



WEBINAR

Drugs and development hub: Multidimensional responses to drug issues in Africa



Thursday 3rd March 2022
3.00 – 4.30 pm CET

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The African continent continues its long history with drug cultivation, production, consumption and trade. The complexity and diversity of the drug issue in Africa mirrors the broad complexity of the continent itself. Africa has always been well known for cannabis across the continent and to a lesser degree for Khat in the eastern part and the horn of the continent. Further, Africa has a long standing history of heroin transiting from southern Asia through eastern Africa to Europe.

In recent decades, heroin has been expanding in many regions across the continent as micro trafficking networks proliferate. Cocaine, meanwhile is reasonably new, originally transiting the western shores, and more recently through some north African countries as Andean cocaine makes its way to Europe and beyond. However, the continent is also now seeing growing amounts of cocaine transiting the southern and eastern shores for both transshipment and domestic use. Methamphetamine is also relatively recent, being produced in Southern Africa since the early 1990s, but now also produced in West Africa and used quite extensively in southern and eastern Africa. Meanwhile various other drugs, such as synthetic cannabinoids, represent an evolving series of trends within the region.

Given the diversity of issues and complexity of markets, a homogenous policy response is unlikely to yield positive outcomes. This event will point to more complex and multidimensional responses grounded in a commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These responses include rural and urban development, as well as harm reduction approaches and drug policy based on the protection of human rights.

AGENDA

- Intro:** Screening of the DDH Video
- Opening remarks:** Daniel Brombacher, *Head of Project, Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPPDP)*
Mark Shaw, *Director, GI-TOC*
Chair: Gladwell Otieno, *Executive Director, Africa Centre for Open Governance (AfriCOG)*
- Speakers:** Deborah Alimi, *Independent Researcher on Drug Policy, Daleth Research - Applying a development approach to drug policy in Africa*
Monique Marks, *Head of Urban Futures Centre, the Durban University of Technology - Community resilience and urban development responses to drug issues*
Chinwike Okereke, *Founder/CEO, African Law Foundation (AFRILAW) Nigeria - Human rights approach to criminal justice and drug policy*
- Closing remarks:** Abel Basutu, *Programme Management Specialist, African Union*