



**Vienna NGO  
Committee  
On Drugs**

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS  
CONTRIBUTING TO  
DRUG POLICY AND PRACTICE WORLDWIDE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Australia and New Zealand <i>Regional Lead Organisations</i>	18-19 February, 2008, Wellington, New Zealand Australian National Drugs Council New Zealand Drug Foundation
Eastern Europe and Central Asia <i>Regional Lead Organisations</i>	12-14 September, 2007, Kiev, Ukraine & 18-20 November, 2007, Belgrade, Serbia Anti-Drug Association (Serbia) Central and Eastern Europe Harm Reduction Network European Cities Against Drugs
Latin America and the Caribbean <i>Regional Lead Organisations</i>	12-13 November, 2007, Lima, Peru Centros di Integracion Juvenil (Mexico) Intercambios (Argentina) RISE Life Management Services (Jamaica)
N. Africa and the Middle East <i>Regional Lead Organisations</i>	25-26 October, 2007, Cairo, Egypt Mentor Arabia International Society of Addiction Medicine (ISAM)
North America <i>Regional Lead Organisations</i>	24-25 January, 2008, St. Petersburg, FL, USA & 4-5 February, 2008, Vancouver, BC, Canada Drug Free America Foundation (St. Petersburg, FL) Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC)
South Asia <i>Regional Lead Organisations</i>	8-9 January, 2008, Dhaka, Bangladesh Shelter Don Bosco, India Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh Alcohol and Drug Information Centre (ADIC), Sri Lanka
SE and E Asia and the Pacific <i>Regional Lead Organisations</i>	31 October - 1 November, 2007, Macau S.A.R., China Asian Harm Reduction Network International Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (Indonesia)
Sub-Saharan Africa <i>Regional Lead Organisations</i>	26-28 October, 2007, Johannesburg, South Africa & 10-11 November, 2007, Nairobi, Kenya Association pour la Promotion du Centre de Sensibilisation et d'Information sur les Drogues, Senegal South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Uganda Youth Development Link
Western Europe <i>Regional Lead Organisations</i>	24-25 January, 2008, Budapest, Hungary Hungarian Association on Addictions International Drug Policy Consortium San Patrignano Foundation

## CONTENTS

\* \* \*

### PREFACE

Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, UNODC 3

### INTRODUCTION

David Turner and Michel Perron 4

### RESPONDING TO NEEDS 8

Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment 10  
Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Recovery and  
Alternative Development

### BUILDING CONSENSUS

The Regional Consultations 24  
The Vienna Forum 40

### BRINGING NGO VOICES TO THE TABLE

Engaging with Policy Makers 48  
The High Level Segment and CND 2009 60  
Policy Makers Responding 68

GOING FORWARD - BEYOND 2008 74

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 76

### POSTFACE - NOTES FROM THE PUBLISHER

A Contribution for Beyond 2008, into the Future 78

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) – particularly those involved in an issue as emotive as drug control – are often characterized as having divergent views, and being too divided to come up with common positions. The “Beyond 2008” process proved the critics wrong, and showed that NGOs, even when representing a wide spectrum of views, are able to reach consensus. This constructive dialogue, based on 13 regional consultations and 600 responses to questionnaires, as well as the “Beyond 2008” declaration provided valuable input to the Political Declaration of the High-Level Segment of the 2009 Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).



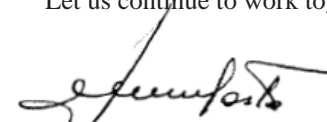
I have often said that drug control is too important and complex to be left to governments alone. You proved me right. Your work is crucial – for prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and protecting people and communities from the harm posed by drugs. We also rely on NGOs to ensure that drug policy is evidence-based, and to help disseminate best practices.

As we move forward and implement the Action Plan agreed at the High-Level Segment of the CND, we rely on your partnership and expertise to relieve individuals, families and communities from the scourge of drugs.

Building on the positive example of the “Beyond 2008” process, I hope that NGOs will have a more active voice in the drug control debate, and that their views will be heard by government representatives.

Drug control is a shared responsibility. We usually use this expression in the context of countries where drugs are produced and where they are consumed. You have expanded the notion to demonstrate that it is a governmental and non-governmental responsibility. The “Beyond 2008” process, so ably guided by the NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, has demonstrated that NGOs are willing and able to shoulder their share of that responsibility.

Let us continue to work together for a safer and healthier world.



Antonio Maria Costa  
Executive Director  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

In June 1998 the United Nations General Assembly held a Special Session (UNGASS) devoted to consideration of the world drug problem. The Political Declaration and Action Plans adopted by the UNGASS committed Member States to a set of ambitious targets in response to drug-related problems and a review of achievement 10 years after their adoption. Apart from the commitments and pledges made by Member States of the United Nations, the General Assembly, directly or indirectly, called upon non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to work closely with governments and others in assessing the drug problem, identifying viable solutions and implementing appropriate policies and programmes.

In 2006, Resolution 49/2 of the 49th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested NGOs to reflect on their own achievements in the context of reporting on the goals and targets for 2008 set by the UNGASS and requested the Executive Director of UNODC to facilitate the involvement of NGOs in the 10 year review. The active engagement of NGOs and civil society was requested based on the recognition that they were key partners in raising awareness, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social re-integration.

“Beyond 2008” was developed by the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs (VNGOC), in partnership with UNODC, to provide a means of creating and channelling a global NGO contribution to the 10 year review. The Committee, which was established in 1983 to provide a link between NGO’s, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), already had experience of organising global NGO forums and had actively participated in the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT), the World Ministerial Conference on Drug Demand Reduction and the Cocaine Threat (1990), the United Nations General Assembly Debate on the World Drug Problem (1993) and the United Nations General Assembly 20th Special Session (1998). Financial support for “Beyond 2008” came from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the European Commission, the governments of Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy, Sweden and



*David Turner*  
Chair  
Vienna NGO  
Committee on Drugs



*Michel Perron*  
Vice-Chair  
Vienna NGO  
Committee on Drugs  
Chair  
“Beyond 2008”  
Steering Committee

Hungary as well as from a number of NGOs, including the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, the Italian Centre of Solidarity, the Open Society Institute, the Salvation Army International, the Council on Security and Development and the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities. Additionally, sponsorship and in kind support for the regional consultations and the Vienna Forum came from governments of Hungary and South Africa and from business, foundations and local government in Austria, Macau SAR, Bangladesh, Senegal, the USA, Canada, Egypt, Australia and New Zealand.

Aware that there are many different approaches to drug misuse and drug-related problems and that different strategies had been adopted around the world, Beyond 2008 was focussed on building on areas of agreement, and on identifying means of strengthening capacity to respond effectively. To this end it set three objectives:

- a. to highlight tangible NGO achievements in the field of drug control, with particular emphasis on contributions to the 1998 UNGASS Action Plan such as achievement in policy, community engagement, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social-reintegration.
- b. to review best practices related to collaboration mechanisms among NGOs, governments and UN agencies in various fields of endeavour and propose new and/or improved ways of working with the UNODC and CND
- c. to adopt a series of high order principles, drawn from the Conventions and their commentaries that would be tabled with the UNODC and CND for their consideration and serve as a guide for future deliberations on drug policy matters

In order to achieve a sophisticated input into the review of achievement and future planning on drug control, the Programme Committee developed a data collection mechanism consisting of two elements: an NGO Questionnaire to collect quantitative data and Regional Consultations to collect more qualitative data and to develop ideas for improved collaborative mechanisms and the principles which should guide drug policy. The NGO questionnaire was designed using the structure of the Biennial Reporting Ques-

tionnaire of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs. However, it achieved more than just a duplication of a governmental data collection survey by incorporating new, and NGO specific elements. In terms of its scope and geographical coverage *the Beyond 2008 initiative represents the largest global survey ever carried out on the work of NGOs in the drugs field.*

The regional consultations consisted of a representative sample of NGOs working in a particular region. It was recognised that a representative sample of NGOs did not mean a precise numerical or geographical balance. Rather that they should represent the balance of NGO engagement in the region and should include HIV/AIDS organizations, organizations concerned with alternative development, organizations of peasants and user groups to name a few. The consultations were not to collect opinions or to promote specific policies or strategies. Rather, they stressed the importance of evidence to provide a basis for the NGO contribution through "Beyond 2008" to the CND and UNODC. Between September 2007 and February 2008 regional consultations were held in 13 cities in 9 regions of the world: Australasia (Canberra and Wellington); Eastern and South eastern Europe and Central Asia (Kiev and Belgrade); Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima); North Africa and the Middle East (Cairo); North America (St Petersburg, Florida and Vancouver); South Asia (Dhaka); Southeast and East Asia and the Pacific (Macau SAR); Sub-Saharan Africa (Johannesburg, Dakar and Nairobi); West Europe (Budapest). Together with the Vienna Forum, some 900 NGOs from 145 countries, representing millions of members and working across all aspects of drug control were involved in "Beyond 2008".

The "Beyond 2008" International NGO Forum which was held at the United Nations Office in Vienna from 7 – 9 July 2008, was the culmination of the consultation process. Some 300 NGOs from around the world, again selected to provide a representative sample, gathered to examine and revise a draft declaration and three draft resolutions, one for each of the objectives. After three days of strenuous debate the final Declaration and the three Resolutions were adopted by consensus. This was an historic achievement in that many of the organisations gathered in Vienna had never sat in the same room and debated directly with those holding radically different philosophies to those which they held. It reinforced that there were many more areas of commonality than differences and provided a powerful and united voice from NGOs.

With these documents, NGOs had a common and agreed platform. They had a

basis for discussion with their governments and within their networks. They had more than fulfilled the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Not only had they reflected on their own achievements but they were offering recommendations to the Commission, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Narcotics Control Board, Member States and NGOs on actions which they could and should take to achieve demonstrable progress to reduce illicit/harmful drug use and its adverse health, social and economic consequences.

This publication celebrates the achievements of NGOs around the world and records some of the responses which "Beyond 2008" invoked from the international organisations, governments and NGOs themselves.



David Turner  
Chair

Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs



Michel Perron  
Vice-Chair

Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs  
concurrently,  
Chair  
"Beyond 2008" Steering Committee

NGOs are key providers of responses to illicit/harmful drug use and its adverse health, social and economic circumstances. Through the NGO Questionnaire and the Regional Consultations we have been able to map some of the key developments and achievements since the 1998 UNGASS.

