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Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations



The Permanent Missions of Benin, Mexico and Switzerland to the United Nations in collaboration with International Drug Policy Consortium and the New York NGO Committee on Drugs, Cordially Invite You to a Panel Discussion

The 2016 UNGASS on Drugs: Ensuring a Successful Outcome

The event will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City

**Monday, July 14, 2014
1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 5 - NLB**

Featuring the following speakers:

**Dr. Roberto Dondisch,
Director General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico**

**Dr. Renata Segura, Associate Director,
Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum of the Social Science Research Council**

Mike Trace, International Drug Policy Consortium (Moderator)

Welcoming remarks:

**H.E. Yanerit Morgan, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent
Mission of Mexico**

Mr. Thierry Alia, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Benin

Please RSVP by July 10, 2014: NewYorkNGOC@gmail.com

The 2016 UNGASS on Drugs: Ensuring a Successful Outcome

CONCEPT NOTE

The UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 presents the international community with an invaluable opportunity to reaffirm commitments, to debate new challenges and dynamics and to decide together how to enrich the current consensus to reach better results on countering the world drug problem.

Recent reports and analysis presented by international organizations illustrate how demand and supply reduction policies implemented in a balanced manner have achieved successful results. At the same time, they prove that those measures have not been enough to stop the growing consumption, to reduce social harm and violence, and to halt the changing nature of illegal markets.

Mandated by the General Assembly, UNGASS is the highest platform that can be dedicated to a single theme for multilateral discussions. It represents the forum where a political compromise that spans broader than the required technical discussions can be reached.

In order to face a global challenge there are no simple solutions to formulate or to implement. We do need the convergence of responsible governments, participatory citizens, active international organizations as well as UN agencies and bodies to ensure a substantive, comprehensive, plural and transparent debate to the preparatory process for UNGASS 2016.

In this regard we consider it is time to discuss and to propose effective answers to questions such as: How to ensure an effective participation of UN agencies and bodies, civil society, academia and all relevant stakeholders, including regional organizations, in the UNGASS preparatory process? How to support the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in leading this inclusive process and its extensive substantive consultations? How to assist the President of the General Assembly in supporting, guiding and staying involved in this process? How to incorporate the views and experiences of regional organizations on this issue?