

*The following statement was organized by DRCNet Foundation (also known as "StoptheDrugWar.org"), an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC since 2016. It was submitted to the United Nations as a contribution to the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. This copy provides an updated list of signatories. Please visit <http://stopthedrugwar.org/global> for updates and other info. (Note that organizations listed with an asterisk were added subsequent to the session and statement distribution.)*

March 13, 2017

We the undersigned believe the UNGASS Outcome Document stopped short of crucial and widely supported reforms, while avoiding new realities.<sup>1</sup> We call on the 60<sup>th</sup> CND to:

### **Acknowledge the Ramifications of New Drug Policies**

- Clarify that "commitment to... the three international drug control conventions"<sup>2</sup> does not mean these treaties, written between 28 and 56 years ago, should remain unchanged.<sup>3</sup>
- Convene an "Expert Advisory Group" to study tensions in the drug control regime.<sup>4</sup>

### **Stand Up for Human Rights**

- Assert that nations' drug policies should be constrained by human rights norms; with special attention on racial disparities, indigenous rights, and impact on women and youth.<sup>5 6 7 8</sup>
- Call for abolishing the death penalty for drug offenses.<sup>9</sup>

### **Call for a People-Centered Approach to Drug Policy**

- Explicitly endorse harm reduction and shifting resources to fund it.<sup>10</sup>
- Assert the Sustainable Development Goals should both inform and constrain drug policy.<sup>11</sup>
- Direct WHO to complete a Critical Review of cannabis, including rescheduling options.<sup>12</sup>

### **Take a Stronger Stance on Criminal Justice Reform**

- Encourage bold steps away from criminalization.<sup>13</sup>
- Advocate a diverse range of alternatives to incarceration, including Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, as well as sentencing reform and other compassionate reforms.<sup>14</sup>
- Advocate that regulatory approaches be considered for new psychoactive substances.<sup>15</sup>

### **Foster Open Dialogue**

- Structure future UN meetings to enable truly open debate.

- Support the participation of civil society as well as disadvantaged, marginalized and other groups affected by drug policies, in developing, implementing and evaluating new policies.  
Sincerely,

## **US and Global NGOs**

AIDS Alabama  
 American Civil Liberties Union  
 A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)  
 Ann Arbor Medical Cannabis Guild (A2MCG) (MI)  
 Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition (MD)  
 Blacks in Law Enforcement of America  
 Broken No More  
 California Cannabis Ministry  
 CAN-DO Foundation  
 Cannabis Consumers Campaign  
 Center for Living and Learning (CA)  
 Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice  
 Chicago Recovery Alliance  
 Civic Trust Public Lobbying Company  
 Coalition for Medical Marijuana-NJ  
 Criminal Justice Policy Foundation  
 DC Cannabis Campaign aka DCMJ  
 Doctors for Cannabis Regulation  
 Drug Policy Alliance  
 Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i  
 Drug Policy Forum of Texas  
 Drug Truth Network  
 Ella Baker Center for Human Rights  
 Empire State NORML (NY)  
 Families ACT! (CA)  
 Families for Sensible Drug Policy  
 Family Council on Drug Awareness  
 Golden Gate University School of Law Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
 Hamline University Students for Sensible Drug Policy (MN)  
 Harm Reduction Action Center (CO)  
 Harm Reduction Coalition  
 Harm Reduction Michigan  
 Help Not Handcuffs (NJ)  
 Hepatitis Education Project  
 Hep Free Hawaii  
 Housing Works (NY)  
 Human Rights and the Drug War  
 Humboldt Institute for Harm Reduction (CA)  
 Institute for Policy Studies Drug Policy Project  
 International Centre for Science in Drug Policy  
 Latino Commission on AIDS  
 LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Law Enforcement Action Partnership  
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (CA)\*  
Life for Pot  
Marijuana Policy Project  
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
Michigan NORML  
mommieactivist and sons Online Radio  
Moms United to End the War on Drugs  
Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies  
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery  
National Lawyers Guild, Drug Policy Committee  
National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws  
National Organization for Women  
Project Inform  
Protect Families First (RI)  
Reentry Central of CT  
Safe Streets Arts Foundation (DC)  
San Francisco Drug Users Union  
San Francisco Safety and Wellness Coalition  
Sensible Colorado  
StoptheDrugWar.org (DRCNet Foundation)  
Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
The Cannabis Alliance (WA)  
The Center for Harm Reduction Therapy (CA)  
The Center for the Study of Cannabis and Social Policy  
The CHOW Project (HI)  
(T.O.P.S.) The Ordinary People Society  
Transgender Law Center  
Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago  
University of Kentucky Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
University of Texas at Austin Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
University of Virginia Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
Urban Survivors Union (CA, NC, WA)  
Veterans for Medicinal Cannabis Access  
Washington Office on Latin America  
William C. Velasquez Institute (WCVI)  
Women Who Never Give Up  
Women With A Vision (LA)

