

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Introduction

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), after its first substantial session in 2013, reconvened in Vienna from the 12 to the 13 December 2013.¹ It did not adopt any substantial resolutions; its focus lay primarily on preparations for the upcoming high-level review of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*.² This update will review the most recent activities of the body and related organizations. The goal is to better understand how the CND's governance structures may work by examining recent activities of the Commission and UN entities related to it. The focus lies on the upcoming review as well as on the financial structures, the latter shedding light on CND's scope and possibilities on how to best implement decisions. To improve understanding of implementation of resolutions and to draw attention to possible synergies, the update reviews how CND is embedded into the UN system and organized in the field.

Recent Activities

In its reconvened meeting, the CND mainly focused on financial issues, including the work of the Standing Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Improving the Governance and Financial Situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the consolidated budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the UNODC.³ This is linked to CND's current work which is aimed at its fifty-seventh session, in which it will review the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*.⁴

Beyond the CND's session, there have been activities by affiliated entities, which are summed up hereafter From 1 February to 30 September 2013, the Standing Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Improving the Governance and Financial Situation of the UNODC held three informal meetings, and one formal meeting.⁵ Delegations were informed about the funding situation of the Office, including on the increase of special-purpose funds and the decrease of general-purpose funds (special-purpose funds being reserved for projects designated by donor states) and the falling of the regular budget.⁶ The Secretariat informed the meeting about the proposed transition to a new funding model envisaged for the period 2014-2015.⁷

In December, a synopsis of global trends of the world drug problem by Executive Director of the UNODC Yury Fedotov was published, contributing to the preparation of the high-level review of the implementation of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*.⁸ The Political Declaration and Plan of Action addresses issues closely linked to the topics of the Background Guide, i.e. demand and supply reduction and the countering of money laundering as well as enhancement of judicial cooperation.⁹

¹ UNODC, *Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Documentation* [Website], 2014.

² Ibid.

³ UN ECOSOC, *Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Note by the Secretariat. Addendum*, 10 October 2013; ECOSOC, *Consolidated budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Report of the Executive Director*, 2013; UN ECOSOC, *Consolidated budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions*, 2013.

⁴ UNODC, *Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Fifty-Seventh Session* [Website], 2014.

⁵ UN ECOSOC, *Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Note by the Secretariat. Addendum*, p. 3-4.

⁶ Ibid, p. 5-6.

⁷ Ibid, p. 3-4.

⁸ Ibid, p. 3.

⁹ *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*, 2009.

The Secretariat also issued three non-papers on the Plan of Action. In these, achievements, challenges and suggestions for further actions by Member States are listed, covering the areas of demand reduction and related matters; supply reduction and related matters; and the countering of money laundering and the promotion of judicial cooperation.¹⁰ The suggestions of the Secretariat can serve as a progressive benchmark for Member States – for instance the suggestion to extend prevention, treatment and rehabilitation efforts to vulnerable groups in the population such as sex workers of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people.¹¹

Recent Policy Outcomes

The CND suggested the Economic and Social Council the adoption of its *Report on the reconvened fifty-sixth session (12-13 December 2013)*, of which an Advance Unedited Version is available.¹² Most importantly, the concrete schedule of the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 13-14 March 2014 was endorsed and the budget for the biennium 2014-2015 was drafted by the CND.¹³ The Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) contributed to the preparations by collecting the assessment of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action so far by 93 Non-Governmental Organizations.¹⁴ An example of the implementation are the measures suggested by the *Accra Declaration* for demand reduction.¹⁵ VNGOC is very significant, as it provides an important link between the CND and civil society and is, for instance, in charge of the advocacy of suggestions made by more than 900 NGOs to the CND and UNODC.¹⁶

Policy Implementations

The CND is a policymaking body within the UN system, and guides international action concerning the world drug problem. It is a functional commission of the ECOSOC and a Governing Body of the UNODC. Thus, the directives it gives for drug policy are implemented through these structures of the UN.¹⁷ UNODC has 54 regional, country and programme offices globally.¹⁸ These are in charge of developing and implementing drug control policies adjusted to the needs of Member States.¹⁹ In this context, the meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEAs) for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe are also relevant.²⁰ Similar to the Sub commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, the HONLEAs are subsidiary bodies of the CND, giving advice from regional perspectives for follow-up action.²¹ The issues covered by the CND are also dealt with by the General Assembly, in particular its Third Committee, dealing with Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs, and its Fifth Committee, dealing with budgetary matters relating to the governing bodies functions.²² This is especially important in view of the upcoming review and the recent changes to the financing structure.²³ UNODC's administrative infrastructure and core normative work are financed through a regular budget.²⁴ Yet by far the largest part of its budget is made up of extra budgetary resources, of which special-purpose funds (i.e. donations by Member States that are purpose bound) are most important (85%

¹⁰ UNODC, *Non-paper on Part I of the Plan of Action: Demand reduction and related measures*, 2013; UNODC, *Non-paper on Part II of the Plan of Action: Supply reduction and related measures*, 2013; UNODC, *Non-paper on Part III of the Plan of Action: Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation*, 2013.

¹¹ UNODC, *Report on the reconvened fifty-sixth session (12-13 December 2013)*, 2013, p. 9.

¹² UNODC, *Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Documentation* [Website], 2014.

¹³ UNODC, *Report on the reconvened fifty-sixth session (12-13 December 2013)*, 2013, p. 2-5, 11; UN ECOSOC, *Substantive organization of the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 13-14 March 2014. Note by the Secretariat*, 2013.

¹⁴ Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, *Background Paper for the 2014 Declaration*, 2013, p. 1.

