

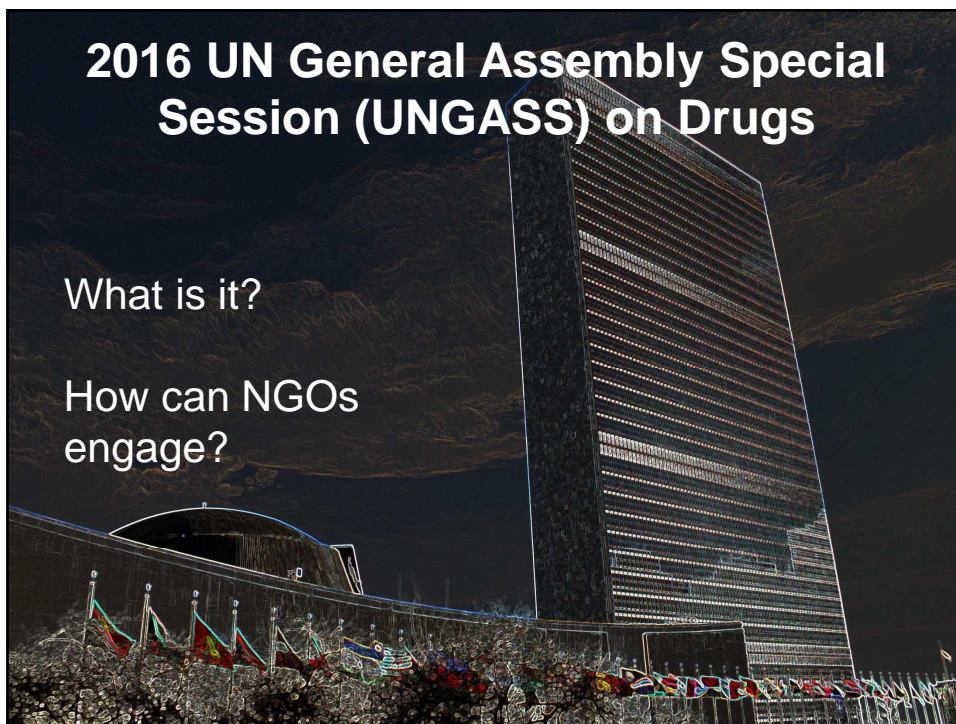
GEARING UP: THE 2016 UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION (UNGASS) ON DRUGS

**SCOTT BERNSTEIN.
GLOBAL DRUG POLICY PROGRAM
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS
SOUTH AFRICA DRUG POLICY WEEK – FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

2016 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Drugs

What is it?

How can NGOs
engage?

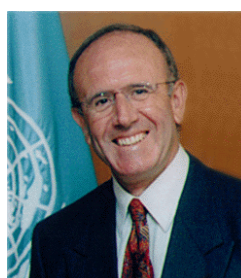
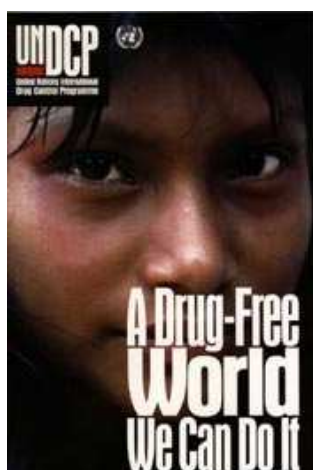


What is the “UNGASS”?

A “Special Session” of the General Assembly

- General Assembly holds its general session from September – December each year, but a special session may be called at any time
- Only 29 Special Sessions since 1947
- Three on drug issues:
 - 17th – “Drug Abuse” (1990)
 - 20th – “World Drug Problem” (1998)
 - 30th – “World Drug Problem” (2016)

1998 Drugs UNGASS



UNDCP Executive Director

*"A drug-free world,
we can do it" (...)*
says Mr. Pino Arlacchi

1998 Drugs UNGASS

Political Declaration on Global Drug Control – unachievable goals around supply and demand reduction:

17. ... establishing the year 2003 as a target date for new or enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes set up in close collaboration with public health, social welfare and law enforcement authorities, and also **commit ourselves to achieving significant and measurable results in the field of demand reduction by the year 2008;**

