A global network promoting objective and open debate on drug policy

International Drug Policy Consortium Progress Report 2010/2011



IDPC Progress Report 2010/2011

Introduction

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of NGOs and professional networks specialising in a wide range of issues related to the production and use of controlled drugs. The Consortium aims to promote objective and open debate on the effectiveness, direction and content of drug policies at the national and international level, and supports evidence-based policies that are effective in reducing drug-related harm.

IDPC's work is framed by a global context in which the present drug control regime, developed through international diplomacy over the past 100 years, is in need of careful review and modernisation. IDPC aims to facilitate the coming together of civil society groups with the appropriate expertise to participate and assist in this process of change and renewal. This document is the first Progress Report of IDPC. The report aims to highlights IDPC's key activities and success since its creation in 2007.

Box 1. Drug Policy: The global context

The present system of drug control is founded on three United Nations Conventions setting out the obligations of signatory states, and is overseen by a group of UN 'treaty bodies', the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

The drug control regime is very much a creature of its time, centring its strategy on the deployment of law enforcement resources to try to suppress both the production of illicit drugs (mostly in the countries of the global South) and their distribution and trafficking (mostly toward the rich countries of 'the West'). The early pioneers of the system believed that the supply–side focus, aimed at preventing the growing of opium, coca and cannabis crops and obstructing their transportation across the zone between producer and consumer, would soon result in the choking off of supplies to the end users in the urban centres of the developed world. It is now clear that this strategy has been unsuccessful. While drug production and consumption are subject to cyclical peaks and troughs, they remain at historically high levels, and are established as ongoing realities with which societies must learn to deal more effectively.

The present drug control system was built up over the course of the twentieth century, and its legislative functions were set down in the decades following World War II. The world has changed enormously in the intervening period, with the spectacular growth of consumer societies linked together ever more closely by the processes of globalisation. In these societies, certain illicit drugs have, to some extent, become normalised, and drug use is (whether we like it or not) viewed as a recreational pastime by millions of citizens. At the same time, the regime has itself generated a number of 'unforeseen consequences'. The most important of these include:



- The growth of powerful organised crime networks, bringing violence and corruption in their wake;
- The explosion of HIV and hepatitis C infections among injecting drug users. The UN Reference Group on HIV and Injecting Drug Use estimated in late 2008 that around three million people who use drugs may be HIV positive, while UNAIDS estimates that one third of new infections outside sub-Saharan Africa are transmitted via injecting equipment;
- Widespread human rights abuses, and violations of the principles of public health and social inclusion, arising from drug control activities;
- Serious consequences on economic, political and social development in the global South;
- The policy displacement of economic and human resources into drug control from other policy areas, with billions of dollars spent each year on drug law enforcement activities.

The present moment is widely acknowledged as one of transition, and represents both a challenge and an opportunity for the international drug control regime. It should demonstrate flexibility in the face of changing historical circumstances, and learn from its successes and its failures during the past century. Like all regulatory regimes, the drug control system must change over time if it is to remain relevant and effective.

IDPC: The unfolding of a global network

IDPC was set up in 2007 following a meeting in London, hosted by the Beckley Foundation, at which a number of drug policy NGOs came together to review the world drug situation and the prospects for policy reform. The meeting identified the need for a global communication and advocacy structure in the area of drug policy reform. Since then, the Consortium has become a dynamic collaborative initiative which has gradually expanded both its membership and its activities to influence national and international drug policies and programmes.

IDPC is now recognised as *the* global drug policy network with a huge source of expertise across the spectrum of drug policy. We have a diverse and growing membership from around the world. As of March 2011, we have 73 members based in 37 countries who have signed up to our vision, mission and core policy principles.

For the past four years, IDPC has worked to strengthen its operating and governance

structures to ensure accountability to the membership and a robust foundation for further strengthening of the network. Between 2008 and 2011, IDPC has been hosted by the charity Release, the London-based UK national centre of expertise on drugs and drugs law. The relationship with Release has been key to the setting up of a sustainable structure for the Consortium. In April 2011, IDPC will attain its own independent charitable status in the United Kingdom. This move will enable IDPC to further strengthen its foundations and build on the successes of the past four years.

