

Side Event at the 59th Commission on Narcotic Drugs

## **Harm Reduction and the UNGASS: Feedback from the Expert Group Meeting in Berlin**

**Tuesday, 15 March, 2.20-3.10 p.m. in Conference Room M3**

In February 2016 the hosts of this side event jointly organized an Expert Group Meeting on new approaches to harm reduction in Berlin. Representatives from 14 countries, as well as various civil society organisations and UN Agencies, discussed the global harm reduction response, the need for scale-up and funding to ensure a stronger public health response to the world drug problem, and the future of harm reduction for people who use stimulants and women who use drugs.

The participants and presentations highlighted the importance and success of the harm reduction response to drugs, and the need to continue promoting effective drug policies that are based on public health and human rights. This CND side event will feedback from, and summarize, discussions at the Expert Group Meeting, and the implications as we approach the UNGASS on drugs in April 2016

### **Agenda**

- 1) Opening remarks**  
Marlene Mortler MP, Drug Commissioner of the Federal Government
- 2) Summary of the outcomes of the meeting**  
Dr Ingo Michels, Head of Unit of the Federal Drug Commissioner's Office
- 3) Short presentations of thematic approaches and national programmes**  
Prof. Sudhir Khandelwal (tbc), All India Institute of Medical Sciences;  
Zhannat Kosmukhamedova, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;  
Patricia Kramarz, Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ; and  
Dr Fábio Mesquita, Ministry of Health, Brazil.

The side event will be chaired by Ann Fordham, Executive Director of International Drug Policy Consortium

Refreshments will be provided from 2p.m. until 3.30 p.m. in the coffee area near M3