

30th Session of the UN Human Rights Council - Sept. 28, 2015
Panel on Impact of World Drug Problem on Human Rights

Geneva, September 28, 2015

In March of this year, we witnessed a historic event at the Human Rights Council. For the first time a resolution was approved highlighting the impacts of drug policies on human rights. Six months after that, the High Commissioner has produced a first report on the matter, which we welcome for it recognizes the link between drug policies and human rights violations, a link many have long resisted.

Today the panel of experts has enriched further the outcome of the High Commissioner's report, by adding a multiplicity of views that have made even clearer that drug control policies can lead to brutal outcomes, with more serious effects on already vulnerable groups in our communities including children, women, and indigenous peoples. They have also reached human right defenders who face risk of attacks.

The Human Rights Council has taken a valued first step and now it is time to ask: What should be done after this? What are the responsibilities of the Human Rights Council and how could it contribute to reinforcing the respect for human rights in drug policies?

The CND has recognized that the world drug problem should be addressed in full congruence with human rights. However these principles have not yet translated into policies.

The Human Rights Council is the international forum to address human rights violations. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that it keep this item on the agenda.

- We ask the Council to request the existing Special Procedures to produce a comprehensive joint report on this
- We also encourage the Council to evaluate the creation of a new mandate on Drug Policy and human rights

The human rights principles included in the UN Charter shall prevail.

Statement by:

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