



THE BECKLEY FOUNDATION
DRUG POLICY PROGRAMME

DRUG POLICY SEMINAR - UNGASS AND THE CONTRIBUTION
OF CIVIL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF LORDS, PALACE OF WESTMINSTER, LONDON
4TH DECEMBER 2006
9.30AM – 5.30PM

November 2006

This seminar has been arranged to review the preparations for the forthcoming global review of the international drug control system. The review by national governments, under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is likely to consist of the collation of data and evidence that describe progress and problems since the last review in 1998, the consideration of that material by national governments, and a high-level political meeting to discuss lessons learned and map out the way forward. There are signs that the contribution of Civil Society – NGOs, professional bodies and academics - to this process, has the potential to be much more integrated than it has been in previous reviews.

A number of Civil Society organisations have already begun to think how they might best influence this process. This seminar therefore aims to bring together the key individuals and agencies involved in these processes to review the current state of preparations for the structure and content of the process, and to discuss how Civil Society can be most usefully involved.

The seminar will take place in the Moses Room at the House of Lords, Palace of Westminster, London, and will have the following agenda. The first section of the seminar will focus on updates of current plans and work in progress:

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION. Mike Trace, Director, BFDPP.
2. CURRENT STATUS OF PLANS FOR THE UNGASS. Alison Crockett, UK Mission to the UNODC.

3. THE WORK OF THE VIENNA NGO FORUM. Michel Perron, Chief Executive, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.
4. THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY CONSORTIUM. Mike Trace, Chair, IDPC.
5. PRESENTATIONS OF OTHER ONGOING WORK, AND DISCUSSION.

The second section of the seminar will look at some of the priority subjects that Civil Society may wish to address through this process:

1. NEW APPROACHES TO SOURCE COUNTRY CONTROL. Fabrice Poithier, Senlis Council.
2. RESCHEDULING OF SUBSTANCES WITHIN THE CONVENTIONS. Martin Jelsma, Transnational Institute – Coca Leaf. Katy Swain, Release – Scales of Harm.
3. A CLEAR POSITION ON HARM REDUCTION. Daniel Wolfe, International Harm Reduction Development Programme.
4. THE ROLE OF THE UNODC AND INCB. Dave Bewley-Taylor, International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP).

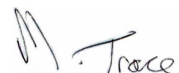
The final section of the seminar will consist of a structured but open discussion of ways in which Civil Society can work together to develop constructive proposals for the UNGASS process, and promote their ideas through the UN agencies, national governments and the media.

The seminar is by invitation only, and is free to all invited participants. The seminar will include a lunch on the Cholmondley Terrace, hosted by Lord Mancroft & Lady Neidpath.

Yours Sincerely,



Amanda, Lady Neidpath
Director, BFDPP



Mike Trace
Director, BFDPP