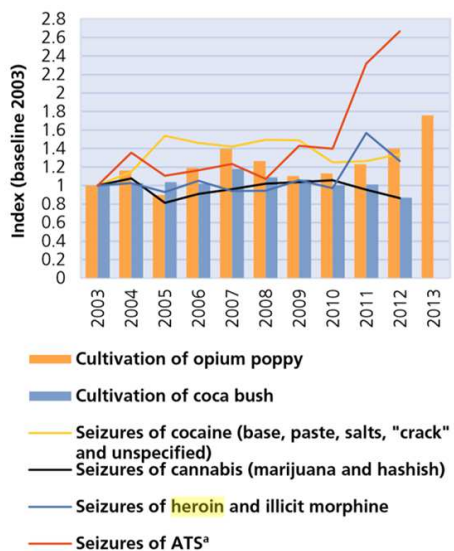
18. Reaffirm the need for a comprehensive approach towards the elimination of illicit narcotic crops ...emphasize the **need for eradication programmes and law enforcement measures to counter illicit cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking...**

2009 Review – Political Declaration and Plan of Action

36. Decide to establish 2019 as a target date for States to eliminate or reduce significantly and measurably:

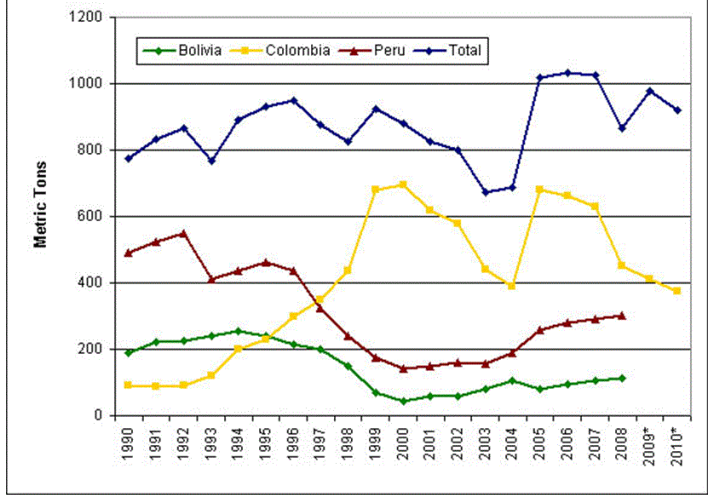
- (a) The illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant;
- (b) The illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and drug related health and social risks;
- (c) The illicit production, manufacture, marketing and distribution of, and trafficking in, psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs;
- (d) The diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors;
- (e) Money-laundering related to illicit drugs;

