

CANNABIS & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Paving the way for the next decade in
Cannabis and hemp policy



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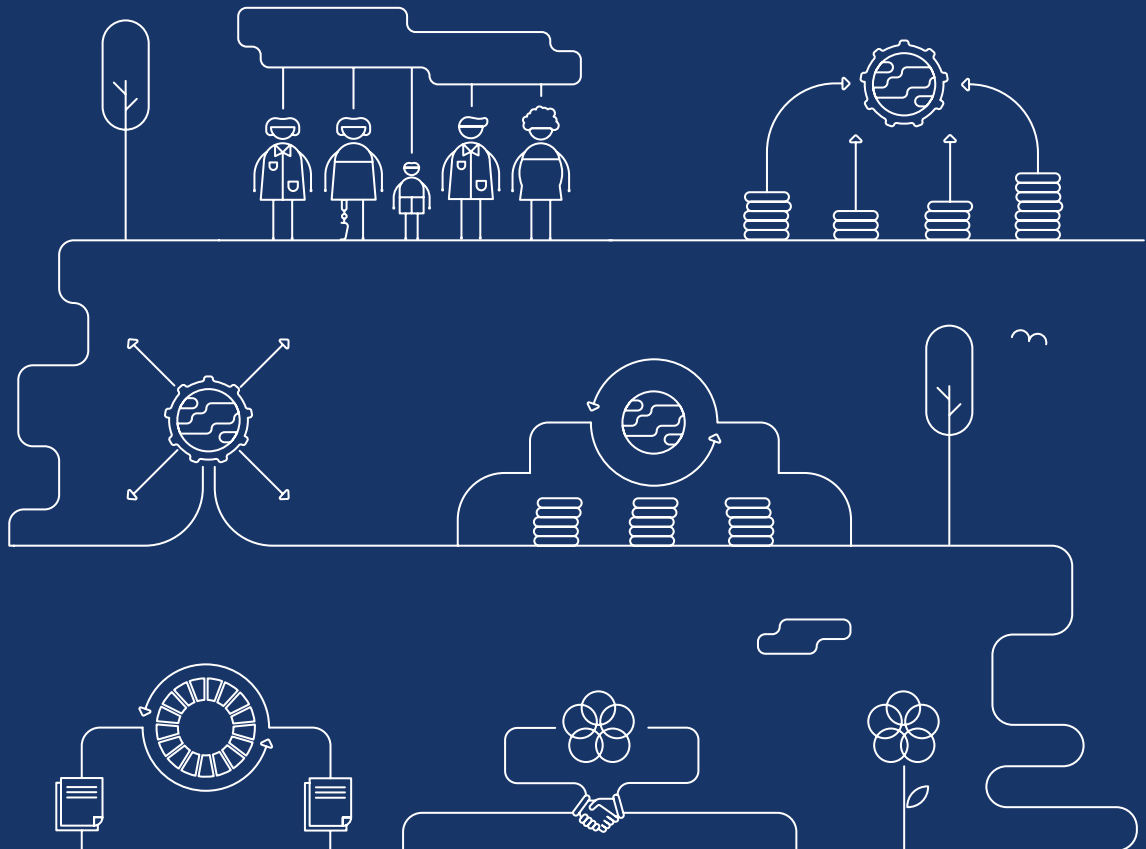
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PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



GOAL 17: KEY POINTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

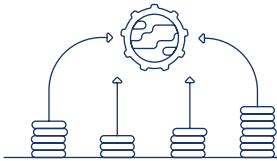
Coherence and consistency of global and national policies and strategies is needed. Rather than maintaining drug policies in a parallel universe with a new post-2019 international plan of action on drugs, the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs should design drug-control strategies articulated around the Goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Redirecting part of international and domestic government funding of drug control law enforcement towards health and development policies can provide a significant contribution to achieving the Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Additionally, sound reforms of Cannabis policies would lead to a redistribution of profits and a mobilization of the resources of criminal organizations to public policy action for sustainable development. The transition of crops from illegal to legal settings, diversification of Cannabis plant-derived products, reuse of waste, etc. will create additional financial resources, including increases in legal exports of Cannabis-related products for the least developed countries.

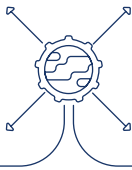
To cohere, policies should stop hampering human rights and overlapping the mandate of ensuring access and availability of controlled plants, products, or substances for medical and research purposes.

Affected populations, peer groups, NGOs, scholars, the health and social care sector as well as the private sector should be involved at all levels of decision, in particular in the early design of Cannabis-related strategies, policies, laws, and regulations.



Target 17.3

Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.



Target 17.11

Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries.

Operational Recommendations from the UNGASS 2016 Outcome Document

6- rights
(a) (e)

7- cooperation
(c) (i) (l)

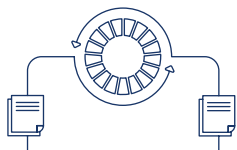
Enforcing **anti-drug policies costs at least US\$100- billion a year globally**, rivaling the US\$130- billion global aid budget²⁹⁴. Given this extensive gap in funding needed to achieve the SDG targets²⁹⁵, “diverting a proportion of international and domestic government funding currently reserved for drug law enforcement towards development could provide a significant contribution to achieving the SDGs. Any **reallocation of funding** would also have a double-positive effect on achieving the SDGs, by reducing funding for drug policies which are counter-productive to meeting the Goals.”²⁹⁶

In complement (as discussed under Goal 16.4 and target 17.13) **sound reforms of Cannabis policies would lead to a redistribution of profits and a mobilization of DTO’s resources towards public policy action** for sustainable development. The transition of crops from illegal to legal settings, diversification of *Cannabis* plant-derived products, reuse of waste, as well as suggested tools such as geographical and origin protections are ways to create **added value and additional financial resources** (leading to **increasing legal exports of Cannabis-related products**) from some of the least developed and most peripheral countries.

