The 7th World Forum Against Drugs 2020

International Strategic Meeting in Vienna, March 1st, 2020.

Every second year, the World Federation Against Drugs host a World Forum Against Drugs. This year 2020 marks the 7th World Forum since the first World Forum Against Drugs, which was held in Stockholm 2008 and resulted in the creation of the organisation World Federation Against Drugs (WFAD). The participants of the first forum united in the assessment that there was a need to have a global network for civil society active in the field of illicit drugs' prevention – And took initiative to create the WFAD which was later founded in 2009 with the main tasks to gather civil society and arrange a Forum every second year. Since the creation of WFAD, the members have increased rapidly and is today composed of over 260 member organisations worldwide, representing a wider range of civil society.

Since the 6th forum, held in 2018, which marked the ten-year anniversary of the WFAD, the WFAD has focused on hosting Regional Forums across the world. These Regional Forums aim to build the network and capacity within our regional networks, and offer more members the chance of participating. Thus due to the focus on regional forums, the 7th World Forum took form as a smaller event, and was named a Strategic Meeting, creating space to share best practices and gather a joint voice going into the 63rd CND.

This year's World Forum was hosted in connection to the 63rd Annual Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and came about as a result of a strategic planning held prior to 2018's CND. Members saw the need to come together and prepare so to have a joint voice during the CND. A working group consisting of 10 organisations from different areas of the world, working within different topics within the drug field, joined hands in planning the meeting. The date was set to Sunday, March 1st, the day before the inauguration of the 63rd CND.

Approximately 45 participants, from 21 different countries around the world representing each world region partook in the 7th World Forum. The Forum was held in Vienna, in connection to the 63rd annual Commission on Narcotic Drugs, with the support of the Swedish organisation 'Förbundet mot droger'. This support enabled members from all parts of the world to attend, and some members were offered sponsorships.

The Forum focused on youth and children in particular and highlighted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Human Rights, treatment and recovery of youth. Furthermore, issues related to the CND were discussed including the rescheduling of cannabis, the VNGOC, the CND at large and process of participation. Each topic was backed by a position paper, which had previously been sent to all registered participants, presented by one or more of the authors and then discussed by the group.

The Strategic Meeting received positive feedback, and participants voiced their happiness about being gathered prior to the CND week starting.

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