### Key changes between 1998 and 2008

\* \* \*

- Substantial increase in the number of NGOs addressing drug related problems, and the doubling of the number of staff and volunteers engaged with NGOs in this field.
- Improved networking between NGOs facilitating their engagement with relevant governmental and regulatory bodies in the development and implementation of policy, strategy and practice.
- Increasing quality and range of interventions provided by NGOs, covering primary prevention, early intervention, outreach and low threshold services, harm reduction, treatment, rehabilitation, social reintegration and recovery, along with the continuing development of innovative approaches.
- Increased attention and advocacy for interventions which are culturally, socially and gender sensitive.
- Commitment to monitoring and evaluation of their activities and the implementation of evidence based interventions.
- Increased contributions to the research and evaluation literature and use of information technology to share data, research and experience/expertise.
- The involvement of service users and communities, for instance civic and religious leaders, indigenous peoples and peasants' organizations marginalized and socially excluded or isolated peoples, in the design and implementation of policy and practice.

- Support for indigenous and peasant communities to develop alternative livelihoods and to sustain cultural practices and social environments.
- NGO activity has expanded considerably since 1998 with a significant growth in new NGOs and NGO employment.
- A range of measures have been introduced to meet the UN Conventions which have mainly focused on drug supply and law enforcement. There have been other achievements such as the development of knowledge in the field of addictions, the construction of alliances amongst NGOs and a gradual expansion of the range of services offered.
- A number of problems remain, however, often as unintended consequences of attempts to meet the Conventions. These have included an over-focus on supply at the expense of demand and the negative consequences of criminalization.

\* \* \*

*(Extract from the Global Summary Report prepared from the responses to the NGO Questionnaire and the Reports from the Regional Consultations)*

From the responses we received we know that there has been a remarkable increase in the number of organisations and people providing services and support to those affected by drugs and related problems. What is also extraordinary is the range of services provided by NGOs. 444 non-governmental organizations took part in the questionnaire survey representing Australasia (41), South-east Asia and the Pacific (36), South Asia (30), Central Asia and Eastern Europe (Non EU Countries) (19), Middle East and North Africa (21), Sub-Saharan Africa (72), Central and Western Europe (EU Countries, Norway, and Switzerland) (43), North America (100), and Latin America and the Caribbean (82). Between them they had 12.9 million members and in many cases their

*In 10 years,  
a 41% increase  
in volunteers*

*In 10 years,  
a 91% increase  
in staff*

members were local organisations with their own local membership. They employed 14,200 full time and 8,600 part time staff and had the support of 17,000 volunteers. And this was just for a relatively small sample of the NGOs active globally.

“ NGOs have been mostly involved in prevention activities in the region. It includes, for instance: school-based drug education and its inclusion to the national curriculum; community youth development projects such as sports and art programmes; family group programmes; training of teachers, medical doctors and various service personnel; prison programmes; peer education; and life skill development.”

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for Southeast and East Asia and the Pacific*



*Participants at the SE & E Asia and the Pacific Regional Consultation*



*Working Group at the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Consultation*

“ The NGOs’ tactic regarding the drug and addictions problem has been oriented towards an integral approach and their contribution has permitted the implementation of more diversified programs. For example, it has been mentioned that only a decade ago, NGOs had a more one-dimensional vision regarding primary prevention, prioritizing the provision of skills to reject drugs. Currently, the approach is much more comprehensive, including the individual as a whole and its interrelationship with topics such as health, education, work, self-esteem, vocations, and family relations, among others.”

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean*



Working Group at the North America Regional Consultation held in St Petersburg, Florida

“ We looked at the increase of NGOs. There’s been a huge increase of local community groups (or coalitions) but they’re really multi sector organizations. The one we monitored went from 2,000 to 6,000. We put an increase of local coalitions but also more effectiveness in their advocacy.

Going back to the question —

**‘Is this an NGO achievement or a government achievement?’**

— maybe the government can call it an achievement but without the support and work from NGOs it wouldn’t have happened.

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for North America held in St Petersburg, U.S.A.*

“ The role of NGOs in solving drug issues and dealing with illnesses in connection with drug abuse started to get acknowledged by both public and governments, and last, but not least, by law enforcement agencies. Their confidence in regard to NGO work is growing steady, especially when it comes to public organisations working with primary prevention and helping drug abusers and drugs addicts. In most countries of the region government authorities do not counteract NGO activities, the fact, which is viewed positively.

With the help of non-governmental organisations various services have developed, including launch of new rehabilitating centres, focusing at drug demand reduction, primary prevention extended, harm reduction programmes have become acknowledged, are applied and have broadened, inclusive medically assisted treatment.

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for East and Southeast Europe and Central Asia*



Participants at the E & SE Europe and Central Asia Regional Consultation in Kiev



*Networking at the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional  
Consultation in Johannesburg*

“ With respect to alcohol, the Government has set up a small scale enterprise fund of 1 billion shillings per region to discourage production of illicit alcohol, and there are NGOs in Arusha (Tanzania) targeting women who are involved in brewing illicit alcohol by linking them into the micro finance system for support.

There have been many drug reduction projects undertaken by NGOs in Uganda that have been very effective. NGOs have found using an integrated approach to address drug issues best. One successful project is “Street Smart” which focuses on high-risk populations to promote behavioural change. There are other positive examples seen in school clubs, capacity building projects, and Peer to Peer education projects. There has also been the establishment of a health consortium, agricultural production and food security programs have been created, and there is an increased effort to work with families to reduce vulnerability in the country. ”

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for Sub-Saharan Africa*

“ • The effectiveness of needle exchange programmes has been proven, especially in countries which started these programmes at an early stage prevalence of HIV/Aids and hepatitis is low.



*Plenary Session at the Western Europe  
Regional Consultation*

- Also prevention and peer to peer education is successful.
- Anonymous self help groups work for certain people but not for everybody.
- An IDPC research shows that police actions are effective if developed in cooperation with the community. Isolated police activities have no effect on drug use.
- San Patrignano has had positive results with a theatre show to educate people in the age of 15-20 years. Prevention should also be aimed at parents and teachers.
- In Portugal it was also found that NGOs have to work with schools and families over a period of several years to assure proper education on drugs.

In the UK the most successful programs provide rapid responses, holistic treatment and aftercare. ”

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for Western Europe*



*Participants at the Regional Consultation for North  
Africa and the Middle East*

“ Expansion of services/increased staffing: there is an expansion of services provided by NGOs, better quality and an increased number of beneficiaries. New programs/services are addressing street children, sex workers, etc. There is an involvement of youth in planning and implementing projects/activities.

Examples of drug demand reduction projects: integrating drug addiction/prevention component within human right and/or sexual health projects. ”

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for North Africa  
and the Middle East*



*Plenary Session at the Australasia Regional Consultation held  
in Wellington, New Zealand*

“ There were some identifiable common themes across the two countries concerning how NGO activities in the field of drug control have developed in our region since 1998. These were:

- Increased professionalism in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector;
- Expansion of treatment services;
- Movement towards culturally relevant practices; and
- Support for a harm minimisation framework.

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for Australasia*

“ NGOs have facilitated access to treatment for groups typically outside the reach of the health system and have helped bring about increased provision of low-barrier housing. Centers and teams with concurrent disorders specialists have been created and service providers have been given more adequate training and exposure to promising practices. NGOs have pushed to increase funding for treatment and have helped to establish and sustain drug courts as a bridge between treatment and enforcement.

NGOs have built capacity for users to act in and advocate for their own interests, encouraging the emergent voice “nothing about us without us.” In a similar vein, NGOs have mobilized youth and student involvement in positive activity and policy-making, with young people thereby having a say in policies intended to protect them. ”

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for N. America held in Vancouver*



*Drug rehabilitation programme in Nepal*



*Working Group at the South Asia Regional Consultation*

“ NGOs have become indispensable actors in the drugs field. They have become more organised and established structures to represent their interest and objectives towards governmental organisations on all level. The degree of self organisation varies in each country, but examples of (drug-) NGO associations and federations as well as release of NGO Directory have been reported (e.g. India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). NGOs provide most of the rehabilitation, reintegration and harm reduction programmes. ”

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for South Asia*

“What they have done cannot be simply defined alternative development, because it encompasses a wide range of livelihoods, and a holistic approach to empowering local communities in a sustainable manner, through reforestation, agriculture, handicrafts, economic growth through tourism and a real system of owner-



*San Patrignano Good Food Programme*

ship which sees the land and activities put back into the hands of the hill tribes which once grew opium in the region. Those that buy our products do not do so out of pity or guilt, but because they know that our names are synonymous with excellence, and consequently they learn a very important message: those that were once considered the last, the worst the forgotten can and, given the opportunity, will be the best

— From the Statement of San Patrignano to the Round Table on Alternative Development at the High Level Segment of the 52nd session of CND



*Duang Prateep Foundation sustainable development programme*

“Slums are an index measuring national development. The more a country develops, the more slums there are in large cities. Throughout Thailand there are as many as 5,500 slum sites and as many as 6,000,000 people living in slums (figures from the National Housing Authority).

Slums are branded as central markets for the drug trade. This has effects on people living in slums. Slum children who would go to school outside the slum, are rejected by the schools, because the schools are afraid the children will bring drugs to sell. Slum residents who apply for jobs are refused when the employer finds out they come from a slum.

The Duang Prateep Foundation is an organization that was started more than 30 years ago by poor slum people that saw the injustices of society, in order to fight for the right of poor children to get an education. The foundation has seen the problem of children touched by the drug trade and becoming tools of that trade both as dealers and delivery persons, a problem the foundation could not be indifferent to.



*Duang Prateep Foundation sustainable development programme*

— From a message sent to the VNGOC by the Duang Prateep Foundation

“ The successful (alternative development) projects have been quite diverse: educational, labor, and building of associations. They have all managed to ensure their continuity because they became sustainable. The basis of their effectiveness resides in the fact that they started with an assessment of needs, and a previous theoretical model with clearly established objectives and beneficiaries.”



