

OSCE-wide CONFERENCE on
ENHANCEMENT OF MECHANISMS TO COPE WITH INCREASING
SPREAD OF ILLICIT DRUGS AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE

10-11 September 2015

Hofburg, Vienna

CONCEPT PAPER AND ANNOTATED AGENDA

Background

Drug trafficking, a growing transnational criminal threat, includes illicit financial flows and corruption, and benefits those involved in organized crime. Drug dealers and other criminal elements are constantly searching for ways to increase their illegal income by expanding their customer base. Therefore, children and young people are of great interest and attractiveness to drug dealers, as these groups represent potential long-term customers.

In response to the threat of drug sales to children and youth, the participating States adopted in 2012 the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC.DEC/1048), in which Article 3 assigns “priority to preventive action against drug-related crimes, as well as preventive measures aimed at reducing drug abuse and dependence, and drug-related harm to health and society, especially to children and young people.”

Addressing the problem of the constantly increasing threat of illicit drugs among young people, the TNTD/SPMU conducted an “OSCE Conference on Prevention of Illicit Drug Supply to Youth” in 2012. The conference demonstrated the importance of co-operating in order to protect youth from criminals engaged in illicit drug delivery. Taking into consideration the achievements and outcomes of the 2012 conference, the 2015 conference will seek to answer the following question: how effective has the co-operation and co-ordination between law enforcement agencies and civil society been in their activities to break the connection between drugs and youth?

To answer this question, relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations, along with representatives from youth initiatives and civil society organizations, will be invited to express their ideas on needs, problems and challenges and to seek solutions for the reduction and elimination of drug supply to children and youth by co-operating with law enforcement agencies, other government authorities and international organizations.

Structure

This meeting is targeted at experts and practitioners from relevant bodies of national drug enforcement agencies, representatives from youth initiatives and civil society organizations and other relevant international and regional organizations working in this field. Therefore, practitioners from relevant government ministries/institutions, such as the Ministry of Interior,

Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education/Youth or Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are especially encouraged to attend. The suggested participants for this event are experts and practitioners who can share concrete examples, good practices and lessons learned as outlined in the draft agenda. Active discussions between participants will be considered the most beneficial aspect of this conference. Participants are therefore strongly encouraged to discuss and share specific experiences and to identify needs and areas of possible improvement.

To promote interactive discussion, formal statements and interventions in response to speakers should be as concise as possible, not exceeding three minutes. Interventions should focus on concrete examples, lessons learned and recommendations directly related to the subject of the session. They may include suggestions for potential policy recommendations and/or follow-up action in the form of deliverables. Interventions should avoid generic institutional background information. Delegations, NGOs and international organizations are requested to pre-register their intention to contribute short statements.

The objective of the conference is to provide a platform for relevant experts from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to discuss co-operation of non-law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations with law enforcement services in their activities to break the ligament “Drugs - Youth”. The meeting will also discuss the development of effective mechanisms to reduce drug demand and drug supply among youth and to strengthen international law enforcement co-operation on drug-related cases affecting youth. Therefore, the conference will seek to:

- Identify measures to be taken to protect children and young people from the illicit use of narcotics;
- Enhance and streamline international co-operation in the prevention of illicit drug supply to youth by using the strategy of demand reduction;
- Further strengthen the relationship with UNODC, EU, INCB and the Paris Pact Initiative for more effective assistance to countries affected by the menace of drugs in the OSCE area with a particular focus on the protection of young people;
- Raise awareness of drug problems among youth in the OSCE area;
- Strengthen and target preventive and diversionary measures to delay the age of first use of illicit drugs;
- Contribute to the drafting process of respective parts of the OSCE Action Plan on Youth and Security;
- Discuss potential OSCE engagement in the preparation for the special session of the UN General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 (UNGASS 2016).

It is expected that the OSCE-wide Drugs Conference will prepare the ground for:

- Increased co-operation between the OSCE and other regional and international actors and stakeholders;
- Co-operative and coherent approaches to avoid overlaps in activities;
- More streamlined actions in implementing established policies and measures;
- Enhanced information-sharing among law enforcement agencies in the OSCE area;

The conference is expected to result in practical proposals on future co-operation and new regional activities in the OSCE area.