### **NGOs in Other Countries**

Action for Health Initiatives, Inc. (Philippines)  
AFEW International  
AIDS Foundation East-West International (AFEW)  
Alliance of Women Advocating for Change (AWAC) (Uganda)  
Amsterdam Drug Users Union MDHG (Netherlands)  
Anyone's Child: Families for Safer Drug Control - Kenya  
Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation  
Beckley Foundation (United Kingdom)

Bizia Association (France)  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
Cannabis Sans Frontières (France)  
Caribbean Harm Reduction Coalition  
Centro Brasileiro de Política de Drogas - Psicotropicus  
Chanvre & Liberté-- NORML France  
Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign (Ireland)  
Deutscher Hanfverband (DHV) - German Cannabis Association  
Die Linke. Hessen- LAG Drogenpolitik (Germany)  
Diogenis Association, Drug Policy Dialogue South East Europe  
Double Positive Foundation (Suriname)  
Društvo za Regulacija Konoplje (Slovenia)  
DS Foundation East-West International (AFEW)  
EcuadorCannabico  
Estudiantes por una Política Sensata de Drogas, Méco  
Ethio Africa Disapora Union Millennium Council  
FAAAT.net - French Alternatives on Addiction And Toxicomanies (France, Spain)  
Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform (Australia)  
Fédération Addiction (France)  
Fields of Green for ALL NPC (South Africa)  
Foundation for Democratic Initiatives and Development (FDID) (Sierra Leone)  
Ganja Growers and Producers Association of Jamaica (GGPAJ)  
Hanfparade (Germany)  
ICEERS Foundation (Spain, Uruguay)  
India HIV/AIDS Alliance  
Initiative for Health Foundation (Bulgaria)  
Institute for Inner Balance (Slovenia)  
Latinoamérica Reforma  
Legalizace.cz (Czech Republic)  
Mainline Foundation (Netherlands)  
MamaCoca (Colombia)  
Mambo Social Club (Belgium)  
moms united and mandated to saving the lives of Drug Users (mumsDU)  
Netherlands Drug Policy Foundation  
NGO Comunidad Tawantinsuyu (Peru)  
NoBox Transitions Foundation - Philippines  
Nonviolent Radical Party transparty and transnational  
NORML Norway  
Norwegian Association for Safer Drug Policies  
NVO 4 Life (Montenegro)  
Observatorio de cultivos y cultivadores declarados ilícitos INDEPAZ (Colombia)  
Plantaforma para la Defensa de la Ayahuasca (Spain)  
Protestant Evangelical Church of El Salvador (IEPES)  
Radicali Italiani  
Reachout Centre Trust (Kenya)  
REDUC - Brazilian Harm Reduction and Human Rights Network  
ReverdeSer Colectivo A.C. (Mexico)  
Rights Reporter Foundation (Hungary)  
Romanian Harm Reduction Network