¹⁵ ECOSOC, *Action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Report of the Secretariat*, 2012, p. 5.

¹⁶ Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, *Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Drugs. Working together to address global drug issues*.

¹⁷ UNODC, *Commissions* [Website], 2014.

¹⁸ United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime* [Website], 2014.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ UNODC, *Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs* [Website], 2014.

²¹ Ibid.

²² United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime* [Website], 2014.

²³ UNODC, *Funds and Partners* [Website], 2014.

²⁴ UNODC, *Fundraising Strategy 2012-2015*, 2012, p. 33.

of UNODC's budget).²⁵ Thus, CND's work is heavily dependent on donations by Member States, whose financing also influences the direction of policy and may restrict objective policy formulation.²⁶ The CND is closely intertwined with the UNODC's other policymaking body, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).²⁷ Additionally, as the world drug problem affects a wide range of issues, the UNODC cooperates with UN entities specialized on topics ranging from economic and social to security matters.²⁸

Conclusion

The CND is the central policy making body dealing with the world drug problem. Currently, it is in a process of reevaluating the progress it has made since the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem* was adopted. The 2014 deliberations in this body will be crucial for developing a post-2015 strategy in accordance with the turn to sustainable development goals. One of the core elements in the process of preparing the CND for the post-2015 strategy will be the relief or indeed reversal of the financial crisis that hits the CND.²⁹ Smartly using its mandate to a full extent by interacting with all relevant UN bodies will be paramount in strengthening its authority towards Member States and thus its financial and political position.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs at NMUN•NY 2014

The CND assists the UN ECOSOC in, "supervising the application of international drug control treaties." The CND is further expanded (through the General Assembly) to enable as a function of the UNODC.

Format: The Commission on Narcotics Drugs is a resolution writing committee.

Voting: Each Member State present may vote once on procedural and substantive matters. Matters are decided by a majority vote.

Membership: CND membership is comprised of 53 Member States with the allocation of seats among regional groups. Current membership is as follows:

Afghanistan	Algeria	Angola	Australia
Austria	Belgium	Benin	Bolivia
Brazil	Cameroon	Canada	China
Colombia	Croatia	Cuba	Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Denmark	Egypt	France
Germany	Guatemala	Hungary	India
Indonesia	Iran	Israel	Italy
Japan	Kazakhstan	Mexico	Namibia
Netherlands	Nigeria	Pakistan	Peru
Poland	Republic of Korea	Russian Federation	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Spain	Suriname	Tajikistan	Thailand
Togo	Turkey	Turkmenistan	Ukraine
United Kingdom	United Republic of Tanzania	United States of America	Uruguay
Zimbabwe			

²⁵ UNODC, *Fundraising Strategy 2012-2015*, 2012, 33-34.

²⁶ Bewley-Taylor & Trace, *The Funding of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; An Unfinished Jigsaw*, 2006, 12-14.

²⁷ UNODC, *Organizational Structure*, 2012.

²⁸ ECOSOC, *Consolidated budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Report of the Executive Director*, 2013, p. 22-24.

²⁹ *Ibid*, p. 5-6.

Annotated Bibliography

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2013). *Consolidated budget for the biennium 2014-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Report of the Executive Director*. Retrieved 13 January 2013 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/56-reconvened.html>

This report offers a comprehensive commented overview about the financial situation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as part of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The strategic organization of the finances is discussed as well as the funding of subprogrammes. The annex provides a detailed overview over the planned allocation of the budget, which can provide indications of whether an envisaged measure is plausible.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2013). *Substantive organization of the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 13-14 March 2014. Note by the Secretariat*. Retrieved 12 January 2013 from: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/57.html>

This is the advanced unedited version of the draft. It gives details about the upcoming review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, concerning schedule, topics and organizational structure and mode of deliberations. The core concerns of the CND are thus listed in one document and can be seen in their concrete interconnectedness.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2013). *Non-paper on Part I of the Plan of Action: Demand reduction and related measures*. Retrieved 12 January 2013 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/session-57.html>

This document provides concrete information on the global consumption of narcotic drugs, their impact on mortality and health. It then summarizes achievements so far and draws attention to deficits, for instance that a public health system based approach is still not comprehensively implemented in dealing with demand reduction. It also lists concrete priorities for Member States to fight the world drug problem in a more holistic way, by, inter alia, the promotion of evidence-based health care and harm reduction measures.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2013). *Non-paper on Part II of the Plan of Action: Supply reduction and related measures*. Retrieved 12 January 2013 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/session-57.html>

This document provides a short overview over sources of narcotic drugs. Subsequently it lists achievements and remaining challenges. Among the latter, economic underdevelopment is a key factor and the paper takes this into account by addressing the promotion of alternative development by Member States as one significant tool to fight the supply of narcotic drugs by making the production less necessary and thus less attractive.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2013). *Non-paper on Part III of the Plan of Action: Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation*. Retrieved 13 January 2013 from: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/session-57.html>

The paper explains the importance of money-laundering for transnational organized crime. It becomes obvious in the document that progress has been limited so far. Therefore, concrete competences are listed, that the judiciary should be given by Member States to more effectively persecute the discussed crime forms. Taking into account the nature of money-laundering, the paper proceeds to discuss international judicial cooperation. Here it becomes evident that great efforts have been undertaken and that an increasing number of Member States cooperate in some form or another with other Member States, but that these processes need streamlining to be faster, more efficient and effective. The need for international cooperation mechanisms is highlighted.

