has as its clear and ultimate goal the full legal regulation of all drugs in a timely manner.

This event discussed why and how people who use drugs should be at the center of advancing policy towards full decriminalisation of all drugs. A new peer-led publication by the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD) presented the lived impacts of various models of decriminalisation. Speakers discussed the need for clear definitions on full decriminalisation without sanctions and articulated why involving community-led organisations in all stages of the policy process is critical for ensuring that the needs of people who use drugs are fully met. Examples of peer-led

advocacy on decriminalisation in Norway and within the COVID-19 response in Sub-Saharan Africa were shared, demonstrating how community-government partnerships can be effective in crafting rights-based policies. Targets on decriminalisation (<10% of countries criminalizing drug use) and community-led responses (80% of HIV prevention programmes delivered by communities) from the Global AIDS Strategy were presented to highlight the importance of community-led responses. 179 people attended the event.

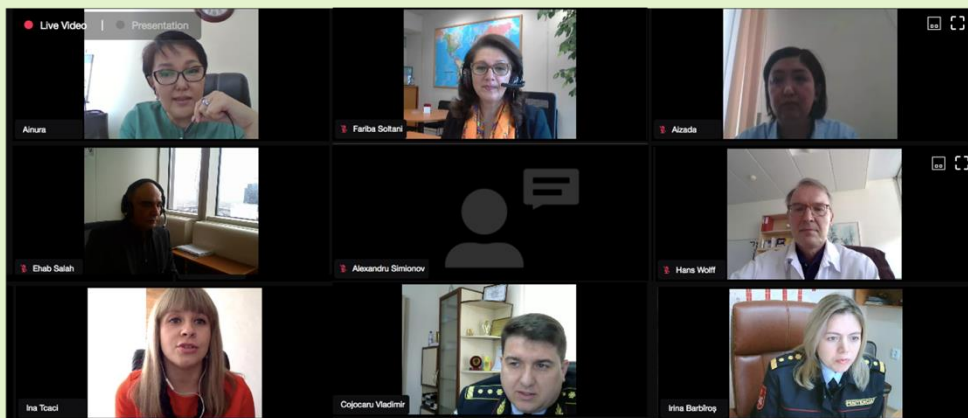
## PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE OF HIV AND OTHER RELATED INFECTIONS AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN PRISONS AND UPON RELEASE

Tuesday, 13 April, 09.00 – 09.50

*Organized by the Kyrgyz Republic, and co-sponsored by the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, and UNODC HIV/AIDS Section.*

The purpose of this CND Side Event was to discuss country experiences and examples of practices relating to HIV prevention among people who use drugs in prisons, and to promote the implementation of the comprehensive package of interventions in order to end the AIDS epidemic, thereby leaving no one behind.

The event was moderated by Mrs. Ainura Esenamanova from the Kyrgyz Republic’s Center of Narcology of the Ministry of Health and opening remarks were presented by Fariba Soltani, Chief of the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section and Mr. Alexandru Simionov, from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the UN in Vienna. Technical presentations were delivered by Ms. Usenakunova Aizada, Kyrgyz Republic’s Center of Narcology; Prof. Hans Wolff, Professor of Medicine at Geneva University; Ms. Irina Barbiros, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Moldova; and Mr. Ehab Salah, UNODC HIV/AIDS Section.

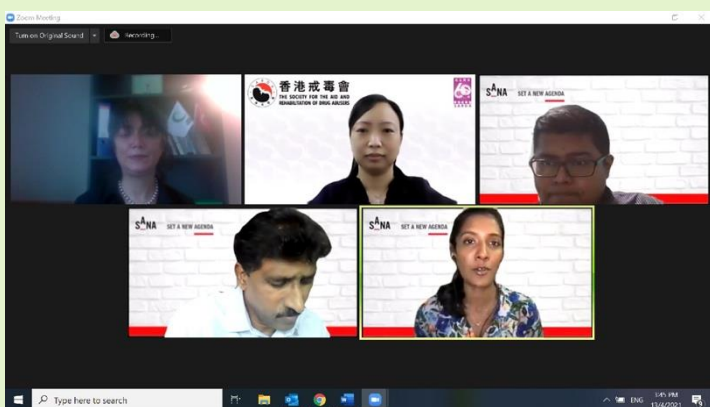


The speakers highlighted the urgency to address the HIV epidemic in prisons, which are particularly conducive to the spread of HIV and other infections, including COVID-19, and emphasized the importance of providing quality health services for people who use drugs in prisons, who are particularly vulnerable to multiple health threats.

## UNDERSTANDING THE DESISTANCE JOURNEY OF FEMALE SUBSTANCE ABUSERS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THEIR INTERVENTIONS

Tuesday, 13 April, 9.00 – 9.50

*Organized by the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association with the support of the International Federation of Non-Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, and the Turkish Green Crescent Society*



The side event shared the salient observations and findings from the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association’s (SANA) research into the desistance journey of female substance abusers in Singapore. Speakers included practitioners in the field of rehabilitation and intervention dealing with female substance abusers – Ms Lowshanthini Panesilvam (SANA), Ms Evrim Akbas (Turkish Green Crescent Society (TGCS)) and Ms Gloria Yau (International Federation of Non-Government Organizations (IFNGO)). The speakers shared information on the important function of social support in helping female substance abusers maintain their recovery

journey. For female substance abusers, the motivation to desist has been more challenging than for male abusers. For instance, barriers to treatment were higher for female abusers due to their role as caregivers. Female abusers also tended to be more reluctant to get treatment because the stigmatization of treatment for substance use disorders appeared to weigh more heavily on women. Hence, it was important for interventions to adopt a gender-sensitive approach to address the unique needs of female substance abusers and minimise their barriers to treatment. All speakers also articulated the importance of a community-based treatment approach that integrated rehabilitation with employment support and social reintegration.

## HEROIN- AND IBOGAINE-ASSISTED TREATMENTS IN THE ERA OF THE COVID CRISIS

Tuesday, 13 April, 9.00 – 9.50

Organized by the European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policy (ENCOD) with the support of the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty

At the event, Dr. Massimo Barra of the Foundation Villa Maraini and promoter of the Rome Consensus spoke about the urgent need to have access to treatment in case of problematic drug use. Dr. Carla Rossi, former professor of medical statistics at the University of Tor Vergata, spoke about the advantages of the Heroin Assisted Treatments (HAT) as an effective method to counter the rising number of overdose deaths. Dr. Sergei and Dr. Elena Khudoley from the MedicoMente Clinic for Addictology in Ukraine presented their practice of using ibogaine for the treatment of complex opioid addictions and its advantages compared to substitution therapies. Jonathan Dickinson, director of Ceiba Recovery, presented the clinical guidelines for ibogaine-assisted detoxification.

**In our clinic ibogaine therapy is used for:**

- Mental and behavioral disorders due to opioid use;
- Mental and behavioral disorders due to alcohol consumption;
- Mental and behavioral disorders due to psychostimulants;
- Mental and behavioral disorders due to cannabinoid use;
- Non-chemical types of addiction (gambling addiction);
- Post-traumatic stress disorder;
- Depressive episode and panic attacks;
- In the absence of psychopathological symptoms for spiritual growth.

**HISTORIC BENEFITS OF HAT**

1. The benefits of HAT consist of removing people from the street heroin subculture and the criminality it often entails, improving their health, increasing social engagement, and reducing the impact of street heroin use on neighbourhoods. It is also a humane way of dealing with people who are often highly marginalized, and it is therefore more effective as a treatment and reduces the economic, social and cultural impoverishment so often associated with the life of street drug users.
2. The evidence base is very powerful, and should lead governments to utilize HAT in the management of intractable heroin users for whom other forms of treatment have failed to work so far.
3. HAT has proven to be more effective in retaining people in treatment.
4. HAT has proven to be more effective in reducing illicit (street) heroin use.
5. HAT has proven to be more effective in reducing criminal activity.
6. HAT has proven to be more effective in improving social and health functioning.

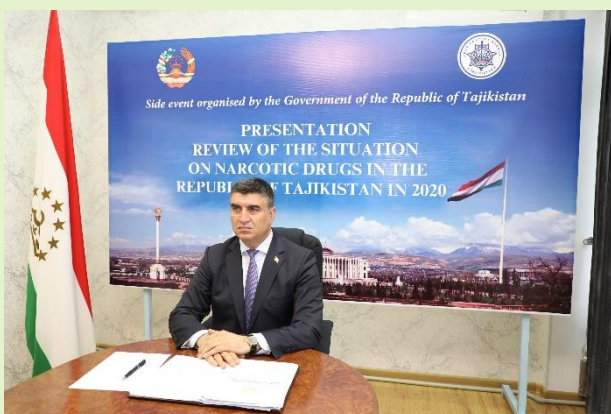
**Improving services**

- Decriminalization of drugs
- Access to short-acting opioid maintenance
  - Ex. Vitamin C
  - Education and resources to assist in benzodiazepine taper
- Research
  - What is happening for people (outside of outcomes?)
  - Improving models of peer involvement
  - Inclusion of the arts (Mugamini)

## PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL DRUG REVIEW FOR 2020

Tuesday, 13 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by Tajikistan



The event brought together representatives from UNODC, the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan; the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tajikistan to the OSCE; UNOV and other international organizations in Vienna; law enforcement agencies from different Member States; and international organizations including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

Major General of Justice Mr. Habibullo Vohidzoda, Director of the Drug Control Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan, presented information on the drug situation in Tajikistan for 2020. The Review reflected the policy of the Republic of Tajikistan in countering drug trafficking, efforts in prevention of drug abuse and drug demand reduction, the counternarcotic activities of the law enforcement agencies, and other relevant ministries, departments, and public organizations.

Ms. Ashita Mittal, the UNODC Regional Representative in Central Asia, who moderated the side event, noted that the annually released report by the Drug Control Agency was a significant contribution to regional trend analysis related to drug trafficking and drug abuse.

Mr. Habibullo Vohidzoda noted that cooperation between the states and their relevant authorities is crucial in countering illicit drug trafficking, and that since the drug problem was a matter of common concern, it could only be addressed through concerted efforts.

## WAY FORWARD IN THE CONTROL AND MONITORING OF CANNABIS AND CANNABIS-RELATED SUBSTANCES: DEVELOPMENT OF INCB GUIDELINES ON THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CULTIVATION, MANUFACTURE AND UTILIZATION OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

Tuesday, 13 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by the International Narcotics Control Board with the support of Finland, Germany, Japan, and Thailand, and the European Union



The aim of the event was to present the International Narcotics Control Board’s (INCB) Cannabis Control Initiative (ICCI) and the work that it was undertaking to provide guidance and assistance to Member States in the area of control, monitoring, and reporting of cannabis and cannabis-related substances for medical and scientific purposes, particularly, through the development of guidelines to guide monitoring government agencies. The President of INCB, Mr. Cornelis P. de Joncheere, reassured the 270 attendees of the continued commitment

of the Board to work closely with Member States to resolve the complex questions they were faced with when complying with their international obligations in relation to cannabis. Panelists from the Competent National Authorities of Japan, Mr. Hideo Eno; Germany, Mr. Hendrik Greve; and USA, Ms. Stacy Harper-Avilla, highlighted the relevant role that the guidelines will have in building a common understanding and thus, improving the control and monitoring of cannabis. Mr. Justice Tettey, Chief of the Laboratory and Scientific Section of UNODC, described the support that the Laboratory can provide in the development of the guidelines in relation to the analytical challenges that countries may face in the future.

## INDEPENDENT EVALUATION RESULTS OF UNODC’S WORK IN WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA: FOSTERING SUPPORT TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL

Tuesday, 13 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by the UNODC Independent Evaluation Section with the support of the UNODC Country Office Afghanistan

The side event, moderated by Katherine Aston, Deputy Chief, Independent Evaluation Section (IES), focused on evaluation results of UNODC programming on drugs and health in West and Central Asia. Dr. Katharina Kayser, Chief, IES, highlighted the importance but also challenges in conducting the strategic evaluation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Jim Newkirk, Lead Evaluator, gave an overview, highlighting visible results but also a need for more coherence between global/country/regional programming.

Background information on UNODC’s work in West and Central Asia was presented by Mr. Jeremy Milsom, Country Representative, UNODC Country Office Pakistan, followed by Ms. Roya Soltanian, Technical Lead, Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, who was demonstrating the Strengthening Families Programme and a related training video.

Ms. Deborah Alimi, Drugs and Health Expert, shared key findings of the three evaluation case studies, stressing the importance of long-term engagement. Finally, speakers from UNODC Country Office in Iran (COIRA), UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA), UNODC Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Section (PTRS) and UNODC Country Office in Afghanistan (COAFG) commented on the results and follow-up action.

CASE STUDIES UNDER SP3		
<b>LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES' CAPACITY ON HIV AND DRUG USE PREVENTION</b> Pakistan	<b>STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAMME (SFP)</b> Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Islamic Republic of Iran	<b>ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS</b> Afghanistan
Supporting stigma-free, rights-based DDR culture	Supporting regional synergies on early prevention	Laying down the foundations for a sustainable livelihood outside poppy cultivation
Thematic, practical trainings and knowledge enhancement interventions to law enforcement agents and service providers, including in prison settings	Implementation of evidence-based family, school and community-centred early prevention programmes	<b>Capacity-building and technical support interventions:</b> Vegetable/poultry production, orchards/vineyards, land stabilization, training, market support.

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION SECTION - UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME 22

Katherine Aston, Eva Charlotte Gunnars..., Deborah Alimi (invite)...

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CANNABIS POLICY: DANGERS AND MISCONCEPTIONS FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF EUROPE, ASIA AND NORTH AMERICA

Tuesday, 13 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by the Turkish Green Crescent Society with the support of the National Anti-Drug Union (NAU), and Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)



The side-event organized by the Turkish Green Crescent Society (TGCS) with the support of the National Anti-Drug Union (NAU) and Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) reviewed the dangers of legalizing cannabis around the world with the moderation of Sedef Erçetin Gençosmanoğlu, the International Cooperation Supervisor from TGCS. In his opening speech, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna, Ahmet Muhtar Gün highlighted the need to adopt a multi-sectoral

approach through the participation of civil society in tackling the multifaceted nature of the world drug problem, with an emphasis on youth. Melike Şimşek, the Head of the Green Crescent Counseling Center, sought to refute the alleged medical benefits of cannabis, provided some data on its recreational use, and offered an insight into the strict government policies in Turkey. Will Jones from Smart Approaches to Marijuana in the United States gave a presentation on the economic interests behind the legalization of cannabis that put children in danger, thereby highlighting the racism witnessed in marijuana-related arrests. The side-event was well-attended with an audience of 146 participants who were highly interested in the topics discussed.