*Products from the Cooperativa Agroindustrial  
Naranjillo alternative development project*

— *Report of the Regional Consultation for Latin America and  
the Caribbean*

The Regional Consultations were the mechanism we chose to collect qualitative data and to draw on the experience and expertise of NGOs around the world. Three regionally based organisations led the consultation, supported by a representative of the NGO Committee. Participants were by invitation and the aim was to have a representative balance of the NGOs working in the region. Where possible and appropriate, organisations with a large membership or network base were given a higher priority but organisations concerned with HIV/AIDS, human rights, alternative development (including farmers/peasants organisations) were invited, as were organisations of users and of young people. The actual selection procedure varied from region to region but all were required to follow the criteria established by "Beyond 2008" and to have a transparent selection procedure.

Each regional consultation was asked to consider a number of specific questions, with the questions specific to each of the Objectives – achievements since 1998; engagement with UN and governmental bodies; high order principles for the future development of drug policy. This section provides a selection of some of the comments and conclusions from the consultations.

### Collaboration with Governments and inter-governmental bodies

#### *North Africa and the Middle East*

In some countries NGOs are members of National Committees for drug addiction and prevention; some of the National Committees are inactive; the National Committees need reactivation and their role should be well developed and have a good representation of the NGO sector; good governance is essential for the work of these National Committees.

There is not a clear mechanism of collaboration. In most countries collaboration is circumstantial.

#### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

Although one of the main achievements of the NGOs has been the significant growth of organizations that treat addictions; in certain countries this situation has reinforced the central governments' abandonment of their social responsibilities towards this problem. They have allowed the NGOs to lead (sometimes even exclusively) all the actions that address the problem.



*Working Group at the Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean*

#### *East and Southeast Europe and Central Asia*

In some regions there are mechanisms already making it possible for non-governmental sector to cooperate with state structures. Executive or legislative branch structures have coordinating councils (i.g. in Georgia, Ukraine, in Kazan city) and NGOs can participate in policy development and law-making within this framework. The most prominent example is Russian Tatarstan republic, where NGOs collaborate in coalitions with the state via consultative councils, started with help of the president of Tatarstan and city administrations. That is the result of NGOs being active, leadership of the president and engagement of those working in state agencies.

### *East and Southeast Europe and Central Asia*

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have positive experience of cooperating with certain governmental agencies. For instance, in Uzbekistan, NGOs are cooperating successfully with the police structures (MVD) about information and education provision for policemen. Police authorities sign agreements about these arrangements and make a plan (schedule).



*Participants at the Regional Consultation for East & Southeast Europe and Central Asia – Belgrade*

### *Western Europe*

NGOs in general are not participating in any preparatory work related to the above mentioned UN meetings or activities of UN organizations. Some recommendations were formulated regarding the better involvement of civil society in this type of high level meetings and activities. The only reverberating motive was that civil society should find its position in the national context in order to be able to make its voice easy to hear in wider context. UNAIDS was mentioned again as a positive example. There is definitely room for improvement in the dialogue between NGOs and governments and NGOs and UN agencies. An improvement will also require a change in mentality and consciousness.

### *Southern Africa*

When policy decisions are made stake-holders are notified and there is consultation of legislation effecting NGO's.

### *Western Africa*

In the majority of the countries of Western and Central Africa, there are national committees where the governments and NGOs meet regularly to discuss issues on drugs. Thus, through these national committees, NGOs are associated with the development of policies, strategies and practice regarding drugs in these countries. But in a minority of the countries where these committees are not functional or do not exist, there has not been any dialogue between NGO and Governments.

### *Eastern Africa*

Overall, efforts are made in this region by governments to consult with NGOs. For example, in Kenya, when the National Drug Master Plan was put together NGO's were consulted and there are invitations sent from NACADA whenever an activity is to take place. Other countries in region gave mixed responses stating that there was no formal mechanism in place for NGO involvement with governments.

### *South Asia*

In most of the countries, there is no formal consultation mechanism in place to have continuous dialogue between the parties. If formal channels exist, they are not utilised efficiently and governmental engagement with NGOs remains a theoretical option.

By the same token, there are various obstacles within civil society which imposes difficulties on having a successful co-operation with GOs. One of these problems is the underdeveloped self-organisation and network building capacity among NGOs, therefore their ability to present themselves as equal partners to governments is inappropriate. Nevertheless there are positive examples of particular ministries and governmental offices maintaining dialogues with NGOs in each country. These dialogues range from regular monthly meetings to ad-hoc exchanges of views throughout the region.



*Working Group at the Regional Consultation for South Asia*

### *Australasia*

Participants' engagement with central government is limited. Government processes, and participants' limited resources do not always support effective dialogue and consultation.

Ideological differences between government and non-government sectors can be a barrier to effective engagement.

Participants reported minimal engagement and limited awareness of ways to work with UNODC and other UN agencies; however they have practical ideas for improving engagement with the UN, and are clear about what they can contribute, and what they want to receive from collaboration and engagement with central government and the UN on drug policy issues.

### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

It has been the general consensus that the consultation mechanisms that adequately function are those related to HIV/AIDS (and in other countries related to public health). Members of the civil society actively participate in these spaces so as to design policies, plans and programs. There has even been a mention that there are consulting committees that include the participation of NGOs.

The NGOs' contribution to collaboration and commitment would create a better connection between global and community-based work; and better access to vulnerable populations at risk who have greater need for interventions.

### *North America – St Petersburg*

There should be a designated action-oriented NGO (or committee of NGOs) that supports the tenets of the UN Drug Conventions to serve as liaison with the UN on behalf of NGOs in North America. This would greatly enhance two-way communication on behalf of NGOs in North America and work as a mechanism to assist in applying for and obtaining consultative status so that a broader representation of NGOs is apparent in UN engagement with civil society.

### *Southeast & East Asia and the Pacific*

All participants agreed that UNODC and other UN agencies needed to lend themselves to full and meaningful involvement with NGOs at all levels (planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation), both in terms of service delivery and policy across local, national, regional and global platforms. NGOs need for UNODC and governments to acknowledge that civil society groups have a unique capacity to reach out to citizens and make a difference.

### *North America – Vancouver*

NGOs from both Canada and the US reported some gratifying collaborations at the level of engagement with municipal governments. The Toronto Drug Strategy brought together people from enforcement, treatment, prevention and harm reduction, geographical representation, users and youth who were all at the table for the whole process of development, implementation and management. Vancouver had a similar experience.

There is need to articulate mechanisms of accountability whereby NGO delegates will be truly representative of the range of collective concerns. The establishment of a North American task force reporting to the UN was another suggested means of giving much greater voice to NGO concerns in regard to strategy, policy and practice.



*Participants at the Regional Consultation for North America held in St Petersburg, Florida*

### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

The higher principles that should guide future deliberations on drug issue should be:

- Coherence between the drug control system and the human rights' protection system, which should be based on equity, respect and access.
- The drug problem should be addressed from a public health approach, thus requiring a multisectorial approximation that points out the different aspects of the problem and that also takes into consideration the consequences of the drug economy.
- It is necessary for WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, Human Rights Bodies and NGOs to have a larger participation in the elaboration of drug policies and in program implementation. Currently, these UN bodies play a secondary role while NGOs are totally excluded.



*Participants at the Regional Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean*

### *Sub-Saharan Africa*

Since supply is mandatory then the demand side should be as well——

- Clarify relationship between supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction, implementation needs to be tightened up
- All resources for technology need to be improved
- All documentation should be in sync with legislation and conventions
- Revision of convention should happen on a timely basis
- Political expertise updated to know how to address issues properly
- More positive political involvement on an ongoing basis
- People who have experienced the problem need to be in the development process
- All UN proposals need to be integrated (drug control policies need to be integrated into all other conventions)



*Participants at the Regional Consultation for Sub-Saharan Africa – Dakar Meeting*

#### *North America – St Petersburg*

The UN should affirm prevention as the cornerstone of drug policy.

Existing UN conventions should be enforced by adding consequences for countries who fail to comply.

Nation-based, culturally sensitive NGO councils should be established to gather data from community-based prevention and treatment programs for the purpose of discovering evidence-based programs that work.

The development of rational substance abuse policy by the UN should be based on international NGO input.

Policies that enable the continued use or administration of illicit drugs should be rejected.

Prevention should be defined as abstinence-based.

Abstinence should be the primary goal of treatment.

An international NGO council should be developed that reports directly to the UN on drug abuse education, prevention and treatment.

#### *North America – Vancouver*

Higher order governing principles offered for future UN efforts to address drugs tended to reflect commitment to primacy for human rights, scientific justification, considerations of public health, social justice and personal wellbeing, and also for non-punitive measures.

Inclusive participation of stakeholders was another major theme, with a concern expressed to honor state sovereignty without ignoring a nation's accountability. Local empowerment also featured in several comments.

Clear and comprehensive evidence should govern reclassification of substances (esp. cannabis) and all changes made to UN treaty language and obligations. This would follow from recognition of the need for conventions to be living documents aligning with growing knowledge in the field.

Regarding enforcement, when not calling for broad regulation, the insistence was on flexibility to forego punitive measures and pursue alternatives to incarceration. Exercise of penal sanctions should come only as a last resort when legal action can be shown locally effective (and not in violation of human rights norms).

*Southeast & East Asia and the Pacific*

The UN be more global and multi-cultural in outlook UN policies and efforts be harmonized based on international guidelines and UN charters; UN include human rights principles and compliance of the CND and UN bodies to other conventions (CEDAW, UNCRC, UNGASS on HIV, UNGASS on Children “World Fit for Children”, UNGASS on Drugs, ILO conventions among others and harmonization of these conventions).

The UN incorporate the principles of corporate social responsibility.

UNODC promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to drug-related issues that goes beyond drug control and incorporate and support a public health mandate.



Mirella's Supportive Cheer



*View of a Meeting of the Regional Consultation for Southeast & East Asia and the Pacific, at the Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel*

*East & Southeast Europe and Central Asia*

United Nations have to act as a guarantee for these freedoms listed in several conventions and ought to recommend all countries that signed the conventions to observe standard human rights when working on drug demand reduction programmes, undergoing treatment and rehabilitation of people with drug dependency: “UN has to point out to the governments: you are violating human rights by not offering any treatment services”.

*South Asia*

- The CND and UNODC should periodically and openly review the Conventions and their implementation, its objectives and its operations, even with involvement of external third parties.
- NGOs should be accepted as equal partners and provided with space and time for negotiations.
- The principle of 'balanced approach' should be implemented and should not just a catchphrase.
- There is a need for international treatment standards.
- Cultural specifics should be taken into account of policy planning.
- Human rights must be the foundation of drug policy.
- Gender sensitive representation should be enforced.
- Ensuring consistency within the UN agencies transparency.

