

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20600

3/10/16

cc: Michael Botticelli, William Brownfield

Dear Mr. President:

In April, the United Nations will hold a "General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem" (UNGASS), its highest-level drug policy meeting since 1998. US agencies have played a leading role on the global stage as UNGASS approaches, promoting important agendas such as alternatives to incarceration, public health approaches, and human rights reforms.

In key respects, however, we the undersigned NGOs believe the current US position for UNGASS takes a short-term approach, stopping short of the crucial reforms called for by UN agencies and US allies, while failing to address new realities. We believe a stronger US stance on these issues would leave a legacy in global drug policy that is better aligned to the direction you've steered domestic policy.

We therefore call for the following steps to guide the US as UNGASS approaches, and in foreign policy for the remainder of your administration.

Acknowledge the Ramifications of New Drug Policies

With marijuana legalization enacted in Uruguay, four US states and the District of Columbia, and likely soon in Canada and several more US states, tensions in the international drug control regime have increased. Furthermore, world leaders have begun to raise fundamental questions about drug control policies in their larger sense, particularly in Central and South America where the illicit drug trade has helped to fuel civil instability and insecurity, threatening governance and driving problems such as violence and refugee flows.¹

The US has called for nations to have the right to experiment with new drug policies, an important step forward.² However, the US's position with respect to the three UN drug control conventions is likely to face shrinking credibility internationally as legalization spreads to more states. This will especially be the case, if or when Congress moves to provide federal legality within the borders of states that have legalization statutes.³ We therefore urge the US to:

- Clarify that "commitment to the three UN drug conventions," as called for in the preliminary US UNGASS document⁴, does not mean that these treaties, written variously between 27 and 55 years ago, should remain unchanged.⁵ Instead, the UNGASS should include a healthy debate on how the conventions might be updated for current times.
- Provide clear support for appointing a UN "Expert Advisory Group" to study tensions that have arisen in the international drug control regime due to marijuana legalization and other issues, and to lay out the range of options for moving forward.⁶

Stand Up for Human Rights

- Assert that a nation's right to choose drug policies should be constrained by international human rights norms; and that in cases of irreconcilable conflict, human rights principles, which are at the core of the United Nations Charter, should take priority, a principle noted by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.⁷
- Call for an end to the death penalty for drug offenses, and for the UN and member states to take measures discouraging it. We note that several European governments have terminated assistance to drug enforcement programs in some countries that have the death penalty for drug offenses, and UNODC has likewise published guidance indicating that assistance to drug enforcement programs should be restricted under such circumstances.⁸
- Promote vigorous measures to end the racial disparities that plague drug enforcement programs around the globe, in light of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.⁹
- Assert that drug policies should respect the right of indigenous peoples "to practice... their cultural traditions and customs," as called for in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.¹⁰
- Call for an evaluation of international drug policies with regard to children and young people, in light of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – in particular how incarceration and other punitive policies may impact on the right of children "to know and be cared for by [their] parents" and to "full and harmonious development of [the] personality."¹¹

Call for a People-Centered Approach to Drug Policy

We commend the US statement that "[p]eople who use drugs should receive support, treatment and protection, rather than be punished."¹² To this end we urge the US to:

- Explicitly endorse harm reduction – a necessary element in any public health approach to substance issues – and call for a shifting of resources to fund harm reduction in particular, as well as voluntary traditional substance use services.¹³ Among the bodies calling for evidence-based measures to prevent the spread of blood-borne diseases are WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS, UNDP, the UN General Assembly, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the European Union, and PEPFAR.¹⁴
- Champion the expansion of syringe exchange on the global stage, as a centrally needed harm reduction measure to stem the global epidemics of HIV and Hepatitis C.¹⁵
- Assert that the UN's Sustainable Development Goals should both inform and constrain drug policy.¹⁶ In lieu of criminalizing subsistence-level farmers and eradicating drug crops, emphasize the establishment of realistic sources of income for the communities affected by illicit growing, while seeking buy-in for the relevant policies from them.¹⁷
- Call for a formal revision of the metrics used to evaluate drug control policies, which currently consist of a small set of narrow indicators focused primarily on reducing the demand and

supply of illegal drugs. Drug policy metrics should instead prioritize indicators that provide specific evidence on the health, peace and security, development, and human rights impacts of drugs and drug policies on communities.¹⁸

