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BI-REGIONAL
DIALOGUE
AND MECHANISM

3rd COPOLAD II ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Women and drugs policy

Progress and challenges in the implementation of the gender approach and the empowerment of women as a cross-cutting matter

Sofia (Bulgaria), 19–20 June, 2018

Since its first phase, COPOLAD has been a programme highly committed to promoting progress regarding the inclusion of the gender approach as a cross-cutting element of drugs policies. In this framework, the 3rd COPOLAD II Annual Conference¹, was reviewing -from a broad perspective- the state of key aspects to consider in this field. Since then, some noteworthy advances have been made in the theoretical recognition of the need to incorporate this approach across all areas of drugs policies. This progress is clearly reflected in within the new Strategies and National Plans on drugs published during the last five years in different countries. Also in the increase of programmes and initiatives undertaken by both, countries and multilateral institutions.

Nevertheless, the still limited availability of the necessary evidence for differentiating the specificities of drug-related problems between women and men remains a field to be further explored in many aspects. Similarly, and as a consequence of the aforementioned shortcoming, this availability of evidence on the effectiveness of implemented responses -even though promising- is still incipient. Both in the EU and the CELAC countries, information disaggregated by sex and social group is available for some basic indicators to start responding effectively to the many existing needs. For example, we increasingly count on information on *prevalence of drug use, frequency, age of onset*, as well as the evolution of those indicators throughout time; and in some cases other highly relevant data differentiated by sex may be available, such as *availability and type of socio-sanitary care provided, use and dropout rates of these services, pregnancy rates in adolescents, drug-related imprisonment rates*, which allow being crossed with other key indicators for women such as *economic level, level of education, sexual abuse or mistreatment incidences at early ages*, problems derived from the stigmatisation of drug use itself, or other family conditions derived from the exclusive responsibility on economic maintenance and family care, etc.

Considering all those elements, we have enough evidence to state that the cultural and social definitions of what it means to be a man and a woman, are behind a large number of social inequalities between genders. If we also consider transversally the social class, level of income and education, and the relation of all these aspects with drug-related problems, we are facing one of the biggest challenges to which we must respond in a comprehensive way, through the establishment of equity policies that allow to going beyond the development of isolated activities of assistance to women in situations of vulnerability.

In this framework, the consideration of the gender perspective and the empowerment of women as an indisputable element of drugs policies, is still a challenge that must be addressed in practice and transversally. For that reason, and following the line of activities initiated during the first phase of the Programme, the 3rd COPOLAD II Annual Conference aims at facilitating new progress in this area.

PURPOSE & PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

- **Purpose:** To provide an adequate framework for all participating countries and institutions to be updated on the latest available knowledge in this area, as much in epidemiological aspects as in other key indicators, keeping in mind other qualitative inputs of great interest, while also facilitating the exchange of success stories and lessons learned in the cross-cutting incorporation of the gender approach in ongoing policies.
- **Profile of participants:** High level representatives at the institutions in charge of drugs policies in each CELAC and EU country, as well as officials of multilateral institutions and bi-regional networks participating as collaborating agencies of COPOLAD II.

¹ Held in June 2013, in Quito (Ecuador).



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Tuesday 19 June

08:30h – 09:00h: Registration

09:00h–09:15h Opening session

09:15h – 09:45h: Family photo

09:45h–11:00h **PANEL 1. Women and drugs: current trends and main challenges**

Chairperson: Martha Jarvis. NDAPU, Dominica

- **Women and drugs in the EU: main indicators, current trends, existing gaps.** LINDA MONTANARI. Principal scientific analyst. Public health unit. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).
- **Women and drugs in the CELAC: main indicators, current trends, existing gaps.** MARYA HYNES. Acting Director, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID). Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD-OAS).

Plenary discussion / Q & A

11:00h – 11:30h: Coffee break

11:30h–13:15h **PANEL 2. Women and drugs: understanding specific needs and defining policies and approaches to face them (I)**

Chairperson: Sofia Santos. SICAD, Portugal

- **Alcohol, gender and inequities: impact on women.** MARISTELA MONTEIRO. Senior Advisor on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-WHO).
- **Non-prescribed use of psychotropics by women of general population: a hidden problem.** ROBERTO MORO. Secretary of State. *Secretaría de Políticas Integrales sobre Drogas de la Nación Argentina* (SEDRONAR). Argentina.
- **How stigma limits the access of female drug users to specialized services.** JINDŘICH VOBORIL. National Coordinator for Drug Policy. Secretariat of the Council of the Government for Drug Policy. Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.
- **Gender approach and drugs: designing drugs policy sensitive to current inequities.** NURIA ROMO AVILÉS. Professor, Department of Social Anthropology. University of Granada. Spain.

Plenary discussion / Q & A

13:15h – 15:00h: Lunch offered by COPOLAD

² Simultaneous translation English – Spanish – English will be provided along all sessions of the Conference.



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15:00h–18:00h PANEL 3. Women and drugs: understanding specific needs and defining policies and approaches to face them (II)

Chairperson: Helena Melo Moura. SENAD, Brazil

- **Where are we coming from and how are we progressing on the gender approach: The example of the Spanish Strategy 2017-2024.** MARÍA SOFÍA ARAGÓN SÁNCHEZ. Deputy Director of Institutional Relations, *Delegación del Gobierno para el Plan Nacional sobre Drogas (DGPNSD)*. Spain.
- **Drugs Policy: making the case for women and girls in CARICOM.** BEVERLY A. REYNOLDS. Coordinator, Health and Human Development. Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
- **Supporting initiatives to effectively face current gaps on drug policy and women empowerment after UNGASS 2016.** VALERIA SOLÍS RIVERA. Head of Drugs and Cyber-security, General-Directory to the UN, *Secretaría para Relaciones Exteriores (SRE)*. Mexico.