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I. Addressing the Impact of the Global Trade in Opiates

Introduction

According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) surveys conducted in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia, the year 2013 was marked by a significant increase in the cultivation of opium crops. The survey conducted in Afghanistan revealed that opium crop cultivation rose approximately 36 %, which amounted to 5,500 tons of opium produced.³⁰ The Southeast Asia opium survey also resulted with an increased cultivation in Myanmar of 13% from previous years, with an increase “from 21,600 hectares in 2006, the year with the lowest level of cultivation, to 57,800 hectares in 2013.”³¹ Both Afghanistan and Myanmar have established policy against the cultivation of opium but neither has been able to stop those efforts in recent years.³² National policy against opium cultivation alone will not ensure the decrease of opium production; instead, development-oriented policy and programs at the local, national, regional level can potentially decrease production.³³ Although cultivation has increased, the opiate trade routes from Afghanistan to Europe have also seen recent developments in counter-narcotic efforts along the borders of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan.³⁴ These efforts include developments in the “establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs), information/intelligence exchange and intelligence-led investigations, and a cross-border communication system.”³⁵

In recent months the Economic and Social Council discussed development-oriented policy and programs, in which they adopted resolution 2013/42 on *United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development*.³⁶ Resolution 2013/42 reaffirms its commitment to alternative development programs for eliminating the further illicit cultivation of drug crops with efforts focused around “broad national rural development” that would address poverty-stricken farmers who see drug crops as a means of living.³⁷ Additionally, development-oriented drug policies and programs “should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the *Charter of the United Nations*, international law and, in particular, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States,” and the protection of human rights.³⁸ Resolution 56/4 on *Enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances*, adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in 2013, encourages Member States to further coordinate their efforts with local law enforcement, national, and international levels to reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs.³⁹

In attempts to halt the uses of illicit drugs and consequently reduce the cultivation and production of opium, UNODC commemorated the “International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” on 26 June 2013.⁴⁰ 2013 theme was “Make health your ‘new high’ in life, not drugs.”⁴¹ The UNODC has a long tradition of creating anti-drug campaigns to “raise awareness about the dangers of traditional drugs, such as cannabis, heroin, cocaine and amphetamine-type substances,” but the 2013 focus was centered on the emerging concern about “new psychoactive substances (NPS)”⁴² The danger posed by these new drugs is widely unknown and they are sold legally with misleading labels, which according to UNODC “can be far more dangerous than traditional drugs”.⁴³ UNODC’s annual World Drug Campaign efforts are rooted in creating awareness among the youth, community organizations

³⁰ UNODC, *Afghanistan opium crop cultivation rises 36 per cent, production up 49 per cent* [Website].

³¹ UNODC, *Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2013*, 2013.

³² UNODC, *Afghanistan opium crop cultivation rises 36 per cent, production up 49 per cent* [Website].

³³ UN ECOSOC, *United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development* (E/RES/2013/42), 2013, p. 9.

³⁴ UNODC, *Sub-Programme 1: Illicit Trafficking and Border Management* [Website].

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ UN ECOSOC, *United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development* (E/RES/2013/42), 2013.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 4.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, *Enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances* (E/CN.7/2013/14), 2013, p. 25.

⁴⁰ UNODC, *Make health your ‘new high’ in life: UNODC to mark World Drug Day on 26 June* [Website].

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*

and the general public against drug abuse.⁴⁴ Awareness campaigns are development-oriented programs endorsed by the ECOSOC in Resolution 2013/42 which calls for “proper education and awareness programs so that the local communities can improve” and mobilize public support in the fight against drug abuse.⁴⁵ The “negative impacts to society posed” by drug abuse are detrimental to all aspects of society to include environmental damages and “risks to the public health” thus it is urged that Member States adopt “measures to strengthen public awareness”.⁴⁶ For instance, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) will be holding its National Leadership Forum in which over 2,500 community leaders are anticipated to attend one of the “largest training for substance abuse prevention” as well as to discuss best methods to address drug abuse in their communities.⁴⁷

Recent Developments

Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013

According to the survey, “the total area under opium poppy cultivation in 2013 was 209,000 hectares, over a third more (36%) than in 2012 and a record high, potential opium production could, however, have been greater” if it wasn’t for damaging weather conditions that had destroyed opium crops.⁴⁸ Two Afghanistan provinces that previously had eradicated the cultivation of opium were reclassified as growers in 2013.⁴⁹ Opium cultivation in Kabul alone had an increase of 145% in just 2013 with no eradication efforts in that region.⁵⁰ Lack of security has decreased poppy eradication efforts by 24% in 2013 with a “total of 7,348 hectares” eradicated “compared to 2012 when 9,672 hectares” were eradicated.⁵¹ Some farmers complained that efforts to try alternative crops had failed when they did not receive payment for cotton they had grown that was supposed to be subsidized by the Afghan Government.⁵² Initiatives that are development-oriented may halt the increase of opium cultivation, but these initiatives have to be implemented at all levels of society in order for them to work effectively.⁵³ UNODC President, Yury Fedotov, contends that the drug problem in Afghanistan is “not taken seriously by aid, development and security actors” in which corruption, insecurity, lack of markets for alternative crops and poverty have only exacerbated the problem.⁵⁴ Despite a U.S. lead policy in which assistance was given to farmers in “planting alternative crops” as well as the establishment of training programs to boost law enforcement, “drug interdiction programs to get drugs off the black market,” and the efforts to trace and freeze Taliban revenues from illicit drug trade, the counter narcotics efforts in Afghanistan do not appear to be the “top priority” explained the U.S. Inspector General to Afghanistan’s reconstruction.⁵⁵

Regional Initiatives

What has worked for Afghanistan and its neighbors are initiatives to combat the illicit trafficking of opium and other chemicals used for the production of narcotic drugs. The Triangular Initiative was established by Afghanistan, and the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, with the UNODC serving as its Secretariat.⁵⁶ The initiative is working within the “existing regional and international initiatives such as the Global Container Control Programme, Operation TARCET, Paris Pact Initiative, meetings of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries.”⁵⁷ Regional cooperation and information sharing are key components to the success of the initiative. Major achievements to the Triangular Initiative include a UNODC “contribution to the enhancement of the Customs Administration and ANP drug intelligence analysis capacities through the organization of specialized training courses;” the procurement of “28

⁴⁴ UNODC, *Statement from Mr Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking* [Website].