#### *Western Europe*

Human Rights and Dignity should be the principles of the highest order. The Drug Conventions should be about people who use drugs and not only about drugs.

Protection of human rights implies a balance between the human rights of drug users and the human rights of families, parents and children to be protected against the dangers of drugs.

The Right to Health and the Right to Justice were also mentioned as two high order principles. The Right to Health implies that drug control should strive for the optimum between being available for rational medical use and the prevention of being available for harmful non-medical use.

Drug control must be based on the principles of effectiveness and a balance between supply and demand reduction.

Policies must be based upon a reliable and comprehensive evaluation system. The UN drug policy needs to build on what is working in the field.

#### *Australasia*

The key principles identified by participants were:

- application of a health and well-being focus to drug policy;
- consideration of drug use as part of the wider social, economic, cultural and political context;
- adoption of a harm minimisation framework;
- primacy of human rights in all drug policy;
- balancing supply control, harm minimisation and demand reduction; and
- direct NGO involvement.

“ *Money alone is not enough. Governments need to recognize that the fieldwork done by the NGOs is fundamental to success in all aspects of this matter.* ”

— Eva Tongue, Chair, VNGOC

The Vienna Forum, from 7 – 9 July 2008, was the culmination of the global consultation process. Each of the nine regions was invited to nominate 21 NGOs to participate, in addition to the three regionally based organisations responsible for the regional consultation and the representative of the Vienna NGO Committee. Clear criteria for nominations were established and all nominations were reviewed and approved by the “Beyond 2008” Programme Committee. In addition the Programme Committee invited relevant international NGOs to participate and each member organisation of the Vienna NGO Committee was invited to nominate one representative.

All participants received a Global Summary Report which brought together all the information collected through the NGO Questionnaire and the 9 Regional Consultations and a draft Declaration and three draft Resolutions prepared using the consultation reports and the global summary. These documents were sent out in advance to allow time for participants to review and consult on them.

At the opening of the Forum there were addresses from Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Mr Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of UNODC and Ambassador François-Xavier Deniau for the Presi-



*The Opening of the Vienna Forum*

dency of the European Union. There were also welcomes from the then Chair of the VNGOC, Dr Eva Tongue, from Msgr William O’Brien, Chair of the New York NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and from Michel Perron, Chair of the “Beyond 2008” Steering Committee and of the Vienna Forum.

During the Forum itself the draft documents were reviewed line by line and amended on the basis of consensus. Where there were particularly contentious issues, those most concerned were invited to work together to draft language which was acceptable to them all. In this way, after three days of intense and vigorous debate a robust and challenging Declaration and Resolutions focussed on each of the “Beyond 2008” objectives, were adopted by consensus as the shared voice of the global NGO community. Below are a few of the comments and messages that were received afterwards.

\* \* \*

*From Martin Jelsma’s TNI Blog*

Earlier this week, 7-9 July, 300 delegates met in Vienna for the Beyond 2008 NGO Forum meant to provide civil society input for the 10-year UNGASS review. It was the culmination of a series of regional NGO consultations that took place over the past six months all across the globe. Given the wide range of views held by NGOs many –including myself- were sceptical about the outcomes of the process. Would it really be possible to agree by consensus on a joint declaration and resolutions? Well, we did it...

The chosen format for the Beyond 2008 meeting resembled a session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) where government delegates discuss the world drug situation and adopt policy resolutions. Observers from NGOs and international organizations are allowed to attend. This time it was the other way around. In the same conference hall, NGO delegates negotiated resolutions and government representatives were allowed as observers.

As was to be expected, many issues triggered complicated debates, but

*continued next page*

*from previous page*

after a first worrying day gradually a mood of consensus-seeking started to grow. Where sharp disputes appeared in the plenary, the issue was deferred to an informal drafting group to come up with compromise language. In those corridor meetings long and sometimes tense negotiations took place on issues such as harm reduction, definitions of ‘drug use’, ‘illicit use’, ‘misuse’ and ‘harmful use’, the involvement of most affected groups including drug users in policy making, the unintended negative consequences of the current drug control system, the eradication of drug-linked crops in absence of viable development alternatives, etc.

The draft texts on the table were based on the outcomes of the regional consultations and excluded some issues that had proven to be too controversial or had not been raised in the preparatory process for other reasons. The attempts to incorporate new paragraphs led to some frustrations, as tabling new proposals was postponed until finishing the calling the existing draft, by when no time was left to discuss them. This happened for example to paragraphs calling for a review of the current drug control framework including a possible revision of treaties, calling for the UN drug conventions to be interpreted in a manner consistent with UN human rights obligations, or for support to declassify the coca leaf by taking it off the list of prohibited substances.

Still, many other issues were thoroughly discussed and the [ultimate outcome](#) is a set of recommendations containing clear harm reduction and human rights language, calling for evidence-based, culturally and socially sensitive approaches, calling for inclusion of all affected and stigmatised populations, access to alternative livelihoods before eradication, improved access to essential medicines under treaty control, encouraging alternatives to criminal/prison sanctions, analysing unintended consequences of the drug control system, taking into account traditional licit uses, and many more. A remarkable accomplishment that will impress many officials now involved in the UNGASS review process as this can be presented as a consensus outcome of NGOs from all around the world and from all different ideological perspectives.

There were definitely flaws and weaknesses in the process. One key omission was the absence of farmer representatives or NGOs working on cultivation issues in the regional consultations. There were very few now at the forum, but it was clear all along that the focus was primarily on drug use. The issues related to cultivation, production, conflict or development were therefore largely absent from the discussion. Still the Beyond 2008 Forum was a most worthwhile exercise with substantial debate, newly found common ground and unexpected outcomes.

\* \* \*

Dear Friends,

#### **“Beyond 2008 Forum” – The Vienna NGO Declaration**

From 7 to 10 July 2008 a new chapter in the history of NGOs was written. Some 200 delegates representing grass roots movements, networking organizations and other national and international NGOs from all continents met at the United Nations in Vienna to develop a position paper as their contribution to the review of the 1998 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Illicit Drugs.

This NGO forum was the culmination of years of hard work by the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs (VNGOC). It was preceded by intensive fundraising, wide spread and extensive regional consultations, countless hours of planning sessions etc.

The Vienna meeting itself was something to be proud of. The delegates represented a wide range of philosophies and positions; the debate and negotia-

*continued next page*

*from previous page*

tions were spirited and intensive. There was consensus on some issues; not on others, but a declaration did emerge. It is a thoughtful, responsive compromise in most of its points. It will certainly signal to the United Nations and the International community, that NGOs are a constructive and mature force to reckon with.

This was a mammoth undertaking, fraught with challenges and pitfalls. Having had the privilege to participate, I can't praise enough the VNGOC and its entire leadership for making this forum happen. Dr. Eva Tongue, the chairperson of the committee and her outstanding executive merit our praise and gratitude for providing us with this unique event.

\* \* \*

*From ICAA President's Circular*

In June 1998, the UN General Assembly met in a Special Session to address the world drug problem. This event was unique in that the General Assembly, for the first time, assigned the same level of importance to demand reduction as other components of drug control. The General Assembly also called upon NGOs to work closely with governments and others in assessing the drug problem, identifying viable solutions, implementing appropriate policies and programs, and committing to achieving significant and measurable results by 2008.

Working with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and numerous governments, the Vienna NGO Committee (VNGOC) organized a global consultation of NGOs culminating in the "Beyond 2008 – International NGO Forum" held in Vienna, Austria from 7-9 July, 2008. The Forum built on the recommendations coming

from the nine regional consultations which had been held. At the end of the Forum, a Declaration and three Resolutions were adopted by consensus among all those participating in the Forum. This was an historic achievement and reflected the maturity and commitment of the global NGO community. For the benefit of Canadian NGOs and other civil society organizations that were not present in Vienna, the document is available here in [English](#) and [French](#). Organizations may add their names to the list of supporters on the left by endorsing this historic document on the form below.

**Beyond 2008 Affirmation Form**

By completing the following form, you are affirming:

1. That you have authority to act on behalf of the organization named
2. That the named organization supports the Declaration and Resolutions adopted by consensus at the "Beyond 2008" International NGO Forum
3. That CARBC has permission to post the name (and website if provided) of the named organization as supporting the Declaration and Resolutions

Please complete all required fields and provide the link to your organization's website if you wish to have your listing linked to your site.



It was an extreme honour for me and my organization, CASTALIA (Uruguay), to be part of such an important enterprise for all of us and for building a much better world to live in for present and future generations.

We shall make a special link in our website with the Vienna NGO Committee. We shall write an article about the NGO Forum Beyond 2008 and inform the Governmental authorities about our resolutions.

“ We would like to congratulate on the successful forum! The proceeds reflected a distinct sense of responsibility, transparency and care. It was really constructive and positive meeting!

Everyone felt concerned and taking part in the process. NGO participation was for a change a fact not only a mere description of things!!

This, in fact, had influenced positively the Arab NGO s present at the meeting, which allowed us, Mentor Arabia, to carry it further and start the process of initiating a regional network that would pursue the main recommendations that emanated out of the discussions.

The encouraging feedback we received from our fellow Arab NGOs was motivating, especially that, to some of them, this was their first international encounter. ”

It was one of the commitments by all of those involved with "Beyond 2008" that they would use whatever possibilities they had to bring the Declaration and Resolutions to the attention of governments and international organisations. To assist in this task the documents were translated into the six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish) and were then sent to all participants and were downloadable from both the VNGOC and the UNODC web sites.

The Declaration and Resolutions were formally submitted to the Chair of the 52nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the President of the International Narcotics Control Board. Additionally they were sent to every Government Mission to the United Nations Organisations in Vienna. These were important because staff of these Missions would do the preparatory work for the High Level Segment of the 52nd Session and would negotiate the Political Declaration and Action Plan.