Take a Stronger Stance on Criminal Justice Reform

- In addition to promoting alternatives to incarceration, encourage bolder steps away from the punitive and criminalization-based model for use and possession of drugs, in line with the recommendations of a variety of UN agencies including UNAIDS, WHO, UNFPA, UNCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC, ILO, UNICEF, OHCHR, UN Women, as well as the World Bank, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, OAS, and UNASUR.¹⁹
- Urge UN member states to reform sentences and other criminal justice practices, in order to reverse the global trend toward greater incarceration rates.²⁰
- Take steps to stem the unprecedented growth in incarceration of women for drug offenses, the majority of whom are in prison for low-level crimes, often committed to support families.²¹
- Call for public health approaches that encourage pregnant women with substance issues to seek health care and treatment, instead of criminal prosecutions that can discourage women in that situation from seeking the care which they and their families need.²²
- Diversify the range of alternatives to incarceration the US promotes internationally, including a cutting edge program that was the subject of a recent White House forum, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD).²³
- Advocate that regulatory approaches be considered as part of the debate on new psychoactive substances, as opposed to strictly prohibitionist approaches.

An Open Dialogue

- Use the US's influence at the UN to ensure that this UNGASS affords a true opportunity for an open and broad-ranging debate on the full set of drug policy issues of concern in the world today, and how to change drug policy, keeping faith with the intentions of the governments which requested that this UNGASS be held.²⁴
- To that end, assert that the UNGASS Outcomes Document should be finalized at the UNGASS, rather than having de facto omission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meeting.
- Work for and support the inclusion and participation of civil society organizations, youth, women, minorities, indigenous communities, drug users, communities with low-level drug trade involvement, and other affected groups, in the development, implementation, and evaluation of new drug policies. This should include the UNGASS, future CND meetings, and other drug policy venues, as well as meetings of concerned agencies such as UNDP, UNAIDS, WHO, OHCHR and others.
- Work to have such UN agencies accorded greater centrality and authority in UN deliberations on drug policy. Similarly, direct that US bureaus such as USAID, the Office of the Global

AIDS Coordinator, and Democracy, Human Rights & Labor, take on greater involvement and authority in US foreign policy and diplomacy on drug issues.

As the April 2016 UNGASS approaches, we urge you to take the opportunity this time in history affords, to point the world toward more humane and successful drug policies, as your administration has done for US domestic drug policies. Your leadership today for global drug policy reform will further the goals of health, safety, and welfare, consistent with individual freedom, the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Sincerely,

US and Global NGOs

#cut50

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
A New Way of Life Reentry Project (CA)
A Better Way Foundation (CT)
AIDS Alabama
AIDS United
Alternet
American Alliance for Medical Cannabis
American Civil Liberties Union
Americans for Safe Access*
Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition
Blacks in Law Enforcement of America
BOOM!Health (NY)
Break the Chains
Broken No More
California Cannabis Ministry
California NORML
CAN-DO Foundation
The Cannabis Alliance (WA)*
Cannabis Consumers Campaign
CAUSE-M (WA)*
Center for Living and Learning (CA)
The Center for the Study of Cannabis and Social Policy (WA)
Chicago Recovery Alliance
The C.H.O.W. Project (HI)
Citizens Opposing Prohibition (COPS)
Civic Trust Public Lobbying Company (CT)*
Clean Needles Now (CA)
The Coalition for Cannabis Standards & Ethics (CCSE) (WA)*
Coalition for Medical Marijuana-New Jersey
Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
Crack Open The Door
Criminal Justice Policy Foundation
DC Cannabis Campaign
Doctors for Cannabis Regulation

Drug Policy Alliance
Drug Policy Committee of the National Lawyers Guild
Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i
Drug Policy Forum of Texas
Drug Truth Network
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Empire State NORML (NY)
End AIDS Now
ERIE (Entheogenic Research, Integration, and Education) (CA)
EADUMC (Ethio Africa Diaspora Union Millennium Council) (Jamaica)
Families ACT! (CA)
Family Council on Drug Awareness
Families for Justice as Healing
Families for Sensible Drug Policy
Family Law & Cannabis Alliance (FLCA)
FedCURE
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Freedom Grow*
Global Exchange
Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+NA)
GRASP: Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing
Harm Reduction Action Center (CO)
Harm Reduction Coalition
Harm Reduction Michigan
HelpNotHandcuffs (NJ)
Hep Free Hawaii
Hepatitis Education Project (WA)
HIPS (DC)*
Housing Works (NY)
Human Rights and the Drug War
Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy at Roosevelt University
Institute for Policy Studies, Drug Policy Project
Institute of the Black World 21st Century
Intercambios Puerto Rico
International Centre for Science in Drug Policy (ICSDP)
International Drug Policy Consortium
International HIV/AIDS Alliance*
Justice Strategies
Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice
The Ladies of Hope Ministries (The LOHM) (NY)
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Law Enforcement Against Prohibition
Life for Pot
Los Angeles Community Action Network
Los Angeles Community Health Project
Marijuana Majority
Marijuana Policy Project
Michigan NORML
Mission: Launch, Inc. (DC, MD)

