

## Concept Note

### **6<sup>th</sup> Civil Society Hearing** in preparation for the **UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs**

*21 October 2015, 3-5:30pm  
Conference Room 2, UN Headquarters, New York, NY*

The Civil Society Task Force will hold its **6<sup>th</sup> Civil Society Hearing** at United Nations Headquarters on the margins of the General Assembly Third Committee negotiations of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution “Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016” and the annual drugs “omnibus” resolution. The goal of the hearing is to update member states on Civil Society Task Force activities as well as to provide valuable input from civil society in preparation of the 2016 UNGASS on Drugs.

The Civil Society Hearing will consist of two panels:

- 1) Panel 1. Report on preliminary results of the Global Civil Society Survey. Civil Society Task Force members from different regions (Asia, Africa) and thematic areas (criminal justice) will discuss the status of global consultations currently underway.
- 2) Panel 2. Civil society representatives will share their knowledge and expertise in some of the emerging priority areas highlighted in the Global Civil Society Survey report, especially in addiction medicine and gender issues around incarceration.

The panel discussions will be followed by Question & Answer Session. The following is the Agenda for the meeting:



**6<sup>th</sup> Civil Society Hearing**  
in preparation for the  
**UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs**

*21 October 2015, 3-5:30pm*  
*Conference Room 2, UN Headquarters, New York, NY*

**Opening**

- Esbjörn Hörnberg, Chair, Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs / Chair, Civil Society Task Force
- H.E. Ambassador Khaled Shamaa, Chair, UNGASS Board (*video message*)
- Kamal Amakrane, Political Director, Office of the President of the UN General Assembly
- Simone Monasabien, Director, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, New York Office

**Civil Society Task Force (CSTF): Consultations and Findings**

- Sheila Vakharia, Ph.D, Assistant Professor, Long Island University – Report on the preliminary findings of the Global Civil Society Survey
- Eze Eluchie, Director, People Against Drug Dependence & Ignorance / CSTF Representative for Sub-Saharan Africa (*video message*)
- Khuat Thi Hai Oanh, Executive Director, Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives / CSTF Representative for Southeast and East Asia (*video message*)
- Andrea Huber, Policy Director, Penal Reform International / CSTF Representative for Thematic Area: Criminal Justice

Moderated by Elisa Rubini, International Relations and Outreach Officer, San Patrignano / Vice Chair, Civil Society Task Force

**Voices of Civil Society: Emerging Recommendations and Priority Areas**

- Gregory C. Bunt, M.D., President, International Society of Addiction Medicine – Recommendations from the field of addiction medicine as it contemplates change in the 21st century
- Andrea James, Executive Director, Families for Justice as Healing – Gender issues and incarceration
- Dr. Emmanuel Luyirika, Executive Director, African Palliative Care Association – The need for safe, effective access to controlled medicines in Africa (*video message*)
- Prevention (*video message*) – TBA
- Questions and Answers for both panels

Moderated by Heather J. Haase, Chair, New York NGO Committee on Drugs / Vice Chair, Civil Society Task Force