

Concept Note

Civil Society Forum in preparation for the **UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs**

18 April 2015, 10:00-13:00
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York, NY

The Civil Society Task Force will hold a **Civil Society Forum** at United Nations Headquarters on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the world drug problem. The goal of the hearing is to present the findings of the CSTF global consultations leading up to UNGASS, to provide valuable input on priorities and recommendations from civil society, as well as to present the “Market Place” project, a collaboration between Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and UNODC.

The Civil Society Forum will consist of a high-level opening (30 min) and three sessions:

- 1) Session 1. Presentation of the Civil Society Task Force Report: CSTF members present the results of their global consultations, including the Global Civil Society Survey, the regional and thematic consultations and the Informal Interactive Stakeholder Consultation. Member State representatives will be invited to respond. (45 min)
- 2) Session 2. An interactive discussion with a panel of CS representatives, Member State and CS respondents, and the audience. (45 min)
- 3) Session 3. The Vienna NGO Committee will present the Marketplace, a special project between VNGOC and UNODC. (30 min)

The following is the provisional program for the forum:

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in preparation for the
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Opening

- H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the UN General Assembly
- H.E. Mr. Khaled Shamaa, Chair of the Board, Commission on Narcotic Drugs (TBC)
- Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director, UNODC (TBC)
- Mr. Gabriel Wikström, Minister for Health Care, Public Health and Sport, Sweden(TBC)
- Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations (TBC)
- Mr. Esbjörn Hörnberg, Chair, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs / Chair, Civil Society Task Force
- Ms. Heather Haase, Chair, New York NGO Committee on Drugs / Vice-Chair, Civil Society Task Force

Civil Society Task Force (CSTF): Presentation of Reports

- Ms. Elisa Rubini, International Relations and Outreach Officer, San Patrignano / Vice-Chair, Civil Society Task Force – Presentation of report
- Sheila Vakharia, Ph.D, Assistant Professor, Long Island University – Presentation of Global Civil Society Survey Report

Presentation is followed by 2-3 Member State respondents and then interactive discussion with the audience

Voices of Civil Society: Priorities and Recommendations for UNGASS 2016

- 4-5 speakers (TBD)

Presentation will be followed by 2-3 CS respondents and then interactive discussion with the audience

Moderated by Diederik Lohman, Associate Director, Health and Human Rights Division at Human Rights Watch / Officer, Civil Society Task Force

Presentation of the Market Place

- Michel Perron – Background of the Market Place
- Other speakers TBD

Presentation will be followed by Q&A