Our work is funded through the generous financial support of charitable foundations such as the Open Society Institute's Global Drug Policy Program, the European Commission's Drug Prevention and Information Programme, and a small number of national governments, including the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs 'Choices and Opportunities Fund'. In past years, our donors have included the Swiss Ministry of Health, the UK Government Department of International Development and the UNODC 'Beyond 2008' Initiative.



Our vision, mission and policy principles

IDPC's vision is that international and national drug policies and programmes are grounded in the principles of human rights, social inclusion and public health. They should involve policy making processes that are transparent and in which policy makers engage meaningfully with civil society, particularly with affected populations (such as people who use drugs and subsistence farmers engaging in the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of controlled substances).

Our overall mission is to promote drug policies that are based on these principles and, specifically, that comply with the five overarching IDPC principles as agreed by our membership:

- Drug policies should be developed through a structured and objective assessment of priorities and evidence.
- All activities should be undertaken in full compliance with international human rights law.
- Drug policies should focus on reducing the harmful consequences rather than the scale of drug use and markets.
- Policy and activities should seek to promote the social inclusion of marginalised groups, and not focus on punitive measures towards them.
- Governments should build open and constructive relationships with civil society in the discussion and delivery of their strategies.

To achieve our vision and mission, we use our global structure to:

 Facilitate communication and co-operation between civil society stakeholders and support collaborative activities and endeavours.

- Produce and disseminate multi-lingual information and analysis to highlight the failings of law enforcement-dominated approaches to drug policy and promote an approach based on public health and human rights.
- Create channels and advocacy tools for our partners and members and build their capacity to better engage with and influence the policy making processes of national governments and international agencies.

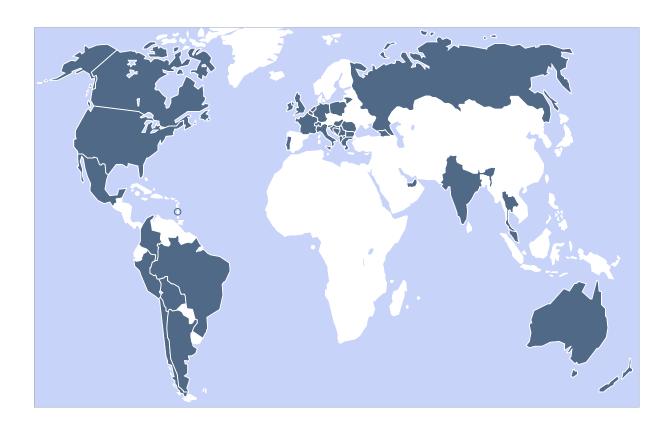
Global objectives, regional and local presence

Unique in its global distribution and structure, the Consortium works from the ground up to reform and humanise drug policies and programmes, and form channels of communication between policy makers, academics and NGO experts, and those who face the consequences of drug control in their daily lives.

IDPC has two levels of membership, with different levels of engagement: our *partner members* contribute to designing the work plan and to advocacy work, whereas our *network members* engage in less intensive network collaborations, and mostly contribute to disseminating our news and materials. The Consortium has been successful in expanding the network into most of the world's regions (please see our full list of members on page 11).

Our members collaborate on a number of key issues in the acknowledgement that we are stronger if we maximise our collective impact. We include our members in all aspects of our work. IDPC members are consulted on IDPC policy and advocacy positions, IDPC 'core' publications and are asked to approve new membership applications. We also work hard to support and promote the work of individual members (IDPC has members in each country coloured in blue).





Governance

The work of IDPC is overseen by a Steering Group made up of eleven representatives from IDPC partner members, with geographic representation from each of the regions where we work. The Steering Group oversees the delivery of the IDPC work plan and contributes to making key strategic decisions with the management of IDPC. The Consortium's Chair for 2010/12 is Mike Trace, and Steering Group members for the period April 2010 to March 2011 were:

Ann Fordham (IDPC Coordinator)
Ernestien Jensema (International)
Graciela Touze (Latin America)
Marcus Day (Caribbean)
Mike Trace (IDPC Chairman)
Pascal Tanguay (Asia Pacific alternate)
Rajesh Kumar (South Asia)
Peter Sarosi (Eurasia)
Ross Bell (Asia Pacific)
Steve Rolles (Western Europe)
Thanasis Apostolou (South East Europe)

Our successes

Our geographical representation. The first achievement of note is the expansion of the Consortium itself, growing from a base of 6 members in 2007 and reaching the current level of 73 members. IDPC now spans much of the globe with a dynamic network of like-minded organisations working together to achieve strategic change in this crucial policy arena. This has included the development of contacts and working relationships in areas of the world that were previously without representation, many of which provide a challenging environment for drug policy advocacy. Over the past year, we have focused on developing our network in Latin America, South East Asia and South East Europe, where we have established a vibrant membership. We have also reached out to new areas of the world, and are establishing regional networks in the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. The map below provides an overview of IDPC presence around the world.