Plenary discussion / Q & A

16:20h – 16:50h: Coffee break

- **Drug Abuse and Dependency: Understanding Gender Differences in the management of treatment services.** LUIS ALFONZO. Regional Advisor on Drug Abuse. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-WHO).
- **Implications of social and legal punishment for women in high risk situations related with drugs.** ESTHER BEST. Manager, National Drug Council (NDC). Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Women, drugs policy and incarceration in Latin America and the Caribbean: options for reform.** MARIE NOUGUIER. Head of Research and Communications, International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC).

Plenary discussion / Q & A

19:00h: Cocktail offered by COPOLAD

Wednesday 20 June

09:00h–11:00h PANEL 4. Policy progress: development of strategies, action and services tailored to women needs (I)

Chairperson: Itamar Patricio Rodríguez. Ministry of Health, Ecuador

- **Considering the needs of specific women's groups facing different types of vulnerability in Chile.** MARCELA LARA ORELLANA. Adults Unit. Treatment Area. *Servicio Nacional para la Prevención y Rehabilitación del Consumo de Drogas y Alcohol (SENDA)*. Chile
- **Inclusion of the gender approach in the Dominican Republic.** LOHADIS UREÑA. Head of Community Prevention Services, *Consejo Nacional de Drogas (CND)*. Dominican Republic.
- **Progresses in the implementation of the gender approach in the national strategy.** DANIELLE VEIRA. Head of the Directorate of National Security, Cabinet of the President. Suriname.
- **Main challenges in including the gender approach in drug policy.** LAUREN COMBER. Head of International Drug Policy, Home Office. United Kingdom.
- **A cross-cutting approach to women empowerment in the national drug policy.** ANDREA RIZZO. Advisor, Cooperation and International Relations. *Junta Nacional de Drogas (JND)*. Uruguay.

Plenary discussion / Q & A

11:00h – 11:30h: Coffee break

11:30h–13:15h PANEL 5. Policy progress: development of strategies, action and services tailored to women needs (II)

Chairperson: Margarita Sánchez Villegas, RIOD

- **Women and drugs: the gender approach in the framework of the Peace Agreement in Colombia.** MARTHA PAREDES. Deputy Director of Strategy and Analysis. *Dirección de Política contra las Drogas y Actividades Relacionadas, Ministerio de Justicia y del Derecho (MINJUSTICIA)*. Colombia & FRANCISCO COY, Minister Plenipotentiary, Mission of Colombia to the EU, Colombia.



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- **Women's access to harm reduction services in Costa Rica.** EUGENIA MATA. Head of Unit. *Instituto Costarricense sobre Drogas (ICD)*. Costa Rica.
- **Challenges to include the gender approach as a cross-cutting matter in a national strategy on drugs.** TIFFANY BARRY. Head of the Guyana Drug Information Network (GUYDIN), National Anti-Narcotics Agency (NANA). Guyana.
- **Support services for women victims of violence.** LENER RENAULD. General Coordinator, *Commission Nationale de Lutte contre la Drogue (CONALD)*. Haiti.
- **Women's empowerment in Alternative Development, the Peruvian experience.** YOVITA IVANOVA. Alternative Development Coordinator – Directorate for Technical Affairs, *Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo y Vida sin Drogas (DEVIDA)*. Peru.

Plenary discussion / Q & A

13:15h – 14:45h: Lunch offered by COPOLAD

14:45h–16:00h **PANEL 6. Framework and instruments to support policies and programmes with a cross-cutting gender approach with special attention to women empowerment (I)**

Chairperson: Terrence Fountain. NADS, The Bahamas

- **Developing gender statistics: a practical tool.** HAOYI CHEN & YUMIKO KAMIYA. Programme Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) joint initiative of the United Nations Statistics Division and UN Women.
- **Gender, health and development in the Americas: Basic Indicators.** LILIA JARA. Advisor on Gender, Ethnicity and Health, Data and Evidence. Cultural diversity, Equity and Gender Office. Peruvian Office of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO-WHO).
- **Inter-American Program to Strengthen Gender Equality in the National Agencies in charge of Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking (GENLEA).** MARYA HYNES. Acting Director, Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID). Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD-OAS).

Plenary discussion / Q & A

16:00h – 16:30h: Coffee break

16:30h–17:30h **PANEL 7. Framework and instruments to support policies and programmes with a cross-cutting gender approach with special attention to women empowerment (II)**

Chairperson: Betty Hunte. NCSA, Barbados

- **UNODC: Strategy for gender equality and the empowerment of women (2018–2021).** GIOVANNA CAMPELLO. Officer-in-Charge, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, Drug prevention and Health Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- **Alternative Development and gender aspects: Livelihood analysis as a gender-sensitive needs assessment in drug crop cultivation areas.** KLAAS GRIMMELMANN. COPOLAD's Task Force Coordinator for Alternative Development. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
- **Development of the COPOLAD report: *Drug Policies: the integration of women empowerment as a cross-cutting issue*.** TERESA SALVADOR-LLIVINA. Director, COPOLAD (FIIAPP-DGPNSD).

Plenary discussion / Q & A

17:30h–18:00h **Final remarks and Closing session**

- **Austrian EU Presidency goals in the field of drug policy.** URSULA VAVRIK, Co-Chair of HDG/Incoming EU Presidency, Austria.
- **Closing remarks.** CÉLINE RUIZ, European Commission & TERESA SALVADOR-LLIVINA, COPOLAD (FIIAPP-DGPNSD).

18:00h: End of the 3rd Annual Conference of COPOLAD II