



HARM REDUCTION AS A PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY

Friday, 16th March 2018, 09:00 - 9:50 | Conference Room M6

Side event at the 61st Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

An increasing number of governments around the world have recognised the importance and the need to develop and implement public policies grounded in human rights principles and focusing on reducing the harms associated with drug use.

Many countries have introduced harm reduction as a key component of health and social policies, to reach out to some of the most vulnerable groups of society. Partnerships between government institutions and NGOs are key to the development and implementation of effective harm reduction interventions.

This session will focus on national harm reduction policies in various countries around the world, with perspectives from both governments and civil society representatives.

Presentations will showcase the elaboration and implementation process in these countries, highlighting evidence-based practices. The presentations will not only focus on interventions and strategies aiming to reduce drug-related health harms (HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, mental health), but also those seeking to address social and economic vulnerabilities and violence.

Panellists:

- **Ernesto Cortés**, ACEID (Costa Rica)
- **Diego Olivera**, Junta Nacional de Drogas (Uruguay)
- **Shaun Shelly**, TB/HIV Care Association (South Africa)
- **Charanjit Sharma**, India HIV/AIDS Alliance (India)

Moderator:

- **Ambassador María del Pilar Saborio de Rocafort**, Costa Rica