

SIDE-EVENT AT THE REGIONAL FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

The Sustainable Development Agenda and Drug Policy

Geneva, 21-22 March 2019

Introduction:

In September 2015 the international community adopted the sustainable development goals (SDGs), otherwise referred to as the 2030 sustainable development agenda (the 2030 agenda). These far-reaching 17 goals and their 169 targets represent the common policy framework of all UN member states to advance towards the goals of peace, development and human rights in the coming eleven years.

As part of this discussion, the Global Commission has provided its position briefly by publishing a letter in *The Lancet*, in September 2015, titled “SDGs will not be achieved without drug policy reform”,¹ and by publishing a Position Paper titled, “Drug Policy and the Sustainable Development Agenda”.²

In view of the CND Ministerial Segment due in March 2019, the aim of which is to review the implementation of the 2009 political declaration and plan of action on drugs, the Global Commission suggests contributing to this preparatory process by providing the international community, civil society and the delegates to the UN with a better understanding of the links between their commitments to the 2030 agenda and drug policy reform.

This contribution will take the form of a side-event at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region. The aim is to provide an analysis of the opportunities provided by the SDGs to review drug policy design and implementation, in order to take it away from a silo law-enforcement focus, and link it with societal reforms and improvement.

¹ SDGs will not be achieved without drug policy reform. *The Lancet*. 2015 Sept:
[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)00198-1/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)00198-1/fulltext)

² Global Commission on Drug Policy. Drug Policy and the Sustainable Development Agenda. 2018 Sept.
<http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/position-papers/sustainable-development-agenda-position-paper/>

Invited speakers:

The event will be a panel discussion:

- H.E. Ruth Dreifuss, Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy
- H.E. Ravesa Lleshi, Permanent Representative of Albania in Geneva
- H.E. Victor Dolidze, Permanent Representative of Georgia in Geneva
- H.E. Anna Korka, Permanent Representative of Greece in Geneva
- H.E. Rui Macieira, Permanent Representative of Portugal in Geneva
- Thomas Kattau, Deputy Executive Secretary, Pompidou Group
- Nadia Isler, Director, SDG Lab (as moderator of the event)

Conveners:

- Global Commission on Drug Policy
- Greece
- Albania
- Georgia
- Portugal

Suggested dates:

During the Regional Forum between the 21st and 22nd of March 2019.

Participation:

The side-event will be open to all delegates of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region.

Expected outcome:

The aim of holding this side-event on the Sustainable Development Agenda (agenda 2030) and drug policy is to address the combination of short term (CND Ministerial Segment 2019) and longer term (SDGs) strategies to strengthen the effort to design and implement drug control policies that are multidimensional and non-detrimental to other development areas. This side-event will present a discussion space to exchange ideas on policy and practice regarding the dimensions of human development, including poverty, health, governance, gender, human rights, environmental protection³ and their implementation by UNECE Member States.

³ Perspectives on the development dimensions of drug control policy. United Nations Development Programme, 2015 Mar. http://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/UN/UNDP/UNDP_paper_for_CND_March_2015.pdf