



Organización Civil - ONG
Grupo de Mujeres de la Argentina
Foro de VIH Mujeres y Familia (GMAF)

December 8, 2022

UNODC

NGO Alliance for Crime Prevention Criminal Justice (Alliance)

Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC)

Present

Reason: Civil society consultation on commitment to the UNODC Synthetic Drugs Strategy - 2022

The civil organization Grupo de Mujeres de Argentina - Foro de VIH Mujeres y Familia - GMAF - ECOSOC, presented ourselves today, regarding the consultation for civil society on the commitment to the Synthetic Drug Strategies of the UNODC in the margins of the session CND and CCPCJ.

In this regard, we give our contribution, taking into account our social commitment and monitoring in different countries of Latin America, Europe and Africa, always focusing on harm reduction, and with the aim of improving the quality of life of many people who are abused. of drugs.

Knowing that the UNODC Synthetic Drugs Strategy from 2021-2025 is focused on four "spheres of action", which are: multilateralism, the cooperation of all the actors of the international community, as well as the alert on emerging threats of synthetic drugs (adulterated - illicit market), knowing the damage they cause, and finally being able to give an effective health response based on science.

We want to say that our organizations in Network with other organizations and social groups, we focus on articulating actions from the professionals trained to play a consultative role in the implementation for the adaptation and evaluation of the Synthetic Drugs Strategy.

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By the order in which we have selected the meeting groups, we will say the following:

1- Regarding the response to health - Group N° 2

We are concerned that there is serious intoxication in several countries from the consumption of tablets of synthetic substances, which, in many cases, are distributed in massive youth events - at electronic parties, or are distributed in social networks or private groups, without quality control or campaigns on how to prevent its consumption.

The National Drug Board in Uruguay has expressed it well, where it reported on poisoning from the consumption of tablets with the "EA Sports logo". This same board has advised avoiding its consumption and reinforcing attention regarding the symptoms and manifestations of those who are under the influence of this substance.

In Spain, for example, another of the drugs for social use that are commonly called "bath salts", which are artificial stimulants, was discussed as having a chemical structure similar to that of "cathinone", which is found in the khat plant, which grows in eastern Africa and southern Arabia. People who consume this drug chew the leaves as they have a stimulating effect, but it is very dangerous.

It is known as a white or brown crystalline powder and is sold in plastic or foil packets with a label, labeled "bath salts," "plant food," and "plant food." , "jewelry cleaner" or "phone screen cleaner".

Another drug is "Molly", also called Ecstasy, it is a pure crystal powder, it is bought in capsules, some people consume them to avoid additives such as caffeine, methamphetamine, in the city of Florida United States, in a forensic laboratory I analyze These capsules contained methylone, which is a dangerous synthetic cathinone.

- As a conclusion to this group 2, we say that:

These drugs are part of a group called new psychoactive substances (NPS), this means that they alter the mind and are not regulated, and that is why we recommend that there be quality control and sales of the same , not reaching the point that drug users use the illicit



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market to obtain them, and cause irreversible lessons to their organisms or lead them to death due to their consumption.

2 - Regarding multilateralism and cooperation - Group N°1

In general conclusions.

3 - Anti-narcotics interventions - prevention of national and transnational crime -

Group N° 4

In order to carry out national and transnational prevention, we must take into account the different drugs that are catalogued, since some are socially accepted and, on the other hand, those that are prohibited drugs - CNS depressants, which are drugs that include sedatives, tranquilizers and hypnotic drugs.

Unfortunately, some "CNS drugs" can cause an overdose endangering life, causing death to those who use them.

That is why we recommend that there must be control from the international community system and with the commitment of international subjects, giving the person medical help, rather than a punitive or sanction intervention legal, since it must be accompanied by an interdisciplinary team.

With respect to the intervention of anti-narcotics groups, we believe that, in these cases, it is dangerous, since we have received complaints from users and users, and from civil organizations, who have experienced discrimination and violence, even arbitrary arrests, having complied with internal regulations of each state.

Example in Argentina and Uruguay, today beyond the legal authorization of the use of cannabis, there have been arrests of users and growers, beyond that they have complied with their registration in the health system, having a State certificate and credential and today complying an unfair sentence.



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4 - Early warning – Group N° 3

An early warning would be the regulation and monitoring of the pharmaceutical industry, since a clandestine chemical industry has developed where the drugs produced are massively consumed by dozens of users, known as synthetic or designer drugs.

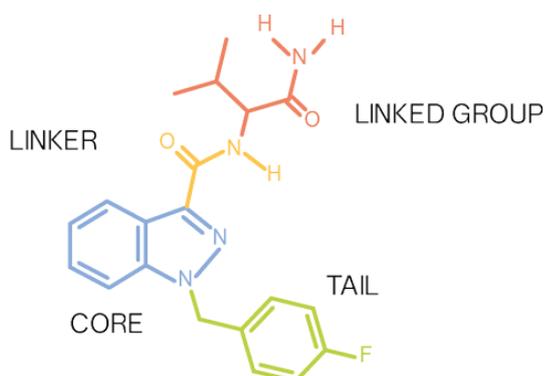
In this case, the most important thing is that the international community and all the actors involved can agree on a document in which a Good Practices document is made, which will include the responsibilities of each one, for prevention, information, without discrimination. no violence.

- SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

An important point for us is to give our contribution on this subject, since today we have seen that this group of substances that simulate the effects of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which are a substance with psychoactive effects of cannabis, It is being monitored by the European Observatory for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) .

Since it is unfortunately that its consumption has caused numerous poisonings and even the death of users and users; In addition, these substances have an effect on other physiological functions of the organism, apart from their effects on cannabinoid receptors.

On the website you can see this different and analysis about it.





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In the United States, for example, in mid-March 2018, the IDPH began receiving reports of people experiencing severe bleeding who reported using synthetic cannabinoid products (i.e., K2, spices, synthetic marijuana, and legal weed).

A good prevention practice has been to run an Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances at helplineIL.org.

As of May 30, 2018, IDPH had received reports of 164 cases in 15 Illinois counties related to an outbreak that began on March 7, 2018.

- In conclusion we will say that:

We appreciate being able to participate in these spaces, as a civil organization, as professionals and consultants, and drug users and people we know empirically, to be able to achieve harm reduction, with a commitment to the health of our bodies and the bond with our families and the whole society.

Since it is important, then, that civil societies like us participate and give the international community the necessary recommendations to better implement the Synthetic Drugs Strategy, since we, like other organizations, have field work, statistics, accompaniment to users, which is very helpful for the implementation of new programs and proposals for the international community, thus creating a map of what is happening in each State.

We believe that the concrete actions in this regard would be international networks, campaigns, monitoring, survey, and proposals for better programs for harm reduction, and most importantly, the commitment through a joint document of all the actors that contains the Good Practices. for the use of synthetic drugs with the regulation and analysis of these substances, with responsible laboratories so that users and users cannot damage their bodies for life or, due to the abuse of these substances, lead to death.

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Regiones - América, Europa y África