The autumn of 2008 was used by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to prepare for the High Level Segment in March 2009. As part of this preparatory process there were a number of Intergovernmental Expert Working Groups which met to review the data and agree conclusions for consideration by the inter-sessional meetings of the Commission, responsible for preparation of the High Level Segment in March 2009. The only direct NGO contribution to the preparatory work was from "Beyond 2008" at the Expert Working

*Three introductory audiovisual presentations were made by the Secretariat. .... Two representatives, speaking on behalf of the Vienna NGO Committee, reported on the outcome of the "Beyond 2008" NGO Forum that took place in Vienna, from 7 to 9 July 2008.*

*Delegations acknowledged the recommendations identified by the NGO Forum "Beyond 2008" regarding collaboration mechanisms between NGOs, Governments and international and regional bodies, particularly UNODC and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). Some delegations highlighted that the role of civil society would be broader than that of non-governmental organizations alone, and should include collaboration with other stakeholders.*

Group on Drug Demand Reduction. Michel Perron and David Turner made a presentation as part of the introduction to the whole discussion and It was encouraging to hear praise and support for the work and conclusions of "Beyond 2008" from so many countries and from around the world. It was even more encouraging to find language and proposals emerging in the final report which reflected the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum. And there was such insistence from a large number of countries that the conclusions of the report made specific reference to "Beyond 2008"

It was disappointing that the capacity of NGOs to create consensus from divergent voices and experiences through the "Beyond 2008" process could not be mirrored in the work of governments preparing the Political Declaration and Action Plan for the High Level Segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Nevertheless, these documents did contain a number of clear statements which reflected the recommendations contained in the Declaration and Resolutions adopted by the "Beyond 2008" Forum.

The significance of "Beyond 2008" was clearly recognised by the Commission when it decided that a guaranteed place should be made available for a statement to the General Debate of the High Level Segment on behalf of the Forum and when it requested the Vienna NGO Committee to nominate the NGO contributors to the Round Table sessions during the High Level Segment. And that recognition was generated by the way in which NGOs around the world brought the Declaration and Resolution to the attention of their networks and government.

*The delivery of comprehensive policy and programmes requires a multiagency approach. This should include health, social care, criminal justice, employment, education agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society. These policies and programmes should take full advantage of the activities of non-governmental and civil society organizations, such as those mainly reflected in the appropriate outcomes of the NGO Forum "Beyond 2008", held in Vienna, from 7 to 9 July 2008.*

Daniel Clément (*North Africa and the Middle East*)

1. J'ai mis en ligne sur notre site [www.amesip.org](http://www.amesip.org), à la page "News", le texte de votre message et des liens vers les traductions en 4 langues usitées au Maroc des résolutions et recommandation.
2. J'ai remis les textes, en langues arabes et françaises à Madame et Messieurs les Ministres de la Santé, du Développement Social, du Travail (avec lequel nous collaborons activement pour éradiquer le travail des enfants, ce qui nous rapproche du problème des drogues dites "douces"), des Affaires générales... A chacun, j'ai remis un CD contenant votre message, l'adresse de votre site web, les textes en 4 langues...
3. Prochainement, les textes seront en ligne sur [www.tanmia.ma](http://www.tanmia.ma) (annuaire des ONG marocaines).

Rui Martins (*Western Europe*)

Following your previous request, the promotion of the Declaration and Resolutions has been made directly to:

- President of the Republic and Consultants for the Social Affairs, Health and Health Policy;
- Prime Minister;
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Education;
- Ministry of Justice;
- Ministry of Social Affairs;
- High Health Commissary;
- Health General Director;
- National Agency on Drug Abuse;
- Parliament - President of Health Commission;
- Parliament - Presidents of Political Parties;
- EMCDDA;
- ISS Social Affairs National Agency;
- CNIS National Federation of NGO;
- National Agency on HIV/AIDS;
- UMP Portuguese Misericordias Federation;
- CNPJCR National Agency for Child and
- Youth Risk Protection.

Iqbal Masud (*South Asia*)

Greetings!

Thank you for your hard work to make a drug free world. I will promote "Beyond 2008" findings in South Asia. I would like to inform you that last month we were formed SAARC NGOs Network (South Asian) for drug prevention in Delhi, India and DAM one of the focal point of SAARC Network. Through this network I will promote "Beyond 2008" declaration.

Thanasis Apostolou (*Western Europe*)

The meeting was well prepared and very professionally managed. The quality of the meeting was really good The CND can take an example from this meeting.

The comments from the participants who are reacting, writing, exchange experiences and impressions are encouraging. It looks promising what has been achieved in Vienna. With this document NGO's can start discussions with their governments in the hope that the next CND will send an encouraging message to the world and will adopt a declaration that will provide guidance for a pragmatic and effective policy on drugs.

Alejandro Vassilaqui (*Latin America and the Caribbean*)

This letter have been sent to the people of DEVIDA, State Ministers, Regional Presidents and Mayors involved. Also we have attached the Declaration and Resolutions adopted.

Ahmad Al-Shatti (*North Africa and the Middle East*)

As a follow up I would like you to know the following:

1. the mother site of the event will be linked for both Ghiras home page as well as the Ministry of Health Kuwait.
2. we shall circulate a hard copies As well to all related agencies in Kuwait.
3. we shall build on the achievement at the local level into:
  - 3.1 participating Of NGO in the official delegates.
  - 3.2 nominating a National NGO focal points in Kuwait
  - 3.3 working on having a national information centre on drugs addiction and all related issues.

I need your continuous help Guidance in the following :

1. Welcome the chance to transmit or retransmit all the available media coverage of the event Beyond 2008 on Ghiras TV Channel.
2. Renew and circulate Ghiras TV invitation to ALL participants in ALL languages, to share with us their awareness media material ( videos, documentaries, clips, advertisement,..) to be transmitted free of charge on Ghiras satellites which is widely seen all over the worlds. it is indeed the first non-profit satellite TV Channel that specialised in drug related issues including (prevention, treatment, rehabilitation issues.).
3. To share and establish an data base for all the participants for a better networking to exchange , experiences and collective programs. In addition that will help in maximizing the list of participants in all future similar and related events.

Gino Vumbaca (*Australasia*)

Just wanted to let you know that just prior to Xmas the ANCD sent correspondence and the resolutions to every Federal Minister involved in health, law enforcement, foreign affairs and community sectors (including the Prime Minister).

Elena Goti (*Dianova International*)

This message is to let you know that we - Dianova Internationale - have translated the 'model letter' to Spanish and French and that it has been sent to authorities in the 13 countries where we operate; mainly to state representatives, and, in some cases, to regional or local officers.

Augusto Nogueira (*Southeast & East Asia and the Pacific*)

I send you a copy of the model letter that I had send to the Dr. Ip Peng Kin, President of the Social Welfare Bureau of Macau and as well CC to Dra. Celeste, Vong Yim Mui, Head of the Department for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse.

Eleonore Hauer-Rona (*International Council of Women*)

I have asked our secretariat to circulate also this information from you to all our members as we did already with the previous documented outcomes of the Beyond 2008 Forum.

Yolande Esther Lida-Kone (*Sub-Saharan Africa*)

Please receive a copy of letter that NGO Bethel Côte d'Ivoire sent to the Minister of security and to the General Secretary of CILAD of Côte d'Ivoire.

Brian Flanagan (*Australasia*)

A quick note to advise that I have shared your email/ attachments with the Drug Strategy Branch within the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing. This section is currently developing briefing documents for use by the Australian representative during the high Level Meeting in Vienna.

Abdoulaye Diouf (*Sub-Saharan Africa*)

Bonjour Chers Tous;

Dans le cadre de la vulgarisation des conclusions du forum tenu à Vienne en juillet (la déclaration des ONG) nous avons initié au Sénégal l'organisation d'un atelier de partage sur la déclaration avec la collaboration du Comité Interministériel de Lutte contre les Drogues présidé par le Ministre de l'Intérieur. Vont participer à cet atelier: la société civile, les différents ministères impliqués dans la lutte contre les drogues et les organisations internationales représentées à Dakar. l'atelier sera l'occasion d'échanger sur la déclaration et permettra une large diffusion de celle-ci. je vous pris chacun d'animer dans son pays en collaboration avec le Comité Interministériel de Lutte contre les Drogues et les Organisation de la société Civile, un atelier de ce genre pour une meilleure diffusion de la déclaration et sa bonne compréhension. je vous pris de bien vouloir réagir pour me dire ce que vous pensez de cette proposition je voudrais vous proposer la même démarche de la sous région. je te tiendrais informé de la suite.

Bon souvenir et à Bientôt.

(*Western Europe*)

Several Greek NGOs active in the field of Drugs, participated in a meeting organized in Athens on 29 September 2008 by the Andreas G. Papandreou Foundation and discussed the declaration and the resolutions adopted by the International NGO Forum "Beyond 2008" which has been held in Vienna from 7-9 July 2008. The outcome of their discussion is the following report which will be send to the Greek government, the Hellenic Parliament, the political parties and civil society organisations.

Sergey Poliattykin (*East & Southeast Europe and Central Asia*)

We'll try to distribute the Declaration and Resolutions widely.

Mina Seinfeld de Carakushansky (*Latin America and the Caribbean*)

Through BRAHA - Brazilian Humanitarians in Action, we will certainly publicize the Declaration and Resolutions on 9th July, 2008 at the Beyond 2008 Forum in Vienna.

Evelyn Guiralt (*Latin America and the Caribbean*)

La Declaración ha sido distribuida entre las Organizaciones Miembros de la Federación Venezolana de Centros de Prevención y Tratamiento; a los Directores de Centros Preventivos de empresas que mi institución (Venezuela Libre De Drogas) asesora en la materia; Organizaciones del Nodo Andino pertenecientes a la RIOD; Así como a otras instituciones y profesionales del Área.

Así mismo a todos los profesionales que laboran en Fundación Venezuela Libre de Drogas. En la próxima semana será incluida en la página Web <http://www.librededrogas.org/>

Sorasit Sangprasert (*Southeast & East Asia and the Pacific*)

Thank you very much for the message pertaining to the Declaration and Resolutions adopted by consensus on the 9th of July 2008. I am pleased to inform you that the aforementioned texts has already been uploaded on the ASPAC NGO's website ([www.aspacngo.org](http://www.aspacngo.org)) since the mid of July. The Declaration and Resolutions have also been submitted to the Royal Thai Government via Office of the Narcotics Control Board of Thailand for considering in supporting them at the upcoming High-level Conference of CND in March 2009. The linkage from ASPAC NGO website to VNGOC is also available on it since the regional consultation at Macau, S.A.R. China was concluded.

Marcus Day (*Latin America and the Caribbean*)

I found the entire exercise uplifting would state such. The entire process was one that brought together differing and diverse views and positions and created unanimity and mutual understanding where there was only polarization and disunity prior.