⁴⁵ UN ECOSOC, *United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development* (E/RES/2013/42), 2013, p. 6.

⁴⁶ UN General Assembly, *International Cooperation Against the World Problem* (A/C.3/68/L.19), 2013, p. 7.

⁴⁷ CADCA, *Over 2,500 Community Leaders to Participate in CADCA’s 2014 National Leadership Forum* [Website].

⁴⁸ UNODC, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013*, 2013, p. 5.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ UNODC, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013*, 2013, p. 6.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

⁵² Carnberry, *Afghan Farmers: Opium is the Way to Make a Living*, 2013.

⁵³ UN ECOSOC, *United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development* (E/RES/2013/42), 2013, p. 2.

⁵⁴ UNODC, *Afghanistan opium crop cultivation rises 36 per cent, production up 49 per cent* [Website].

⁵⁵ Grady, *The Looming Narco-State in Afghanistan*, 2014.

⁵⁶ UNODC, *Triangular Initiative* [Website].

⁵⁷ UNODC, *Regional and International Cooperation* [Website].

drug-detecting dogs and provided specialized training for handlers;” and the establishment of 2 Border Liaison Offices (BLOs).⁵⁸ Furthermore, between 20 to 23 August 2013, “the Iranian and United Arab Emirates (UAE) maritime forces seized 7.3 tons of difference types of drugs” which was a direct result from information sharing and intelligence cooperation.⁵⁹

Conclusion

With the exception of a few successes in the combat of illicit drug trafficking around Afghanistan, and the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan, the rising cultivation and production of opium globally are signs of greater issues and challenges to the international community.⁶⁰ Further implementation of already existing initiatives and conventions need to be reinforced at the national, regional and international level.⁶¹ For instance, in Afghanistan, a “multimillion dollar program funded by the international community to provide seeds and fertilizer to farmers” ended after a short period.⁶² The issue at hand is not an impossible task but certainly a very complex issue that needs to be addressed at all levels of society. The link between the increased opium cultivation and production are undeniably linked to insecurity in most parts of Afghanistan which should be addressed.⁶³

⁵⁸ UNODC, *Sub-Programme 1: Illicit Trafficking and Border Management* [Website].

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ UNODC, *Afghanistan opium crop cultivation rises 36 per cent, production up 49 per cent* [Website].

⁶¹ UN General Assembly, *International Cooperation Against the World Problem (A/C.3/68/L.19)*, 2013, p. 8.

⁶² Carnberry, *Afghan Farmers: Opium is the Way to Make a Living*, 2013.

⁶³ UNODC, *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013*, 2013, p. 25.

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United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Fifty-fifth session. (2012, October 10). *Actions taken by Member States to Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2012/14)*. Retrieved 10 January, 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/e/cn.7/2012/14>

A major problem to the implementation of existing initiatives and programs is highlighted in this resolution when Member States have raised concerns about the lack of funding. Prevention and early intervention strategies are also mentioned such as education in schools and family intervention skills. Ultimately, with lack of funding, any program or initiative will be stopped in its tracks. The areas that have the most difficulties with funding are Africa and Central America.

United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. (2013, April 5). *Preparations for the high-level review of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2013/14)*. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from: <http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-Res-2011to2019/CND-Res-2013/CND-Res-56-12.pdf>

Some of the most recent actions from CND can be found in this document with previous resolutions recalled. A high-level review is called for at the next fifty-seventh session in 2014 in which the Political Declaration and Plan of Action will certainly be examined. The scheduled session will be discussing reduction of drug abuse and dependence with comprehensive approaches with a follow-up session in 2016.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2013, September 20). *United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development*. Retrieved 4 January 2014 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/ECOSOC-Res-2010-20/ECOSOC-Res-Dec-2013/E_RES_2013_42.pdf

Development-oriented policy and programs are recommended by ECOSOC to all Member States in the fight against illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Many of the key documents that are relevant to the issue can be found in this resolution, reaffirming them. Particular attention has also been given to previous documents that support human rights and the upholding of human rights in any initiatives in the combat of illicit trafficking.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2013). *Southeast Asia Opium Survey 2013*. Retrieved 5 January 2014 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/southeastasiaandpacific/Publications/2013/SEA_Opium_Survey_2013_web.pdf

Southeast Asia has a number of countries that cultivate opium, although not at the same level of degree as Afghanistan, Myanmar is indeed the highest cultivator of opium in that region. The link between opium cultivation and poverty is well illustrated in this recent survey as many farmers from that region rely on opium cultivation as a means of living. Even with eradicating efforts by governments from that region, an increase of opium cultivation has been indicated and statistics are provided in this survey.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2013). *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2013*. Retrieved 3 January 2014 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/Afghan_report_Summary_Findings_2013.pdf

Considered the country with the largest cultivation of opium, Afghanistan had an all-time high in the cultivation and production in 2013. Much of the insecurity and corruption from government officials has fuelled the increase, as well as, the dependence on the lucrative crop. Crime has also increased in Afghanistan since the departure of western forces making it even more difficult to implement initiatives meant to curve cultivation efforts. This document also has statistics that reveal the extent to the increase of opium cultivation and specifically detailing which regions have the largest increases.