Our regional work. We organise our advocacy with national governments through regional civil society networks. We have been most active over the last two years in Latin America, South East Asia, and South East Europe, and will continue that work in the coming year, together with renewed focus on Central Asia, the Middle East/North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Regional groups identify and work on opportunities to promote progressive policies to national governments in their region.

Latin America - The Latin American network is our most established and vibrant network. With 12 members across 7 countries and two regional organisations that work extensively in Latin America, IDPC has had a presence in the region since its inception in 2007. These organisations have coalesced into a regional movement for drug policy reform that carries out coordinated advocacy activities in collaboration with like-minded officials in key countries. A primary objective of IDPC's work in Latin America is to promote debate on drug policies in countries such as Colombia and Mexico, and to support drug law reform efforts underway in countries including Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Uruguay. These include efforts to decriminalise drug consumption, improve access to evidencebased treatment for dependent drug

users, ensure proportionality in sentencing and provide alternatives to incarceration for low-level offenders. IDPC members are also promoting a distinction between coca and cocaine in the international drug conventions and to advance an alternative livelihoods approach to curbing coca and poppy production.

IDPC members in Latin America engage regularly with policy makers at the national and regional level. Regionally, member organisations regularly attend the bi-annual sessions of the OAS's Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), offer technical assistance to the Pan-American Health Organisation, and are seeking ways to engage with UNASUR's drug commission, IDPC members meet with and disseminate the Consortium's publications to government officials and members of parliament, most recently prioritising the IDPC Drug Policy Guide which has been very well received across the region. In September 2010 the first international course 'A new focus for drug law enforcement' took place in Lima, Peru. Organised by the Centro de Investigación Drogas y Derechos Humanos (CIDDH), the Peruvian National Police and IDPC, the course was attended by over 80 police officers and judicial and government officials (For more information, please http://idpc.net/alerts/first-course-lawenforcement-peru).

 South East Europe - In early 2010, IDPC began to develop our network and advocacy activities in South East Europe. We held three successive meetings with NGOs and civil servants from the region to set up a regional drug policy network. The network aims to facilitate research,



IDPC first training of police officers in Lima, Peru, September 2010



communication, cooperation, and advocacy interventions at the national, regional and international level. The network currently has representation from every country in the region and is composed of committed service providers, research bodies, and a few policy makers. There have been two areas of focus for the network in its inaugural year, the first is the urgent need to scale up sustainable harm reduction programmes in this region and the second has been to assess the situation of one of the most marginalised communities in the region, the Roma people, and how this vulnerability intersects with drug use. Our work in South East Europe has been generously supported by a grant from the European Commission.

 South East Asia - IDPC has been present in South East Asia since 2008 and currently has four members in the region. Civil society efforts to challenge the negative effects of repressive drug policies

have been steadily increasing in South East Asia. The IDPC Secretariat visits the region regularly to meet with members and policy makers and to participate in regional seminars, workshops and conferences. A key theme for IDPC work in South East Asia has been to encourage the refocusing of law enforcement activities and in 2010, we held a seminar on criminal justice reform in Kuala Lumpur in collaboration with the Malaysian AIDS Council. A second area of advocacy for IDPC in this region is to push for drug law reform. In 2010, we initiated a project to this end, in partnership with the Transnational Institute (TNI). The project focuses on possibilities for reform within Thailand and Burma through building networks and engaging with policy makers. Since January 2011, we have also become involved in a 4-year project led by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance to promote drug policy reform at national level in order to create an enabling environment for the provision of harm



South East Europe Drug Policy Network, Ohrid, September 2010



reduction services in several countries, including Malaysia, China and Indonesia.