mommieactivist and sons Online Radio
Moms United to End the War on Drugs
Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies
National Advocates for Pregnant Women
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
National Council of Churches, USA*
National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls (NCIFIWG)
National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws
Nonviolent Radical Party transnational and transparty
North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
Northwest Producers, Processors & Retailers Association (NWPPR) (WA)*
November Coalition
One Million Americans, Ltd.
Orange County Needle Exchange Program (CA)
Osborne Association (NY)
People Against Injustice (CT)
PICO International
Prevention Point Pittsburgh
The Prodigal Child Project (For Human Rights)
Project Inform
Project SAFE (PA)
Psicotropicus - Brazilian Drug Policy Center*
Reentry Central
Remove Intoxicated Drivers
Safe Streets Arts Foundation (DC)
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference
Santa Fe Mountain Center (NM)
St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction (NY)
Sensible Colorado
Sonoran Prevention Works (AZ)
StoptheDrugWar.org
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
(T.O.P.S.) The Ordinary People Society
Transgender Law Center
Transnational Institute (TNI)
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago*
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Trystereo/New Orleans Harm Reduction Network (LA)*
Veterans for Medical Cannabis Access
Virginians Against Drug Violence
VOCAL New York
Washington Marijuana Association (WMA)*
William C. Velásquez Institute*
Witness to Mass Incarceration
WOLA (Washington Office on Latin America)
Women and Harm Reduction International Network (WHRIN)

Women on the Rise Telling HerStory (WORTH) (NY)
Women Who Never Give Up
Women With A Vision (LA)
World Hepatitis Alliance
Youth RISE

NGOs in Other Countries

Acción Semilla Bolivia
Action for Health Initiatives, Inc. (Philippines)
akzept e.V., Bundesverband für akzeptierende Drogenarbeit und humane Drogenpolitik (Germany)
Alliance of Women to Advocate for Change (AWAC) (Uganda)
Amitiel Welfare Society (Pakistan)
APDES - Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (Portugal)
ARGE CANNA e.V. Cannabis Patients Alliance (Austria)
Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs
Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID) (Costa Rica)
Asociacion Mexicana de Estudios sobre Cannabis (AMECA)*
ASUD (Autosupport des Usagers de Drogues) (France)*
Asuntos del Sur – Latin American Drug Policy and Human Security Observatory
Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation
Beckley Foundation (United Kingdom)
Bizia Association (France)
The Black Initiative for a New Drug Policy (Brazil)
Brazilian Drug Policy Platform
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
Canadian Harm Reduction Network
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Canapa Info Point (Italy)*
Cannabis Sans Frontières (France)
Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Caribbean Drug & Alcohol Research Institute
Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition
Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives (SCDI) (Vietnam)*
Centro Cáritas de Formación para la Atención de las
Farmacodependencias y Situaciones Críticas Asociadas A.C. (CAFAC) (Mexico)
Centro de Pensamiento y Acción para la Transición - CPAT (Colombia)
Chanvre & Libertés – NORML France
Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign (Ireland)
Colectiva Ciudad y Género, AC. (Mexico)
Colectivo por una Política Integral hacia las Drogas (CUPIHD) (Mexico)
Collectif Urgence Toxida (CUT) (Mauritius)
Comunidades de Fe Organizadas para Accion (COFOA) (Central America)
CommonUnity Foundation (Australia)
Corporación Humanas (Chile)
Deutscher Hanfverband (German Hemp Association)
Die Linke. Hessen- LAG Drogenpolitik (Germany)
Diogenis Association, Drug Policy Dialogue (South East Europe)
Double Positive Foundation (Suriname, regional)