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II. Countering Money-Laundering and Promoting Judicial Cooperation to Enhance International Cooperation

Introduction

The recent developments in the topic of countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation have revolved around the preparation of the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). This meeting has special importance as it will be tasked with reviewing the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards and Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (2009)*. To this end, different stakeholders, including Member States, national drug-policy experts, national drug enforcement agencies, and NGOs have provided their input on the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration, including achievements, challenges, and steps to be taken in the future.

Recent Developments

Preparations for the fifty-seventh session

In March of 2014, as part of its fifty-seventh session, the CND will hold a high-level review of the implementation of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (2009)*, which remains the main policy document of the United Nations (UN) in the field.⁶⁴ This review will yield a document that, in turn, will inform a special session of the General Assembly (GA) on the world drug problem in 2016.⁶⁵ Preparations for this review meeting were a highlight of the fifty-sixth session of the CND, held in March of 2013.⁶⁶ CND resolution 56/12 (2013), adopted during this meeting, outlines the topics of debate for the high-level review, which include the topic “international cooperation: countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.”⁶⁷ The resolution also decides that the expected outcome of the meeting will be a brief joint ministerial statement identifying the “achievements, challenges and priorities for further action, in the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments.”⁶⁸ Furthermore, it outlines the documents that will inform the review meeting; among them the first report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration, the outcome of the thematic round-table discussions that have been held during the last three CND sessions, and reports from its subsidiary bodies, international organizations and civil society related to the world drug problem.⁶⁹

The first *Report of the Executive Director on Action taken by Member States to Implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (2012)* outlines the achievements and challenges ahead in relation to countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation during the reporting period.⁷⁰ Achievements include the widespread criminalization of money-laundering, as almost 80% of Member States surveyed had enacted legislation to this effect.⁷¹ Likewise, the report cites a more extensive use of preventive and enforcement measures against criminal activities linked to drug trafficking as well as a larger crackdown on money-laundering that uses new technologies, such as the internet and electronic money transfer systems.⁷² Some of the challenges identified in the report include lack of capacity by national agencies in identifying, seizing, and recovering illicit funds, “thereby removing the

⁶⁴ UNODC, *The Commission on Narcotic Drugs* [Website].

⁶⁵ UNODC, *Preparations for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (56/12)* [Resolution], 2013, p. 6.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid, p. 7.

⁶⁹ Ibid, p. 8.

⁷⁰ UNODC, *Report of the Executive Director (2012) [Action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem]* (E/CN.7/2012/14), 2012, p. 51.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

profit from illegal activities,” the need to expand legislation related to the protection of victims and witnesses and the existence of legal barriers to effective binational and regional cooperation.⁷³ In this sense, the issues of illicit traffic by sea, extradition and mutual legal assistance were specifically mentioned as areas where Member States could expand their cooperation.⁷⁴

Thematic round-table discussions

Thematic round table discussions were held during the fifty-third to fifty-sixth sessions of the CND as preparation for the high level review. Participants to these discussions were nominated by regional groups based on their expertise.⁷⁵ The topic of “Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation” was discussed during the fifty-sixth session.⁷⁶ The outcome document of this meeting outlines some of the pressing issues related to the field and highlights challenges and good practices in the implementation of the Political Declaration.⁷⁷ Three important issue areas covered were the link between drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, corruption and money-laundering, the need to harmonize legal regimes with international standards and more effectively implement national legislation, and the challenge posed by bank secrecy and tax heavens.⁷⁸ The outcome document concludes that a multidisciplinary approach is essential to combat money-laundering and that investigations related to money-laundering should be held in parallel to investigations on drug trafficking and organized crime.⁷⁹ Member States also identified capacity-building of national law enforcement agencies, in particular, in better understanding financial investigations with views to identifying investigating and seizing criminal assets, as key.⁸⁰ Emphasis was also placed in continuing to use international cooperation mechanisms already in place and further developing others as a means to improve national capacity and international coordination.⁸¹ In this regard, it is necessary to strengthen the sharing of information among intelligence units, police, and prosecutors. Likewise, assistance in creating specialized anti-money-laundering units within law enforcement institutions and specialized training for judges and prosecutors would be beneficial for Member States.⁸² Finally, there is a need for the establishment of “bilateral memorandums of understanding and arrangements for mutual legal assistance” and the use of joint training sessions at the international level.⁸³

Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies

The meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), which are subsidiary bodies of the CND for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe, also presented some recommendations related to the topic during each of their annual 2013 regional meetings. The European meeting identified the importance of the role of alternative development programs in combating money-laundering and called for support by the ECOSOC in this regard.⁸⁴ The Latin American meeting stressed the need for better public/private sector cooperation, more effective border management, and a better coordination between regulatory bodies and law enforcement agencies in addressing money-laundering offences in order to more effectively recover illicitly gained assets.⁸⁵ The Asia-Pacific meeting emphasized the need to properly train and fund law enforcement agencies, prosecution services and the judiciary in policing the internet, and gathering evidence and prosecuting

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, *Thematic debate / Round table discussions* [Website].

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, *Relevant part of the report on the fifty-sixth session [Compilation of the outcome of the thematic roundtable discussion of the Commission at its fifty-sixth session] (E/2013/28)*, 2013.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ UNODC, Tenth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, *Report of the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 2 to 5 July 2013 (UNODC/HONEURO/10/5)*, 2013, p. 6.