## ZOOMING IN ON UNGASS IMPLEMENTATION; WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

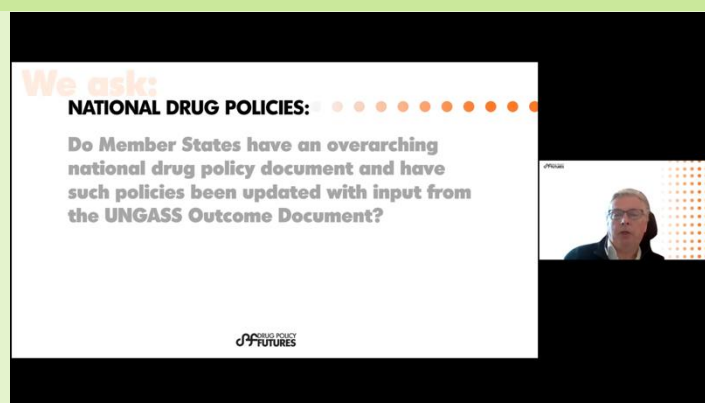
Tuesday, 13 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by FORUT – Campaign for Development and Solidarity, with the support of the Fourth Wave Foundation, and Movendi International

The Drug Policy Futures, a global network of NGOs and national affiliates from around the globe, has embarked on a ten-year monitoring programme where they will study the implementation of the UNGASS Outcome Document in a number of selected countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

The side-event was in fact the launching event of the first report in the monitoring programme. The report is titled “Zooming in on UNGASS. Monitoring National Progress in the Implementation of the UNGASS Outcome Document (2019-2029)”.

The report and its main findings and recommendations was presented by Dag Endal from FORUT. Comments on the report were given by Diana Joseph (Fourth Wave Foundation); Kristina Sperkova, (Movendi International) and Phillip Chimponda (Serenity Harm Reduction Programme Zambia – SHARPZ), followed by a session of questions and answers.



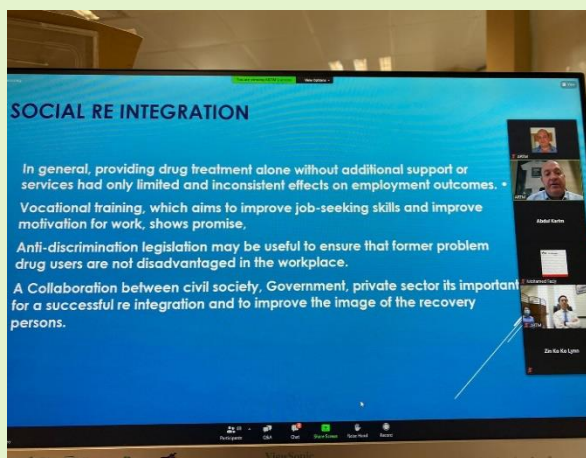
[Recording](#)



## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR RECOVERY

Tuesday, 13 April, 10.00 – 10.50

*Organized by the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, with the support of Indonesia, the Associação de Reabilitação de Toxicodependentes de Macau, and the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association*



The Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) focuses on efforts in mobilizing a community centered approach to support substance abuse recovery emphasizing the importance of families and peers in the recovery and social reintegration.

The Office of the National Narcotics Control Commission of China, presented the efforts undertaken by China in supporting drug abusers, in particular: on the implementation of the human-centered treatment program, using the method of mobilizing all resources from the society, and utilizing all rehab measures that are effective and complementary to achieve the objective of establishing a more balanced, comprehensive and scientific evidence-based strategy followed by concrete practice that combines detoxification/treatment, rehabilitation/recovery, vocational training and (re)employment.

ARTM (Associação de Reabilitação de Toxicodependentes de Macau), focused the presentation on the new project “Hold on to Hope Project” that consists of a vocational training, in particular a Café and an Art Gallery to support the social reintegration of the residents that are in therapeutic community. The relevance of this project is important for learning vocational skills for an easy employment opportunity, but also to improve the perception of society for those who use drugs or are in recovery.

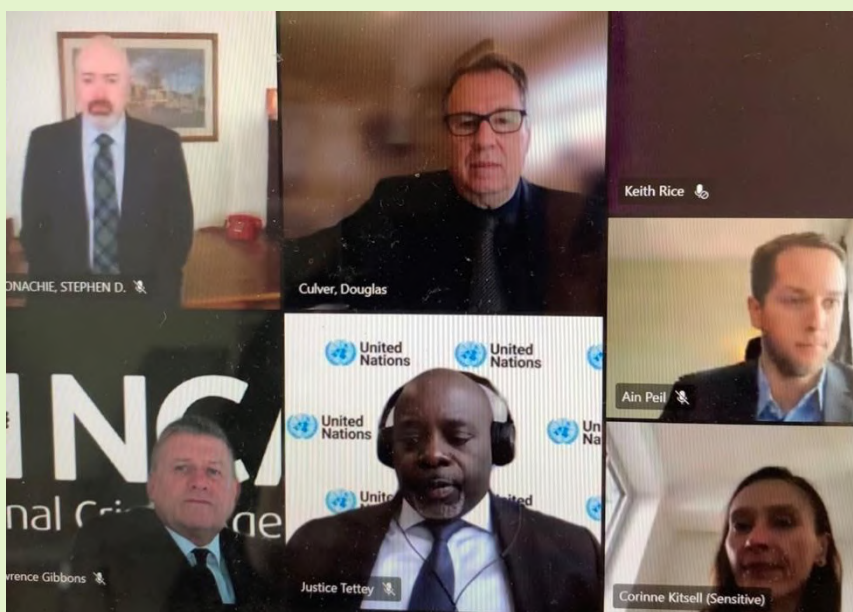
## INTERDICTION MEASURES FOR FENTANYL AND OTHER SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

Tuesday, 13 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the United Kingdom, with the support of Canada, Estonia, USA and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS)*

The event was well attended with around 150 participants joining virtually to discuss interdiction measures to tackle fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

The event was moderated by Ambassador Corinne Kitsell, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom who introduced the session. Dr Justice Tetey, UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section (LSS), explained the harms of fentanyl and synthetic opioids and outlined the global scale of the issue. Presenters from the UK (Lawrence Gibbons, UK National Crime Agency), Canada (Douglas Culver, Public Safety Canada), Estonia (Ain Peil, Estonia Ministry of the Interior) and the USA (Stephen McConachie, U.S. Customs and Border Protection) talked about the experiences of fentanyl in their respective countries, including the measures that were taken and related results. The side event offered a place for sharing best practices and an opportunity for others to consider how the interdiction controls shown in the presentations could be applied in other countries.



**PREVENTION IN EVERYONE’S POCKET: DISCOVER POSSIBILITIES ONLINE**

Tuesday, 13 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by Lithuania, with the support of Japan, Norway, and the Pompidou Group (Council of Europe)*



This event focused on national experiences in online prevention which became particularly relevant in the face of the COVID-19 situation.

The Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department of Lithuania presented a website for youth that aims to raise awareness about drugs and referral for help, and an interactive e-learning programme designed for parents to better understand their children, strengthen their relationships and provide help and guidance for better parenting.

Shogakukan-Shueisha Production Co., Ltd. from Japan introduced one of the awareness-raising activities for young people that combines education with entertainment activities as well as uses social networks for dissemination of relevant information.

The Norwegian Directorate of Health and RUStelefonen guided participants through the main principles of prevention and introduced a national, anonymous and public information and guidance service – the Alcohol and Drug Helpline that focuses on young people, and welcomes everyone to get in touch as regards drugs, drug use and drug problems.

**Recording**

**FAMILY A KEY SOCIAL INSTITUTION FOR ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE USE, VIOLENCE, MENTAL HEALTH AND PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: LESSONS LEARNED FROM PARENTING UNDER STRESS, IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS AND IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 AND BEYOND**

Tuesday, 13 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by Bangladesh with the support of Japan and Sweden, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs*



The People’s Republic of Bangladesh organized a CND virtual side event on family as a key social institution for preventing substance use and other negative health and social outcomes, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Japan and Sweden as well as the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.

Primary caregivers are the primary protective shield around the lives of children and youth, particularly in situations of stress and conflict. Families can play a supportive role in addressing substance use challenges. This side event described the wonderful experience of Bangladesh in availing family skills to families in Dhaka (UNODC Family UNited) and to Rohingya families in Cox Bazar (UNODC Strong Families). It also highlighted efforts in availing UNODC Strong Families to Afghan families and Filipino families in the remote regions of Palawan. The value of attachment and maintaining foster care of children with their mothers and caregivers, especially during COVID-19, to avert negative coping mechanisms including substance use was also presented.

## NON-SCHEDULED AND DESIGNER PRECURSOR CHEMICALS – GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

Tuesday, 13 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the European Union with the support of the USA and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).*

The event was opened by Mr. Cornelis de Joncheere, INCB President, and Ms. Anne Kempainen, Head of the UN Section of the EU Delegation in Vienna. They both underlined that the increasing use of non-scheduled drug precursors, including designer precursors, is challenging the global drug precursor control regime, and called for further dialogue and collaboration to build an international consensus on joint global steps. Six panellists representing UNODC, the European Commission, the Drug Enforcement Administration (USA), the Office of the National Narcotics Control Commission (China), the Ministry of Justice and Security of the Netherlands and the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association presented case studies, latest legislative developments and operational measures which authorities and the private sector have already taken in this context. Participants agreed that the Conference Room Paper published by the INCB for the 63rd session of the CND provides a sound basis for international action, and invited the global drug precursor control community to further elaborate the options put forward in this Paper. The event was attended by more than 150 participants.



## DRUG USE AND COVID-19: PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES AT THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

Tuesday, 13 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the World Health Organization (WHO)*



This side event on COVID-19 and the provision of services for people with drug use disorders was organized by WHO. After introductory remarks by Mariângela Simão (Assistant Director-General, Access to Medicines and Health Products), Soumya Swaminathan (WHO Chief Scientist) provided an overview of the global epidemiological situation of COVID-19 and its impact on health systems and economies. She also provided updates on global responses and WHO activities to address the pandemic.

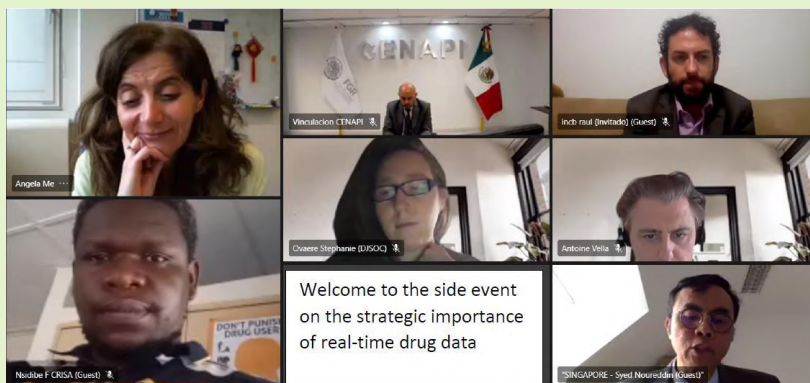
The pandemic significantly disrupted services for people using drugs and with drug use disorders. Devora Kestel (Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Use) and Meg Doherty (Director, HIV, Hepatitis, STI) reflected on these specific challenges, provided an overview of WHO actions in the area of substance use and discussed priorities for ‘building back better.’ This includes allocation of resources for mental health and psychosocial services, maintenance of essential services in line with WHO recommendations, and strengthening of monitoring activities in service availability, delivery and utilization.

## STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF REAL-TIME DRUG DATA

Tuesday, 13 April, 13.10 -14.00

Organized by the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, with the support of the Group Friends UNODC Research

The virtual side event, attended by over 110 participants, brought together experts from Europe and Latin America to discuss recent developments of real-time data systems, which help inform and stimulate research on drug patterns and threats. The panellists addressed the role of real-time data as an essential asset to enable the international community to identify new trends and developments of drug phenomena and develop targeted, evidence-based interventions. UNODC has developed a secure drug data system, the Drugs Monitoring Platform, which currently covers 450,000 data points on drug seizure events which includes the capture of real-time events. Such knowledge systems support the representation of sudden changes in drug trafficking patterns. COVID-19 demonstrated that traffickers can quickly adapt to changes, which can make data obsolete in a short time span. The capacity to capture and disseminate such swift changes requires an understanding of the transnational nature of drug phenomena. The dynamics of drug patterns, drug markets, and the way in which drugs are produced are rapidly changing in the current context.



## IMPROVING PREVENTION: PRIORITIZING EFFECTIVE APPROACHES AND SECONDARY PREVENTION

Tuesday, 13 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the New Zealand Drug Foundation with the support of Canada, the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA), and Youth Organisations for Drug Action



IMPROVING PREVENTION:  
PRIORITIZING EFFECTIVE  
APPROACHES AND SECONDARY  
PREVENTION



Eliza Kurcevič began [the side event](#) by defining primary (preventing drug use) and secondary (preventing harms from drug use) prevention. Irena Molnar shared findings from a [report](#) assessing drug education in five countries – including that overdose prevention and health, social, and harm reduction services were rarely covered – and showed videos featuring youth speaking about [what works](#) and [does not work](#) in drug education. Ben Birks Ang presented on [Tūturu](#), a system change project helping schools build core health knowledge among students, which is applicable across topics, rather than only drugs, thereby moving away from punishment towards support for those who use drugs. Dr. Dan Werb discussed research findings from the [PRIMER study](#) including that scaling up harm reduction, like opioid agonist therapy, prevents the

expansion of injection drug use. In closing, Bobby Chauhan highlighted the importance of addressing stigma in prevention and expressed the Government of Canada's strong support for harm reduction.