Tamara Alsous (*North Africa and the Middle East*)

We will publish a Report at The Youth Times Newspaper about the Declaration and Resolutions, and of course I will put a link of all the addresses so as to let all our Readers be able to look at it, also I will put the link on our website with all the information needed.

Lord Mancroft, Trustee of Mentor UK, speaking in a debate in the UK House of Lords

It is important that we try to find ground that we have in common. This is not an adversarial debate; nor should it be a party-political debate. Everyone, on all sides of both Houses, would like to see a reduction in drug use and the harm caused by drugs. Nobody wants to be soft on drugs but, increasingly, fewer and fewer people want a war on drugs, either. The only beneficiaries of wars on drugs are the drug dealers, who make huge amounts of money out of them, and the main casualties of the wars on drugs are our young people and their families.

At the same time as the meeting in Vienna in March, the various NGOs came together and produced a report, Beyond 2008 Declaration. It is a wordy document. It is signed by 500 NGOs from 116 countries and 65 international NGOs. .... They have said, in a very polite and NGO-ish way: "This is all very well, UN, but please take the focus off supply reduction and on to demand reduction". This means treatment, education and prevention. At the risk of boring this House, the only way that we will ever really resolve the drug issue is through prevention. We still spend less than 10 per cent of the country's drugs budget on prevention. We still spend well over 50 per cent on trying to control a health problem using the criminal justice system, which clearly cannot work.

Arthur T. Dean (*North America*)

I believe it is important that we work together to help the United Nations and all Member States to address and fight the abuse of drugs rather than fighting each other. The abuse and misuse of drugs continue to be a worldwide problem and we must be respectful of those with different views while standing firm on our own convictions.

I enjoyed the conference and we at CADCA will continue to be involved and supportive of the UN work to help Member States prevent drug abuse and address its devastating consequences.

Sana Ullah Rathore (*South Asia*)

I have shared the declaration in the meetings of 300 NGOs Network of Anti Narcotics Force and Punjab AIDS Consortium. I will also share with the other stake holders.

Franklin Alcaraz  
(*Latin America and the Caribbean*)

Estimados amigos de  
"Némesis Internacional":

Les adjuntamos un documento muy importante: Las conclusiones del Foro "Más allá del 2008" realizado recientemente en Viena. Encuéntralo en el adjunto.

Genevieve Horwood  
(*International Drug Policy Consortium*)

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed and learnt from the Beyond 2008 event and to thank you for organizing such a wonderful opportunity for civil society engagement in high-level drug policy.

From a letter to the Transition Team of President Elect Obama signed by at least 60 NGOs  
(*North America*)

- The US government should support the global consensus on the need to provide services to help drug users avoid HIV. You have already expressed your support of federal funding for needle and syringe exchange. The US should affirm the importance of expanding access to these services worldwide;
- The US government uphold the principles of the Beyond 2008 consensus document at the upcoming Ministerial portion of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs meeting;
- The US government should support calls for scale-up of evidence-based treatment for drug addiction, including access to methadone and buprenorphine.
- The US government should support efforts to remove the restrictions on access to controlled drugs for medical use for pain relief and treatment of drug dependence.

### Declaration to the Bangladesh Government (*South Asia*)

Activities will be promoted with the involvement of civil society after the preparation of a program calendar in February next. The Department of Narcotic Control Director General (DG) Humayun Kabir said this while adopting the “Beyond 2008” Declaration on Tuesday, 13 January 2008. He further said, it will bring immense benefit if a united effort of government and civil society is pursued in the light of the experiences of NGOs.

Press Release on submitting the “Beyond 2008”

### Fredrick Polak (*Western Europe*)

Directly after receiving the message that the Declaration and Resolutions were on the VNGOC website in English, I distributed that message and the URL.

\* \* \*



For the High Level Segment of the 52nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Vienna NGO Committee, "Beyond 2008" and NGOs from around the world had a high profile.

We were delighted that Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden, President of the Mentor Foundation, accepted our invitation to introduce the "Beyond 2008" Declaration and Resolutions at the opening session of the High Level Segment. Queen Silvia had addressed the UNGASS in 1998 and Sweden has been a strong supporter of NGO involvement for many years and hosted the first NGO World Forum in 1986.

On the evening of 10 March there was a reception for Queen Silvia, co-hosted by the Swedish Ambassador and the Vienna

NGO Committee. This was attended by High Representatives of UN Member States, senior officers of UNODC and representatives of NGOs who had played a significant role in "Beyond 2008". The reception gave an opportunity for informal dialogue and exchange of ideas. There were brief speeches by Ms. Maria Larsson, Minister for Elderly Care and Public Health of Sweden, Mr Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of UNODC, David Turner, Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and Michel Perron, Chair of the "Beyond 2008" Steering Committee. During the reception Queen Silvia was presented with the VNGOC Award for outstanding service in support of the global effort to reduce illicit/harmful drug use

On the 11 March, Queen Silvia presented the Declaration and Resolutions adopted by the "Beyond 2008" Forum to the High Representatives of UN Member States. In her speech Queen Silvia referred to her role as President of the Mentor Foundation and specifically highlighted the key messages which had come from the global consultations and been incorporated into the documents adopted in July 2008. In particular she drew attention to three key points.



*Queen Silvia of Sweden receiving the VNGOC*

#### Opening Session of the High Level Segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

**"First, it spoke very clearly about the concept of shared responsibility in addressing the impact of drug abuse,** a concept you have included as one of the topics for the round tables. As is well known, it is only through an effective partnership between member states, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UN organizations and NGO's that we can make a true difference in the lives of those affected by drug use. Mr. Costa is known for saying "drug issues are too important to be left to governments alone". I would suggest to you all that Beyond 2008 shows a serious and concerted attempt by NGO's to be held



*Queen Silvia addressing the Opening Session of the High Level Segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs*

accountable for their actions and shows their willingness to work alongside you. There is a real opportunity now to take this willingness on board and to find improved mechanisms for collaboration, partnership and shared responsibility.

**Next, Beyond 2008 brought the voice of those most affected to the table.** Most of us in this room enjoy a living standard and opportunities which are far beyond those of the vast majority of the world's population.

Often it is those who are most marginalized and most at risk that have the weakest voice and yet we must hear that voice and work with them. Beyond 2008 brings a fresh and insightful perspective to this debate. It may be difficult at time to connect in a tangible fashion the impact of your work on people across the globe, yet there is an inextricable linkage between your decisions and priorities and the health of people. Beyond 2008 sought to bring that perspective to the table. **Finally, Beyond 2008 created a call for action.** While you gather here to adopt a Political Declaration and Action Plans, we know this is but a milestone on a long journey. NGO's have demonstrated their resolve, capacity and willingness to work with you as member states, with the Commission itself and the UNODC and related organizations. Beyond 2008's recommendations along with your Political Declaration and Action Plans are both statements of resolve and responses to a major concern affecting so many lives. I look forward to these calls for action being merged into a single, global effort."

\*\*\*

As the General Debate was drawing to a close, Michel Perron gave a statement on behalf of the global NGO community which had participated in the "Beyond 2008" process.



*Michel Perron presenting "Beyond 2008" at the General Debate of the High Level Segment*

He noted that the NGO community had put serious effort into this historic process as a demonstration and understanding of its shared responsibility and in response to the call from the UN and CND for civil society to become more engaged and to contribute to the review of the UNGASS on illicit drugs. But while "Beyond 2008" had been afforded the opportunity to contribute to the HLS preparations and this meeting, this had not applied to NGOs more broadly, CND needed to focus on improving its relationship with civil society at the gatherings, the regular meetings of CND and its inter-sessional meetings.

"Beyond 2008" had acknowledged the drug control conventions, the flexibility afforded within them and the role and mandate of the CND. Moreover, it had been able to agree on a term that continued to challenge the Commission and which was notably absent from the Political Declaration - harm reduction. As defined by the July Forum, it meant efforts primarily to address and prevent the adverse health and social consequences of illicit/harmful drug use, including reducing HIV and other blood borne infections.

The Forum had focused first on substance then words and there were important similarities between the conclusions of "Beyond 2008" and the Political Declaration. Specifically, we sought to give those most affected a voice. CND had responded by underscoring the role of affected populations and civil society entities to play a participatory role in formulating drug policy. We called

on the CND to re-affirm its commitment to fulfil the obligations and commitments of international instruments such as human rights protection and CND responded clearly supporting same. We called on the CND to ensure that drug demand reduction activities be considered as challenges of equal importance to and as required as supply reduction activities. Again we found a point of commonality. Finally we noted that while significant progress in specific instances have been achieved towards the UNGASS goals, generally results have been limited. Here again, we found common ground.

However, many recommendations that we saw as critical still awaited consideration and adoption by CND. These included improving how the CND conducted its work and development of a common standard against which demand, harm reduction and supply reduction activities could be measured in terms of their efficacy and outcomes. We also believed that CND should evaluate its own work and policies and identify ways in which its effectiveness and impact might be improved. We also recommended that CND review how other UN bodies of this type engage with civil society and affected populations and embrace a new way of working together. Finally we looked to CND to ensure that the voice of youth was present in its deliberations as they were all too often spoken of but not with.

\*\*\*

The two presentations made to the General Debate on behalf of "Beyond 2008" and the global NGO community received warm applause and were welcomed by Government and NGO representatives.

Whilst the General Debate was proceeding there were also a series of four round tables, each lasting for three hours and with a specific topic. These sessions were somewhat disappointing in that they tended to be national statements and there was no time for discussion or exploration of the issues. This aside, room was given for NGO contributions and "Beyond 2008" nominated the NGO participants from organisations which had taken part in the Forum and who were known to be attending the High Level Segment. As had been the case throughout the project, every effort was made to ensure a broad and balanced

selection with specific criteria for selection. On behalf of NGOs globally, the following organisations contributed to the round tables:

**Theme:**

Current and emerging challenges, new trends and patterns of the world drug problem and possible improvements to the evaluation system

**Contributors:**

Community Anti-Drugs Coalition of America, Beckley Foundation (on behalf of the International Drug Policy Consortium), Human Rights Watch

**Theme:**

Demand reduction, treatment and preventive policies and practices

**Contributors:**

CEDRO (on behalf of the Drug Prevention Network of the Americas), Global Youth Action Network (represented by Youth Rise), International Federation of NGOs for the Prevention of Substance Abuse

**Theme:**

Strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem using shared responsibility as a basis for an integrated, comprehensive, balanced and sustainable approach in the fight against drugs through domestic and international policies

**Contributors:**

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (on behalf of Beyond 2008), International Harm Reduction Association

**Theme:**

Countering illicit drug traffic and supply and alternative development

**Contributors:**

San Patrignano, Trans-National Institute

Perhaps if proof is needed that the work and experience of NGOs is important and valuable, then the round table sessions gave this. If a presentation was applauded and stimulated further discussion after the session had ended, it was almost inevitable that the presentation was from and NGO.