Drugtext Foundation (Netherlands)
 Drug Users Union MDHG (Netherlands)
 EmmaSofia (Norway)
 Equis Justicia para las Mujeres A.C (Mexico)
 Espolea (Mexico)
 Estudiantes por una política sensata de drogas México (EPSD)*
 FAAAT.net – French Alternatives on Addiction And Toxicomanies
 Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform (Australia)
 FED UP! Canada – Canadian Coalition for Drug Policy Reform
 Fédération Addiction (France)
 Federación Andaluza Enlace (Spain)
 Fields of Green for ALL NPC (South Africa)
 Forum Droghe (Italy)
 Foundation Against Illicit Drugs and Child Abuse (Liberia)
 420 Guadalajara (Mexico)*
 Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma (Chile)
 Ganja Growers and Producers Association of Jamaica (GGPAJ)
 Grüne Hilfe e.V.- Hessen (Germany)
 Hands Off Cain (Italy)
 Hanfparade/Jakis e.V. (Germany)
 The Hepatitis C Mentor & Support Group, Inc.
 HIV and AIDS Support House (HASH) (Philippines)
 ICEERS Foundation (Spain)
 India HIV/AIDS Alliance
 Initiative for Health Foundation (Bulgaria)
 Institute of Cannabis Regulation Slovenia
 Instituto Terra, Trabalho e Cidadania – ITTC (Brazil)
 Integración Social Verter A.C. (Mexico)
 Intercambios Asociación Civil (Argentina)
 Jac's Voice – on living with addiction and mental illness (Canada)
 Jaringan ODHA Berdaya (Indonesia)
 The John Mordaunt Trust (United Kingdom)
 KANCO (Kenya AIDS NGO Consortium)
 Konopa z.s. (Czech Republic)
 Krytyka Polityczna / Political Critique (Poland)
 Leadership Empowerment & Action for Development (LEAD) (Mauritius)
 Legalizace.cz (Czech Republic)*
 Luca Coscioni Association for Freedom of Scientific Research (Italy)
 Mainline (Netherlands)
 MamaCoca (Colombia)
 Mambo Social Club (Belgium)
 mumsDU – moms united and mandated to saving the lives of Drug Users (Canada)
 National Users Network Nepal (NUNN)
 Netherlands Drug Policy Foundation
 Newsweed (France)
 NGO CMOCDAPUNDHJ (World Council Diplomatic Chaplains for Peace,
 Universal Human Rights and Justice)
 NGO Comunidad Tawantinsuyu (South America)
 NoBox Transitions Foundation (Philippines)

NORML Canada
PILS (Prévention Information et Lutte contre le SIDA) (Mauritius)
PKNI (Persaudaraan Korban Napza Indonesia)
Plantaforma para la Defensa de la Ayahuasca (Spain)
Principes Actifs (France)*
Protestant Evangelical Church of El Salvador (IEPES)
Reachout Centre Trust (Kenya)
REDUC - Brazilian Harm Reduction and Human Rights Network
Release (United Kingdom)
ReverdeSer Colectivo (Mexico)
Rights Reporter Foundation (Hungary)
Romanian Harm Reduction Network
Rumah Cemara (Indonesia)
St. Catherine Ganja Growers and Producers Association (Jamaica)
Sangram Sewa Sadan Association (Mauritius)*
Skoun, Lebanese Addictions Center
SOCIO Pakistan (Society Of Collective Interests Orientation)
Stichting Adviesburo Drugs (Netherlands)
Students for Sensible Drug Policy-UWI, Mona Chapter (Jamaica)
Svenska Brukarföreningen / Swedish Drug Users Union
TB/HIV Care Association (South Africa)
Thai Civil Society Coalition on Harm Reduction (12D)
Transform Drug Policy Foundation (United Kingdom, Mexico)
Uganda Harm Reduction Network
Union C (Nepal)*
Viva Rio (Brazil, Haiti)
West Africa Drug Policy Network
West Africa Drug Policy Network-Ghana Chapter
Youth Organisations for Drug Action (YODA) (Europe)
Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network

**Organizations marked with an asterisk submitted their endorsements after this letter was transmitted to the White House. A second version including them will be submitted later in March.*

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END NOTES:

¹ In 2013 the Organization of American States released a report on hemispheric drug control, which among its recommendations included examining a number of alternatives including legalization regimes: Phillip S. Smith, *OAS Releases Historic Report on Drug Policy Alternatives*, Drug War Chronicle, <http://stopthedrugwar.org/chronicle/2013/may/17/oasreleaseshistoric-reportdru>; See *Colombian President Calls for Global Rethink on Drugs*, 2011 The Guardian (2011), <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/nov/13/colombia-juan-santos-call-to-legalise-drugs>; With respect to refugee flows, see Ted Galen Carpenter, *Drug Cartels Are Causing a Refugee Crisis* (Fareed Zakaria GPS, CNN 2014), <http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2014/07/08/drug-cartels-are-causing-a-refugee-crisis/>.

² The administration's policy on issues like marijuana legalization and how they impact the UN drug treaties was laid out by Amb. William Brownfield in: William R. Brownfield, *Trends in Global Drug Policy* (US State Department 2014) (speech at UN Foreign Press Center, UN Plaza, New York), ("... some countries will have very strict drug approaches; other countries will legalize

entire categories of drugs... All these countries must work together in the international community. We must have some tolerance for those differing policies."), <http://fpc.state.gov/232813.htm>.

