

## 50 YEARS OF DRUG PROHIBITION



In 1961, the adoption of the first United Nations convention on narcotic drugs marked the launch of the drug prohibition system. 50 years later, what have been its effects?

Presentation of the Report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, by Ruth Dreifuss  
and

Round-table with federal government leaders and representatives from international  
and civil society organisations.

**WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2011**

**12:15 - 13:30**

**IHEID, GENEVA**

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## PRESENTATION

In 1961, the United Nations adopted the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs to combat actively the production and traffic of illicit drugs. This first treaty was later supplemented with the adoption of two additional conventions in 1971 and 1988. This strengthened the prohibition system notably by targeting people who use drugs.

50 years later, it is time to assess the progress that has been made, as well as analyse the pros and cons of the system. This repressive policy has had many implications; in addition to public health issues in drug using countries, it is the whole international system that has been affected by what has become known as the “war on drugs”. Various leaders of the federal government, academics and representatives of international networks will debate on this matter in order to provide a global overview of the question.

## PROGRAMME: 12:15-13:30

### Presentation of the report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy: a call for an open debate

Ruth Dreifuss – member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy

#### Round-table:

- What are the consequences of 50 years of repressive drug policy?
- What role can Switzerland play in the debate?

Ms Ruth Dreifuss – member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy

Mr Mike Trace – Chair of the International Drug Policy Consortium

Dr Annette Verster – Coordinator of the HIV/AIDS Department at the World Health Organisation

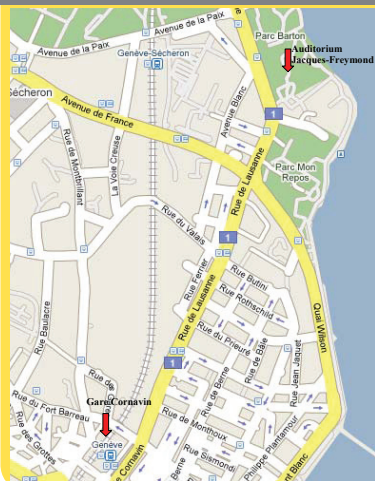
Dr Barbara Broers – Swiss Federal Commission on drug-related affairs

Prof. Alessandro Montsutti – IHEID specialist on Afghanistan

Dr Andrea Arz de Falco – Vice-Director of the OFSP

N.N. – Representative of the Department of Foreign Affairs

## USEFUL INFORMATION



Translation available (French - English)

#### Open event

#### Location:

**Auditorium Jacques-Freymond**

The graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)  
Parc Barton, Rue de Lausanne 132  
Geneva

#### Access:

**Bus 1 - Towards Jardin Botanique**

**Bus stop: Sécheron**

or

**Tram 13 ou 15 - Towards Nations**

**Bus stop: Butini**