

53rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

International Drug Policy Consortium

Lunchtime Satellite Meeting: Launch of IDPC Drug Policy Guide

1.15pm to 2.45pm, Tuesday 9th March 2010
Mozart Room, VIC Restaurant (buffet lunch provided)

The Political Declaration agreed at last year's CND has left national governments in a state of uncertainty as they try to define a set of policies and programmes that are effective in responding to the problems associated with drug markets and drug use. On the one hand, there is recognition that policies based on repression, zero tolerance and harsh law enforcement have not been effective in reducing the overall scale of drug markets, but there also remains some reluctance to embrace a range of policy options that focus on reducing the harms associated with drug use.

National governments need to review their domestic policies and programmes to maximise the health, wellbeing and security of their citizens and protect their human rights. The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) has produced a comprehensive 'Drug Policy Guide' that collates research, best practices and recommendations for the development of effective drug policy across 15 separate subject areas. Divided into four sections – Policy Principles; Criminal Justice; Health and Social Programmes; and Strengthening Communities – the guide is a resource for national policy makers to inform and support their development of effective and humane domestic policy.

The IDPC Drug Policy Guide will be launched at this lunchtime satellite meeting. Presenters will describe the contents of the guide and give examples of how it can be used at a national level. Hard copies of the English language version of the Guide will be distributed to participants, and it will be available in electronic form in several languages in the coming months at www.idpc.net.