Draft Agenda

Thursday 10 September 2015

13:30 – 14:00 Registration of participants

14:00 – 14:30 Opening Session

Welcoming remarks:

Mr. Aleksandar Nikolić, State Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Republic of Serbia (tbc)

H.E. Yury Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director (tbc)

H.E. Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General (tbc)

14:30 – 15:00 Introductory Session

Presentation of the key issues on combating the threat of illicit drugs and the diversion of chemical precursors in the OSCE area, with a special focus on preventive measures aimed at reducing drug abuse and dependence, and drug related harm to health and society, especially to children and young people.

Moderator: TNTD, OSCE Secretariat (tbc)

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 Session I: Enhancing dialogue between non-law enforcement and civil society entities with law enforcement agencies on the prevention of drug use among youth

In order to effectively implement strategies to prevent drug use it is crucial to establish good co-operation between government structures responsible for the implementation of anti-drug strategies and civil society, including representatives of NGOs, the private sector, and health care and social welfare institutions. Drug prevention is an integral part of the larger effort to ensure young people are less vulnerable and more resilient. An effective local or national prevention system is embedded and integrated into the context of a larger health-centred and balanced system for addressing drug problems, including law enforcement, supply reduction, treatment of drug dependence and prevention of health and social consequences (e.g. HIV, overdose, etc.). It is expected that the experts will provide insight into countries' compliance with international drug prevention standards addressing different stages of young people's development: early childhood, middle childhood, early adolescence, adolescence and adulthood. The session will address:

- Interdependence of drug production, drug supply and drug demand among youth in the OSCE area;

- Experience and best practices applied in different national systems on drug supply/demand reduction with regard to law enforcement and civil society co-operation;
- Civil society and private sector contributions to the overall preventive strategies and good practices in co-operation with law enforcement agencies.

Questions and discussion

Moderator: tbd

Rapporteur: TNTD/SPMU

17:30 – 19:00 Cocktail reception hosted by the Serbian Chairmanship

Friday 11 September 2015

09:30 – 10:30 Session II: Developing strategic approaches to reduce drug demand and drug supply to youth

Experts from international organizations will present the role of their institutions, provide concrete examples of their respective strategies and streamlined activities, and share lessons learned on effective implementation of counternarcotic programmes at national, regional and international levels. Participants will have a chance to discuss and propose effective measures to combat the spread and promotion of illicit drugs via modern technologies. Aspects to be addressed during this session include:

- Strategies to support young people and children affected by illicit drugs and drug dealers;
- Use of media, Internet and social networks as preventive mechanisms of anti-drug propaganda;
- Figures and numbers: what approaches should be used to see the ‘bigger picture’ (statistics) of a drug problem from the youth perspective;
- Needs assessment and the way forward to enhance international co-operation;
- Educational programmes aimed at raising awareness of illicit drugs among children and youth and reducing supply and demand in a long-term perspective.

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30 Session II – to be continued / National perspectives

Questions and discussion

Moderator: tbd

Rapporteur: TNTD/SPMU

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Session III: Strengthening law enforcement international co-operation on drug-related cases affecting youth

This session will be devoted to the issues of information sharing and criminal justice response to illicit drug distribution to juveniles. Aspects to be addressed during this session include:

- New *modus operandi* of drug-related crimes targeting youth;
- Mechanisms of protection of young victims and witnesses by law enforcement agencies;
- Improvement of investigation techniques for discovering narcotic-related cases in drug-related supply to youth.

Questions and discussion

Moderator: tbd

Rapporteur: TNTD/SPMU

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 Closing Session

The closing session will outline key findings and outcomes from the conference sessions. In close co-operation with the moderators of the three sessions, the OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats will identify initiatives, lessons learned and challenges in relation to the topics presented and discussed in all three sessions, and discuss how the OSCE, building on its expertise and structures, can continue working in this field, complementing efforts of other international/regional organizations. It is expected that TNTD will present an assessment of the implementation of the OSCE Concept for Combating the Threat of Illicit Drugs and the Diversion of Chemical Precursors (PC. DEC/1048) with regard to OSCE activities in the field of preventive action against drug-related crimes, as well as preventive measures to reduce drug abuse and dependence and drug related-harm to health and society, especially to children and young people.

The closing session will provide a chance for a discussion on potential OSCE engagement in the preparation for the special session of the UN General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016 (UNGASS 2016).

Closing Remarks:

Serbian Chairmanship (tbc)

OSCE Secretariat (tbc)