



HIV/AIDS PREVENTION: THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS 57

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**Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)**

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/SAC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

**"JUST KNOW" Campaign emphasizes:**

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

**"Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:**

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands ( hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicin

**"Women's economic autonomy"**

through our Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

**AAA ISAHOT SPOT - ACTIVELY PRESENT WHEREVER ITS MEMBERS ARE!**

The 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs preceded by a two day High-Level Segment was held at the United Nations Office, Vienna, from 13 – 21 March 2014. Hereunder, you will find some elements of the statement that was submitted on behalf of members of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC), of which African Action on AIDS is also a member.

"...It is welcome that many Member States have adopted a national drug plan and involved or consulted NGOs and affected populations in its development and implementation... We call upon Member States to use the experience and expertise of civil society in the future development, implementation and evaluation of drug policies at national and international level..." In the area of **demand reduction** "we welcome the increased provision of prevention, treatment, care, harm reduction and recovery services, but note that the level of provision remains too low and that, for the majority of those in need, services are not available or cannot be accessed. We also welcome the work of some Member States in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to replace compulsory drug detention and rehabilitation centres with community based services providing evidence-informed drug dependence treatment and HIV and TB prevention, treatment, care and support.... However, while demand reduction and related services are declared a political priority, evidence shows that provision is severely constrained due to lack of resources and political support.... Access to essential medicines remains poor despite the work of WHO, INCB and UNODC to improve access...."

In the area of **supply reduction** "NGOs identified few real measures of supply reduction achievements.... Among the major challenges are corruption, bribery and general ineffective criminal justice systems. Political instability along with significant violence and problems flowing from the drug trade have also posed challenges, as have the economic and social problems facing many jurisdictions.... The trafficking of internationally controlled drugs via the internet continues to be a challenge.... The impact of changing trafficking routes on transit countries has been significant...."

Aside from the official debates, there were many side events, including a Civil Society Hearing on addressing drug abuse through a health based approach, which was attended by NGO representatives as well as Government delegates. The very well attended High Level Briefing on the Conclusions of the Hearing had as its honorary chair H.M. Queen Silvia of Sweden. **For more information please visit [www.vngoc.org](http://www.vngoc.org).**



Herta Kaschitz and Lilly Sucharipa, the two AAA representatives to the UN Vienna

**Reported by Dr. Herta P. Kaschitz**

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