SOCIO Pakistan (Society Of Collective Interests Orientation)  
Students for Sensible Drug Policy-UWI, Mona Chapter (Jamaica)  
Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN)  
UNIDOS – Rede Nacional Sobre Drogas & HIV (Mozambique)  
Union C (Nepal)  
Viva Rio (Brazil, Haiti)  
West Africa Drug Policy Network-Ghana Limited  
Women Coalition Against Cancer in Malawi - (WOCACA)

## **Businesses**

Center for Optimal Living (NY)  
Denver Relief Consulting  
Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps  
Elixinol Japan  
Elixinol LLC  
Elixinol PTY LTD  
Greenbridge Corporate Counsel (CA, WA)  
Hemp Foods Australia PTY LTD  
Hemp Foods Japan  
Social Justice Law Collective  
UDK Consultancy (Malawi)  
Vicente Sederberg LLC

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Outcome Document of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem*, <https://www.unodc.org/documents/postungass2016/outcome/V1603301-E.pdf> [hereinafter Outcome Document]; for one example of a critique of the UNGASS, see: *The United Nations Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem Report of Proceedings* (International Drug Policy Consortium, September 2016), [https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/566349360/library/UNGASS-proceedings-document\\_ENGLISH.pdf](https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/566349360/library/UNGASS-proceedings-document_ENGLISH.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Outcome Document, at 1.

<sup>3</sup> The three UN drug conventions were adopted in 1961, 1971, and 1988: *Treaties*, UN Office on Drugs & Crime, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/#Drugrelated>.

<sup>4</sup> For discussion of this proposal, see: Martin Jelsma, *UNGASS 2016: Background Memo on the Proposal to Establish an Expert Advisory Group* (Transnational Inst. 2015), <https://www.tni.org/en/publication/ungass-2016-background-memo-on-the-proposal-to-establish-an-expert-advisory-group>.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Study on the Impact of the World Drug Problem on the Enjoyment of Human Rights 2* (Human Rights Council 2015) ("The Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health has argued that when the international drug control regime and international human rights law conflict, human rights obligations should prevail."), [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session30/Documents/A\\_HRC\\_30\\_65\\_E.docx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session30/Documents/A_HRC_30_65_E.docx) [hereinafter UNHCHR]; Article I of the UN Charter includes "promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all" among the fundamental purposes of the UN system: United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice 3* (1945), <http://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf>; and Article 103 specifies that "[i]n the event of a conflict between the obligations of the Members of the United Nations under the present Charter and their obligations under any other international agreement, their obligations under the present Charter shall prevail." *Id.* at 19.

<sup>6</sup> International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (United Nations 1965), <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx>.

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<sup>7</sup> UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 6 (United Nations 2008), [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations 1989), <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>. For a discussion of the impact of current drug policies on the internationally-agreed rights of young people, see: Damon Barrett, *The Impacts of Drug Policies on Children and Young People* (Open Soc'y Foundations 2015), <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/sites/default/files/impact-drug-policies-children-and-young-people-20151029.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> For background on international reactions to the death penalty for drug offenses, see: *European Aid for Executions: How European Counternarcotics Aid Enables Death Sentences and Executions in Iran and Pakistan* 3 (Reprieve UK 2014) ("The governments of Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom have all accepted the link between counter-narcotics aid and capital punishment in Iran, and have withdrawn funding for supply control operations in that state."), <http://www.reprieve.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/European-Aid-for-Executions-A-Report-by-Reprieve.pdf>; UNODC and the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 10 (UN Office on Drugs & Crime 2012) ("If, following requests for guarantees and high-level political intervention, executions for drug-related offences continue, UNODC may have no choice but to employ a temporary freeze or withdrawal of support."), [https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/UNODC\\_Human\\_rights\\_position\\_paper\\_2012.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/UNODC_Human_rights_position_paper_2012.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> For a general discussion of harm reduction, see: Open Society Foundations, *What Is Harm Reduction?* (2013), <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/explainers/what-harm-reduction>. For background on harm reduction's history at the UN, see: David Bewley-Taylor, *The Contemporary International Drug Control System: A History of the UNGASS Decade*, 52 LSE Ideas Special Rep. Governing the Global Drug Wars 49 (2012), <http://www.lse.ac.uk/IDEAS/publications/reports/pdf/SR014/SR-014-FULL-Lo-Res.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> A paper written by the United Nations Development Programme for UNGASS discusses "[d]rug policy and the post-2015 agenda," noting that "there are contradictions between the targets established in the global development agenda being debated for the post-2015 period and current drug policies emanating from the three drug conventions": *Addressing the Development Dimensions of Drug Policy* 36-37 (2015), <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/HIV-AIDS/Discussion-Paper--Addressing-the-Development-Dimensions-of-Drug-Policy.pdf> [hereinafter UNDP]; The UN's Sustainable Development Goals adopted last year are discussed at: *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (United Nations Dep't of Econ. & Soc. Affairs 2015), <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