³ For a discussion of this see: Wells C. Bennett & John Walsh, *Marijuana Legalization Is an Opportunity to Modernize International Drug Treaties* (Ctr. for Effective Pub. Mgmt. at Brookings 2014), <http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2014/10/15-marijuana-legalization-modernize-drug-treaties-bennett-walsh>.

⁴ U.S., *Nonpaper: UNGASS on Drugs 2* (2015) [hereinafter Nonpaper], https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/64663568/library/Zero-Draft_USA-contribution.PDF.

⁵ 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>.

⁶ 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>.

⁷ 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 [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.

⁸ For example: *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.

⁹ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (United Nations 1965), <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx>.

¹⁰ UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 6 (United Nations 2008), http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf.

¹¹ 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>.

¹² Nonpaper, *supra* note 4, at 2.

¹³ 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>.

¹⁴ *WHO's Role, Mandate and Activities to Counter the World Drug Problem: A Public Health Perspective 9* ("The WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical guide... for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for injecting drug users... defines a comprehensive package of harm reduction interventions [including] needle and syringe programmes; opioid substitution therapy... [and other measures]... and has been endorsed... by WHO, the [UN] General Assembly, [ECOSOC],

the [CND], the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief."), http://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/WHO/WHO_Role_and_Mandate_to_counter_the_worlds_drug_problems_2014.pdf; Presidency of the European Union, *EU Contribution for the UNGASS Outcome Document to Be Prepared By the UNGASS Board 3* (Council of the European Union 2015), https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/64663568/library/Zero-Draft_EU-contributions.pdf; Multiple references throughout UNDP, *infra* note 16.

¹⁵ A 2013 paper published by the World Bank discusses HIV and injection drug use from a global perspective, and calls for the global investment in syringe exchange to be scaled up: Arin Dutta et al et al., *The Global HIV Epidemics Among People Who Inject Drugs* 97 (The World Bank 2013), <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/GlobalHIVEpidemicsAmongPeopleWhoInjectDrugs.pdf>.

¹⁶ 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>.

¹⁷ In January, a meeting of small scale farmers of cannabis, coca and opium from 14 countries contributed their views for UNGASS: *The Heemskerk Declaration: Final Declaration of the Global Forum of Producers of Prohibited Plants* (2016), <http://growersforum.org/index.php/2016/01/25/thewashi-heemskerk-declaration/>.

¹⁸ An open letter for UNGASS by the International Center for Science in Drug Policy recommends sets of new metrics in each of these areas: *Open Letter: A Call for a Reprioritization of Metrics to Evaluate Illicit Drug Policy* (2016), https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/Civil/ICS DP/ICS DP_Open_Letter_EN_Web.pdf.

¹⁹ 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; 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; *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; *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.

²⁰ For a global overview of incarceration trends, including a "pull-out section on the impact of the 'war on drugs,'" see: *Global Prison Trends 2015* (Penal Reform Int'l 2015), <http://www.penalreform.org/resource/global-prison-trends-2015/>.

²¹ WOLA et al., *Women, Drug Policies, and Incarceration: A Guide for Policy Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2016), http://www.wola.org/publications/women_drug_policies_and_incarceration.

²² A wide range of medical organizations have argued against the practice of prosecuting pregnant women for drug use. For example, a report by the American Medical Association has states that "Pregnant women will be likely to avoid seeking prenatal or open medical care for fear that their physician's knowledge of substance abuse or other potentially harmful behavior could result in a jail sentence rather than proper medical treatment.": *Medical Group Opinions About Prosecution and Punishment of Pregnant Women* (Nat'l Advocates for Pregnant Women 2007), <http://advocatesforpregnantwomen.org/MedGroups2007.1.pdf>.

²³ 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>.

²⁴ Among other sources, see: Heather Haase & Coletta A. Youngers, *Latin American Leaders Bring Drug Policy Debate to the United Nations* (WOLA: Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas 2013) ("At the September 2012 UN General Assembly meeting, the presidents of Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico issued a formal statement underscoring the need to 'review the approach' of present drug policies and calling on the UN to... 'conduct a profound reflection to analyze all available options, including regulatory market measures, in order to establish a new paradigm that prevents the flow of resources to groups involved in organized crime.' As a result of their efforts, it was announced that an UNGASS would be convened in early 2016 on the 'world drug problem.'"), http://www.wola.org/commentary/latin_american_leaders_bring_drug_policy_debate_to_the_united_nations.

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