

AUSTRALIA'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UNGASS 2016 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

August 2015

Australia recommends the following to be reflected toward the drafting of the UNGASS 2016 outcome document.

On the format of the outcome document:

Australia would like to see a final document that:

- is short, to the point, and focused on operational needs and contemporary issues requiring international cooperation and dialogue;
- in the preamble, states the fundamental principles and objectives underpinning the outcome document
- under "operational recommendations", sets out the priority areas from the ongoing implementation of the Political Declaration and the Plan of Action (2009) as well as the emerging and growing challenges of drug use, including those associated with synthetic drugs including new psychoactive substances and amphetamine type stimulants including methamphetamines

A preamble should:

- reaffirm commitments to the three United Nations Drug Control Conventions, including their main objectives to promote public and individual health and welfare, by ensuring the availability of drugs for the relief of pain and suffering, while preventing abuse and illicit supply
- support continued implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action toward reaching the 2019 targets, and recognising the need to increase international cooperation and set new targets to address emerging or growing challenges
- recognise the importance of striking a balance in demand- and supply- reduction measures in the implementation of drug control policy, in order to achieve effective and lasting outcomes, while ensuring consistency with the core UN mandates of peace, security, human rights and dignity, and development
- maintain a strong focus on targeting illicit drug traffickers and manufacturers
- promote continued cooperation between the World Health Organisation, International Narcotics Control Board, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and UN Member States through relevant international mechanisms including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- ensure participation of civil society, including the scientific community, in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies

Operational Recommendations should reflect following priorities and action-oriented initiatives:

1. To counter the proliferation and the harm of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) including methamphetamine, and precursor chemicals:

- Strengthen domestic control and monitoring of NPS, ATS and precursor chemicals, including through national legislative, regulatory and administrative measures, to prevent production, importation and distribution, including sales through the Internet
- Strengthen cooperation between government agencies with the authority to report to the INCB and, where appropriate with industrial sectors, to prevent the misuse and diversion of scheduled and non-scheduled precursor chemicals
- Promote international cooperation in responding to NPS and ATS, including methamphetamine
- Encourage industries to consider and adopt the INCB Guidelines for a Voluntary Code of Practice for the Chemical Industry
- Support research and analysis on patterns of abuse, forensic data and regulation, public health harms including evidence of acute toxicity and dependence from use of NPS/ATS, and share findings via bilateral and multilateral channels
- Expand demand reduction efforts at community level to reduce access and prevent use of NPS and ATS, and develop treatment models relevant to the health and psychological problems associated with NPS and ATS, and actively share strategies
- Support and make full use of the existing international cooperation tools, including established global communication channels of the INCB, plus Early Warning Advisory and Global SMART by the UNODC, for the exchange of information on the sourcing and distribution of, and trafficking in, non-scheduled substance and NPS; and by supplying data to the WHO to support scheduling recommendation process of the most prevalent, persistent and harmful NPS.

2. To ensure access to controlled substance for the relief of pain and suffering while preventing misuse and diversion:

- Significantly increase coordinated multi-sectoral efforts to improve legislative, regulatory, health and law enforcement infrastructure and capacity in locations without adequate access to controlled substances for the relief of pain and suffering, to realise the Convention goals with respect to ensuring global access to medical use of controlled substances while preventing diversion and misuse.
- Support a concerted UN-wide effort including the WHO, INCB, UNODC as well as the UNDP to utilise their respective expertise to close the gap in availability of controlled substances for pain relief, while reinforcing efforts to prevent their diversion and misuse where relevant.

- Promote **international agreement** on ways to further reduce systematic and regulatory barriers to legitimate access to controlled substances to alleviate pain and suffering

3. To achieve efficient and effective policy measures that reduce the harm on individuals and communities caused by the misuse of illegal drugs

- Significantly increase intergovernmental cooperation to respond to transnational crime, with the aim to identifying individuals and organisations in the receipt of unexplained wealth, with a view to supporting law enforcement agencies taking appropriate action to stem the manufacture and supply of illegal drugs.
- Consider law enforcement approaches that improve intelligence activities aimed at disrupting supply and strengthening efforts targeting illicit drug trafficking, manufacturing and associated organised crime activities
- Support research into best practices to assist drug users to effectively rehabilitate and contribute positively to society, including approaches to reducing the use of illegal drugs in incarceration facilities.
- Explore opportunities for communities, governments and NGOs to create local, place based solutions to address drug misuse.