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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION
CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**FIFTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION
November 19 - 21, 2014
Guatemala**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.56
CICAD/doc.2156/14
20 November 2014
Original: English**

**TAKING CONTROL: PATHWAYS TO DRUG POLICIES THAT WORK
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TAKING CONTROL:

PATHWAYS TO DRUG POLICIES THAT WORK



**GLOBAL COMMISSION
ON DRUG POLICY**

**Zara Snapp
November
2014**



1. THE 'WAR ON DRUGS' HAS FAILED – NEW APPROACHES ARE EMERGING



Counting the costs of over half a century of the War on Drugs

- A failure on its own terms
- Threatening public health and safety
- Undermining human rights, fostering discrimination
- Fueling crime and enriching criminals
- Undermining development and security, fueling conflict
- Wasting billions, undermining economies

2. KEY PATHWAYS TO DRUG POLICIES THAT WORK



Put people's health and safety first

Rec 1. Putting health and community safety first requires a fundamental reorientation of policy priorities and resources, from failed punitive enforcement to proven health and social interventions.

Ensure access to essential medicines and pain control

Rec 2. Ensure equitable access to essential medicines, in particular opiate-based medications for pain.

End the criminalization and incarceration of people who use drugs

Rec 3. Stop criminalizing people for drug use and possession - and stop imposing 'compulsory treatment' on people whose only offense is drug use or possession.

Refocus enforcement responses to drug trafficking and organized crime

Rec 4. Rely on alternatives to incarceration for non-violent, low-level participants in illicit drug markets such as farmers, couriers and others involved in the production, transport and sale of illicit drugs.

Refocus enforcement responses to drug trafficking and organized crime

Rec 5. Focus on reducing the power of criminal organizations as well as the violence and insecurity that result from their competition with both one another and the state.

Regulate drug markets to put governments in control

Rec. 6 Allow and encourage diverse experiments in legally regulating markets in currently illicit drugs, beginning with but not limited to cannabis, coca leaf and certain novel psychoactive substances.

3. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP FOR MORE EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE POLICIES



Rec 7. Take advantage of the opportunity presented by the upcoming UNGASS in 2016 to reform the global drug policy regime.

YOU MAY DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT IN ENGLISH, SPANISH,
FRENCH, RUSSION OR PORTUGUESE AT
www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/



**GLOBAL COMMISSION
ON DRUG POLICY**

The purpose of the Global Commission on Drug Policy is to bring to the international level an informed, science based discussion about humane and effective ways to reduce the harm caused by drugs to people and societies.

GOALS

- *Review the basic assumptions, effectiveness and consequences of the 'war on drugs' approach*
- *Evaluate the risks and benefits of different national responses to the drug problem*
- *Develop actionable, evidence-based recommendations for constructive legal and policy reform*

CONTACT

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WATCH NOW

THE HISTORY OF THE WAR ON DRUGS

