

CNDblog 2010: <http://www.cndblog.org/search/>

Live Monitoring the 53rd of the Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, 8-12 March

“CNDblog 2010 is a project of the [International Harm Reduction Association](#), and is administered in partnership with the [International Drug Policy Consortium](#). It is a joint civil society effort to ensure transparency in the deliberations of the 53rd session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), taking place in Vienna 8-12 March 2010.”

“CND is the UN body tasked with overseeing global drug policy. However, despite this important mandate, the Commission chooses to work in relative secrecy. Its meetings are not webcast, nor are minutes or summary records made available to the public. The final reports of the meetings are extremely limited. The CND never votes, so it is difficult to find out what position your government has taken on key issues. CNDblog is an attempt to fill this gap, and provide hour by hour records of the debates and decisions rendered during the 53rd session of CND in March 2010.”

Monday, 8 March 2010

CND Day 1 – Japan's Comments on the INCB Annual Report

Japan provides its full support to countries such as Afghanistan so that they can reach a level of stability. We must take a comprehensive approach to the world drug problem and recognise the human security threats of this problem, and the links between drug issues and money laundering, terrorism and organised crime.

We must adopt policies that protect individuals and their communities. Civil society can play a critical role in demand reduction, with active cooperation of young people. Cooperation on demand reduction could provide synergistic responses to the drug problem. UNODC should focus on drug abuse, prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation. Japan believes that methadone maintenance treatment is not necessary for the abstinence of drugs.

Japan raises its concern about the widespread increase of production and use of ATS. We must prioritise data collection to design appropriate policies to tackle the problem. Japan is alarmed about a new drug trend: herbal mixtures including chemicals not included in the drug control system. Japan is committed to work with the international community and form regional cooperation to reducing the amount of drugs smuggled across borders.

Tuesday, 9 March 2010. CND Day 2

Plenary statement by Japan on drug dependence as a health issue

In response to previous speakers, the representative said deeper understanding of drug dependence is important but expressed reservations with regard to maintenance therapy. Suggested that to treat drug dependence a person must “endure” withdrawal. The speaker said use of substitution therapy is not effective for all illicit drugs and that methadone makes the problem worse.

Wednesday, 10 March 2010. CND day 3

Japan's statement on the CND Plan of Action and Political Declaration

We cannot approach the world drug problem solely from the pharmaceutical point of view. We need to combat international organised crime, dealing with demand and supply reduction, bringing together a number of players, including NGOs.

The UNODC World Drug Report shows that member states have acted with efficiency to limit the world drug problem in their own countries. However, we must emphasize the complexity of the world drug problem, and recognise that each country has specific problems. Globally, we are concerned by the proliferation of synthetic drugs and cannabis.

For synthetic drugs, it is mentioned in the plan of action. It is important to address this problem. We must watch this trend. We must stop the proliferation of this new type of drug. Effective cooperation is necessary, including the capacity building of the law enforcement bodies.

We are also concerned with the proliferation of cannabis and we consider that because of the danger of cannabis, our drug situation is even more complicated. We must control substances that are not currently not controlled by the international drug control but include cannabis elements.

My delegation underscores the importance of being vigilant to stop this new trend internationally and regionally, with the help of bodies such as the UNODC. We must also have sufficient resources so that the fight against drugs is successful.

Committee of the Whole afternoon session on Universal Access resolution

The Committee debated the language of a draft resolution proposed by the EU, Norway and Thailand entitled 'Achieving universal access to treatment, care and support for people with HIV, including injecting drug users, by 2010'. (...)

Significant debate took place again over operative paragraphs 2 and 3, both of which refer to 'harm reduction'. Countries including Columbia, Russia, Zimbabwe, the USA and Japan all wanted the term removed. (...)

Thursday, 11 March 2010. CND day 4

Plenary statement of Japan on drug demand reduction

We adopt a zero-tolerance policy on drug use is stressed by Japan to maintain a low rate of drug use. There should be public awareness on the dangers of drug use, to diminish the problem of drug use. We have a campaign through many public awareness activities, especially among young people.

It is indispensable for member states to cooperate in this field. Drug abuse can be countered through strong will and commitment.

Treatment of drug dependence and support for social reintegration is important as well to reconstruct our societies and affected families. We have been making progress providing social services and social reintegration.

Japan recognises the need for treatment of drug dependents to abstain from drugs. But MMT is not universal to all countries. NSPs are problematic: it would permit drug abuse in society. This programme should be discussed according to each particular situation. UNODC should not impose these programmes on member states.

Japan's plenary statement on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking

Japan highlighted drug problem shared by many states present – ATS. Methamphetamine and Ice are the most commonly used drugs in Japan. In the past methamphetamine had been smuggled from other Asian countries. Recently it is coming from the Middle East and Africa. However, smuggling of ecstasy from Europe is declining.

To facilitate international cooperation Japan hosts a number of conferences. These help promote information exchange and coordinate investigations with foreign counterparts.