

SIDE EVENT AT THE 66TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

ESTABLISHING QUALITY ASSURANCE MECHANISMS TOWARDS TRULY EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH DRUG USE DISORDERS IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS

CONCEPT NOTE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Over 284 million people worldwide have used drugs in the year 2020, while approximately 38.6 million are suffering from drug use disorders (DUDs). The availability and accessibility of treatment services remains low at global level with approximately only one in eight people with drug dependence having access to treatment services for drug use disorders at global level. Many treatment interventions that are commonly used in managing drug use disorders do not follow scientific evidence. Such interventions may be ineffective or even harmful, therefore, it is crucial not only to close the treatment gap, but also to improve the quality of treatment provided to people with drug use disorders.

In response to a request from the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, UNODC together with the World Health Organization (WHO), published the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders (“the Standards”) in 2020, following a process of field-testing. The Standards aim to support Member States in their efforts to develop and expand effective, evidence-based and ethical treatment systems and services for drug use disorders, and thus progressively improve the quality of care provided to people living with drug use disorders. The Standards were recognized in resolution 59/4 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) on the “Development and dissemination of international standards for the treatment of drug use disorders” and the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) Outcome Document, which called for the dissemination of the Standards and supports a systematic adoption of national standards for the accreditation of treatment services. CND resolution 64/3 on “Promoting scientific evidence-based, quality, affordable and comprehensive drug prevention, treatment, sustained recovery and related support services” reaffirmed the importance of promoting appropriate mechanisms for ensuring compliance, quality assurance or accreditation of drug treatment services.

This side event will showcase good practices and efforts taken by Member States, UNODC, WHO and relevant partners to establish such a quality assurance mechanism. The Panel will discuss ways forward to promote such mechanism across the globe in a concerted effort to build stronger and more resilient societies in support of public health and safety. The recognition and wide implementation of the Standards contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 3, Target 3.5 on Strengthening prevention and treatment of substance use, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol” as well as universal health coverage for people with drug use disorders.

SPONSORS

Organized by UNODC Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section

Co-sponsored by Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Spain, United States of America, World Health Organization, Vienna NGO Committee and New York NGO Committee, and Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA)

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION

Wednesday, 15 March 2023 13:00 – 13:50 CET, M6 (M-building), Vienna International Centre

MODALITY

Hybrid, [click here to join online](#)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Moderation: Anja Busse, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, UNODC

Time	Draft Agenda/Speaker
13:00 – 13:05	Welcome and opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Giovanna Campello, Chief, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, UNODC
13:05 – 13:10	Quality treatment and care in implementation of the UNODC-WHO International Standards for Treatment of Drug Use Disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vladimir Poznyak, Unit Head, Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviors, WHO
13:10 – 13:15	Quality drug use disorder treatment and care – why and how <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Nora Volkow, Director, National Institute of Drug Abuse (U.S.A.)
13:15 – 13:20	Supporting establishment of Quality Assurance mechanism for treatment services in Latin America and Caribbean countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Joan R. Villalbí, Government Delegate for National Plan on Drugs, Ministry of Health (Spain)
13:20 – 13:25	Improving Quality in treatment and care for drug use disorders as global agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">- João Goulão, National Drugs Coordinator, Ministry of Health (Portugal)
13:25 – 13:30	Country experience (1): Establishing Quality Assurance mechanism for drug use disorder treatment services in Nigeria <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jimoh Salaudeen, Federal Ministry of Health (Nigeria)
13:35 – 13:40	Country experience (2): Enhancing drug use disorder treatment policy, system and services in Pakistan <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sabino Sikandar, Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Narcotics Control (Pakistan)
13:40 – 13:45	Voice from Civil Society Organizations: What high quality treatment programs have in common <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Andrew Kolodny, Medical Director, Opioid Policy Research Collaborative Institute for Behavioral Health, Brandeis University (Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs and New York NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs)
13:45 – 13:48	Q & A
13:48 – 13:50	Way forward and closing UNODC