## COCAINE: CURRENT AND FUTURE INNOVATIONS IN POLICY, HARM REDUCTION AND REGULATION

Tuesday, 13 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the Transform Drug Policy Foundation with the support of México Unido Contra la Delincuencia*

As the social and health costs associated with illegal cocaine production, supply and use continue to grow - despite ongoing enforcement efforts - this side event at the 64th Commission on Narcotic Drugs explored new ideas for addressing the challenges of this expanding market. Themes included strategic litigation that accelerates change and public debate in Mexico; legislative reforms being pursued in Colombia; and new policy proposals recently published by Transform Drug Policy Foundation.

The side event speakers included Steve Rolles, Transform Drug Policy Foundation (UK); Lisa Sanchez, Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia (Mexico) and Lorenzo Uribe, lead drafter of the Colombian Senate coca/cocaine regulation Bill (Colombia).

### Cocaine: current and future innovations in policy, harm reduction and regulation

**April 13, 2021 01:00 PM (CET Vienna)**

**Speakers:**

- Jane Slater (chair)** Transform Drug Policy Foundation
- Lisa Sanchez** - México Unido Contra la Delincuencia
- Steve Rolles** - Transform Drug Policy Foundation
- Lorenzo Uribe** - Lead drafter of the Colombian coca/cocaine regulation Bill

**Register here (free public online event):**  
<https://bit.ly/3f0mbHU>

Organised by Transform Drug Policy Foundation & México Unido Contra la Delincuencia

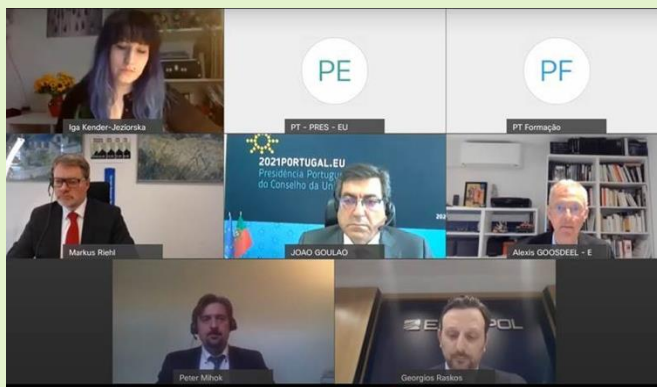


### [Recording](#)

## EU DRUGS STRATEGY 2021-2025

Tuesday, 13 April, 14.10 – 15.40

*Organized by Portugal with the support of Germany, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the European Union, and EUROPOL*



In this side event, which gathered virtually over 174 people, speakers touched upon the new political framework and priorities of the EU's drug policy for the next 5 years. In December 2020, the European Union adopted its Drugs Strategy for 2021-2025 in which the EU and its 27 Member States have reaffirmed their commitment to an evidence-based and comprehensive approach, addressing the various aspects of the drugs situation in a balanced manner. With the preservation of human rights at its core, the EU Drugs Strategy incorporates gender equality and health equity perspectives and it fully embraces the importance of international cooperation and multilateralism. The Strategy uses the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis in the drugs area and takes a future-oriented approach, promoting research, innovation and foresight to respond more effectively to increasing challenges and to anticipate them. On the basis of this EU Drugs Strategy, the EU is now preparing an Action Plan which will set out concrete measures to achieve the priorities identified in the Strategy.

international cooperation and multilateralism. The Strategy uses the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis in the drugs area and takes a future-oriented approach, promoting research, innovation and foresight to respond more effectively to increasing challenges and to anticipate them. On the basis of this EU Drugs Strategy, the EU is now preparing an Action Plan which will set out concrete measures to achieve the priorities identified in the Strategy.

Videoclip on the EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025: <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/225269>

More information on EU Drugs policy: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-drugs-policy/>

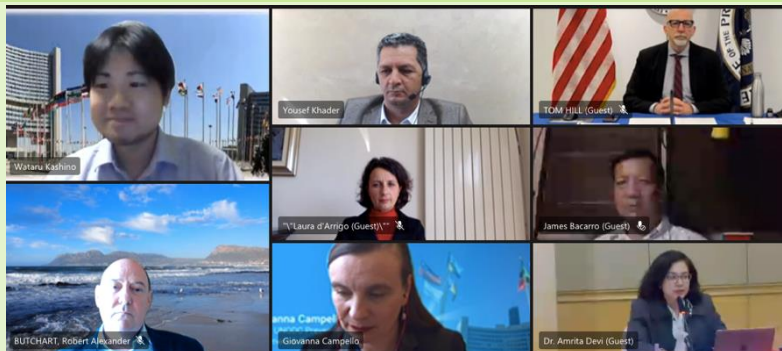
### [Recording](#)

## PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE IN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED DRUG USE PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

Tuesday, 13 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by Japan with the support of France, Indonesia, and Jordan, and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, and the World Health Organization

On 13th April 2021, Japan organized a CND side event entitled 'Promoting mental health, well-being and resilience in families and communities in the COVID-19 crisis through evidence-based drug use prevention, treatment and mental health initiatives'. The event featured panellists from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) of USA; Karisma Indonesia; and Jordan University of Science and Technology, and gathered more than 120 participants. This event showcased good practices and efforts taken by Member States, UNODC, WHO and relevant partners to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 to promote mental health and well-being and build resilience in families and communities. In line with CND's primary focus on drug use prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation, the panel discussed ways forward to alleviate the negative physical, mental and social impacts in an effort to build stronger and more resilient societies in support of public health and safety.



## EDUCATION – A GATEWAY TO SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

Tuesday, 13 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by Greece with the support of the Council of Europe.



The event was chaired by Dr. C. Kouimtsidis, the National Coordinator for Addressing Drugs of Greece, and opening remarks were made by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Greece Ms. C. Koika. Mr. T. Kattau (Deputy Executive Secretary, Pompidou Group), highlighted that returning to formal education, or starting vocational training enables people to build sufficient recovery capital (social, physical, cultural and human). The Greek Organisation Against Drugs (OKANA), which is the national service for mainly opioid substitution treatment, presented their programme for formal education, visits and excursions and the running of a school newspaper (blog and hard copy). Drug Dependence

Treatment Unit “18 ANO” of the Psychiatric Hospital of Attica presented their model for secondary education and the impact on the effectiveness of therapy, social and psychological functioning. The School Unit of the Thessaloniki Psychiatric Hospital discussed the provision of individual tutorial teaching, preparation courses for the university entry examinations and classes for acquiring the Greek language proficiency certification. Four videos with testimonials from ex-scholars emphasised the link between treatment, education and their social reintegration. The event was attended by 53 participants.

## WHAT DOES EVIDENCE TELL US ABOUT DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE?

Tuesday, 13 April, 14.10 -15.00

*Organized by the UNODC Crime Research Section*

The side event explored research-based evidence on drug-related violence, and featured experts from Mexico, Brazil, the Netherlands and UNODC. The nexus between drugs and violence is a complex issue, with multiple facets.



Starting from the tripartite framework developed by Goldstein, the discussion highlighted available evidence, based on recent examples and developments in drug markets in different regions. Beyond Goldstein’s framework, which distinguishes between psychopharmacological, economic-compulsive and systemic causal mechanisms, there is a myriad of other causalities and associations which can explain the nexus between drugs and violence. For example, research has shown an association between domestic violence and the use of psychoactive substances, such as alcohol and certain

drugs. The framework of the European Homicide Monitor allows to identify different types of drug-related homicide and provides a solid overview of the nature of drug-related homicide in Europe. Both in Mexico and Brazil, the largest share of drug-related violence can be classified as systemic, related to the activities of organized crime groups.

## ONLINE TRAFFICKING IN SYNTHETIC DRUGS: CYBERTHREATS, DETECTION AND RESPONSE

Tuesday, 13 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the UNODC Cybercrime and Anti-Money Laundering Section with the support of the United States, and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section*



At this side event, the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime, the UNODC Opioids Strategy and U.S Department of State (Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs) discussed how to effectively detect and respond to the threat of online trafficking of opioids and synthetic drugs, and why inter-agency collaboration is a key factor for success.

Experts from the UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime shared their expertise on how opioids and synthetic drugs are marketed and sold on the Clearnet, including social media, and on the Darknet. The experts went in detail on how cryptocurrency is commonly applied as the payment method and how Member States can investigate the transactions. The Unit Chief of FBI’s Joint Taskforce on Criminal Opioid and Darknet Enforcement (JCODE) closed the event by talking about the key elements of making a joint taskforce successful and provided examples from real life cases.

## SHIFTING THE NEEDLE: THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL DRUG POLICY ON WOMEN

Tuesday, 13 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by Penal Reform International with the support of the Center for the Study of Law, Justice and Society – Dejusticia, the Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), the International Drug Policy Consortium, the Thailand Institute of Justice, and the Washington Office in Latin America*

### [The impact of global drug policy on women: Shifting the needle](#) is

the most comprehensive repository of research and lived experiences on the global impact of drug policies on women. Moderated by Triona Lenihan (Penal Reform International), the event started with introductory remarks by Elizabeth Broderick (UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls) who welcomed the publication. Panellists then focused on the impacts of crop eradication for women coca



cultivators (Isabel Pereira), the ongoing lack of access to harm reduction services for women who use drugs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Dasha Matyushina-Ocheret), and the overincarceration of women for drug offences in Thailand (Chontit Chuenurah). The event ended with a powerful account of Monica Marginet Flinch's story as a woman who uses drugs and has spent time in prison, and the work of Metzineres, a harm reduction centre in Spain.

### [Recording](#)

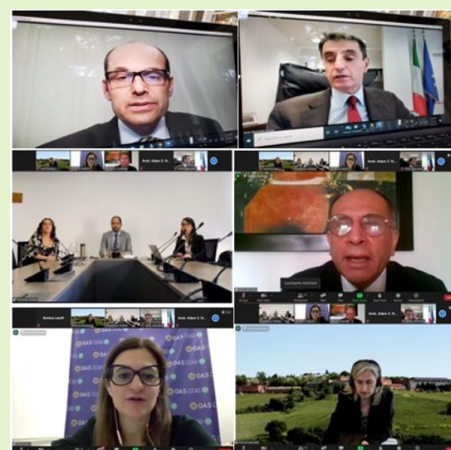
## SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH DRUG-RELATED CRIMES IN LATIN AMERICA

Tuesday, 13 April, 14.10 – 15.40

*Organized by the San Patrignano Foundation with the support of Chile, Italy, and Peru, and the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (ES-CICAD)/Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States (OAS)*

This side event presented international social integration experiences from the FOCTALI project (Strengthening the Role of Therapeutic Communities and Treatment Centers in Latin America).

Opening remarks were offered by Amb. Alessandro Cortese, Permanent Representative of Italy; Amb. Adam Namm, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (ES-CICAD)/Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of the Organization of American States (OAS); and Daniel Díaz Sepúlveda, Director of the Programmatic Section of the National Service for the Prevention and Rehabilitation of Drug and Alcohol Consumption (SENDA), Chile. Monica Barzanti, Head of International Relations at the San Patrignano Foundation, showcased the Foundation's models of social integration, education, and Social Return on Investment. Francesca Oblitas from SENDA discussed social integration and social-occupational orientation activities in the Bio Bio region of Chile. Finally, Percy Grandez from Peru shared the experience of the Santa Margarita Juvenile Center, which provides access to education and trainings for justice-involved women. 80 participants attended the virtual event, moderated by Elisa Rubini of the CICAD/OAS Executive Secretariat's Institutional Strengthening Unit.



### [Recording](#)



## MARITIME DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Wednesday, 14 April, 09.00 – 9.50

Organized by the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) team in the UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific



Around 88 senior practitioners and issue area experts from the South Pacific islands and beyond gathered to discuss cocaine trafficking across the Pacific Ocean in a United Nations Commission on Narcotics Drugs side event. Moderated by Mr. Shanaka Jayasekara, the Programme Coordinator of the Global Maritime Crime Programme (Southeast Asia and the Pacific), the event opened with welcoming remarks by Mr. Sanaka Samarasingha, the UN Resident Coordinator to the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Dr.

Asyura Salleh then provided a briefing that shed light on three modus operandi strategies adopted by cocaine traffickers in recent years. This was followed by a panel of five senior practitioners from maritime law enforcement agencies in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, and Tuvalu who shared experiences in counter-trafficking. As an event that drew rare insights from analytical and practitioner perspectives, the lively discussion highlighted the imperative in enhancing regional collaboration to address maritime cocaine trafficking.

## NEW CHALLENGES FOR CYBERSECURITY, ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND CONSUMPTION IN THE ERA OF COVID 19

Wednesday, 14 April, 9.00 – 9.50

Organized by the Russian Section of the International Police Association (IPA) and the Autonomous Non-Government Organization 'Smart Solutions Integration Agency

The event, moderated by Ms. Natalia Kulikova, Vice President of the International Police Association (IPA) Russian Section, gathered over 100 guests representing government authorities, experts and civil society organizations specializing in cybercrime prevention and substance addiction issues.

The event's keynote speaker, Mr Yury Zhdanov, President of the IPA Russian Section, described the major cybercrimes emerging during the COVID-19 outburst, shared cybercrime statistics and offered ways to address the growing digital threats. Mr. Zhdanov noted that the cybercrime conviction rate was expected to decrease from 24% in 2020 to 22% in 2021 due to expanding crime incidence and the evolving tactics of cybercriminals. He emphasized the importance of law enforcement officials' cybersafety education.

Mr. Konstantin Kunts, Head of the Smart Solutions Integration Agency NGO, presented results of the latest Russian internet users' on-line survey on digital habits, hazardous on-line content and public demand for digital safety education. He referred to the data from the UNODC report, illustrating growth of on-line drug supply, and stated that, according to the survey, over 29 million of the Russian internet users are exposed to drug related on-line info annually. He stressed the urgent need for available digital safety education, allowing for the protection of minors from these risks.



## INSPIRING COMMUNITY ACTION IN THE REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF OFFENDERS

Wednesday, 14 April, 10.00 – 10.50

*Organized by Singapore with the support of the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section*



The virtual side event featured speakers from the Singapore Prison Service (SPS), Hong Kong Correctional Services Department (HKCSD), Japan Correction Bureau and UNODC’s Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, and was attended by over 125 participants.