⁸⁵ UNODC, *Report of the Twenty Third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito from 30 September to 4 October 2013 (UNODC/HONLAC/23/5)*, 2013, p. 10.

cyber-related drug trafficking and money-laundering offences.⁸⁶ Finally, the African meeting took place in September with the topic of the Political Declaration on its agenda, but its outcome document is not yet officially available.⁸⁷

Inputs from NGOs

The Vienna Non-Governmental Organization Committee (VNGOC) has the objective of supporting the work of the UODC by serving as an important link between the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), CND and civil society organizations.⁸⁸ The Executive Director of the UNODC invited the VNGOC to provide information on the progress towards achieving the *Action Plan of the Political Declaration* gathered from its global network of NGOs.⁸⁹ The input was made through an online questionnaire, with 93 answers from global, continental, national and local NGOs.⁹⁰ Among the achievements in the field of money-laundering and judicial cooperation the NGOs mentioned that there had been a slight improvement in international cooperation and national capacity. In this regard, important steps were taken in the adoption of new legislation to tackle money-laundering and the establishment of specialized criminal justice bodies focused on money-laundering.⁹¹ The NGOs also lauded the efforts of the UNODC in supporting new cooperation mechanisms including the development of normative frameworks and the improvement of training and exchange programs.⁹² Some of the responses related to these achievements, however, stressed that there is still much space for improvement in those areas.⁹³ A special emphasis was placed in the need to remove legal barriers to cooperation and to fight corruption.⁹⁴ Similarly, it is important to develop more effective engagement mechanisms with the banking system in order to identify and trace transactions.⁹⁵ Finally, Member States need to ensure that there is integration between law enforcement, the tax framework and bank legislation.⁹⁶ According to the NGOs, in addition to enhanced international cooperation, the priorities in the future should be the development of anti-corruption education and training for criminal justice officials and better banking transparency.⁹⁷

Conclusion

The fifty-seventh annual meeting of the CND, and its high level segment will undoubtedly be the highlight of 2014 in terms of international drug policy. Preparations for such meeting have included consultations with a wide variety of actors, including UN agency secretariat, experts in the field, civil society organizations, and various different State authorities, such as government UN representatives and heads of law enforcement agencies. The outcome of this meeting will inform a much larger GA session on the world drug problem in 2016. As one of the pillars of the Political Declaration, the topic of countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation will be at the forefront of the discussion.

⁸⁶ UNODC, Thirty-Seventh meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, *Report of the Thirty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 October 2013 (UNODC/HONLAP/37/5)*, 2013.

⁸⁷ UNODC, Twenty-third meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, *List of documents*, 2013; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Twenty-third meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, *Provisional agenda and annotations (UNODC/HONLAF/23/1)*, 2013.

⁸⁸ Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, *History* [Website].

⁸⁹ Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, *The Experience of NGOs on implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action* [Report].

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

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<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/CN.7/2012/14>

This report of the UNODC Executive Director is one of the main documents that will be used to inform the High Level Review Meeting. It is developed using the responses given by Member States to a questionnaire distributed by the secretariat. While a useful tool to assess progress, the problems with self-reporting, including over reporting, should be taken into account. A second report of the Executive Director is being prepared for the High Level meeting.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2013). *Preparations for the high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (56/12)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from:

<http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-Res-2011to2019/CND-Res-2013/CND-Res-56-12.pdf>

This resolution was adopted by the fifty-sixth session of the CND and it is the main preparatory document for the High Level Review Meeting. It determines that the outcome of such meeting will be a brief ministerial statement that will be used to inform an upcoming 2016 GA session on the world drug problem. It also outlines the documents that will inform the High Level meeting, including reports by the Executive Director, the subsidiary bodies of the CND and civil society organizations.

United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. (2013). *Relevant part of the report on the fifty-sixth session (2013). [Compilation of the outcome of the thematic roundtable discussion of the Commission at its fifty-sixth session]* (E/2013/28). Retrieved 15 January 2014 from:

http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-session57/Round-tables_56_CND.pdf

This is the outcome document of the roundtable discussion held during the fifty-sixth meeting of the CND in March of 2013. Round table discussions by experts in the field have taken place during the last three CND annual meetings and their outcomes will in part be used to inform the High Level Review Meeting. This particular discussion included the topic of countering money-laundering and judicial cooperation in its agenda, and it provides insight on expert views about the achievements and challenges for this topic going forward.

Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs. (n.d.). *The Experience of NGOs on implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action* [Report]. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-session57/HLS/Vienna_NGO_Committee_on_Drugs_doc.pdf

The Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs is an NGO that brings together civil society organizations that work around the topic of drugs around the world. It has been tasked by the UNODC with compiling the comments and recommendations of almost one hundred global, continental and national NGOs regarding the progress of their countries on the Political Declaration. The data and recommendations included in this report are useful as an input to the topic from civil society.

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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Tenth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies. (2013, July 12). *Report of the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 2 to 5 July 2013 (UNODC/HONEURO/10/5)*. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from: <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=UNODC/HONEURO/10/5>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Thirty-Seventh meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies. (2013, July 12). *Report of the Thirty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 October 2013 (UNODC/HONLAP/37/5)*. Retrieved 15 January 2014 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/HONLAP/HONLAP-2013/UNODC_HONLAP37_5_eV1387590.pdf

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III. Strengthening a Human Rights and Public Health Based Approach to Diseases Related To Drug Abuse

