



**Graduate Women International**  
*Empowering women & girls through lifelong education*

**NAME OF EVENT: Intersessional Meetings re. 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). Outcome Document of the 2016 UNGASS UN General Assembly Special Session) on the World Drug Problems.**

**DATE: 8 September, 10-11 October and 27-28 October 2016**

**PLACE : Vienna International Centre (VIC)**

**SUBJECT OF THE MEETINGS: Contributions by Delegates of States and NGOs on the implementation of actions stated in the Outcome Document of the 2016 UNGASS regarding the world drug problems.**

In line with the UNGASS Chapters, the following main topics were discussed;

- (1) Demand reduction and related measures including prevention and treatments, as well as other health related issues.
- (2) Availability of, and access to controlled substances.
- (3) Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug related crime; countering money laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.
- (4) Human Rights, **youth, children, women** and communities.
- (5) Evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances; emerging and persisting challenges and threats including new psychedelic substances; conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments.
- (6) Strengthening international cooperation based on the principal of common and shared responsibility.
- (7) Alternative developments: regional, interregional and international cooperation on development oriented balanced drug control policy addressing socio-economic issues.

**Intervention by GWI rep: Cooperation with VNGOC in making proposals (statement) regarding cooperation with other NGOs.**

Financed by Special Purpose contributions by the Governments of Norway, Canada and Sweden, VNGOC initiated and developed an interactive electronic platform for cooperation between NGOs. Technical support was provided by the Vienna based UN Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The system is called "Market Place". It assists in collaboration between NGOs from different geographical regions exchanging experience/ providing support on all issues related to drugs (*e.g.* abuse, rehabilitation, legal aspects, gender specific programs).

Chapter 4 of the UNGASS Document emphasizes on cross cutting issues such as drugs and human rights, women, youth, children and communities. It is deplorable that rehabilitation programmes covering the special needs of young women and children are scarce. Communal support is also lacking. UNODC works closely with the World Health Organization (WHO). This led to several joint activities, *inter alia*, a different approach towards drug addicts (rehabilitation – not incarceration). No such cooperation has been established so far, neither with UNESCO nor UNICEF.

During the discussions of Chapter 4 (see above), several delegates (Portugal-Chair, France, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria and USA) as well as VNGOC supported cooperation with CSW (Commission on the Status of Women). It was agreed that this issue will be put on the agenda of a meeting in June 2017 when the president of CND will visit New York.

**How this serves GWI members:**

a) Trends and developments:

Unfortunately, the age of drug users has now reached elementary school children in many countries. Rehabilitation programmes must be developed for special needs. Special needs include rehabilitation for women, children and youth. Community support needs to be enhanced. Governments should be urged to provide/enhance or alter their jurisdiction regarding drug abuse.

b) Why these trends and developments are relevant to GWI members:

So far, the special needs in treating female drug abusers has not been a topic, neither in research, nor in rehabilitation programmes.

c) What needs to be done at international and national levels:

Raising awareness of special issues regarding women, youth and children.

**Next steps: (what needs to be done):**

**The cooperation between CSW, UNICEF and UNESCO with UNODC needs to be established along with GWI HQ. All NFAs should be involved in furthering such ventures. GW-US appears to be of high importance in this respect.**

**Other Matters:**

**UNODC published in the "Criminal Justice Series" two relevant Handbooks:**

- **Women and Imprisonment. Handbook for prison managers and policymakers.**
- **Alternatives to Imprisonment: Handbook of basic principles and promising practices.**