The speaker from SPS shared on the Yellow Ribbon Project which aims to raise awareness for the need to give second chances to and generate acceptance of ex-offenders and their families in the community. Singapore partners with over 80 community agencies

and more than 3,600 individuals supporting the rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders.

The speaker from the HKCSD spoke about an anti-drug community education campaign in Hong Kong, while the speaker from Japan’s Correction Bureau spoke about strategies to provide seamless support for female offenders from prison to community. The speaker from UNODC’s Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section reiterated the importance of the continuity of care to support the reintegration of offenders in the community.

The side event highlighted the importance of strong community support for the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of drug offenders.

## AFRICA: STRATEGIC FINDINGS TO UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS A MULTI-FACETED DRUG PROBLEM

Wednesday, 14 April, 10.00 – 10.50

*Organized by the Regional Section for Africa and the Middle East with the support of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch*

The side event gave insight into recent and current developments concerning drug markets in Africa, focusing on research carried out by UNODC and latest findings from countries in the region. Panellists included senior experts from the South African Medical Research Council and the African Union Commission. The discussion emphasized that the increase in the last couple of years in the population of people who use drugs has been particularly acute in developing countries, compared to developed ones. These population dynamics have several implications for Africa, given that the percentage of young people in the population is on the rise, and, in general, there is a higher prevalence of drug use among the young population. UNODC recently launched its Strategic Vision for Africa 2030, a transformative approach to the work of UNODC in Africa for the next 10 years. It aims to adopt an integrated, people-centred, and human rights-based approach to empower African societies against drugs and crime. The side event highlighted the central positioning of analysis, research and evidence within the Strategic Vision for Africa, as a catalyst for better understanding of the causes and drivers of drug trafficking, and drug use.



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**ENSURING ACCESS TO MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION (PMTCT) OF HIV AMONG WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS AND WOMEN IN PRISON**

Wednesday, 14 April, 10.00 – 10.50

*Organized by the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section with the support of Norway and Sweden, as well as the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD) and the World Health Organization*



Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV plays a vital role in the achievement of the shared goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The side event was opened by Ms. Miwa Kato, Director of the Division for Operations, UNODC, and H.E. Kjersti Ertresvaag Andersen, Permanent Representative of Norway to the International Organizations in Vienna. The virtual meeting’s presentations focused specifically on the influence of stigma and discrimination; the perspective of the community of women who use drugs; the

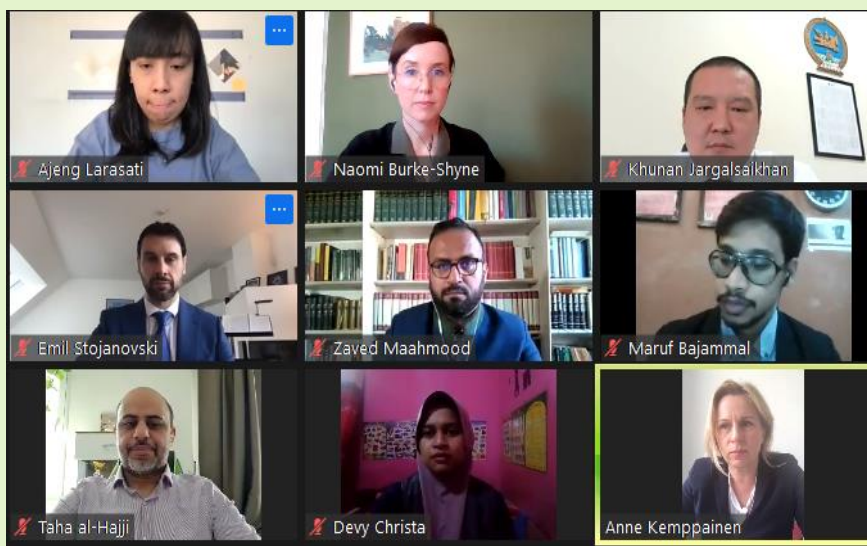
perspective on services in prison and the human rights aspect of PMTCT; and the importance of advocacy for the achievement of “Triple Elimination” of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B, as well as of hepatitis C. Furthermore, the newly launched technical brief “Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis”, developed in collaboration with the International Network of People Who Use Drugs, UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UN Women, was presented. It was concluded that collaboration between relevant actors and the involvement of the community play a crucial role in ensuring equitable access to health and PMTCT services for women who use drugs and women in prison.

**THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG OFFENCES IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ERA**

Wednesday, 14 April, 10.00 – 10.50

*Organized by Harm Reduction International with the support of Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Reprieve*

The side event was opened with two opening remarks, delivered by the EU delegation and the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia, emphasising reasons to abolish the death penalty. Speaker from the Harm Reduction International stated that although the confirmed executions for drug offences fell in 2020, there was a 16% increase in death sentences for drug offences. A speaker representing the Legal Aid Institute Masyarakat (LBHM), was concerned about the limited access to those of his clients that were on death row. A similar concern was addressed by another speaker who stated that she had faced difficulties visiting her mother who is on death row. The side event closed with a remark from a representative from Australia stressing that capital punishment is not the answer to the world drug situation.



## CARICC: A LEADING PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN COUNTERING DRUG TRAFFICKING AND CROSS-BORDER DRUG CRIME

Wednesday, 14 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by the CARICC with the UNODC Programme Office in Almaty



The event was opened by Major-General R.A. Miralizoda, Director of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC). In his speech, he underscored that the Centre remains a fully functioning organization, fulfilling its tasks and playing a critical role in supporting CARICC Member States and partners in effectively combating transnational organized drug crime.

Mr. Naweed Riaz, Head of the UNODC Programme Office in Almaty, pointed out in his welcoming

address the importance of mutual practical cooperation in the fight against organized crime, but also the need for donors to support the CARICC project financially.

The event featured a video summarizing CARICC's work and a presentation outlining the Centre's potential to support efforts to counter transnational drug crime.

Representatives of the national coordinating bodies of CARICC Member States and liaison officers from Observer States participated in the meeting, as well as high-ranking officials from law enforcement agencies and international organizations (UNODC, OSCE, Collective Security Treaty Organisation, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center and other Centre's partners). More than 90 participants joined the side event.

## CONSEQUENCES OF LEGALIZING CANNABIS ON YOUTH

Wednesday, 14 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by the Jordan Anti Drugs Society with the support of Shifaa for Health Services, Together Against Drugs, and the Turkish Green Crescent Society



The event focused on the consequences of Cannabis legalization, particularly on vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants, and youth. H.E. Ambassador Lina Hadid summarized the nationwide field researches on the dangers of the legalizing movement and focused on the importance of collaboration between UNODC and Member States on the one hand and with NGO's on the other hand. Dr. Mousa Daoud, President of Jordan Anti-Drugs Society (TJADS), underlined the negative effects of legalization, thereby rejecting the simple dichotomy between "a war on drugs" on the one hand and "legalization" on the other hand. She highlighted: "Instead, we believe in engaging in an open dialogue about the strengths and weaknesses of global drug policies. And we will advocate for evidence-based strategies to promote public health, safety and the well-being of society, including those addicted to drugs and their families". Mr. Muhmet Utku from the Turkish Green Crescent presented information on the negative results of cannabis legalization on different groups worldwide. Mr. Ahmad Attar from Together against Drugs – Lebanon, shared his thoughts about the negative consequences that cannabis legalization would bring in Lebanon, showing the dangers it would pose on the Lebanese community. PhD Hamzah Maaytah and Mr. Haytham Tamimi from Jordan discussed evidence through comparing situations before and after legalization in those countries where cannabis was legalized.

## REFRAMING GLOBAL PREVENTION PRACTICES AND POLICIES DURING COVID 19

Wednesday, 14 April, 10.00 – 10.50

*Organized by the Drug Free America Foundation, Inc., with the support of the Turkish Green Crescent, the Uganda Youth Development Link and the World Federation Against Drugs*

Opening remarks were made by Amy Ronshausen, Executive Director of Drug Free America Foundation and President of the World Federation Against Drugs, who underlined the challenges and impacts faced by NGOs in carrying out drug demand reduction work during the COVID pandemic. Movendi International presented on the increased use of alcohol during the pandemic, illustrated strategies employed by the alcohol industry during the pandemic and gave examples of how NGOs can push back to decrease access and availability of alcohol at the community level. The World Federation Against Drugs presented on the efforts to keep NGOs engaged and connected by virtual events during the pandemic and how remaining socially connected allowed for increased trainings and capacity building. The Uganda Youth Development Link presented on youth substance use rates, gender-based violence, and other impacts of the pandemic. Their presentation illustrated how they adapted to meet the needs of the community and how, with the help of partners, they remained able to serve a significant number of individuals each day. The event closed with a presentation by the Turkish Green Crescent who highlighted the training and services that they were able to provide during the pandemic and how despite being physically distanced their global impact remained a priority.



[Recording](#)

## PROTECTING CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE AT TIMES OF COVID-19: LESSONS LEARNED FOR ADVOCACY

Wednesday, 14 April, 10.00 – 10.50

*Organized by the Youth Organisations for Drug Action (YODA) with the support of Australia, Canada, Mexico and Switzerland, and the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, Frontline AIDS, and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)*



This side event brought together NGOs, UN entities and governments to discuss the role of civil society in drug policy and drug services during the pandemic.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) laid the scene by making clear that effective civil society participation should mean letting people shape the future.

Reflecting on this, the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) presented a new report on the impact of the COVID-19 on civil society advocacy, highlighting how NGOs and

communities have risen up to the challenge and effectively reclaimed their role during the pandemic. The Youth Organisations for Drug Action (YODA) detailed how they have worked together with donors in order to respond to the COVID-19 with flexibility and prioritisation – a lesson that should be carried over to the post-pandemic world.

The Canadian government proudly explained that it had incorporated civil society in its delegation at the CND – from 2 representatives in 2018, to 8 in 2021. The Ambassador of Mexico to the UN in Vienna closed the event with a reminder on the importance to support civil society and community participation.

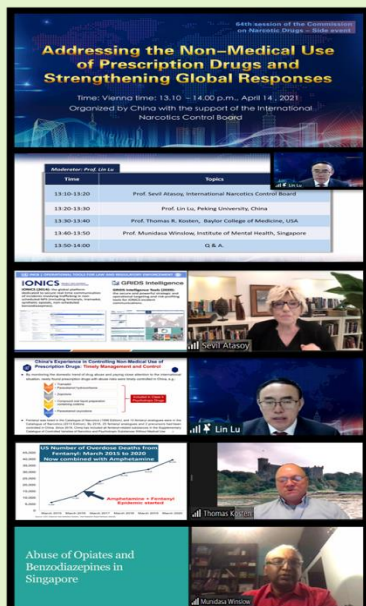
An account of the side event can be [found](#) on the CND Blog.

[Recording](#)

## ADDRESSING THE NON-MEDICAL USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND STRENGTHENING GLOBAL RESPONSES

Wednesday, 14 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the Government of China with the support of the International Narcotics Control Board*



Focusing on controlling the non-medical use of prescription drugs, this side event invited panelists from the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), China, the United States and Singapore, and gathered around 260 participants from all over the world. Prof. Sevil Atasoy, the representative from INCB, gave a comprehensive introduction to the global status of non-medical use of prescription drugs. Prof. Lin Lu, from the National Institute on Drug Dependence and Institute of Mental Health at Peking University, China, in his capacity as a moderator and a panelist, outlined the situation of, and the strategies in, controlling the non-medical use of prescription drugs in China. Prof. Thomas Kosten from the USA Baylor College of Medicine talked about the amphetamine sequel to the USA opioid overdose epidemic. Prof. Munidasa Winslow from the Institute of Mental Health, Singapore, introduced preventive strategies and treatment for abuse of opiates and benzodiazepines in Singapore. Overall, this side event witnessed comprehensive information sharing on the global and regional prevalence of non-medical use of prescription drugs; discussion of strategic prevention and effective treatments, and calling for international collaborations in the control of non-medical use of prescription drugs in order to decrease the related disease burden, save more lives and promote health globally.

## SAFETY FIRST IN HANDLING DANGEROUS DRUGS AND CHEMICALS

Wednesday, 14 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by Finland with the support of the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section*

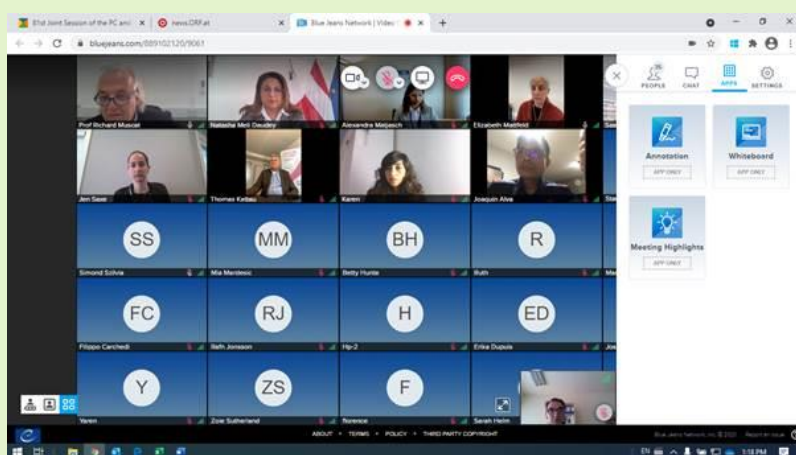
This engaging virtual side event, organized by the government of Finland and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section, was dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by frontline officers in the handling and disposal of dangerous drugs and chemicals. Chaired by the Director of the UNODC Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs (DPA) Jean-Luc Lemahieu and opened by H.E. Ambassador Pirkko Hämäläinen (Finland), the event highlighted the necessary safety considerations and effective use of protective equipment, on-site detection technologies and training available to forensic scientists and law enforcement officers to do their job safely and effectively. The event also emphasized the importance of handling and disposing seized substances safely in an environmentally sustainable manner. Over 200 participants from more than 50 Member States attended this event.



