



# Civil Society Task Force on Drugs

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## Introducing the Selected Civil Society Speakers for the September Intersessional

The CSTF is pleased to announce and confirm the selection of civil society speakers who have been selected to speak at the September Intersessional. All selected speakers can be found [here](#). The event will take place **September 25-29th from 10:00am-1:00pm and 3:00pm-6:00pm in Board Room C in Vienna Austria**. The CSTF received over 63 applications for just 15 speaking slots. A working group was commissioned from CSTF organization representatives to select the 15 participants. Factors that were considered in the selection process included diversity of ideology and topics, balance in gender and regional representation, speaker expertise and relevance of the abstract to the speaking opportunity.

The working group had this statement to share with all applicants concerning the selection process:

*"The selection of speakers is always a difficult task. Not only does the working group have the responsibility to make sure that all topics are addressed but we also consider gender and regional representation to be fundamental. On behalf of the working group, I would like to thank all applicants. We are convinced that all contributions deserved a slot. If it is not on this occasion, then definitely in one of the upcoming events. We acknowledge and reiterate the importance of having a strong representation of civil society at the debates that will lead to better drug policies in challenging times."*

-Peter Muyschondt, speaking on behalf of the Speaking Selection Working Committee.

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Meet some of our member organizations and their representatives



#### WORLD DRUG REPORT LAUNCH

The first CSTF statement to the UN in 2018 occurred during the Launch in Vienna, NYC, Nairobi and Geneva

# Demystifying the lead-up to the 2019 Ministerial Segment

At the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), governments have been working hard on preparations for the “High-Level Ministerial Segment” that will take place in March 2019. Next year marks the end of the ten-year target period set forth in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. As such, it is an opportunity for governments to discuss and agree to what comes next, beyond 2019.

In June 2018, government representatives agreed on a CND Work Plan for the remainder of the year – with three “intersessional” meetings planned to review progress since 2009, and discuss the way ahead:

- 25-28 September: covering demand reduction and related measures, access to controlled substances for medical and scientific, cross-cutting issues (human rights, youth, children, women and communities), and preparations for March 2019.
- 22-25 October: covering supply reduction and related measures, cross-cutting issues (evolving reality, trends, etc.), the diversion and trafficking of precursors, alternative development, international cooperation, crop control strategies, and preparations for March 2019.
- 7-9 November: covering the implementation of the international drug control treaties, international cooperation, UN-system cooperation, implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration, and preparations for March 2019.

As for the March 2019 meeting itself, this has been provisionally booked in Vienna for the 14th and 15th. At this stage, it seems clear that governments do not want to negotiate a new Political Declaration, so soon after agreeing to the UNGASS Outcome Document in April 2016. For each of these important inter-governmental debates, the Civil Society Task Force has secured a number of slots for speakers to participate in person or by video. We are also working hard to secure funding to support people's travel to Vienna. After these “inter-sessional” meetings, there will be the reconvened CND on 6-7 December, with a special session and a CSTF Civil Society Hearing planned for the 5th December – more details on this to follow in future newsletters.

As for the March 2019 meeting itself, this has been provisionally booked in Vienna for the 14th and 15th. At this stage, it seems clear that governments do not want to negotiate a new Political Declaration, so soon after agreeing to the UNGASS Outcome Document in April 2016. Instead, they are working to find a way forward that satisfies all parties, possibly combining elements from both the 2009 and 2016 documents. We anticipate that this will take the form of a shorter ‘procedural resolution’ agreed in 2019 that simply maps out the timeline and milestones for this next phase of the international drug control system. A newly produced Guide to the CND produced by UNODC can be found [here](#).

Meanwhile outside of Vienna, drug-related processes are taking place across the UN system. In New York, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has tasked UN agencies including UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, DPA, OHCHR,



UN-Women, DPKO and WHO, under UNODC's leadership, to develop a strategy to assist member states with UNGASS implementation in line with the SDGs and health- and human rights based approaches, as well as to develop a comprehensive organization-wide strategy across the three founding pillars of the UN system – development, human rights, and peace and security – in support of preparations for 2019. In September, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will present its report on the implementation of the UNGASS Outcome Document, 'Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem' with regard to human rights, to the Human Rights Council at its 39th Session in Geneva. Back at UN Headquarters in New York, after the world's Heads of State take part in the annual General Debate during September's 'UN Week', UNGA's Third Committee will kick off negotiations on its annual resolution entitled 'International cooperation to address and counter the world drug problem'. This drugs 'omnibus' resolution is UNGA's opportunity to highlight existing processes on drugs while also calling on member states or UN agencies to take additional actions. Finally, the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) has just announced that it will undertake a full critical review of certain cannabis components (cannabis plant and resin; extracts and tinctures; Delta-9-THC; Isomers of THC) as well as a number of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), including fentanyl-analogues and other psychoactive substances, at its forty-first meeting in Geneva in November. The ECDD's recommendations will be released in time for the CND's 62th Session.