Middle East and North Africa Historically, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has not been noted for its dynamism in the area of drug policy reform, so the Consortium is delighted to have been instrumental in bringing together key stakeholders from across the region for a first seminar on drug policy in early 2011. The seminar was co-organised by the National Rehabilitation Centre in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), which is IDPC's first member from the region. The seminar brought together NGOs, academics, health professionals, law enforcement officials and government representatives from 12 different countries (Afghanistan, Egypt, Gaza, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the West Bank and Yemen) to exchange information and ideas on the drug policy challenges facing the region, and to launch an IDPC regional drug policy network in MENA. Overall, the seminar was productive, and represents a starting point for more effective and humane regional drug policies. IDPC will keep the momentum going in MENA and we hope to develop our activities further in the coming year.

Our extensive expert and multi-lingual publications. The IDPC publications brand is now well recognised for providing quality and accessible drug policy information and analysis. Over the years, IDPC has collated and published more than 60 expert reports, advocacy notes and briefing papers on a wide range of drug policy issues. In terms of analysis, we produce annual responses to the UNODC World Drug Report and to the INCB annual report. Our advocacy notes are often produced at short notice to address a particular issue, for example in early 2011, we called on countries not to block Bolivia's request to remove the international ban on coca leaf chewing. Our briefing papers are usually more descriptive and include topics such as drug policy and



First IDPC seminar in the Middle East and North Africa, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, January 2011



development, harm reduction in South East Europe, the Dutch drug dependence treatment system, drug-related violence in Rio de Janeiro, or questions related to schools-based drug testing and heroin assisted treatment.

We have also aimed to reach out to new audiences (including the general public) with the publication of the IDPC Magazine, produced in collaboration with the organisation Talking Drugs. The IDPC Magazine features personal stories behind the policy debates to give a flavour of how drug control policies affect the real, lived experiences of people around the world. Two editions of the Magazine have been published so far, the first one on human rights violations arising from drug control around the world, and the second on law enforcement officers' views of drug control strategies in South East Europe. The third edition of the Magazine will focus on the nexus between drug control and development.

It is critical to the global nature of our work to produce information, advocacy materials and analytical publications in as many languages as possible. Our publications are increasingly available in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic. This is a growing trend, and IDPC plans to extend the range of languages available.

Some examples of publications produced between April 2010 and March 2011 can be found at the end of this report.

The IDPC Drug Policy Guide. The IDPC Drug Policy Guide is our key publication and

advocacy tool. Aimed at national government policy makers, the Guide is a collaborative effort by a number of IDPC members and partners, which brings together global evidence and examples of best practice on the design and implementation of drug policies and programmes at national level.

While current drug control system has not been effective in reducing the scale of the global drug market and the global prevalence of drug use, and has resulted in a number of negative health, social, developmental and security consequences (see box 1 above), politicians and officials face the challenge of defining policies and programmes appropriate to their national situation. The Guide, and the network of expertise that exists across IDPC, is designed to help in that process by setting out the growing number of policy and programme options available to address the harms associated with drug markets and drug use. The Guide covers the following key themes: principles for effective drug policies, criminal justice, health and social programmes, and strengthening communities.

The first edition of the Guide was published in March 2010. The Guide will be updated regularly to reflect new policy developments from around the world. It is currently available in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Georgian, and will be translated in further languages to ensure maximum impact.

The IDPC Drug Policy Guide has been welcomed by the field, both by NGOs and policy makers, and is widely regarded as one of our most significant publications.