## PROMOTING ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS THAT REDUCE STIGMATISATION OF DRUG USE AND DRUG ADDICTION

Wednesday, 14 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by Malta with the support of Canada, and the Council of Europe*



The side event, organized by Malta, Canada, the Pompidou Group/Council of Europe and UNODC attracted about 40 participants who were presented with the findings of a Pompidou Group Survey on the subject. It was evident that stigma and discrimination were among the main problems faced by drug users while accessing drug-related services. This contributed to fear of condemnation and to reduced willingness to seek support. A large number of respondents highlighted the criminalization of drug use and the perception that drug users were criminals as a main problem. In most cases, drug users required

access to treatment and not to be pursued by law enforcement. Regretfully, only few people with relevant experience were involved in the development of policies and actions to address this issue. Organizing anti-stigma and awareness-raising campaigns and activities, conducting research and data collection, and training for health professionals were among the most effective strategies used so far. Ms. E. Mattfeld from UNODC also underlined the importance of the choice of vocabulary since some words like ‘addiction’ contain a degree of stigmatisation. Ms. Mattfeld concluded by encouraging best practices promoting concrete actions in education, enhancing contacts and also in improving the quality of the healthcare policies. This side event was moderated by Ambassador Natasha Meli Daudey, with opening remarks from Prof. Richard Muscat. The closing presentations were made on the experience gained in this field in Canada.

## HUMAN RIGHTS IN ACTION: IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND DRUG POLICY

Wednesday, 14 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the support of Canada, Germany, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization*

More than 120 people from government, civil society, donor agency and academic sectors, from all over the world came together to learn more about how the [International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy](#), launched in March 2019, have been implemented at international, regional and national levels. In addition to the two regional implementation dialogues held in 2020, speakers highlighted how the Guidelines have been cited in several international instruments, including the new European Union Drug Strategy 2021- 2025, and how they are proving instrumental to international strategies (such as for UNAIDS).



UN human rights institutions have also used the Guidelines in their work, and they have been cited in a constitutional court case in Colombia. Most recently, the Guidelines formed the basis of an online training for the judiciary in Albania and are inspiring self-assessment tools for human rights compliance of drug policies, for the Council of Europe.

### THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DRUG MARKETS – ONE YEAR LATER

Wednesday, 14 April, 13.10 -14.00

Organized by the Programme Development and Management Unit of the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch



The side event titled “The Impact of COVID-19 on Drug Markets: One Year Later”, presented examples from countries across the globe on how drug markets have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The side event was organized by the Programme Development and Management Unit of the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch and featured presentations from UNODC regional and field offices.

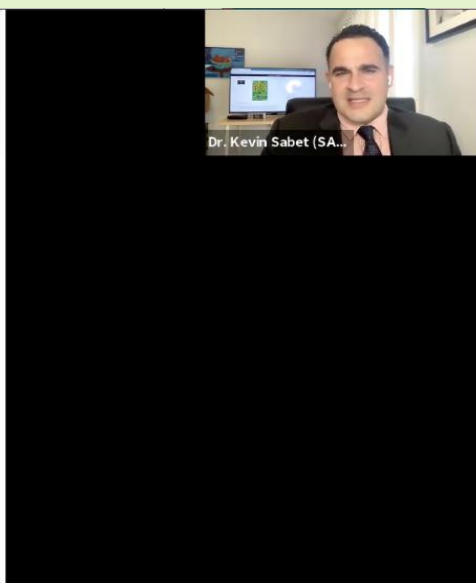
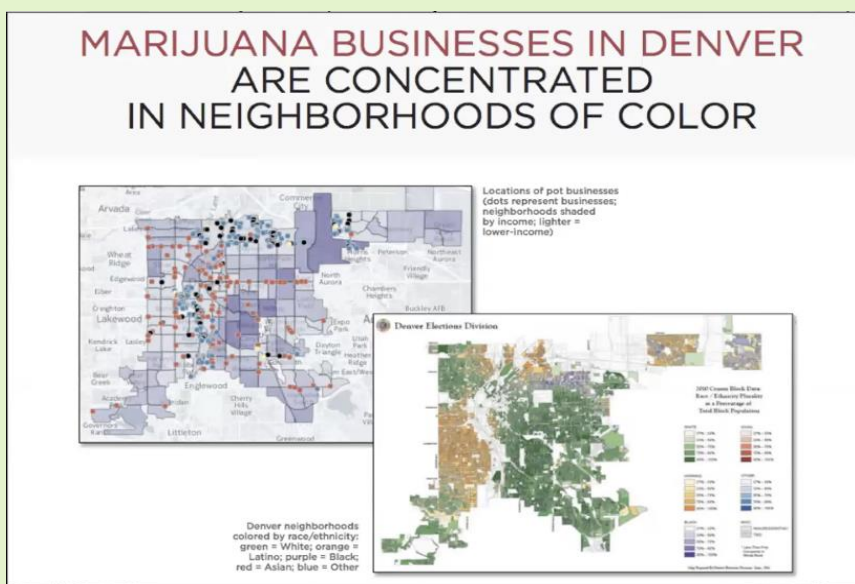
The research branch presented their updated research findings on the global

effects of the pandemic, which relied upon data collected from Member States, public sources, and last but not least contributions from UNODC’s global research network which allowed for obtaining timely information including from regions which were otherwise difficult to cover. Speakers from the UNODC Regional office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Office for West and Central Africa, and from the UNODC Country office of Colombia presented insights from the region on how COVID-19 impacted drug supply, trafficking and use.

### SMOKESCREEN: CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS FROM THE FRONT LINES

Wednesday, 14 April, 13.10 -14.00

Organized by Smart Approaches to Marijuana



The virtual CND side event addressing marijuana commercialization on the front lines was a great success. Attendees learned about breakdowns in the drug legalization framework from a regulatory whistleblower, and all of the latest institutional data on marijuana’s addictiveness and related public health harms.



## THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S DRUG USE

Wednesday, 14 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Students for Sensible Drug Policy with the support of YouthRISE



### The impacts of COVID19 on young people's drug use

presented by Students for Sensible Drug Policy and Youth RISE

A YOUTH-FOCUSED SIDE EVENT AT COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS  
WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2021  
13:10 CET | 11:10 UTC | 6:10 CST

Since the beginning of 2020, the world has been experiencing an unprecedented public health emergency, which has led to a dramatic shift in how young people live. While COVID19 is less likely to cause severe symptoms for young people, various national safety measures had significant effects on mental health, access to a safe supply of both legal and illegal drugs as well as to adequate health services. The restrictions of movement, the closure of public places, universities and workplaces moving online had wide ranging

effects on physical and emotional environments, as well as on substance use. During the side event, youth advocates from across the globe discussed their work during the COVID19 pandemic - such as research, tracking the changes in the drug markets in Argentina; training peers as fieldworkers and reaching new populations in South Africa; surveying students in the UK in cooperation with Neurosight and Drugscience; taking international grassroots organizing completely online and supporting small-scale harm reduction initiatives for and by young people.

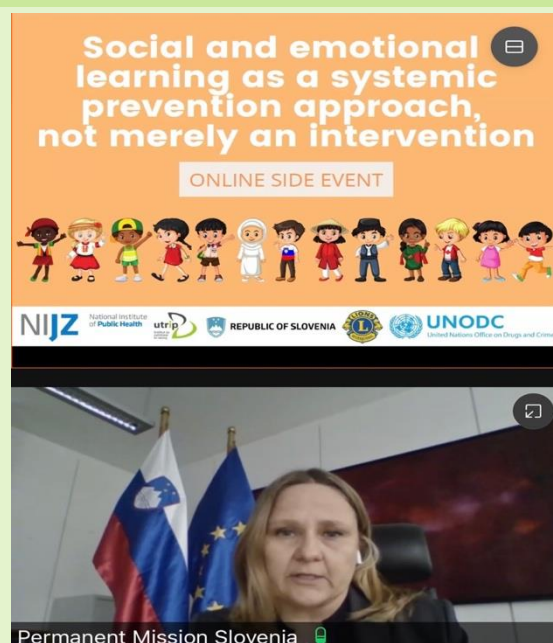
## SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING AS A SYSTEMIC PREVENTION APPROACH, NOT MERELY AN INTERVENTION

Wednesday, 14 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by Slovenia with the support of the International Association of Lions Clubs, the Institute for Research and Development "Utrip", and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

In light of recent findings on the vital importance of social and emotional learning (SEL) for successful early prevention, this side event provided a platform for some key insights and exchange of views, both from a theoretical and a practical perspective. More than 90 attendees had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest developments in the science of prevention, most importantly that it is possible, and indeed imperative, to follow approaches that are proven to be beneficial.

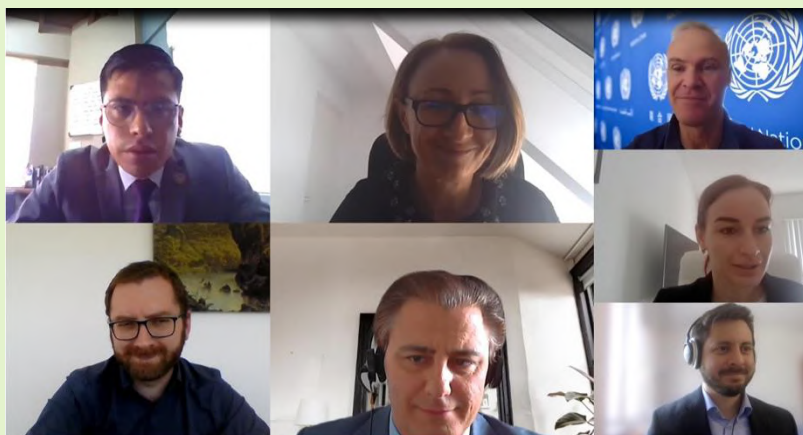
Panellists shared their experience regarding several (inter)national programmes that address the importance of early relationships for physical and emotional regulation. Panellists emphasized the vital importance of developing parental skills while also implementing SEL approaches through programmes in kindergarten and first two triads of primary school. The side event contributed to the ongoing conversation and efforts in providing a systemic approach to prevention at several levels within educational, social and health systems, among all relevant stakeholders and around the globe.



## THE CHANGING FACE OF THE GLOBAL COCAINE MARKET: READING THE TRENDS TO RESPOND WITH FORESIGHT

Wednesday, 14 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the UNODC Drug Research Section*



The event cast a light on recent and current observed developments in the global cocaine market and on the threat of expansion that this poses. The panellists highlighted emerging trends at global, regional and national levels, dwelling in particular on driving factors behind the strong recent growth as well as findings on organized crime groups involved in the illicit transatlantic cocaine trade. The presentations also gave a forward-looking perspective on the ongoing, expected and potential expansion of various stages of the cocaine supply chain, including the proliferation of

cocaine production processes; the use of Africa as a transit region and an expanding user base; and furthermore proposed concrete measures to formulate a pre-emptive response at regional and global levels.

The event attracted more than 100 participants. It was organized by the UNODC Drug Research Section as part of the UNODC project on "Strengthening Criminal Investigation and criminal justice cooperation along drug trafficking routes" (CRIMJUST), within the framework of the Global Illicit Flows Programme of the European Union.

## INSIGHTS INTO TREATMENT AND CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DRUG USE DISORDERS IN CONTACT WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: ALTERNATIVES TO CONVICTION OR PUNISHMENT

Wednesday, 14 April, 14.10 – 15.00

*Organized by the UNODC Justice Section with the support of Norway and Viet Nam, the African Union, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, the World Health Organization and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC)*



The first part of the event celebrated the milestones of the UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care and demonstrated how this interagency collaboration has supported Member States in their efforts to provide evidence-based services aiming to leave no one behind. The second part of the event discussed policy frameworks and effective approaches for Treatment and Care for People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System - Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment. Member States and civil society shared national and regional level examples, initiatives and perspectives on the justice and health cooperation. The event brought together over 220 participants indicating the interest to work in partnership and providing effective services for people with drug use disorders, especially in times of the pandemic. A continuation of the UNODC-WHO Programme on Drug Dependence Treatment,

working in partnership with Member States and civil society, will be of utmost importance to address the world drug problem and support efforts to ensure accessible, affordable and diversified quality treatment of drug use disorder services.

## INEQUITIES LAID BARE: RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES OF COVID-19 AND BEYOND

Wednesday, 14 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction with the support of Canada, the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, the Community Addictions Peer Support Association (CAPSA), the HIV Legal Network and the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation

Panelists explained how the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been the greatest for marginalized populations, and have heightened the opioid overdose crisis in Canada. The importance of community-based solutions and actively rectifying historical harms were key themes. [Michael Nurse](#) spoke about looking beyond opioids to expand harm reduction targeted at stimulant use and inhalants, and to supporting youth leadership within Black, African, and Caribbean communities. [Mae Katt](#) discussed the importance of cultural healing practices, safe supply, and harm reduction in correcting historical oppression for First Nations people. [Lisha Di Gioacchino](#) focused on the impact of substance use stigma, particularly for women, and different pathways to care, including recurrence in use and individual definitions of wellness. [Jennifer Saxe](#) highlighted harm reduction funding and policy initiatives by the Government of Canada. In closing, [Carol Hopkins](#) emphasized the need and opportunity for change, including decriminalization of all drugs with no sanctions.

**Inequities Laid Bare:**  
Responding to Challenges of COVID-19 and Beyond

64<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs Side Event #CND64

**FEATURED PANELISTS**

- MAE KATT**  
Nurse Practitioner and Addiction Specialist, Thunderbird Partnership Foundation
- LISHA DI GIOACCHINO**  
Systems Change Navigator, Community Addictions Peer Support Association
- MICHAEL NURSE**  
Harm Reduction Outreach Worker, Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention and Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs

**MODERATOR**

- REBECCA JESSEMAN**  
Director, Policy, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction

**CLOSING REMARKS**

- CAROL HOPKINS**  
Executive Director, Thunderbird Partnership Foundation

**SPONSORED BY:**

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, CAPSA, Health Canada, Global Health, and various international organizations.