Introduction

The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in preparation for the High-Level review segment of the 57th meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), that Member States that have enacted a Public health and Human rights approach treating to drug related diseases have had greater success in preventing the spread of HIV and other illnesses.⁹⁸ The 57th meeting of the CND will contain a High-Level review, which has prompted extensive preparation by the UNODC so that successful programs may be promoted and further challenges may be addressed.⁹⁹ The reports prepared indicate that the lack of widespread implementation or funding of the public health and human rights approach to treating drug related illnesses has left certain communities and populations at high-risk for transmission of these illnesses.¹⁰⁰ Several International and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), including the World Health Organization (WHO) and Human Rights Watch (HRW) have conducted research on Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and have found that laws that restrict access to clean syringes and needles further the spread of drug related diseases while public health programs which encourage and inform on sterile needles and syringes have been the only consistent method to reduce transmission of HIV since its discovery.¹⁰¹

Recent Developments

In a paper supporting the discussions of the high-level review by presenting global trends on the evolving drug problem since the adoption of the *Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (2009)*, the Executive Director of the UNODC discussed how the implementation of evidence-based programs to reduce the adverse consequences of illicit drug use among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) also reduced the number of new HIV infections among IDUs.¹⁰² The Director went on to say that needle, syringe, and opioid substitution therapy combined with a range of health and social services have been proven to reduce unsafe drug use and the spread of HIV.¹⁰³ He concluded that despite the success of these programs, wider implementation and further support would be required before the HIV epidemic among IDUs will be halted and resolved.¹⁰⁴

In his report on the Action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (2012), the CND Executive Director concluded that most Member States had adopted a written national drug strategy, and that those strategies covered prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration services.¹⁰⁵ The adoption of domestic public health based policies and laws which include the policies stated above are an example of the shift towards public health approach to those with diseases related to drug abuse. However, 1/3 of the demand reduction and public health approach strategies adopted globally remain unfunded creating a serious lapse in treatment and progress.¹⁰⁶ The human rights based approach to HIV/AIDS allows for individuals and communities to fully realize their rights to; education, free association, information, and non-discrimination.¹⁰⁷ Some of the approaches currently in use can result in human rights violations such as the death penalty solely for drug offences, violent abuse by law

⁹⁸ UNODC, *High Level Review* [Web Site], 2014; ECOSOC, *Action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem*, [Report], 2012, p. 3.

⁹⁹ UNODC, *High Level Review* [Web Site], 2014

¹⁰⁰ UNODC, *Demand reduction and related measures* [Factsheet], 2014, p. 2.

¹⁰¹ Human Rights Watch, *In Harm's way*, p. 1-2.

¹⁰² UNODC, *Contribution of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the high-level review of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem* [Report], 2013.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁵ ECOSOC, *Action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem* [Report], 2012, p. 3.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

¹⁰⁷ OHCHR, *Introduction to HIV/AIDS and Human Rights* [Web site], 2013.

enforcement, and deprivation of basic care.¹⁰⁸ The 2013 UNAIDS report on the global AIDS epidemic has dedicated a section to halving the number of transmissions of HIV by people who inject drugs, furthering the support for a public health and human rights approach.¹⁰⁹ In some countries as many as 40% of new HIV infections come from drug injections, however data from the United States and Russia regarding people who inject drugs were not reported leaving a significant gap in data.¹¹⁰

The implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (2009) will undergo a high-level review (HLR) at the 57th session of the CND.¹¹¹ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has prepared a fact sheet on demand reduction and related measures for the HLR, which lists some challenges and achievements regarding the spread of HIV as a public health and human rights issue.¹¹² Included in the achievements is that more and more countries are recognizing drug use as a health issue and disorder which “needs to be treated not punished.”¹¹³ This change in policy is a step in the right direction to addressing drug related diseases in the same way, one example of addressing the diseases related to injecting drug use is the creation of sterile syringe programs which significantly slowed the epidemic of Hepatitis, HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria among injecting drug users.¹¹⁴ Eastern Europe and Central Asia are currently experiencing an explosion of HIV infections related to drug use, with data indicating that 80% of all HIV infections in those regions are from IDUs.¹¹⁵ However, the UNODC Regional office of South Asia released a standard operating procedure for setting up Targeted Interventions (TIs) amongst the most vulnerable persons including IDUs.¹¹⁶ Their procedure for creating Needle Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP) is the leading example of TIs for IDUs by empowering communities to follow a rights-based approach to reduce vulnerability to HIV and other drug related diseases.

Despite the progress made in changing how countries address drug related diseases, certain practices and the lack of universal implementation of the public health and human rights approach to drug related diseases has left opportunities for diseases like HIV, Hepatitis C, and other blood borne infections to become widespread.¹¹⁷ 30 million men, women and children go through the prison systems each year where high-risk behaviors and HIV transmission are highly prevalent, this is relevant because many countries around the world continue to incarcerate individuals as punishment for drug use.¹¹⁸

HRW released a report on December 11, 2013, which addresses the ways in which government policies can make the difference between life and death for an individual with HIV/AIDS.¹¹⁹ HIV transmission rates have been on the rise for many years in the IDU community, in a report titled *In Harm’s Way* it is demonstrated that syringe access programs and other harm reduction measures have been the only consistently successful anti-transmission initiatives.¹²⁰ This report focuses specifically on the state of Louisiana in the United States, and provides an overview of how the policies in place in this region have created a deadly combination for the local population with a death rate from AIDS at double the national average.¹²¹ The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, and Louisiana’s incarceration rate is double the national average, making it “the world’s incarceration capital.”¹²² The police practices of this state exacerbate a high-risk environment where life-saving treatment and support are scarcely available and the punitive and discriminatory policies in this region have left drug users

¹⁰⁸ Human Rights Watch, *Drug Policy and Human Rights* [Report], 2014, p. 1.

¹⁰⁹ UNAIDS, *Global Report 2013* [Report], 2013, p. 30.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ UNODC, *High Level Review* [Web site], 2014.

