

UNODC-Civil Society Informal Consultation on Drug Use and HIV

21 February 2013, Vienna

Note for the Record

Attendees

Eliot Ross Albers, International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD); Edo Agustian, Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD); Maria Phelan, Harm Reduction International (HRI); Ronny Waikhom, Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN); Sergey Votyagov, Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN); Dasha Ocheret, Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN); Fayzal Sulliman, Sub-Saharan Africa Harm Reduction Network (SAHRN); Marcus Day, Caribbean Harm Reduction Coalition (CHRC); Diana Rossi, Intercambios; Anita Krug, Youth RISE; Allan Clear, Harm Reduction Coalition (HRC); Ann Fordham, International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC); Jamie Bridge, International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC); Sanjay Patil, International Harm Reduction Development Program of the Open Society Foundations (IHRD); Susie McClean, The International HIV/AIDS Alliance; Aldo Lale-Demoz, Gilberto Gerra, Monica Beg, Monica Ciupagea, Fariba Soltani, Riku Lehtovuori, Zhannat Kosmukhamedova, Sylvie Bertrand and Mirella Dummar Frahi, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Apologies: Alexie Kurmanaevskii, Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ENPUD); Elie Aaraj, Middle East and North Africa Harm Reduction Association (MENAHRRA); Daniel Wolfe, International Harm Reduction Development Program of the Open Society Foundations (IHRD).

Background

The meeting was convened by UNODC to establish an informal broad platform for a structured dialogue between UNODC and the civil society organizations (CSOs) which support evidence-based policy formulation and implementation of HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care services among people who use drugs. Please see the Annex for the agenda of the meeting.

Discussion

The meeting was chaired by Aldo Lale-Demoz, Director, Division for Operations and Global Coordinator for HIV/AIDS, UNODC. He welcomed the participants and briefly introduced the objectives of the meeting:

1. Review UNODC's partnership with civil society organizations on drug use and HIV
2. Identify and agree on operational mechanisms and key components to strengthen UNODC's partnership with civil society organizations and
3. Develop and agree on a clear set of objectives and a work plan for 2013, elaborating key milestones, roles and responsibilities.

All participants were invited to introduce themselves and their respective organizations and to share their expectations from the meeting.

The key issues raised include:

- Need for a mechanism to share information with the CSOs on UNODC's HIV work on a regular basis (project info, geographical coverage, resources, etc)
- UNODC's support for further development and strengthening of the networks of people who use drugs and the harm reduction networks for more efficient planning and evidence based HIV interventions on the ground
- Meaningful participation of the CSOs in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- Need for an enabling environment on the ground to allow smooth implementation of evidence-based harm reduction interventions for HIV prevention, treatment and care among people who use drugs. The following issues were stressed:
 - Advocacy with and training of law enforcement personnel
 - Tailored interventions to meet the needs of women who use drugs
 - Protection of the human rights of people who use drugs
 - Ensuring overdose prevention and response is a recognised core intervention
 - Ensuring meaningful engagement of CSOs in relevant forums
 - Evidence-based harm reduction interventions for HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons and other closed settings
 - The implications of the Global Fund's new funding mechanism
 - The implications of the new Investment Framework
 - International funding and the continued lack of domestic allocation of resources for evidence-based harm reduction interventions for HIV prevention, treatment and care among people who inject drugs.
- UNODC described their role at the country level as a catalyst, enabler and convenor, as well as a service implementer where local needs dictate.

The Group then discussed how best to move forward in the short term and listed the opportunities to strengthen collaboration between the CSOs and UNODC. The following suggestions were made and agreed on:

1. Clear public statements in support of the 9 core HIV interventions from UNODC senior management, advocating for and defending a human rights-centred, public health-focused and evidence-informed approach to HIV
2. More involvement of UNODC in cultivating "police champions", including the finalization of the UNODC Police Training Manual focusing on HIV prevention, treatment and care among people who use drugs
3. Tracking of investments in harm reduction - in partnership with CSOs and the World Bank to map the existing resources and identify resource gaps
4. Finalization of the draft overdose document jointly developed by WHO and UNODC
5. Advocacy for the inclusion of overdose prevention and Hepatitis C management in the Global Fund proposals
6. Engaging the CSOs in the review of the Model Drug Laws and work to ensure that options available to Member States for the depenalization of drug