***It remains critical that civil society is engaged in this process and in these debates, which will shape the next decade (at least) of the international response to drugs. The Civil Society Task Force, with your support and participation, aims to support this as much as possible – as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter.***

## The 2018 CSTF Consultation

A comprehensive online survey has been developed to gather civil society input regarding (1) the progress made towards achieving the goals of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action, (2) efforts made towards implementing the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document, and (3) the linkage between civil society work on drugs and drug policy as it intersects with the Sustainable Development Goals. The survey aims to gather civil society perspectives of both their own work and the efforts of their domestic governments towards achieving these goals, including their assessment of



progress made and how these goals may relate to their work. The final results of this online survey will be reported and presented in upcoming meetings. Links to the survey will be disseminated in late September 2018.

## Speaking Opportunity: October Call for Applications

Prior to the ministerial segment of the 62nd session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs in 2019, the Commission will host a number of thematic discussions in autumn 2018. Following the CSTF's selection of speakers for the September intersessional, we are happy to announce our current search for speakers to present at the October Intersessional. The second round of discussions will take place October 22-25, in Vienna, Austria.



This is a wonderful opportunity for civil society speakers to engage in the UN process by offering their experience and expertise during the thematic segments taking place in October. Interested civil society organizations should apply by September 26, 2018 11:55pm CEST Vienna local time. Applications can be found [here](#). The speaker selection will follow the CSTF guidelines and selected candidates will be notified as soon as possible but no later than October 3, 2018.

LAUNCH OF THE 2018

## World Drug Report

On June 26th 2018 the United Nations launched the World Drug Report. The day was also the UN International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The CSTF spoke on behalf of civil society during the Launch presenting coordinated statements in Vienna, New York City, Nairobi and Geneva. The coordinated statements were the first time the CSTF addressed the UN since it was relaunched in March of 2018. A video of the statement given in Vienna can be viewed [here](#).



Clockwise from top: CSTF statement issued by George Ochieng Odalo in Nairobi; Statement issued by Jamie Bridge in Vienna; Statement issued by Heather Haase in New York.



# CSTF

## Member Profiles

CSTF MEMBERS VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE TO MAKE SURE CIVIL SOCIETY EXPERIENCE IS INCLUDED AT CND EVENTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

HERE IS A CLOSER LOOK AT THREE CSTF MEMBERS AND THE ORGANIZATIONS THEY WORK FOR. FULL MEMBER PROFILES CAN BE FOUND AT [CSTFONDRUGS.ORG](http://CSTFONDRUGS.ORG).



**Centros de Integración Juvenil, A.C.**

Carmen Fernández Cáceres is the General Director of Centros de Integración Juvenil (CIJ) which is a Mexican non-profit civil association founded in 1969, with the objective of addressing drug abuse among young people. Today, CIJ has 5 decades of experience carrying out activities aimed at prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, harm reduction and scientific research on drug use in Mexico. Over the years, the institution has expanded its structure, programs and services, based on a shared commitment to society. Its national network is made up of 117 units distributed throughout Mexico; 11 are Hospitalization and 2 are Clinics of Attention to Users of Heroin (Methadone substitution treatment) located in strategic areas and high risk of drug abuse. Carmen Fernández serves on the CSTF as the Regional Representative of North America. Her participation within the CSTF is of high relevance for CIJ due to the exchange of different views from specialists from many countries that make up the CSTF. Read **more**.



**ANYONE'S CHILD**  
Families for safer drug control



Peter Muysshondt serves on the CSTF as a representative from Anyone's Child, a worldwide campaign from Transform Drug Policy Foundation that gives families a voice. He is a police officer who lost his brother to heroin, cocaine and legal medication. The sudden death of his brother made him question the effects of prohibition. He has spent years advocating for new drug policies that better protect young people and their families. Being a police officer he knows that prohibition fuels the criminal underworld.

Anyone's Child knows that prohibition causes more harm than the drugs it aims to eradicate. As a member of the CSTF, Anyone's Child wants to contribute to the better representation of civil society in the international process of policy evaluation and adjustment. From a national point of view policy makers often refer to the international treaties to defend their national policies or to resist policy change. Anyone's Child believes that representation of affected communities in the international debate should be improved. Read **more**.



**YOUTH RISE**

Morgana Daniele is the International Coordinator of Youth RISE and a representative of young people as an affected population on the CSTF. Prior to becoming the leader of global youth organization, Morgana had developed her expertise in drug policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Growing up in the region where people who use drugs are highly marginalized and their human rights continuously violated, Morgana felt the urge to stand up for the vulnerable and seek changes for her community.



This sense of community has been her main drive since. And the Civil Society Task Force is another space where their voice can sound louder. On the CSTF Morgana ensures that experiences of the young generation are taken into account when drug policies are discussed. Read **more**.