Box 2. Key achievements in 2010-2011

- In January 2011, IDPC began the formal process to become a separate legal entity under UK law, and will attain charitable status in April 2011.
- 20 new members from 19 different countries, predominantly from South East Europe, Western Europe and Latin America. We have also welcomed our first member from MENA.
- Creation of a dynamic South East Europe Drug Policy Network, with the participation of 27 individuals from local NGOs and government representatives.
- Initiation of a drug policy network in MENA, with the holding of a seminar and the setting up of a working group.
- Publication of the IDPC Drug Policy Guide in five languages (English, Spanish, French, Russian and Georgian) and wide dissemination to policy makers and civil society organisations from around the world.
- Involvement of IDPC at the International HIV/AIDS Conference in July 2010, where we
 co-organised the successful Drug Policy Networking Zone in collaboration with the
 Transform Drug Policy Foundation, as well as at other international events, including
 organising a plenary session at the 2010 International Harm Reduction Conference.
- First IDPC training of 80 police officers in Peru in September 2010, in collaboration with the CIDDH and the Peruvian National Police.
- IDPC seminar on criminal justice reform in Malaysia in December 2010, in collaboration with the Malaysian AIDS Council.
- IDPC delegations to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Georgia, Malaysia, Mexico, Montenegro, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay,
- Publication of 35 IDPC reports, advocacy notes, briefing papers and other advocacy materials between April 2010 and March 2011.
- Up-to-date website available in six languages (English, Spanish, French, Russian, Italian and Portuguese) Increase in the subscribers to the IDPC Monthly Alert from 3,500 to 13,000 between March 2010 and March 2011. The IDPC Alert is now available in three languages English, Spanish and French.



IDPC priorities in a time of transition

Networking and communications will remain at the heart of IDPC's work in the coming year. We will continue to expand our membership, and work to improve our website, with particular focus on resources for our regional work and on pages providing details and updates of our current projects. We will continue to provide our monthly Alert and seek to expand our media presence.

Our **publications** stream will continue, and will include a wide range of reports, briefings and advocacy notes which members and partners may use to support their own advocacy work. Our responses to the UN drug control system's key events and publications will be maintained, while the Drug Policy Guide, which remains at the core of our advocacy work, will be updated and translated into further languages. We also plan to produce a new set of advocacy tools and training materials, some of which may take the form of multi-media presentations (such as recorded interviews and PowerPoint presentations).

IDPC **advocacy** will continue to embrace the international domain. We will be present at both the 2011 and 2012 CNDs, where we will undertake a coordinating role for the NGO community and organise a series of side events in collaboration with our members on drug policy issues. We will also seek to develop an ongoing relationship with the new Executive Director of the UNODC. We intend

to strengthen our relations with UNAIDS and other multilateral bodies, and expand our efforts in the areas of human rights, public health and development.

In terms of regional work, we will continue to organise our advocacy with national governments through regional lead members and other partners and regional consultants. We plan to be active in the following regions in 2011/12: Latin America, where we will continue to support countries' moves toward more progressive policies; South East Europe, where we will build on the development of the network and support moves toward positive policy reforms; Sub-Saharan Africa, where we will be seeking energetically to build a network; Eurasia, in which we will support the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network in its capacity building projects; Middle East/ North Africa, where we will build on recent successes to strengthen and extend the regional network; and South East Asia, where we will build on our efforts to support moves towards more progressive policies, and work with TNI to further develop the joint initiative on drug law reform.

IDPC has come a long way in its first four years. We are excited about our future as we continue to grow and strengthen. We will continue to expand our membership and reach, working with civil society, governments, international and regional agencies and all those cooperating in good faith to bring about more humane, appropriate and effective drug policies.



IDPC Members

World

International AIDS Society

International Harm Reduction Development Programme

International Network of People Who Use Drugs

Médecins du Monde - France

Transnational Institute

World AIDS Campaign

Youth R.I.S.E

Western Europe

Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento

AIDES

AIDS Foundation East West

Association Française de Réduction des Risques

Association Nationale des Intervenants en Toxicomanie

et Addictologie

AKZEPT

The Beckley Foundation

CONNECTIONS

Correlation European Network on Social Inclusion and

Health

Drug Policy Action Group

DrugScope

Federation of European Professional Associations

Working in the Field of Drug Abuse

Forum Droghe

Groupement Romand d'Etudes des Addictions

Illicit Drug Market Institute

Release

Transform Drug Policy Foundation

Trimbos Instituut

South East Europe

Aksion Plus

Andreas G. Papandreou Foundation

Association Margina

Association Prevent

Association Terra Croatia (Udruga Terra)

Diogenis, Drug Policy Dialogue in South East Europe

Healthy Options Project Skopje

Initiative for Health Foundation

Juventas

NGO Veza

South Eastern European Adriatic Addiction Treatment

Network

North America

Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Drug Policy Alliance

Harm Reduction Coalition

Institute for Policy Studies

Washington Office on Latin America

Eurasia

Alternative Georgia

Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network

Health Connections International

Hungarian Civil Liberties Union

Polish Drug Policy Network

Romanian Harm Reduction Network

Latin America

Andean Information Network

Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad (DeJuSticia)