Trend in main indicators of drug supply and drug supply reduction, 2003-2013

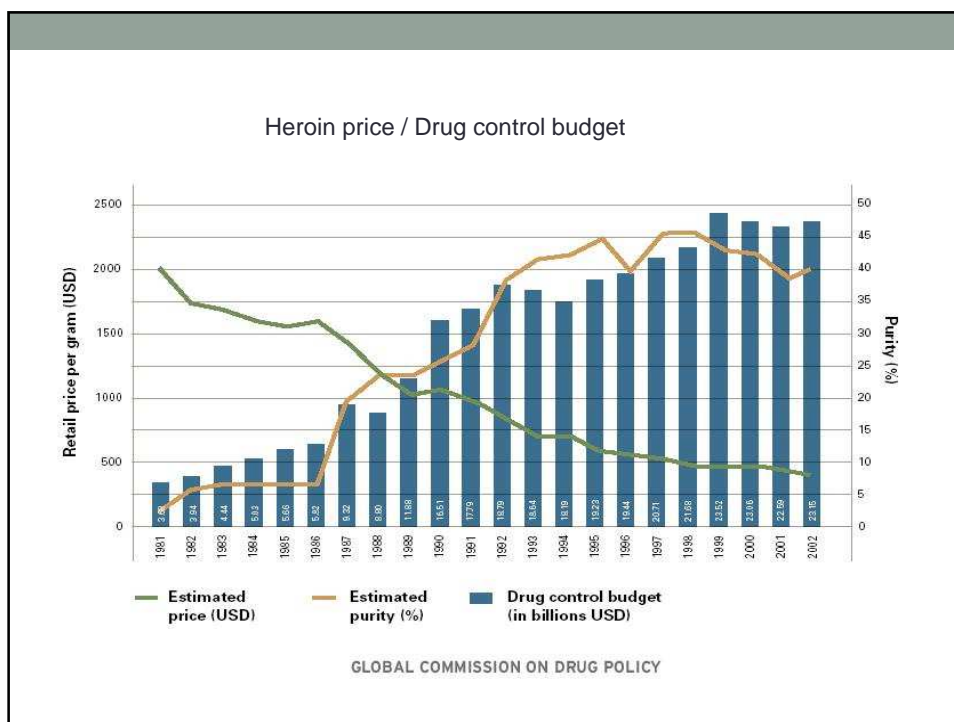


Source: UNODC World Drug Report 2013

Potential Manufacture of 100% Pure Cocaine



Source: UNODC World Drug Report 2012



“A Drug Free World.... We Didn't Even Come Close”

UNGASS 2016:

- Requested by Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia In 2012
- Supported by 95 other members of the 193 or 49% of members of the General Assembly
- To be held from **April 19-21, 2016** and preparations are now underway

“A Better Tomorrow for the World's Youth”

untitled x UN POLITICAL DECLARATION x

www.unodc.org/ungass2016/

Managed bookmarks Open Society Found... New York

ACHIEVING THE 2019 GOALS - A BETTER TOMORROW FOR THE WORLD'S YOUTH

ABOUT | BACKGROUND | BOARD | PREPARATORY PROCESS | YOUTH | MULTIMEDIA | SIDE EVENTS |

JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
2014 HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW BY THE COMMISSION
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLITICAL DECLARATION
AND PLAN OF ACTION ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED AND BALANCED STRATEGY
TO COUNTER THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

POLITICAL DECLARATION AND PLAN
OF ACTION ON INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED
AND BALANCED STRATEGY TO COUNTER
THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

Tweets Follow

UNGASS 2016 @ungass2016 29 Jan
Side events #UNGASS2016: guidelines and application form
posted on ungass2016.org, application period starts Monday, 1
February
Expand

What will happen at the UNGASS?

High-level plenaries

Five thematic panels:

- Drugs and Health
- Drugs and Crime
- Human rights, women, children, and communities
- New challenges, threats and realities in addressing the world drug problem
- Drugs and (alternative) development

UNGASS Preparations: the Outcome Document

- A short document with operational recommendations for moving forward
- Received input from member states, civil society, and UN agencies on “Zero Draft” of the Outcome Document for several months
- Zero Draft was released on January 14

UNGASS Preparations: the Outcome Document

- Negotiations of text now underway
- Text to be finalized at Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meeting in March 2016
- Outcome document to be submitted to General Assembly for approval at UNGASS

The Zero Draft of the Outcome Doc

- Relies on traditional mechanisms of coercive suppression and criminal justice
- Fails to mention harm reduction or provide clarity on health-based drug policies
- Does not call for abolition of death penalty for drug-related offences

The Zero Draft of the Outcome Doc

- Does not rely on human development indicators or SDGs adequately
- Does not include serious participation of other UN agencies (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, etc.)
- Does not provide clarity on improving access to controlled substances for pain relief

How can NGOs engage in UNGASS?

- **Educate yourself** on national, regional and international issues Visit websites such as IDPC.NET to learn about these issues
- **Support and join** international reform organisations to strengthen their influence in the international community and at the UN and to stay informed about the process

How can NGOs engage in UNGASS?

- **Join** the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) and/or the New York NGO Committee on Drugs (NYNGOC)
- **Participate** in regional Civil Society Task Force hearings and/or submit your publications, etc. to UNGASS Website
- **Lobby your government** to support the Common African Position

How can NGOs engage in UNGASS?

- **Come to New York for the UNGASS!**
- **Participate** in international campaigns calling for reform...

stoptheharm.org



- **Join the Stop the Harm** global reform campaign
 - Global campaign with hundreds of ally organizations
 - An umbrella for local organization efforts / movements
 - Centered around **seven issue areas** of drug policy reform
 - Easy to join, upload your content, use the resources

supportdontpunish.org



• **Join the Support Don't Punish campaign**

- Global advocacy campaign carried out in hundreds of cities on the Global Day of Action (June 26th)
- Calling for better drug policies centered on human rights and public health
- Take part in the photo project
- Easy to join!



Thank you!

Scott Bernstein
Global Drug Policy Program
Open Society Foundations
scott.bernstein@opensocietyfoundations.org

@scott_bern