

## Latin American members of the International Drug Policy Consortium call for new approaches to drug control strategies

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As organizations based in or working on Latin America and members of the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), we claim the democratic and sovereign right of our countries to make any necessary corrections to current drug policy and call on the international community, meeting in the *Thematic Debate of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Drugs and Crime as a Threat to Development on the Occasion of the UN International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*, and the *International Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Specialized National Agencies on the Global Drug Problem*, to make profound reforms to current drug policies.

We realize that democratic institutions in Latin America are under enormous pressure from interests connected with drug-related organized crime; that organized crime groups are gaining strength in the region and gradually expanding into other profitable illegal activities; and that the so-called “war on drugs” in the region results in many of the most serious “unintended consequences” of the international substance control system as described by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

We call on the international community to make real, immediate and substantive changes to:

- Restructure the goals and priorities of all drug policies, including those related to law enforcement and justice, so they respect human rights and are subject to objective, impartial and periodic evaluations with the participation of civil society.
- Ensure adequate resources for health, prevention, education and social development, in relation to budget allocations for law enforcement, according to criteria based on scientific evidence and harm- and risk-reduction.
- End criminalization of and discrimination against drug users, especially the most marginalized, who are in greatest need of effective access to health services. We also call for the participation and inclusion of those users in public discussion on all policies affecting them.
- Implement effective economic development policies for areas where crops used for illicit drug production are cultivated, including an appropriate sequence of actions that makes it possible to decrease those crops and guaranteeing access to international markets for alternative products included in the strategy. This also implies that small-scale producers not be treated as criminals.
- Recognize traditional uses of ancestral plants, such as the coca leaf.
- Consider regulatory alternatives for cannabis.

- Observe, in accordance with the law, the principle of proportionality in sentences for drug-related crimes, and consider alternatives to incarceration for offenders who have not committed violent or serious crimes.

**The IDPC organizations located in or working on Latin America who are members of IDPC:**

Asociación de Estudios del Cannabis del Uruguay (AECU), Uruguay  
Asociacion Civil Intercambios, Argentina  
Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad (DeJuSticia), Colombia  
Centro de Investigación Drogas y Derechos Humanos (CIDDDH), Peru  
Centro de Respuestas Educativas y Comunitarias A.C (CRECE), Mexico  
Colectivo por una Política Integral Hacia las Drogas (CUPIHD), Mexico  
Espolea, Mexico  
Psicotropicus, Brazil  
Puente Investigación y Enlace (P.I.E.), Bolivia  
Red Americana de Intervención en Situaciones de Sufrimiento Social (RAISSS)  
Red Andina de Información (AIN), Bolivia  
Red Chilena de Reducción de Daños, Chile  
Rede Brasileira de Redução de Danos e Direitos Humanos (REDUC), Brazil  
Transnational Institute (TNI), Holland  
Viva Rio, Brazil  
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), United States

**The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) is a global network of non-governmental organizations and professional networks specializing in issues related to controlled drugs. It promotes objective, open discussion of drug policy at the national and international level and supports effective, evidence-based policies to reduce drug-related harm. For more information, see: [www.idpc.net](http://www.idpc.net).**