294 Martin, 2014.

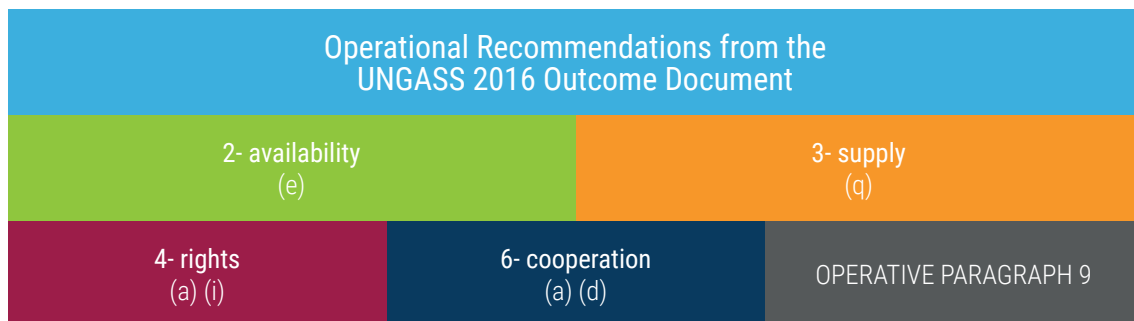
295 Greenhill et al., 2013.

296 Health Poverty Action, 2015.



Target 17.14

Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.



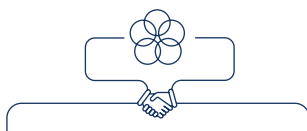
The effect of the international drug control system has always been in stark contradiction to basic Human Rights standards. But since the decade of the 1990's²⁹⁷ the international community has set a series of targets that are not only in contradiction with many other treaties, agreements and national policies²⁹⁸ but also contradict some provisions of the drug control Treaties. **International policies and strategies on drugs have overlapped the goal of ensuring access and availability of controlled plants, products, or substances for medical and research purposes.**

Drug-related topics, *Cannabis* in particular, are victims of **incoherences and inconsistencies in international policies and strategies**. Rather than creating a new international plan of action on drugs (and maintaining drug policies in a parallel universe compared to United Nations values, missions, strategies, and programme of work), the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs should **design drug-control strategies in alignment with the Goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda as a plan of action**. Similar steps could be taken at the local, national, and regional level, thus meeting the commitment made by the UN to ensure that all future policies are aligned with the Sustainable Development framework²⁹⁹.

297 Jelsma and Armenta, 2015, p. 8. See also UNGA, 1998.

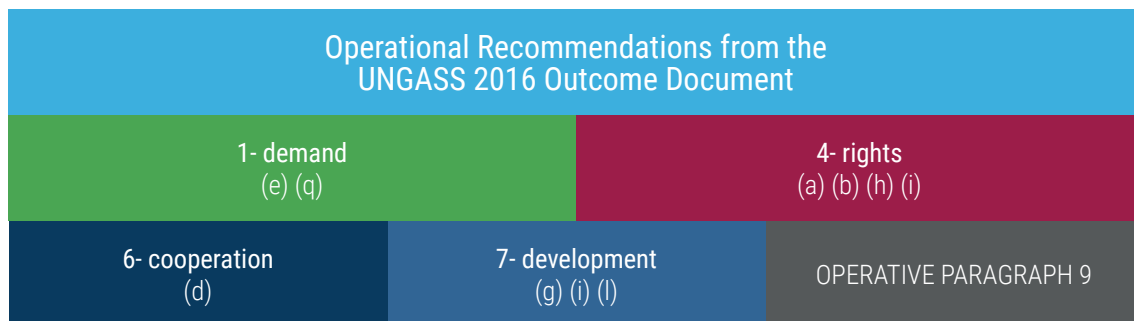
298 Van Kempen and Fedorova, 2016; Lines, 2016; See also about the hierarchy of norms between international human rights legal instruments and drug control treaties in the video of the conference "Is it legal to regulate drugs? Hierarchy of norms between Human Rights & Drug control" from Legal Regulations Fora, Vienna (2017): youtu.be/ujalZSuv7k0

299 UNGA, 2014.



Target 17.17

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.



The political abandonment of populations affected by prohibition has helped gather some affected persons and **peer groups** and some **have created policy model proposals** such as the Cannabis social clubs³⁰⁰ that seek consensus with authorities to establish a small-scale non-for-profit psychoactive *Cannabis* products retail system in order to secure their right to privacy. They have successfully been incorporated into public policies (e.g. Uruguay and at the local level in Spain³⁰¹) demonstrating an **efficient result-oriented integration of grassroots initiatives into public policy**.

Involvement of peers and people who use drug in prevention and education campaigns at all stages, is also a key element of the needed government-citizen collaborations to be sought.

Civil society (including affected populations, peer groups, non-governmental organizations, scholars, health and social care sector as well as the private sector, etc.) should be **involved at all levels of decision** – in particular in the **early design of Cannabis-related strategies, policies, laws, and regulations**.

300 Decorte, 2016; ENCOD, 2011; Ghehieuque and Riboulet-Zemouli, 2016; Jansseune et al., 2019; Marks, 2019; and Pardal et al, 2018.
301 Marks, 2019.