### [Recording](#)

## CRITICAL SITUATION WITH RIGHTS VIOLATION OF WOMEN USING DRUGS IN EECA REGION: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

Wednesday, 14 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by Alliance for Public Health and Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA)

**side event:**  
**CRITICAL SITUATION WITH RIGHTS VIOLATION OF WOMEN USING DRUGS IN EECA REGION: IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED**

14.04.2021 wednesday / среда 14:10-15:00 (CEST)

**параллельное мероприятие:**  
**КРИТИЧЕСКАЯ СИТУАЦИЯ С НАРУШЕНИЕМ ПРАВ ЖЕНЩИН, УПОТРЕБЛЯЮЩИХ НАРКОТИКИ В РЕГИОНЕ ВЕЦА: ТРЕБУЮТСЯ НЕМЕДЛЕННЫЕ ДЕЙСТВИЯ**

Zoom meeting interface showing participants: Maria Elena Silva, Alina Kozlovskaya, and Sofya Vozna.

Speakers from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region presented challenges and good practices of providing shelter and psychosocial services for women using drugs (WUD).

The Regional REAct Coordinator presented the collected evidence of human rights violations of WUD. The most frequent incidents were arbitrary detention, discrimination, police and domestic violence, and denial of health services. A representative of the Eurasian Women’s Network on AIDS spoke about emergency situations (such as COVID-19) and war conflicts and violence among women living with HIV, using drugs. The speaker presented conclusions of two studies on COVID-19 and HIV and on access of WUD to sexual and reproductive health. Barriers to accessing services for WUD and those experiencing violence were presented by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA). A representative of the Ukrainian National Police shared successful state interventions to reduce gender-based violence. A Community

Representative from Kyrgyzstan presented best practices of a community response to rights violations and a set of key interventions that can be applied in shelters, crisis centers and community NGOs.

Materials and presentations: <https://cutt.ly/evj5Uax>

### [Recording](#)

## HOW COVID 19 PANDEMIC ALTERED THE INVOLVEMENT OF NGOS TO DRUG- POLICY MAKING PROCESSES?

Wednesday, 14 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by Green Moon Georgia, Framework Convention on Tobacco Control FCTC (Implementation and Monitoring Center) in Georgia, Green Crescent India and Verein Neubeginn Suchtprävention



The side event was mainly focused on the analysis of drug use in the context of the Covid19 pandemic. The representative of Green Crescent India shared information in the following areas: illicit drug trafficking, online drug markets, a pandemic-related surge in drug use and how NGOs changed during the Covid19 pandemic. The Verein Neubeginn Suchtprävention focused on the family-oriented intervention and prevention emphasizing the role of families in the outreach to the target group, and of NGOs as a bridge between communities

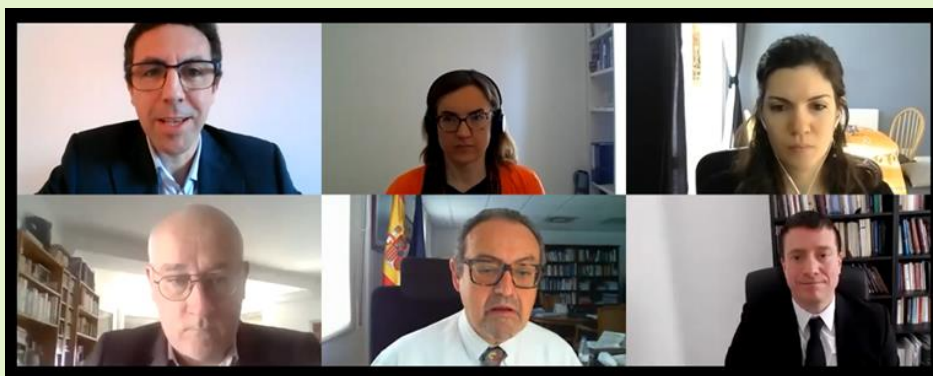
and drug treatment centers during the pandemic, while the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control FCTC (Implementation and Monitoring Center) in Georgia drew attention to prevention activities among young people of Georgia, youth advocacy activities as well as new challenges during the Covid19 pandemic.

## PROMOTING EVIDENCE-BASED DRUG POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS ENSHRINED IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN EUROPE

Thursday, 15 April, 9.00 – 9.50

Organized by the Association Proyecto Hombre with the support of Portugal, Spain, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the European Union Civil Society Forum on Drugs

The side event, moderated by Oriol Esculies (Association Proyecto Hombre), focused on the need for drug policies and interventions to be grounded in human rights and evidence. Marie Nougier (International Drug Policy Consortium and Civil Society Forum on Drugs-CSFD) highlighted the importance of considering prevention, harm reduction and treatment programmes as essential services, and protecting civil society space in policymaking. The role of evaluation as a central element for policy development was underlined by Edith Hofer (European Commission). Dr. Joan Villalbí (National Plan on Drugs, Spain) focused on the challenges to identify and evaluate effective interventions, and to ensure their wide availability. Péter Sárosi (Rights Reporter Foundation and CSFD) described the concerning situation of people incarcerated for drug offences and resulting human rights violations. Denis Huber (Pompidou Group, Council of Europe) explained the work of the Council of Europe on drug policies based on human rights.



[Recording](#)

## GOING BEYOND THE SCREAMS - THE ROLE OF IMPLEMENTING EVIDENCE-BASED ADDICTION PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS WITH COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES FROM NGOS IN THE AFRICA REGION

Thursday, 15 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by the Green Crescent Health Development Initiative, Nigeria (GHI) with the support of the Slum Child Foundation, the Somali Green Crescent Society and the Sudanese Green Crescent Society

Side Event Title	Going Beyond the Screams - The Role of Implementing Evidence-Based Addiction Prevention Interventions with comparative Examples from NGOs in the Africa Region		
Date/Time	15 April 2021	10.00 – 10.50 a.m.	
Chairperson	Prof of Clinical Pharmacology, University of Lagos, Idi-Araba	Names	Prof Ibrahim Adekunle
1 <sup>st</sup> Speaker	GHI – Nigeria	Oreagba	oreagba@yahoo.com
2 <sup>nd</sup> Speaker	Sudan GC	DR Tajudeen Abiola	abiofatob@yahoo.com
3 <sup>rd</sup> Speaker	Somalia GC Society	DR Marwa Omer	marwaomer12593@gmail.com
4 <sup>th</sup> Speaker	Slum Child Foundation	DR Abifetah I. Omar	abdifatah@just.edu.sq
5 <sup>th</sup>	Q & A	MR George Ochieng	slumchildfoundation@gmail.com
6 <sup>th</sup>	Final Comments and round up	OTHER PARTICIPANTS	

**ABSTRACT**  
Africa is more than 15% of World population, is obviously more hit with the drug use problems. With this reality, a lot of screams across all concern has been ongoing with needs to do something to halt this tragic occurrence. Several efforts are also being put in place by the Governments in Africa and these are being boosted by other stakeholders. While these sensitization efforts are heard loud and clear in Africa and beyond, there is seemingly limited adaptation and implementation of evidence-based interventions to achieve the rolling back agenda of the rising onset of drug use. Here, some NGOs, among the stakeholders, seeks to share how it bridges this gap in Africa, while providing the implementation of evidence-based intervention within the drug use prevention sphere.

“The screams” in Africa is described as the worsening burden of drug use/abuse in Africa and worldwide. The event brought to the fore the practical and evidence-based drug prevention activities of four African NGOs (Green Crescent Health Development Initiative (GHI), Nigeria; Sudanese Green Crescent Society, Sudan; Somalia Green Crescent Society, Somalia; and Slum Child Foundation, Kenya). These organizations emphasized that evidence-

supported interventions as carried out by them will not let the screams silence them into “action paralysis” or prevent them from utilizing evidence-based interventions and the push to continue building their capacities to effectively address all addictions and related harms. The presentations ended by focusing all on the lessons learnt as well as future endeavours and challenges.

### [Recording](#)

## ADDRESSING THE HARMS OF CRIMINALIZATION AND POLICING WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND DRUG POLICY REFORM

Thursday, 15 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by the Norwegian Association for Humane Drug Policies with the support of Norway, the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), NoBox Philippines, Release, and StreetLawPH

The side event was opened by Norway’s Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, who presented Norway’s recent proposal to decriminalise drug use and possession for personal use. Later in the event, the Norwegian Association for Humane Drug Policies explained how people who use drugs had campaigned for decriminalisation and had been critical in the government’s decision to table this bill.

NoBox Philippines highlighted that the drug conventions had been used to justify punitive and often rights-violating approaches to drugs. NoBox is addressing the problem by highlighting the humanity and dignity of people who use drugs, and by emphasising that punitive laws target those who are socially marginalised. The Drug Policy Alliance (DPA) described the impact of drug laws on minorities in the USA and explained how the momentum for progressive drug reform is spreading throughout the country. The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) also described the disproportionate impact of drug laws on women and explained how the criminal justice reform can advance gender equality.

**Why is Criminalization a Problem?**

- Problems with criminalizing drug possession:
  - Single **most arrested** offense in the US
  - **Racial disparities** and over-policing in communities of color
  - Consequences of arrest are **severe**
  - High **overdose** rates
  - **Lack of investment** in treatment and harm reduction infrastructure

### [Summary](#)

### [Recording](#)

## WAY FORWARD – DEVELOPING GENDER-SENSITIVE TREATMENT PROGRAMMES TO ERADICATE BARRIERS FOR WOMEN

Thursday, 15 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by the World Federation Against Drugs with the support of Dianova International, Proslavi Oporavak/Celebrate Recovery and the Women’s Organizations Committee on Alcohol and Drug Issues (WOCAD)



Women who use drugs face barriers limiting their access to treatment and recovery options and, as reported by UNODC in 2015, are underrepresented in treatment and research. It was essential to raise awareness and develop gender-sensitive, trauma-informed, interventions to eradicate the barriers in place. Gisela Hansen Rodriguez presented the Way Forward, developed by Dianova and the World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD), addressing the main barriers and actions to consider in programme design and implementation. Britt Fredenman highlighted the importance of trauma-informed interventions and the recognition of the interrelation between trauma and symptoms of trauma within treatment. Additionally, Britt Fredenman set forth nine demands to the United

Nations and all Member States calling for further inclusion of women and minorities. Finally, Sara Esmizade presented a practical example of gender-sensitive treatment in Iran, focusing on the pilot programme ‘Khane Parvin’. She provided a clear insight into the background of the pilot, identified needs, and the need for compromise with reality.

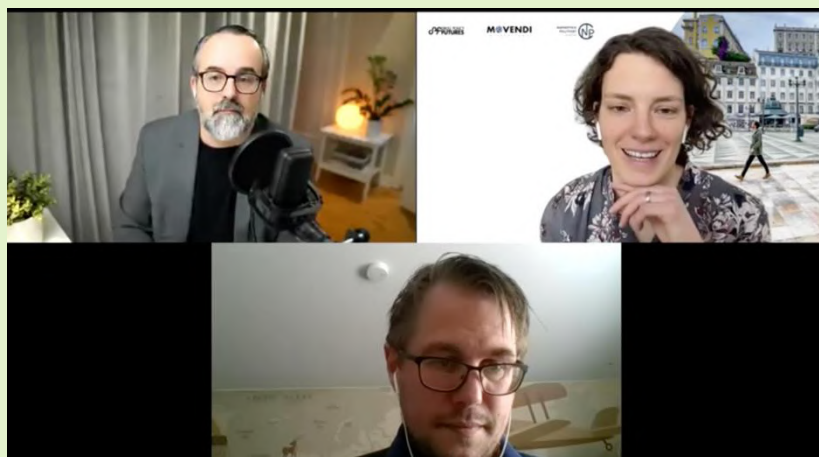
[Recording](#)

## DECRIMINALISATION – WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOES NOT

Thursday, 15 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by Movendi International

The side event offered a presentation of results of decriminalisation efforts in various European countries. Participants received a detailed insight into one decriminalization model and discussed which measures under which circumstances are crucial to prevent and reduce drug-related harm. As the use of decriminalisation is hugely diverse and does not have clear frames, Movendi International together with the partners looked into the term of decriminalisation and the practical application of decriminalisation of drugs in 11 European countries.



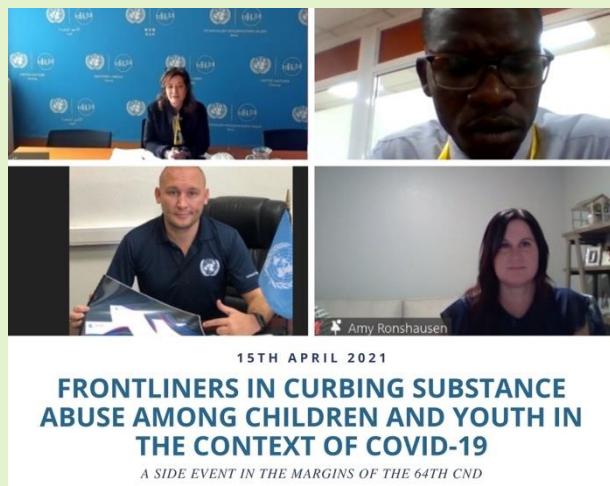
In addition to that, a report had been launched that had analysed one of the most referred European decriminalisation models in the context of the country’s history and the effects of the model these days. The conclusion of the report was that decriminalisation is not a quick fix for the world drug problem and does not work without other supportive measures such as effective prevention and a well-functioning treatment system. The event featured 117 registered participants.

[Recording](#)

## FRONTLINERS IN CURBING SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

Thursday, 15 April, 10.00 – 10.50

Organized by the Slum Child Foundation with the support of the National Anti-Drug Union and the UNODC Civil Society Unit



The event co-organized by the Kenyan Slum Child Foundation and the Russian National Anti-Drug Union, focused on frontliners in curbing substance use among children and youth in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Geographically diverse perspectives from all over the world were presented.

For example, Slum Child Foundation had been at the forefront of supporting affected populations and providing psychosocial support to women, children and youth to help them cope with the impact of the pandemic. The Russian National Drug Union shared their experience in engaging youth in creative work in the form of a “Game Quest” aimed to identify adolescents with drug use disorders and supporting them to develop their emotional resilience.

