

Cannabis and the Conventions: Aftermath of UNGASS

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 9:00 – 9:50 a.m
Conference Room M7, Vienna International Center

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided between Spanish and English.

Speakers:

David Bewley-Taylor, Director, Global Drug Policy Observatory

Alison Holcomb, Chief Executive Officer, Action Now Initiative & Author of Washington State cannabis legalization ballot Initiative 502

Lisa Sánchez, Project Manager, Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia/Transform Drug Policy Foundation

Tom Blickman, Senior Policy Researcher, Drugs and Democracy Programme, Transnational Institute

John Walsh (Moderator), Senior Associate, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)

The UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document asserted that the United Nations drug conventions “allow for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs.” But does such flexibility extend to reforms now being enacted or contemplated in numerous jurisdictions to create legal access to cannabis for purposes other than exclusively “medical and scientific”? In the meantime, the World Health Organization’s Expert Committee on Drug Dependence has announced that it will hold a meeting dedicated to a pre-review of cannabis.

This side event will consider the growing treaty tensions surrounding cannabis policy innovations underway in many countries, and will ask how Member States and the UN system might address these tensions in ways that reinforce the UN pillars of human rights, development, peace and security, and the rule of law.

CANNABIS REGULATION AND THE UN DRUG TREATIES

Strategies for Reform
JUNE 2016

BRIEFING
PAPER

For in-depth analysis, see our report: ‘Cannabis Regulation and the UN Drug Treaties: Strategies for Reform’ - www.wola.org/analysis/cannabis-regulation-and-the-un-drug-treaties-strategies-for-reform

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