Centro de Investigación Drogas y Derechos Humanos

Centro de Respuestas Educativas y Comunitarias A.C

Colectivo por Una Politica Integral Hacia las Drogas

Espolea

Intercambios

Psicotropicus

Puente, Investigacion y Enlace

Red Americana de Intervención en Situaciones de

Sufrimiento Social

Red Chilena de Reduccion de Daños

Viva Rio

South East Asia/Oceania

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia

Asia-Pacific Committee on Drug Issues

Asian Harm Reduction Network

Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs

Australian Drug Foundation

Malaysian AIDS Council

New Zealand Drug Foundation

Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group

South Asia

Indian Lawyers Collective

Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses

Caribbean

Caribbean Drug Abuse Research Institute



The IDPC team

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Genevieve Harris, IDPC Associate

Our volunteers

Naomi O'Connor, Sebastian Walters & Margaux Scherrer



IDPC Publications from April 2010 to March 2011

IDPC Drug Policy Guide

- Full version available in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Georgian
- Executive summary available in English, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Czech and Arabic

IDPC Magazine

- Issue 1: Human rights violations in the name of drug control- February 2010
- Issue 2: Law enforcement attitudes in South East Europe and Eurasia

Reports

English

- The 2010 World Drug Report: A response from the International Drug Policy Consortium
- Response to the 2009 Annual Report of the International Narcotics Control Board
- 2010 CND Proceedings Document
- Report of the IDPC/MAC seminar Managing drug using offenders in Malaysia
- Report of the South East Europe Drug Policy Network, Ohrid, Macedonia
- APF and IDPC Report on South East Europe Informal Drug Policy Dialogue, Athens, Greece

Spanish

- El Informe mundial sobre las drogas 2010: respuesta del Consorcio Internacional sobre Políticas de Drogas
- La Comisión de Estupefacientes 2010 Informe del IDPC sobre el periodo de sesiones

Advocacy Notes

English

- Correcting a historical error: IDPC calls on countries to abstain from submitting objections to the Bolivian proposal
 to remove the ban on the chewing of the coca leaf
- · Some initial high priorities for Mr. Fedotov, the new Executive Director of UNODC

Spanish

- Es hora de reparar un error histórico: El IDPC insta a todos los países a no presentar objeciones a la propuesta de Bolivia para eliminar la prohibición que pesa sobre la masticación de la hoja de coca
- Algunas prioridades para el Sr. Fedotov, nuevo director ejecutivo de la ONUDD

Briefing Papers

English

- Drug policy and development: How action against illicit drugs impacts on the Millennium Development Goals
- The need for increased transparency: The country correspondence of the INCB
- Drug policies and harm reduction in South East Europe
- · The Dutch treatment and social support system for drug users: recent developments and the example of Amsterdam
- Heroin assisted treatment, the state of play
- Cannabis in Mexico: an open debate
- Drug control and its consequences in Rio de Janeiro
- Jar wars: the question of schools-based drug testing
- · Resources for developing integrated national policies on controlled drugs in Latin America and the Caribbean

Spanish

- El impacto de las políticas de drogas en los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio
- El control de drogas y sus consecuencias en Rio de Janeiro
- Llegó el momento de una evaluación del impacto de las políticas de drogas
- El cannabis en México: un debate abierto
- México y su Ley contra el narcomenudeo

Russian

• IDPC - Пришло время оценки воздействия наркополитики

Co-branded papers

- TNI/IDPC Series on Legislative Reform of Drug Policies Sentencing for drug offences in England and Wales
- IDPC/TNI series on legislative reform of drug policies Drug law reform: lessons from the New Zealand experience

Others

- IDPC Guide for NGOs attending the 54th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- IDPC Media Information Pack

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of non-governmental organisations and professional networks that specialises in issues related to the production and use of controlled drugs. We aim to promote objective and open debate on the effectiveness, direction and content of drug policies at national and international level, and support evidence-based policies that are effective in reducing drug-related harms. We produce occasional briefing papers, disseminate the reports of our member organisations about particular drug-related matters, and offer expert consultancy services to policy-makers and officials worldwide. IDPC members have a wide range of experience and expertise in the analysis of drug problems and policies, and contribute to national and international policy debates.

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