- use/possession for personal use, that are permissible under the Conventions, are clearly articulated
7. Finalization of the Human Rights training manual for UNODC HIV staff in partnership with the CSOs
 8. Ensuring strong harm reduction (the 9 core HIV interventions and overdose prevention) proposals within the Global Fund's new funding model, through UNODC's country level HIV advisors and advocacy for UNODC's involvement in the TRP briefings
 9. Strengthening a cohesive and common goal-oriented country/regional level coordination between UNODC country/regional offices working on HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care among people who use drugs and the harm reduction CSOs on the ground
 10. Finalization of the Technical Guide for HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care among Stimulant Users, addressing the concerns raised to date about this document
 11. Exploring avenues to meaningfully engage the CSOs in the 2014 Midterm Review and the 2016 UNGASS on Drugs
 12. Incorporating harm reduction in the context of HIV, into the on-going mandatory HIV Training for all UNODC staff
 13. Involving CSOs in the selection of injecting drug use/HIV high priority countries, and jointly advocating for their inclusion in the UNAIDS high priority countries
 14. Working together with Harm Reduction International, the UN Reference Group on HIV and Injecting Drug Use, UNAIDS and WHO on future data sharing, collection, collaboration and validation and to avoid overlaps. A meeting will be organised prior to the IHRC in June to discuss these issues.
 15. UNODC will develop, alongside the CSOs, a publicly available work plan for the coming two years – leading up to the 2015 target for HIV prevention among people who inject drugs.

Structure of the Group and Mechanism

- Additional membership of the Group will be decided jointly by the CSOs and UNODC
- Group members must be CSOs, and should demonstrate expertise in and support for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation of HIV prevention, treatment and care interventions among people who use drugs. However, the meetings will focus on HIV, hepatitis, overdose and other related harms
- Group members should have global and/or regional geographical focus
- Group members should demonstrate their capacity and commitment to reach out to and consult with other CSOs and networks working at the global, regional, and/or country levels
- The scope, terms of reference and the work plan of the Group will be developed jointly by the CSOs and UNODC in time for the international harm reduction conference in Vilnius (June 2013). The broad roles of the Group will be to ensure accountability, transparency, two-way communication and strategic guidance
- The Group will have at least one face-to-face meeting per year (around the time of CND), in addition to regular teleconferences and meetings at key international events, where possible

- All information about the meetings and activities of the Group will be shared in a transparent and timely manner by UNODC and the CSOs
- The Group members will be asked to serve as focal points, in order to facilitate coordination and communication with broader civil society organizations
- UNODC will convene and chair the annual face-to-face meetings of the Group..

Annex

UNODC - Civil Society Informal Consultation on Drug Use and HIV Vienna International Centre (VIC), M Building (Room M-0E79) 21 February 2013

Objectives and Programme

Objectives:

- Review UNODC's partnership with civil society organizations on drug use and HIV
- Identify and agree on operational mechanisms and its key components to strengthen UNODC's partnership with civil society organizations
- Develop and agree on a clear set of objectives and a work plan for 2013, elaborating key milestones, roles and responsibilities

Chair: Aldo Lale-Demoz,
Director, Division for Operations, and
Global Coordinator for HIV/AIDS, UNODC

Programme:

Time	
09.00 – 10.30	Welcome and introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and introduction of participants• Overview of the objectives and programme• Sharing of core activities (3 minutes per organization)• Questions, answers and discussion
10.30 – 10.45	Break
10.45 – 12.30	Partnership: Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking stock of the current situation and lessons learnt<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Harm reduction and UNODC- Accountability- Meaningful participation of CSOs
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	Partnership: The way forward <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities to strengthen collaboration between CSOs and UNODC<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Technical support to scale-up the nine core HIV interventions- Investment framework, Global Fund's New Funding Model- Monitoring UBRAF implementation- Monitoring progress and overcoming barriers to reach the UNGASS

	target of 50% reduction in new HIV infections among PWID by 2015 - Evaluation of UNODC's global HIV programme by the Independent Evaluation Unit
15.00 – 15.15	Break
15.15 – 16.15 16.15 – 17.00	Partnership: Developing a mechanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Objectives and expected outcomes, main activities for 2013 with timeframe and key milestones • Group 2: Structure, membership, roles and responsibilities • Presentation of group works (plenary)
17.00 – 17.30	Summary and closing