



AAA Representative attends the 66th Session of the COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUG(CND) from 13 – 17 March 2023 at Vienna, Austria, and NGO side events.

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The session was chaired by Ambassador Miguel Camilo Ruiz Blanco, Permanent Representative of Columbia to the United Nations in Vienna.

Many speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring the availability of, and access to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, and recognized the work carried out by INCB, WHO, UNODC and the Commission in that regard.

The Representative of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria emphasized the deep connection between the Commission’s work and the Fund’s work to bring an end to HIV/Aids. He said that drug policy remains a key to determining who is reached with life-saving HIV prevention, treatment and care. Harm reduction services reduce HIV infection. Access to justice is an essential disease prevention intervention. The observance of human rights is integral to the Fund’s success. The Global Fund is glad to be partnering with UNODC.

More than 150 side events and close to 30 exhibitions have taken place on various aspects of addressing and countering the world drug problem. The session brought together participants from 133 Member States, UN entities, **133 non-governmental organizations including African Action on AIDS**, the scientific community in Vienna and online participants. **One of the side events was dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs.** All past presidents attended the meeting, and tribute was also paid to Eva Tongue, the late founder of the Committee.



The Commission adopted four resolutions on issues including **a) Preparations for the midterm review to be held during the 67th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2024;** **b) Promoting alternative development as a development-oriented drug control strategy that is suitable and inclusive;** **c) Safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs;** **d) Strengthening information-sharing to increase scientific evidence-based support for international scheduling and the effective implementation of international scheduling decisions.**

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