<sup>12</sup> For background, see: Curran, Wiffen, Nutt, Scholten, *Cannabis and Cannabis Resin Pre-Review Report*, (DrugScience 2016), <http://www.drugscience.org.uk/assets/WHOcannabisreport.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> A large number of UN and other agencies endorsed a document a technical guide that calls for moving away from drug criminalization as and HIV/AIDS prevention measure: *HIV and Young People Who Inject Drugs* 19 (2015), [http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/2015\\_young\\_people\\_drugs\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/2015_young_people_drugs_en.pdf); UNDP, *supra* note 16, 31 ("Discrimination, a lack of investment in health and social welfare and laws criminalizing drug use/possession of small amounts of drugs for personal use impede the access of people who use drugs to basic services such as housing, education, health care, employment, social protection and treatment"); UNHCHR, *supra* note 7, at 45. A Gender Perspective on the Impact of Drug Use, the Drug Trade, and Drug Control Regimes 1 (UN Women 2014), [https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/Gender\\_and\\_Drugs\\_-\\_UN\\_Women\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/Gender_and_Drugs_-_UN_Women_Policy_Brief.pdf); The Drug Problem in the Americas 103 (Org. of Am. States Gen. Secretariat 2013), [http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/Introduction\\_and\\_Analytical\\_Report.pdf](http://www.oas.org/documents/eng/press/Introduction_and_Analytical_Report.pdf); *Statement to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 55th Session* (Int'l Fed'n of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies 2012), <http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/opinions-and-positions/speeches/2012/to-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs-55th-session/>; *Regional Vision of the South American Council on the World Drug Problem for UNGASS 2016* at 4 (Union of S. Am. Nations 2015) ("Drug use should not be criminalized because this limits the probability that drug users will seek treatment, as well as limiting access to work, education, and other rights."), [https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/IGO/UNASUR/UNASUR\\_common\\_position\\_on\\_UNGASS\\_english.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/IGO/UNASUR/UNASUR_common_position_on_UNGASS_english.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> For background on the LEAD program, see: Roy L. Austin, *LEAD-ing the Way to a More Efficient Criminal Justice System* (The White House 2015), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/07/02/lead-ing-way-more-efficient-criminal-justice-system>.

<sup>15</sup> For information on a relevant New Zealand law enacted in 2013, see: *New Zealand's Groundbreaking Regulatory Model for New Synthetic Drugs* (Drug Policy Alliance 2014), [http://www.drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/DPA\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_New\\_Zealand\\_Approach\\_to\\_New\\_Synthetic\\_Drugs\\_Feb2014.pdf](http://www.drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/DPA_Fact_Sheet_New_Zealand_Approach_to_New_Synthetic_Drugs_Feb2014.pdf). (However, the law has met with political and bureaucratic resistance and has yet to be implemented.)