



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

Identifying Common Ground on Development for UNGASS 2016

What does a ‘development approach’ to global drug policy mean in practice?

A panel discussion convened by UN University

6 May 2015, 10.00am – 12.45pm

United Nations Headquarters

Conference Room 8, Conference Building

As the UN General Assembly’s Special Session in New York on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) approaches, there is a need to consider how global development and drug policy goals can better be aligned within the work of the UN system. Local community development strategies designed to mitigate the impacts of illicit crop eradication (‘alternative development’) have gained prominence in the drug policy agenda over the last decade. At the same time, some actors have begun to suggest a need to think beyond the ‘alternative development’ approach, factoring the broader costs of drug policies – such as impacts on public health, human development, corruption or the environment – into the design and execution not only of drugs policy, but also national-level and international development planning and programming.

This panel will consider a range of questions raised by the effort to improve coherence between drug control and development objectives:

- How should a development approach to drug policy factor in the costs of drug policies?
- How can we measure and assess the impacts of drug policy on development?
- Can UN Secretariat departments, Funds, Programs and Agencies involved in development contribute to system-wide coherence in the implementation of global drug policy?

Speakers

Ms. Mandeep Dhaliwal, Director, HIV, Health & Development Group, Bureau for Policy & Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Rodrigo Vélez, Executive Secretary, National Council for the Control of Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances, Ecuador

Mr. Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director, Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC

Dr. Kendra McSweeney, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Ohio State University

M.L. Dispanadda Diskul, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage, Thailand

Moderator: Mr. James Cockayne, Head of Office at the UN, UN University

Followed by a Question and Answer Session

Upcoming in UNU’s ‘Identifying Common Ground for UNGASS 2016’ series

9 June 2015 Identifying Common Ground on Criminal Justice for UNGASS 2016

30 June 2015 Measuring the Impacts of Security Interventions: Innovating for Success

Follow us @UNUniversity; Tweet your reactions #UNGASS2016