



FROM UNGASS 2016 TO UNGASS 2019

¿TOWARDS A TRANSFORMATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL REGIME?

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A CRUMBLING FOSSILIZED REGIME

- Based on a moral narrative.
- On-source geostrategic approach.
- High-value as a social control tool to maintain social exclusion internally.
- Locked to change by an “impossible” consensus.
- Pressures to hold deviance.
- Hijacked by hard-liners and diplomats.
- Indifference of key actors.
- No focus on negative consequences.

DEALING WITH EXPECTATIONS

- Informed realism.
- Difficulties for consensus within the UN framework.
- Stronger dissent, new hard-line leaders.
- Limited incentives for change.
- Contradictory discourses (domestic vs. International).



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS



- US legal markets as game-changer.
- Open and wider debate.
- More evidence on negative impact of policies.
- More calls for accountability, for new metrics.
- Global Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development as a reference.
- Opened door to some degree of experimentation/flexibility.

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS



- Access to controlled drugs.
- References to “harm reduction” interventions.
- Proportionality of sentencing.
- Socio-economic problems behind production and trafficking.
- References to reducing crime and violence.



UNGASS 2016: WHAT DID NOT HAPPEN

- No discussion on structural issues.
- No debate on architectural changes.
- No reference to harm reduction, decriminalization or death penalty abolition.
- Taboo on regulated markets.
- No changes on metrics.
- Lack of comprehensive approach to drugs.
- No clarity on traditional uses.



HOPE FOR UNGASS 2019

- Greater integration with Human Rights mechanisms.
- Coherence with Agenda 2030.
- Debate on evaluation metrics.
- Debate on regulated markets.
- Improvement of global architecture on drugs.
- More potential for local/national innovation and experimentation.