As the pandemic had shown the importance of online tools for cooperation, this side event was also an opportunity to showcase the [NGO Marketplace](#), an online platform jointly developed by UNODC and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) to expand civil society connectivity and exchange.

## ACCESS TO CONTROLLED MEDICINES DURING COVID-19: MEETING THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS AROUND THE WORLD

Thursday, 15 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Belgium with the support of Australia, Canada, El Salvador, France, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care, the International Narcotics Control Board, the Union for Cancer Control, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and the World Health Organization

The event proved the need for immediate action and for joining efforts in ensuring global access to quality-controlled drugs for medical purposes, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The well-balanced, diversified and very interesting group of speakers was welcomed by H.E. Meryame Kitir, Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation. Speakers included: UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly, INCB President Cornelis de Joncheere, WHO Assistant Director General Mariangela Simao, and IAEA Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) Director Lisa Stevens.



All speakers presented the work of their organization on the topic, sharing their concerns on the situation and calling for further support. In addition, a panel of experts focused on the regional experiences and in-field difficulties encountered in accessing controlled medicines in COVID-19 times in different regions: in Africa (Dr. Emmanuel Luyirika, APCA), in Asia Pacific (Dr. Odette Spruijt, Australasian Palliative Link International) and in Latin America (Dr. Tania Pastrana, International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC)). The event concluded with a touching patient’s account by Dr. Stephen Watiti, recipient of palliative care from Uganda.

## THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL MASTER PLAN (NDCMP) 2021 – 2025: TOWARDS AN EVIDENCE-BASED, INTEGRATED AND BALANCED APPROACH TO DRUG CONTROL

Thursday, 15 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the Government of Nigeria*



The side event highlighted the key features of the National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP) 2021-2025, developed by Nigeria in coordination with the European Union-funded and UNODC-implemented project “Response to Drugs and Related Organized Crime in Nigeria”. Speaking on this occasion, the Chairman of the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) informed participants that the Plan “provides a roadmap” for coordinating Nigeria’s policies, strategies and operational plans to curb the menace of drug production, use and

trafficking “in a comprehensive, balanced, human-rights centred, and gender responsive manner”. The EU Ambassador to Nigeria and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) highlighted EU’s long-standing commitment to support Nigeria in drug control, while the UNODC Representative stressed the strong evidence base of the Plan and considered it to “be a model for other African States”. The event was moderated by a representative of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria in Vienna and attended by 104 participants.

## TACKLING TRAFFICKING OF NPS AND SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Thursday, 15 April, 13.10 – 14.00

*Organized by the Republic of Korea with the support of Canada, India, Japan, the United States, and the International Narcotics Control Board*

The side event was co-organized by the Republic of Korea, Canada, India, Japan, the United States of America, and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and gathered over 120 people to discuss how to tackle trafficking in new psychoactive substances and synthetic opioids through public-private partnerships.



Panellists from governments, international organizations as well as the private sector gave examples of successful partnerships.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Junho Shin, Director of the Narcotics and Organized Crime Division of the Republic of Korea talked about the importance to integrate actions on a global level. The Acting Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. James Walsh gave an example of how a new initiative educates online retailers about the sales of pill press machines used in the production of counterfeit pills.

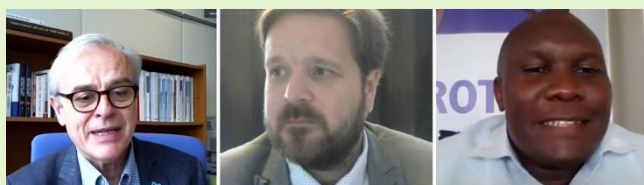
Another example of the public-private partnership was given by Ms. Jagjit Pavadia, the Vice President of the INCB. Ms. Pavadia showed how the INCB has assisted major online e-commerce platforms, and how this has resulted in a significant reduction in the exploitation of such services.



## CIVIL SOCIETY & COVID-19: RESPONSES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Thursday, 15 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Civil Society Unit with the support of Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs



### CIVIL SOCIETY & COVID 19: RESPONSES DURING THE PANDEMIC

A SIDE EVENT IN THE MARGINS OF THE 64TH CND | 15TH APRIL 2021



economic recovery. The Uganda Youth Development Link was providing personal protective equipment and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to youth and supporting the Government to distribute much needed COVID-19 relief aid.

The event presented best practices on how civil society organisations effectively responded to challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, ranging from ensuring access to medicine, to providing drug prevention and treatment services online and via telephone.

For example, the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, presented their work, providing much needed access to medicine through telemedicine, electronic prescriptions, and using boda bodas to reach affected communities. The Centro de Información y Educación para la Prevención del Abuso de Drogas (CEDRO) in Peru had initiated a COVID-19 resilience project in the Peruvian Amazon to mitigate the health, social and economic impact of the pandemic on the vulnerable population by sensitizing the target communities about the risks of COVID-19, building resilience capacities and strategies, and promoting

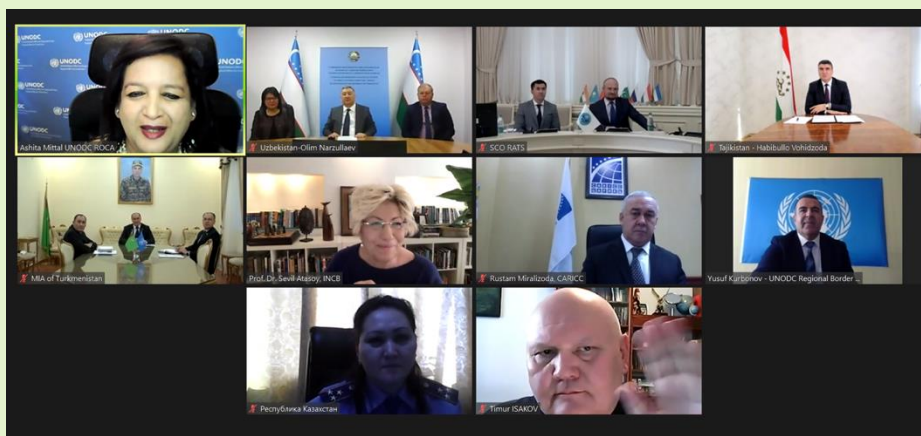
## FOSTERING SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DRUGS AND NPS CONTROL IN CENTRAL ASIA

Thursday, 15 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia and the Government of Turkmenistan

The side event brought together over 80 participants, including high-level officials from Central Asian law enforcement agencies, international organizations, such as CARICC, INCB, OSCE, SCO, UNODC, representatives of the donor community and development agencies in Central Asia, as well as other law enforcement experts.

The event featured opening remarks by Ms. Miwa Kato, Director of the UNODC Division for Operations and H.E. Mr. Silapberdi Nurberdiev, Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations in Vienna, as well as statements by country delegations, CARICC, and UNODC. The speakers shared up-to-date information and best practices on illicit drug trafficking and new psychoactive substance abuse prevention in the region and showcased the progress made in this direction. The side event participants reiterated the importance of the joint and coordinated efforts and the commitment to countering drug trafficking.



## THE ROLE OF FAMILY AND SCHOOLS IN WORKING WITH YOUTH AND STUDENTS IN ADDICTION PREVENTION

Thursday, 15 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Yayasan Green Crescent Indonesia with the support of Conectados pela Vida, the Thailand Green Crescent, and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section



About 100 people from various countries participated in the side event organized by the Yayasan Green Crescent Indonesia. Dr. Era Catur Prasetya as the Chairperson of the Green Crescent Indonesia delivered opening remarks. Ms. Herni Soesanti from Yayasan Green Crescent Indonesia (YGCI) highlighted the use of counselling and other collaborative efforts in addressing addiction. Ms.

Giovanna Campello from UNODC talked about the importance of family-based prevention in the context of the pandemic and outlined that people living in poverty and in violent communities had multiple chances of developing addiction. Mrs. Patimoh Nima, from Thailand Green Crescent outlined that the peer-to-peer program had resulted in good benefit for the youth in Thailand. She also reiterated that youth and students were a potential market for drugs, but that they were also a potential market for healthy life fighters, so action must be taken early.

## CELEBRATING THE FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF UNGASS: PROGRESS MADE, ONGOING CHALLENGES

Thursday, 15 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) with the support of Portugal, the European Union, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNAIDS and the World Health Organization



Moderated by Olivier Onidi (European Commission), this side event assessed progress made in global drug policy since the 2016 UNGASS. Marie Nougier (IDPC) presented the findings and recommendations of '[Taking stock of half a decade of drug policy: An evaluation of UNGASS implementation](#)'. Craig Mokhiber (OHCHR) talked on the human rights abuses resulting from drug control and highlighted the need to better implement the recommendations of the [UN System Common Position on drugs](#) and the [International Guidelines for Human Rights and Drug Policy](#). Vinay Saldanha (UNAIDS) presented the [Global](#)

[AIDS Strategy 2021-2026](#) and the indicators related to drugs and harm reduction. Both underscored the critical need for the UN Task Team on the implementation of the Common Position to play a stronger role. Finally, Yennifer Martinez Murillo explained how drug policy changes since 2016 have impacted her life as a coca cultivator in Colombia.

[Summary](#)

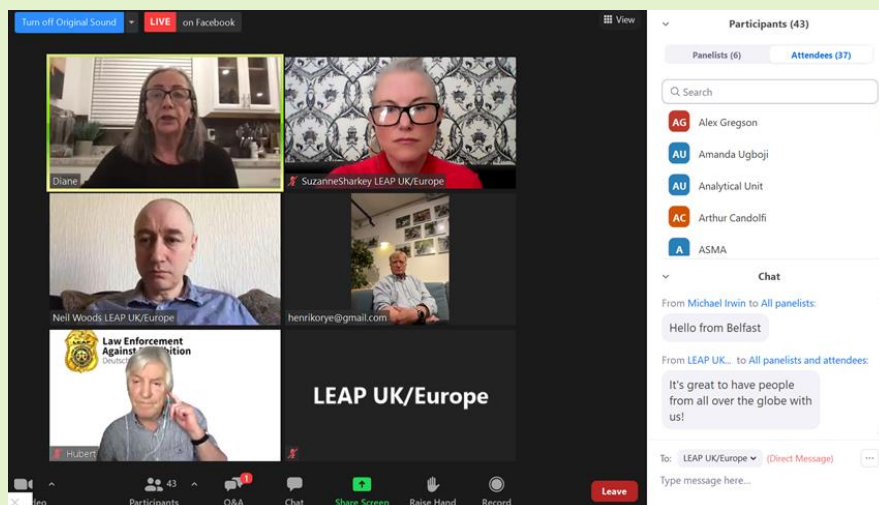
[Recording](#)

## A NEW CHAPTER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT INFLUENCING DRUG POLICY

Thursday, 15 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)

The event was to present the international growing organisation of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP) and the launch of LEAP Europe as an organisation. The event was hosted by Suzanne Sharkey (co-executive director of UK LEAP). Diane Goldstein (Executive Director of LEAP USA), opened the panel discussion presenting briefly on the support to the growth of LEAP in Europe. This was followed by other LEAP representatives working in Europe: Henrik Orye from Denmark, Hubert Wimber from Germany and Neil Woods from the UK. It was reiterated that LEAP is an international growing organisation. It was highlighted that drug policy of the future will entirely have a health focus not a criminal justice one, but there was a need to speed up the journey to this inevitable future.



This event was a first one in a series of events to be held around Europe, and welcomed all interested to further participate in such events.

## ADULT DRUG USE AND REGULATION: THE FUTURE OF DRUG POLICIES?

Thursday, 15 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by Acción Técnica Social (ATS) with the support of Instituto RIA



Julian Quintero delivered opening remarks. Zara Snapp then facilitated a conversation with Dr. Carl Hart from Columbia University on issues such as, for example, the need to involve young people in the development of drug policies. The event facilitated a rich, productive and justice-focused dialogue. Acción Técnica Social (ATS) and Instituto RIA highlighted that they look forward to continuing to bring drug policy innovations to the CND.

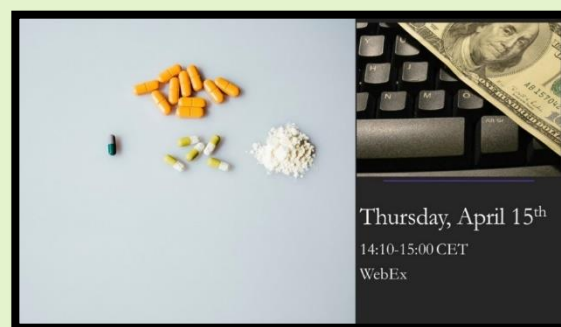
## CONFRONTING EMERGING SYNTHETIC DRUG CHALLENGES

Thursday, 15 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by the United States

The event highlighted challenges faced by governments in addressing the issue of synthetic drugs. Topics discussed included the use of non-scheduled precursor chemicals in the illicit manufacture of drugs, the rapid emergence of novel psychoactive substances, challenges to law enforcement due to the business model using 21st century technologies, the use of public-private partnerships to counter the threat, and public health responses to this complex challenge.

The event featured expert panelists from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, and the Korean National Police Agency, and was moderated by UNODC. Panelists highlighted essential tools for addressing synthetic drug challenges, including public-private partnerships, expanding public health approaches to address access to treatment during the pandemic, and tools from the UNODC and the INCB.



## GENDER IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: EXPLORING EVIDENCE-BASED ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES

Thursday, 15 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by the Government of Costa Rica with the support of the governments of Argentina, Canada, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica, and the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS).



This event featured a discussion on the relevance of promoting gender-responsive alternatives to incarceration for drug-related offenses to prevent criminal recidivism.

The session showcased good practices implemented at the legal, policy, and programmatic levels, by the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS), and shed light on current challenges, including the existence of gender stereotypes and perceptions about crime. In discussing the way forward, the speakers emphasized the importance of promoting research, awareness-raising, training, inter-institutional coordination, and the adoption of individualized approaches that address underlying health and social issues contributing to criminal behavior.