¹¹² UNODC, *Demand reduction and related measures*, 2014, p. 2.

¹¹³ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁴ UNODC, *Needle syringe exchange program for injecting drug users*, p 1.

¹¹⁵ WHO, *Injecting Drug Use* [Web site], 2014.

¹¹⁶ UNODC, *Needle syringe exchange program for injecting drug users*, p 1.

¹¹⁷ UNODC, *Demand reduction and related measures* [Factsheet], 2014, p. 2.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ Human Rights Watch, *In Harm’s way* [Report], 2013, p. 1.

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

¹²¹ Human Rights Watch, *In Harm’s way* [Report], 2013, p. 2.

¹²² *Ibid.*, p. 3.

discriminated, stigmatized, vulnerable and harassed by law enforcement.¹²³ The report provides several recommendations to help stop the spread of drug related diseases to the United Nations, the United States of America, the State of Louisiana and its subsidiaries including; reforming laws and policies on possession of syringes, expand syringe access programs in the interest of public health and safety, increasing harm reduction and health education, and promoting HIV testing and linkage to care, hepatitis C testing and care, and the availability of evidence-based drug dependence services, and expand community-based HIV prevention and treatment programs to engage high-risk communities in TIs.¹²⁴ The report cites a program in New York City which with the use of a comprehensive syringe access program has brought the rate of new HIV infection among IDUs to “near zero” demonstrating clearly that the public health and human rights approach to drug related diseases is far better at reducing HIV infections compared to punitive policies.¹²⁵

Conclusion

Although limited in its implementation, the public health and human rights based approach to combating the world drug problem has show consistent success in treating individuals with HIV/AIDS and reducing transmission, particularly among IDUs. The widespread implementation of these changes in policy will lead to significant reductions in the transmission of blood born diseases among IDU’s as well as law enforcement officials who are commonly subject to accidental pricks to the skin from hypodermic needles. This is the sentiment expressed by the UNODC executive director in preparation for the high level taking place in March. It is also important to emphasize the role of harmful laws combing with deep poverty, which significantly increases the likeliness of transmitting, acquiring and dying of HIV as the HRW did in its report *In Harm’s Way*.¹²⁶ It is not possible to effectively address HIV transmission or care with also addressing substance use and several other issues which plague communities. Often individuals are exchanging sex for money, drugs, and life necessities around the world, while being prosecuted by law enforcement, creating and exacerbating a high-risk population for HIV and other blood born diseases.

¹²³ OHCHR, *Introduction to HIV/AIDS and human rights* [Website] 2013.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

¹²⁵ Human Rights Watch, *In Harm’s way* [Report], 2013, p. 5.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

Annotated Bibliography

Human Rights Watch. (2013). *In Harm's Way*. Retrieved 12 January 2013 from: <http://www.hrw.org/node/121166/section/2>

This report by Human Rights Watch is extremely relevant to the continued efforts to support a public health and human rights approach to drug related diseases because it demonstrates that in poverty stricken areas of the world, having policies which seek to punish rather than treat exacerbate the already high-risk populations. Delegates prepared with this information can clearly see that when countries adopt public health promoting policies like sterile syringe access programs, transmissions among Injecting Drug Users can effectively drop to zero as proven in New York City. Further studies by HRW and others on delegates own regions experiencing the negative effects of punishment drug policies or the positive effects of a public health approach should provide a greater depth of discussion on this issue.

UNODC. (2013). Contribution of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the high-level review of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem [Report]. Retrieved 24 January 2014 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND-session57/UNODC_ED/V1388514e.pdf

This document prepared by the executive director of the UNODC is an informational statement for the HLR which will take place at the 57th session of the CND. It provides details on the world drug problem and the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. Specific to this topic is paragraph 9, which discusses the effectiveness of a rights based approach as it is being implemented in Western Europe and other places around the world. Delegates can use this reference to gain facts regarding public health and human rights based approach and evaluate their own policies in comparison.

UNODC. (2014). *High Level Review* [Web site]. Retrieved 22 January 2014 from: <http://www.unodc.org/hlr/>

The High Level Review of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem at the 57th meeting of the CND is a critical component of combating the evolution of the world drug problem. The documents which have been prepared over the last year to inform attendees of the state of the world drug problem will also be available before the meeting so that delegates may consider how best to approach this issue domestically. Delegates find valuable statistics within the reports prepared for this review and the successful review of the plan of action in its implementation will allow for necessary adjustments going forward.

UNODC. (2012). *Needle Syringe Exchange Program for Injecting Drug Users* [Operating procedure]. retrieved 25 January 2014 from: <http://www.unodc.org/documents/southasia/publications/sops/needle-syringe-exchange-program-for-injecting-drug-users.pdf>

This reference is the collected suggestions on how to successfully operate a sterile syringe program in a local community created by the South Asia regional UNODC office. This reference is an important step towards widespread implementation of the public health and human rights based approach. Delegates may inform themselves on the successful practices of these programs as well as gain a better understanding of the needs of IDU's in order to make successful targeted intervention programs.

UNODC. (2013). *Demand reduction and related measures*, [Factsheet] Retrieved 24 January 2014 from: http://www.unodc.org/documents/hlr/FactSheets/Demand_Reduction1.pdf

This factsheet prepared by the Secretariat for the HLR being conducted by the CND is meant to assist in informing delegates of the facts surrounding this issue, recent achievements, and future challenges. Delegates should use this source as a factsheet to provide specific updates to how the world drug problem has changed in recent years. This document also draws specific attention to the lack of implementation of the public health and human rights based approach.

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