Throughout the meeting of CND there were side events sponsored by NGOs and well-attended by delegates from both Member States and NGOs. The Vienna NGO Committee sponsored or co-sponsored a number of events.



*Side event in honour of Queen Silvia of Sweden*

and Public Affairs, UNODC. Michel Perron made a presentation on the impact of "Beyond 2008" during the preparations for the High Level Segment of the Commission and on the Political Declaration which it would adopt. Barnabe D'Souza (India, South Asia), Rogers Kasirye (Uganda, Sub-Saharan Africa), Carmen Fernandez (Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean) and Ross Bell (New Zealand, Australasia) then spoke about the way in which they had been able to build on the achievements of "Beyond 2008" to work with governments and with new networks and to further the new common agenda on behalf of their constituencies.

On the 12 March the NGO Committee co-sponsored with UNODC an informal



*Informal Dialogue between Mr. Costa and NGOS*

On the 11 March, after the opening session, a side event in honour of Queen Silvia was held. This event was designed to demonstrate the impact of "Beyond 2008" on the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on governments and on NGO participants themselves. H.M. Queen Silvia made some opening remarks, followed by a statement from Mr Sandeep Chawla, Director of the Division for Policy Analysis

dialogue with Mr Costa, Executive Director of UNODC. This was a very well attended session and allowed an exchange of views which was greatly appreciated by those present. Inevitably there was not enough time to cover all the issues which people wished to raise. It was, though, an important occasion as it was the first such dialogue to be held and helped to strengthen the impression that through "Beyond 2008" NGOs are now seen as a serious and valued partner whose experience, expertise and values need to be engaged. We are pleased that it is now intended that this informal dialogue should be a regular feature.

During the regular session of the Commission, from 16 – 20 March, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs co-sponsored an event with WHO, the Federal Office of Public Health of Switzerland, the International Union Against Cancer and Human Rights Watch on access to essential medicines. The event was chaired by David Turner and as well as speakers from most of the sponsors, we were honoured to have



*Side event on access to essential medicines*

Professor Manfred Nowak, UN Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, address the meeting. This meeting highlighted the problems palliative care services faced in many parts of the world when trying to access and prescribe drugs for pain relief which, whilst listed as essential medicines by WHO, were also strictly controlled under the international drug conventions. This was one of the issues highlighted by "Beyond 2008" and referred to in the Political Declaration of the High Level Segment. At the end of its regular session the Commission adopted a proposal from the USA, supported by many countries, that the issue of access to essential medicines should be a specific topic on the agenda of the 53rd Session of the Commission.

The VNGOC Policy Forum was focussed on "Good Practice in Cyber Space". It aimed to highlight ways in which information technology was and could be harnessed for prevention, early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation and re-integration. The event was chaired by Rita Notarandrea, Deputy CEO of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and the speakers were Teuvo Peltoniemi, President of PrevNet, Giovanna Campello of

UNODC, Andrew Brown, Coordinator of the Drug Education Forum in the UK, Sonita Abrhams of RISE Life Management Services in Jamaica, Tarak Gawad, President of the International Society for Addiction Medicine and Shamim Garda, Director of SANCA, South Africa. The Committee also hosted a meeting jointly with UNODC to explore ways in which NGOs could advocate for and contribute to the new UNODC/WHO Joint Action Programme on Drug Treatment and Care. This new programme represents an important development which we have greatly welcomed. It is in many ways a concrete example of the developments which "Beyond 2008" called for and we will continue to work closely with the programme to support its development and implementation.



*NGO / UNODC meeting on advocacy for treatment and promotion of the Joint UNODC/WHO Programme on Drug Treatment and Care*

Many other NGOs organised side events during the meeting of the Commission, amongst them the Beckley Foundation, the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, Corporación Andina de Fomento, the Drug Free America Foundation, Drug Scope, Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior, the Harm Reduction Coalition, Human Rights Watch, the International AIDS Society, the International Council on Security and Development, the International Drug Policy Consortium, the International Harm Reduction Association, the Open Society Institute and Youth RISE,. It was both exciting and stimulating to see such an active and informed NGO presence contributing to and placing challenges before the Commission. And as if the substantial NGO presence and contribution was not obvious enough, the Mae Fah Luang Foundation of Thailand supplied coffee and a range of products from its sustainable development activities to delegates.

\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Perron and Mr. Turner,

Thank you for your letter of 15 July officially sharing with me the Declaration and the three resolutions adopted by participants with consensus at the Beyond 2008 Global Forum held in Vienna on 7-9 July. I would like firstly to congratulate you for your commitment and leadership that brought together the civil society to speak with one voice on illicit/harmful drug use and gather consensus on decisions and resolutions.

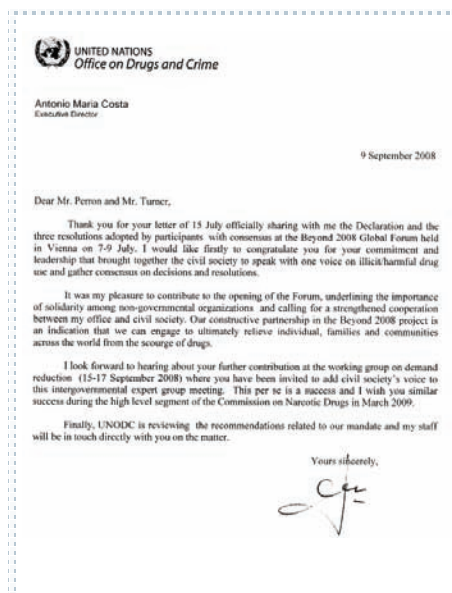
— It was my pleasure to contribute to the opening of the Forum, underlining the importance of solidarity among non-governmental organizations and calling for a strengthened cooperation between my office and civil society. Our constructive partnership in the Beyond 2008 project is an indication that we can engage to ultimately relieve individual, families and communities across the world from the scourge of drugs.

I look forward to hearing about your further contribution at the working group on demand reduction (15-17 September 2008) where you have been invited to add civil society's voice to this intergovernmental expert group meeting. This per se is a success and I wish you similar success during the high level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009.

Finally, UNODC is reviewing the recommendations related to our mandate and my staff will be in touch directly with you on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Antonio Maria Costa  
*Executive Director*



Since the meeting of the Commission, UNODC management has approved an informal plan of action to maintain the open dialogue with Civil Society and operationalize “Beyond 2008”

Dear Messisurs Perron and Turner,

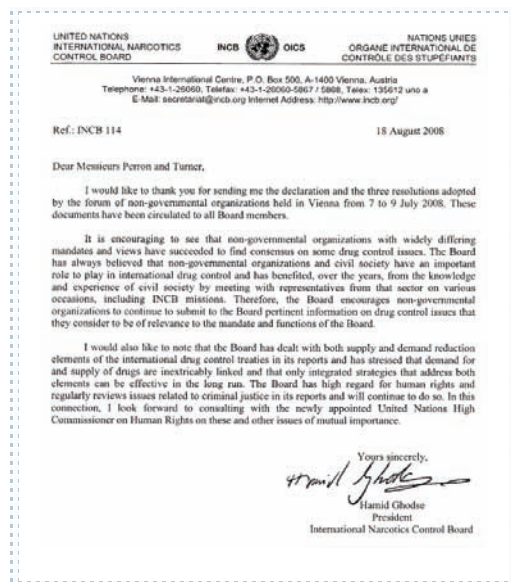
I would like to thank you for sending me the declaration and the three resolutions adopted by the forum of non-governmental organizations held in Vienna from 7 to 9 July 2008. These documents have been circulated to all Board members.

It is encouraging to see that non-governmental organizations with widely differing mandates and views have succeeded to find consensus on some drug control issues. The Board has always believed that non-governmental organizations and civil society have an important role to play in international drug control and has benefited, over the years, from the knowledge and experience of civil society by meeting with representatives from that sector on various occasions, including INCB missions. Therefore, the Board encourages non-governmental organizations to continue to submit to the Board pertinent information on drug control issues that they consider to be of relevance to the mandate and functions of the Board.

I would also like to note that the Board has dealt with both supply and demand reduction elements of the international drug control treaties in its reports and has stressed that demand for and supply drugs are inextricably linked and that only integrated strategies that address both elements can be effective in the long run. The Board has high regard for human rights and regularly reviews issues related to criminal justice in its reports and will continue to do so. In this connection, I look forward to consulting with the newly appointed United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights on these and other issues of mutual importance.

Yours sincerely,  
Hamid Ghodse  
President

*International Narcotics Control Board*



The President of INCB agreed to meet annually with the VNGOC and to solicit the VNGOC's views on NGO's the Board could meet when undertaking their country missions. We also discussed the Annual Report of the Board and the thematic chapter where the Board discussed some specific aspect of drug policy or practice in relation to the drug control treaties. Professor Ghodse was interested to receive ideas through the VNGOC on possible themes.

*Report from a meeting with the President and Secretary of INCB*

Whilst these were responses from United Nations bodies, there were also many positive reactions from governments and “Beyond 2008” was referenced in many of the statements which were made at both the Expert Meetings and the Commission itself. A number of governments held consultation meetings with NGOs as part of their preparations for the High Level Segment. And at the Commission itself the Ambassador of the USA was kind enough to host a reception specifically for the NGOs attending the Commission. He praised the work of “Beyond 2008” and acknowledged that our own Declaration and Resolutions were better written and had greater coherence than the documents just adopted by the High Level Segment.

A simple statistic can show the change which has been achieved in just five years.

At the 47th Session of the Commission in 2005 there were 26 NGOs present as observers and 2 countries included an NGO on their national delegation.

At the 52nd Session of the Commission in 2009 there were at least 94 NGOs present as observers and 17 countries included an NGO on their national delegation. All NGOs on national delegations had been involved with “Beyond 2008” and almost all of the observer NGOs had been “Beyond 2008” participants.