## THE NEW ARQ ON THE STARTING BLOCKS

Thursday, 15 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by the UNODC Data Development and Dissemination Section

The side event was entirely dedicated to the new Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) officially endorsed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its 63rd session in March 2020. UNODC has introduced the revised and streamlined ARQ as a tool to improve drug related data. The discussion focused on the overall data collection mechanism highlighting the key innovations. UNODC presented the new questionnaire structure organized in annual and rotating modules and highlighted the importance to build a network of national focal points whose role was the coordination and oversight of the drug-related data collection and reporting. UNODC had also developed an online reporting system that would streamline the reporting mechanism and support the focal points in developing the national network. The main features of such an innovative webtool were presented showcasing the flexibility of the new system to adapt to different national contexts and capacities. The side-event counted more than 140 participants showing the relevance of drug related statistical information as a strategic asset for UNODC.



## ILLICIT DRUG ECONOMIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, 15 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by UNODC Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs with the support of Germany, and the Centro de Estudios de Seguridad y Drogas, CESED, Universidad de los Andes



On 15 April 2021, the CND Side Event "Illicit Drug Economies and the Environment" took place virtually, which was jointly organised by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), together with UNODC, the London School of Economics (LSE), the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GITOC), and Universidad de los Andes and Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP). With around 70 participants the event was well attended. Opening remarks were provided by the Director for the Division of Policy Analysis of UNODC, Jean-Luc Lemahieu. Presentations focused on the environmental damage caused by illicit drug economies, especially in cultivating countries but also in the EU. It was pointed out that linking environmental and drug policy is imperative. The event attracted significant attention on social media, mirroring the importance of the issue, which will also be the focus of the upcoming Journal of Illicit Economies and Development (JIED) Special issue to be published by summer 2021.

## CONTRIBUTION OF SPORT AND SPORT-BASED INTERVENTIONS TO SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION: REVIEWING THE EVIDENCE

Thursday, 15 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by the UNODC Justice Section under the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration with the support of the Dominican Republic, and the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

This event, building on the UNODC Youth Crime Prevention through Sport initiative and the Line Up Live Up programme, discussed the evidence of using sport as a tool for substance use prevention, and presented promising case studies.

Experts at the event concluded that sport can present an opportunity to model healthy lifestyles for youth, increase prevention potential from risky behaviours including substance use, and develop important life skills such as critical thinking and resisting negative peer pressure. The effectiveness of such interventions, however, depended on several elements, including the type of sport and the delivery dosage of the programme, the quality of non-sport outcomes and objectives, the quality and intensity of capacity building, including the training offered to coaches and facilitators, and the overall programme environment. Moreover, to amplify the positive impact of sport, interventions should be part of more comprehensive policies and programmes on substance use prevention that operate through different environmental structures that are influential on the lives of youth (school, family and other community institutions) and address the multiple factors of substance use to promote overall youth development and wellbeing.

More information on the event can be found [here](#).



## SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING FOR PREVENTION OF DRUG USE, VIOLENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH: NEEDS AND LESSONS LEARNED IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID19 AND ITS AFTERMATH

Thursday, 15 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by UNODC and the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF)

The event served as a platform for promoting the effective social and emotional learning initiatives through the prism of the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence (LQSFA) programme, implemented since 2014 in Central America, West Africa and South Eastern Europe as a collaboration between UNODC and the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). The event included opening remarks from Ms. Gudrun Yngvadottir, LCIF chairperson, and Mr. Andres Finguerut, Chief of the Drug Prevention and Health Branch (DHB). This was followed by a panel of interventions including the Lions Quest management in LCIF; a lead implementor of LQSFA from Peru and a teacher and a student from Croatia - all demonstrating the feasibility and added value of such programmes in reaching students during and further after the COVID19 pandemic to enhance their mental health and prevent drug use among youth.



## RAISING VOICES. EMPOWERING FEMALE FARMERS IN DRUG CROP CULTIVATION AREAS

Thursday, 15 April, 14.10 – 15.00

Organized by the Open Society Foundations with the support of Germany



The event focused on the different roles of women living in drug crop cultivation areas and their experiences, which remained largely untold. Dr. Maria Flachsbarth, Parliamentary State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) delivered opening remarks highlighting the importance of giving women from drug crop cultivation regions a voice as well as supporting them in standing up for their rights and improving their living conditions through alternative development. Speakers from Open Society Foundations and Corporación Humanas Colombia pointed out that it is necessary to consider them as individual agents, strengthen their leadership

and ensure equal access to land. Two female smallholder farmers from Peru and Colombia shared their personal experiences, success stories and concerns. The event gathered over 40 participants and provided a unique platform for drawing attention to the realities faced by women in drug crop cultivation areas, followed by a lively discussion.

## IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON THE DRUG MARKET: A MULTI-COUNTRY MULTI-STUDY ANALYSIS

Friday, 16 April, 10.00– 10.50

Organized by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation with the support of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy and Release

This side event was co-sponsored by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, International Society for the Study of Drug Policy and Release UK, and brought together four empirical studies to examine impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions on drug markets in different parts of the globe. Over 110 people attended the event. Key findings:

- Shifts in modus operandi of purchasing and supply e.g. less face-to-face purchasing/sales;
- Short-term supply shortages and price increases for drugs other than cannabis;
- Reductions in frequency of use and purchasing of stimulants e.g. cocaine and MDMA;
- Stable and/or increased frequency of use and purchasing of cannabis;
- Increased drug-related harms e.g. overdose in some contexts;
- Variable impacts upon illicit drug suppliers e.g. total quantity supplied and bottom line fell for some dealers, but increased significantly for others.

The side event reinforced 1) the adaptability and resilience of global drug markets, 2) the importance of monitoring medium to long-term impacts on use, purchasing and supply and 3) the need to expand and/or maintain access to essential drug policy services e.g. drug treatment and harm reduction.

## SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS - PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO A PERSISTING CRISIS

Friday, 16 April, 13.10 – 14.00

Organized by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service (UNODC Opioid Strategy).

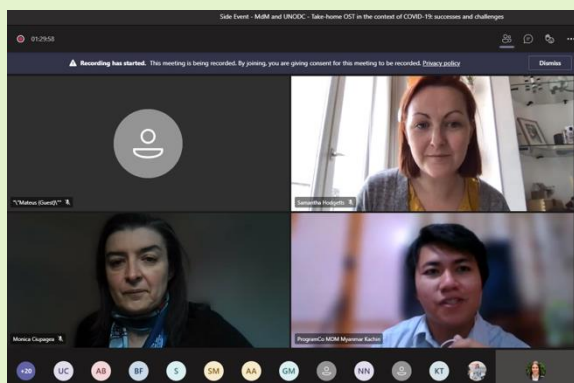
Chaired jointly by Dawn Wilkes, Security Programme Manager at the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and Asma Fakhri, Coordinator, UNODC Opioid Strategy, this event focused on various aspects of the global opioid crisis, in particular synthetic opioids and the impact of COVID 19 on global responses. Representatives from the UPU Postal Security Programme, United States Postal Inspection Service, UNODC Global SMART Programme, UNODC Cybercrime and Anti-Money Laundering Section, UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme and UNODC Global Scientific and Forensic Services reflected on their integrated

collaboration within the framework of the [UNODC Opioid Strategy](https://syntheticdrugs.unodc.org/) and shared their expertise on how to respond to threats posed by synthetic opioids. The event also included a live demonstration of the UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs, the flagship product of the UNODC Opioid Strategy, which brings together key tools and resources related to synthetic drugs from across the UN system. The UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs is available at <https://syntheticdrugs.unodc.org/>.

## TAKE-HOME OPIOID SUBSTITUTION THERAPY IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19: SUCCESSES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Friday, 16 April, 13.10– 14.00

Organized by Médecins du Monde with the support of UNODC HIV/AIDS Section



In an effort to ensure the availability and accessibility of the Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) in the context of COVID-19, in many countries, health authorities decided to expand the take-home OST, to maximize the likelihood that patients on OST will adhere to government-imposed lockdown restrictions and social distancing measures designed to curtail the spread of SARS-CoV-2. Accordingly, in many countries where OST is available, governmental and scientific organizations have recommended that OST clinics switch as many patients as possible from supervised methadone administration to take-home self-administration, and that they temporarily increase the number of take-home doses for patients already in this treatment regimen.

The purpose of this side event was to raise awareness about the positive results of the expansion of the take-home opioid substitution therapy in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The session was co-chaired by Médecins du Monde and UNODC and included four country presentations on the experiences of the expansion of take-home OST in Moldova, Kenya, Myanmar and Ukraine. The presentations focused on the positive results of this expansion, challenges, and opportunities to continue with progress made, as well as some testimonies from clients in Myanmar on how the expansion of take-home OST had had a positive impact in their lives.

The event was attended by around 50 participants.

### [Recording](#)

## WORLD PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES OF DRUG FREE WORKING PLACE

Friday, 16 April, 13.10– 14.00

Organized by the Green Crescent Malaysia with the support of the Drug Free America Foundation, the International Federation of Non-Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO) and Kıbrıs Türk Yeşilay Derneği

The session started with the opening speech from H.E. Dato Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations in Vienna who stated that the Malaysian government was fully committed in countering drug addiction. Dr Ahmad Fairuz explained how harm reduction in Malaysia had proven to be successful and touched upon the role of NGO in the related policies. Dr. Norli Abdul Jabbar from the International Federation of Non-Government Organizations (IFNGO) shared on the One Stop Centre for Addiction (OSCA) in providing intervention and treatment services for substance abuse at primary settings in Malaysia. Mrs. Amy Ronshausen from the Drug Free America Foundation (DFAF) explained on substance misuse at workplace in the U.S. and how the current pandemic affected workers working from home. All speakers agreed that policies should not be punitive and should investigate the actual cause of the harmful addiction behaviour.





**MOVING BEYOND THE DIVISIONS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP HUMANITARIAN DRUG POLICIES: THE ROLE OF THE ROME CONSENSUS 2.0 INITIATIVE**

Friday, 16 April, 14.10– 15.00

*Organized by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) with the support of Italy, the C4 Recovery Foundation, the Levenson Foundation, the Knowmad Institut, the Police, Treatment and Community Collaborative (PTACC), the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, and the Villa Maraini Foundation*



An audience of 207 participants joined the side event which brought into debate the Rome Consensus 2.0, a multi-partner initiative and a statement launched during the 63rd CND to promote humanitarian drug policies. The statement had been meanwhile signed by over 150 organisations and hundreds of activists worldwide.

During the panel, seven speakers from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), UNODC, Italy, Uruguay, Kenya and USA, including leaders and supporters of the Rome Consensus 2.0, discussed how health, human rights, law enforcement experts, and governments should work together to overcome the false dichotomies

between harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery.

The panelists agreed that the primary objective of the humanitarian drug policy is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity by fighting social, legal and cultural criminalization and stigmatization of people with substance use disorders.

[Rome Consensus 2.0 statement](#)

**Recording**

## Additional Events in the margins of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the CND

### INFORMAL SCIENTIFIC NETWORK MEETING ON THE TOPIC OF PSYCHIATRIC COMORBIDITIES

*Monday, 29 March 14.00 – 16.00 and Thursday, 1 April 13.00 – 17.00*

*Organized by the UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section and the World Health Organization and with the generous support of the Russian Federation*



The [UNODC-WHO Informal Scientific Network \(ISN\)](#), a platform for the academic world to be in dialogue with international policymakers on how to counter the world drug problem, reconvened this year to develop a statement on *Recommendations on Prevention, Treatment, and Care of Substance Use Disorders in Times of COVID-19*, that was presented to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). Guided by the ISN Chairs Dr. Nora Volkow (US) and Dr. Susan Maua (Kenya) and with the support from UNODC and WHO, more than 30 leading scientists agreed on key recommendations during two virtual sessions held on 29 March and 1 April 2021. On 14 April 2021, during the 64<sup>th</sup> CND Plenary session, Dr. Nora Volkow, presented key points of the [ISN statement](#), highlighting that people with substance use disorders are impacted by increased COVID morbidity and mortality and that data collection and investment in evidence-based drug use prevention and treatment, promotion of mental health, and attention to the impact of social determinants on health were more necessary than ever during and beyond the pandemic.

A **video message** from the Chairs is also available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Uid1T\\_JrBg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Uid1T_JrBg).

### THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HEALTH SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS WHO ARE LIVING WITH OR ARE VULNERABLE TO HIV

*Wednesday, 7 April, 10:00 a.m. – 13:20 p.m. Thursday, 8 April, 13:00 a.m. – 16:10 p.m.*

*Organized by the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section in close collaboration with the International AIDS Society (IAS), World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD).*

Within the framework of the 2021 CND, a two-day multi-stakeholder consultation was held to bring together representatives of the community of people who use drugs and leading scientists with expertise in public health, human rights and prisons. During the two virtual sessions, participants were invited to share their perspectives on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services for people who use drugs including those in prisons, complemented by country examples from Georgia, Nepal, Thailand, Ukraine and Viet Nam.

The deliberations of experts from this multi-stakeholder consultation group resulted in a statement that highlighted the gathered evidence on harm reduction and COVID-19, promising responses since the beginning of the pandemic and five key recommendations. This statement was subsequently delivered in the CND 2021 plenary session on April 14 by Professor Adeeba Kamarulzaman from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, the President of the International AIDS Society.



## Demonstrations

### DEMONSTRATION OF THE UN TOOLKIT ON SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Tuesday, 13 April, 17.10 – 17.30, Wednesday, 14 April, 17.10 – 17.30, Thursday, 15 April, 17.10 – 17.30

Organized by Portugal, on behalf of the European Union, with the support of Germany, the European Commission, the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Europol and the Civil Society Forum on Drugs.



In three virtual step-by-step live demonstrations, the usability, functions and features of the UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs were presented by Ms. Stefanie Schmatz, Associate Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer at the UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Service.

The UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs was developed in 2019 after the CND had called for the development of new and innovative approaches to address the international threats posed by the non-medical use of synthetic drugs. The Toolkit brings together specialised resources on synthetic drugs

from across the UN system covering areas such as Forensics, Precursors, Legal Responses, Postal Security, Early Warning Systems and Health Responses.

The Toolkit is coordinated by the UNODC Opioid Strategy and serves as a one-stop shop, currently offering over 260 cross-cutting tools to help identify practical solutions and build capacity to address the challenges related to synthetic drugs.