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BROOKINGS

**Identifying Common Ground for UNGASS 2016:
*Considering Comparative Perspectives on Drug Policy***

A panel discussion organized by the United Nations University and the Brookings Institution
15 September 2015, 9:00am to 1:00pm
Conference Room 5, United Nations Headquarters

As the UN General Assembly's Special Session in New York on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) approaches, this panel discussion will discuss findings from a comparative evaluation of the effectiveness and costs of international counter-narcotics policies. Brookings Senior Fellows Vanda Felbab-Brown and Harold Trinkunas, along with several outside policy experts, have developed a series of policy briefs to evaluate the effectiveness and costs of international counter-narcotics policies in different contexts. The series, entitled "Improving Global Drug Policy: Comparative Perspectives and UNGASS 2016," is unique in its global scope, and analyzes the threats and harms resulting from drug use, the drug trade, and, at times, anti-drug policies themselves. The panelists, comprised of authors from the series, will discuss their findings and consider the implications these findings have for UNGASS 2016.

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

9:00-11:00 *UNGASS 2016 in Comparative Perspective: Improving the Prospects for Success*

Mr Harold Trinkunas, Senior Fellow and Director, Foreign Policy, Latin America Initiative, The Brookings Institution; co-director of the Brookings project "Improving Global Drug Policy: Comparative Perspectives and UNGASS 2016"

Colombia

Dr Daniel Mejia, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Director of the Research Center on Drugs and Security, Universidad de los Andes

Uruguay

Mr John Walsh, Senior Associate for Drug Policy and the Andes, Washington Office on Latin America

Colorado and Washington, U.S.A.

Dr Mark Kleiman, Professor of Public Policy, University of California, Los Angeles

Moderated Q&A.

11:00-11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15-1:00 ***Afghanistan***

Dr Vanda Felbab-Brown, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution; co-director of the Brookings project "Improving Global Drug Policy: Comparative Perspectives and UNGASS 2016"

Mali and Guinea

Dr Lansana Gberie, Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)

Russia

Dr Mark Galeotti, Professor of Global Affairs, New York University Center for Global Affairs

Moderated Q&A.

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