In his closing statement to the High Level Segment Mr Costa thanked NGOs for "helping set the agenda Beyond 2008.". He also paid tribute "to all those people around the world who put this plan into action every day: the teachers, health and social workers, parents, police officers, mayors, mentors and members of civil society who - through their engagement and example - create a safer and healthier world." . We can say confidently that the objective of “Beyond 2008”, to bring a united NGO voice to the UN drug policy debate was achieved, although much work still remains.

\* \* \*



*Beyond 2008 Forum Press Conference*

The common agenda contained in the Declaration and Resolutions adopted in July 2008 provides a continued basis for NGO collaboration and advocacy in favour of effective, evidence based and just drug policy, strategy and practice. The Political Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the High Level Segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is a basis for future action but now requires planning to make it operational. NGOs will continue to have an important role both as partners in implementation but also as advocates for those most affected, innovators and promoters of humane and effective policy and practice and guardians of the high principles which they have committed themselves to uphold and implement.

The Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs has now adopted its Strategic Plan designed to take forward the work of "Beyond 2008". Through the implementation of this strategy we hope to continue the momentum which has been achieved and to continue pressing for adoption of all the resolutions adopted in July.

The major remaining gap is the creation of a real space for the engagement and involvement of civil society, in particular NGOs, in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. We will need to work to achieve a stakeholder partnership and one which recognises the value of direct experience and expertise.

Finally we need to build on and build up the networks established nationally, regionally and internationally through "Beyond 2008". These networks and our shared agenda are our strength and need to be nurtured and continued to provide the basis for a long term contribution to develop and improve drug policy, strategy and practice at all levels.

\*\*\*

Beyond 2008 and the work undertaken through the project was made possible through the generous support, both financial and in-kind, from Governments, Inter-Governmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations and private organisations. We acknowledge with thanks the support which has been provided.

## Governments and Inter-Governmental Organisations

\* \* \*

<u>Canada</u>	<u>Vancouver Drug Policy Office</u>
<u>European Commission</u>	<u>British Columbia Ministry of Health</u>
<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Health Canada</u>
<u>Italy</u>	
<u>Macau SAR, China</u>	
<u>South Africa</u>	
<u>Sweden</u>	
<u>United Kingdom</u>	

## Non-Governmental and Private Organisations

\* \* \*

<u>Alcohol and Drugs Information Centre (Sri Lanka)</u>	<u>Abuse CEDRO (Peru)</u>
<u>Anti-Drugs Association (Serbia)</u>	<u>Centre for Addictions Research of BC</u>
<u>Asian Harm Reduction Network</u>	<u>Centro Italiano di Solidarietà di Roma (Italy)</u>
<u>Association pour la Promotion du Centre de Sensibilisation et d'Information sur les Drogues (Sénégal)</u>	<u>Centros de Integración Juvenil (Mexico)</u>
<u>Australian National Council on Drugs</u>	<u>Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Bangladesh)</u>
<u>Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme (United Kingdom)</u>	<u>Drug Free America Foundation</u>
<u>Canadian Centre on Substance</u>	<u>Eurasian Harm Reduction Network</u>
	<u>European Cities Against Drugs</u>

<u>Hungarian Association on Addictions</u>	<u>Rotary International District 2450</u>
<u>Intercambios (Argentina)</u>	<u>San Patrignano (Italy)</u>
<u>International Drug Policy Consortium</u>	<u>South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drugs</u>
<u>International Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse</u>	<u>Shelter Don Bosco (India)</u>
<u>International Society for Addiction Medicine</u>	<u>The 2007-2009 Presidency of IFNGO</u>
<u>IOGT-NTO</u>	<u>The Council for Security and Development</u>
<u>Keeping the Door Open Coalition</u>	<u>The Mentor Foundation</u>
<u>Macau Foundation</u>	<u>The Open Society Institute</u>
<u>Mentor Arabia, Rotary Club</u>	<u>The Organization of the Families of Asia and The Pacific</u>
<u>North Giza (Egypt)</u>	<u>The Salvation Army</u>
<u>Mentor UK</u>	<u>The Venetian Hotel and Resort (Macau SAR)</u>
<u>New Zealand Drug Foundation</u>	<u>Uganda Youth Development Link</u>
<u>RISE Life Management Services (Jamaica)</u>	<u>Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa (Indonesia)</u>

\* \* \*

Beyond 2008 was a project implemented by the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The project could not have been undertaken so successfully without the active involvement of UNODC and we acknowledge with gratitude this partnership, especially the work of the Civil Affairs Team under Mirella Dummar Frahi and the support received from the Regional and Country Offices of UNODC. The officers of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs were also essential contributors and we would like to acknowledge the support and assistance of Eva Tongue, Barbara Walsberger and Wolfgang Köhler and the volunteers who greeted people at the airport and served as conference officers during the Vienna Forum.

*Nuno M. R. Jorge*

*President, O.F.A.P. - The Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific  
concurrently, President 2007-2009*

*IFNGO - The International Federation of NGOs for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse*

The Beyond 2008 Consultation Process was indeed a landmark. It brought to the different regions of the world the importance of cooperation by all parties concerned, governmental and non-governmental organisations, local and International, in a common cause. It was a showcase of the high priority given by the United Nations to the world-wide problem of illicit/harmful drug use and substance misuse.

OFAP, the Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific, and the 2007-2009 Presidency of IFNGO, The International Federation of Non Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, with head offices in Macau, were privileged to be part of this process, namely by hosting the Regional Consultation for the NGO Global Forum Beyond 2008, for Southeast and East Asia and the Pacific, under the High Patronage of the Hon. Dr. Edmond Ho, Chief Executive of the Macau S.A.R. and with the local support of the Government of the Macau S.A.R., the Macau Foundation and ARTM, the Association for Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau, among many others institutions and individuals of good will.

In this process I must also recognize the leadership of David Turner and Michel Perron, the assistance of UNODC, namely the representative for this consultation, Mirella Dummar Frahi, and, locally, my Vice Chair Augusto V. Nogueira, President of ARTM.

The three Regional Lead Organizations – AHRN, Asia Harm Reduction Network, IFNGO, The International Federation of Non Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, and YCAB, Yayasan Cinta Anak Bangsa – actively cooperated towards the success and balanced representation at this consultation, always with our common goals in mind.

We are facing a common problem in which vast resources are expended and which links arms trafficking, terrorism, human trafficking, corruption and money laundering with the undermining of civil institutions and incalculable harm to the health, well-being and security of individuals, families and communities. It is within this framework that we have to plan our actions, as they work together and support each other.



Today, we are challenged by difficulties which were unforeseen when the global community, through the United Nations, created its international system of drug control. Then the issue was largely the illicit production of drugs from plant products or the diversion of pharmaceutical products. Now, in addition to these there are a large number of illegally manufactured synthetic drugs, often produced locally, and many more people worldwide who are drug users.

The responses which we have relied upon previously are no longer sufficient. The wide range of substances, their attraction and ready availability to the younger generation is a reality that poses new challenges.

Around the world there are different cultural traditions, different attitudes from society towards drugs and different legislation which has and is evolving in response to the specific problems which individual countries face. These may be significantly different between countries and many times we waste time and resources confronting each other, instead of concentrating on finding effective and evidence based responses to illicit/harmful drug use and its associated problems, which should be our common objective.

In IFNGO and OFAP we are convinced that drug problems are people's problems. We cannot dissociate from the main focus – the human being – in our plans and actions, especially facing new developments such as HIV/AIDS and other blood borne diseases, which were not cause for concern three decades ago. We also note, as stated by WHO, that drug dependency is a disease, with the possibility of a genetic predisposition to dependence. Safeguarding human life, accompanied by the spirit of solidarity, must be paramount in our preoccupations, including the protection of third parties. In consequence, all drug control strategies should have a strong focus on public health measures, especially those leading to the containment or minimization of the adverse health and social consequences of drug misuse, including HIV and AIDS. There should be a well balanced and coherent strategy which seeks both to control supply, to prevent illicit/harmful drug use and substance misuse, to provide treatment and rehabilitation for those who have become dependent on drugs.

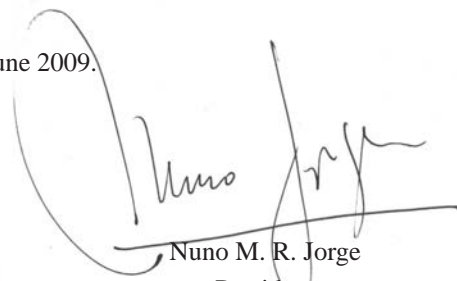
However, treatment and rehabilitation will be Pyrrhic victory, if we do not follow up with successful reinsertion and functional reintegration into society. At the end of the day we must deal with the causes, not only on a personal or family level, but within a

Nuno M. R. Jorge  
*President, O.F.A.P. - The Organization of the Families of Asia and the Pacific  
concurrently, President 2007-2009*  
*IFNGO - The International Federation of NGOs for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse*

a societal dimension, for both the dispossessed and the disillusioned, and the dignity of the human being.

The family is a cornerstone of society and a key component of efforts to prevent illicit/harmful drug use and to treat and rehabilitate people who have become drug dependent. OFAP - the Asia Pacific Family Organization is an active contributor to such activities. It is, therefore, privileged to lend its support and contribute to this, our common cause, by editing and publishing this commemorative edition, so as “to Help Make a Difference”.

Macau, June 2009.



Nuno M. R. Jorge  
President  
OFAP – the Asia Pacific Family Organization  
concurrently,  
President 2007-2009

IFNGO - The International Federation of Non Government  
Organizations For the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse.

Editors:

David Turner  
*Chair, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs*



Michel Perron  
*Vice-Chair, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs  
Chair, "Beyond 2008" Steering Committee*



Publishing:

Nuno Maria Roque Jorge  
*President, OFAP, the Organization of  
the Families of Asia and the Pacific,  
concurrently, President (2007-2009), IFNGO,  
the International Federation of NGOs for the  
Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse*



With the High Support of:



UNODC  
United Nations Office  
on Drugs and Crime



Government  
of Macau S.A.R.,  
China



Macau Foundation

O.F.A.P. - The Org. of the Families of Asia and the Pacific



Ave. do Coronel Mesquita 2-H, Macau S.A.R. / Tel: (853) 28529531  
ofap@macau.ctm.net / www.ofapmacau.org / Fax: (853) 28550224

Design and Production: