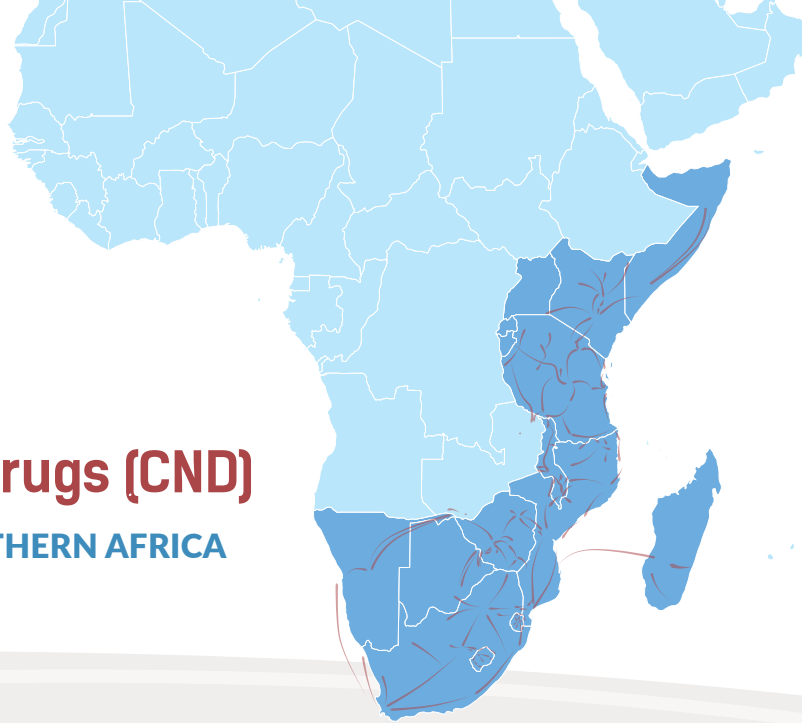


ESACD

Eastern & Southern Africa
Commission on Drugs



67th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

INTRODUCING THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA COMMISSION ON DRUGS (ESACD)

15 March 2024
11.00–13.00 CET

Venue:
Mozart Room, Vienna
International Centre

CATALYZING RESPONSES TO THE EXPANDING AND DIVERSIFYING RANGE OF DRUGS AND DRUG MARKETS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Organized by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) as the Secretariat of the Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs.

Summary of the event

The Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs (ESACD) is an independent, African-led, advocacy group championing drug policy reform and capacity building to implement a more effective, scientific and evidence-based set of drug policies in eastern and southern Africa. The ESACD was convened after a series of multi-stakeholder meetings, including with the Global Commission on Drug Policy, who expressed the need for a regional and expert-led initiative to respond to the drug issues in the region.

Many countries in Eastern and Southern Africa are becoming pivotal transit hubs and destination points in the illicit drug trade, due in part to their strategic locations along shipping routes through the Indian Ocean. This has led to the rise of organized criminal groups in these regions, exacerbating violence and corruption while undermining security and stability. Yet there is a lack of comprehensive and evidence-based drug policies with which to counter the problem productively. To address these issues effectively, a shift towards more comprehensive policies is imperative, focusing on the root causes and consequences of drug use while providing rehabilitation and treatment options for people who use drugs (PWUD).

The event will introduce the recently established Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs (ESACD), which was launched in February 2023, under the leadership of H.E. Kgalema Motlanthe, former president of South Africa. The ESACD, supported under the EU-funded ENACT programme (implemented by the GI-TOC, Interpol and ISS) has held two high-level meetings on the most pressing issues in the region, including public health risks, improving access to medicines, the impact of drug policies on young people and the role of civil society organizations in developing evidence-based policy, drug policy reform, improved law enforcement strategies for disrupting illicit markets and the expansion of maritime trafficking routes.

The side event, held during the CND high level session, will share the outcome of the two meetings, propose ways forward and hear perspectives of speakers from the region, with a view to inputting these into discussions at the 67th CND and its mid-term review of drug policy commitments.

FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

Buffet food and refreshments will be provided at the event.



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FEATURING ESAC COMMISSIONERS



H.E. Kgalema Motlanthe

Former President of South Africa, Chair of the Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs

H.E. Motlanthe was elected by parliament on 25 September 2008 as President of the Republic of South Africa. He served until 9 May 2009. After his retirement as president, Mr Motlanthe was appointed to serve as the deputy president. He served in that position from 11 May 2009 until 24 May 2014. As Deputy President, Motlanthe performed various functions, including the following:

- Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly
- Leader of the Anti-Poverty Programme
- Chairperson of the Energy Advisory Council
- Chairperson of the Human Resource Development Council
- Chairperson of the South African National Aids Council
- Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee 2010 FIFA World Cup

In the 1970s, while working for the Johannesburg City Council, he was recruited into UMKhonto we Sizwe (MK), the then armed wing of the ANC. He was part of a unit tasked with recruiting members for military training outside the country. He now heads the Eastern and Southern Africa Commission on Drugs, the Kgalema Motlanthe Foundation and is a member of the Global Commission on Drugs Policy.



H.E. Joaquim Alberto Chissano

Former President of the Republic of Mozambique, Chairperson of the Joaquim Chissano Foundation

Born in 1939 in Gaza province, Mozambique, as a young man, Joaquim Alberto Chissano was politically active in his native Mozambique, at the time a Portuguese colony. When Mozambique became independent in June 1975, Chissano was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. After the death of President Samora Machel in 1986, Chissano was elected as his successor.

He led positive socio-economic reforms, culminating in the adoption of the 1990 constitution, which led Mozambique to a multi-party system and an open market. Chissano also led negotiations with former rebels, ending 16 years of destabilizing civil war in 1992. In 1994, he won the first multi-party elections in the history of his country, and was re-elected in 1999. He voluntarily decided not to stand in the 2004 presidential elections.

Currently, he is the Chairperson of the Joaquim Chissano Foundation, and of the Africa Forum of Former African Heads of State and Government. Chissano is member of the board of the Peace Parks Foundation, Club of Madrid, The Hunger Project and International Crisis Group. He is Goodwill Ambassador for CPLP (Portuguese-Speaking Countries Community) and Global Partnership Initiative Youth Ambassador. President Chissano is also member of the Advisory Council of the World Food Prize Foundation, member of the High Level Taskforce for the Climate Services at the World Meteorology Organization, member of the UNCTAD Panel of Eminent Persons, member of the Advisory Panel for Global Development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and a member of the High-Level Taskforce for the International Conference on Population and Development. He has received the highest awards from many countries and been awarded several prizes, including the inaugural Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership in 2007.



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RUNNING ORDER

OPENING SESSION

- Welcome from the moderator, Mark Shaw, Director of the GI-TOC
- Keynote opening, H.E. Kgalema Motlanthe, Former President of South Africa, ESACD Chair, to introduce the Commission, its work and how it will contribute to the region
- H.E. Joaquim Chissano, Former President of Mozambique, Member of the Commission
- H.E. Ms Lindiwe Zulu, Minister of Social Development of South Africa

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

- Dr Olubusayo Akinola, Head of Social Welfare, Drug Control and Crime Prevention Division, African Union Commission
- Mr Kenneth Adu-Amanfoh, Director General, Narcotics Control Commission, Ghana
- H.E. Ruth Dreifuss, Former President of Switzerland, Member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy
- Howard Solomon, US Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna

CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVES

- Bernice Apondi, Chief Executive Officer, Voices of Community Action and Leadership (VOCAL)
- Charity Monareng, Parliamentary and Policy Research Officer, TB HIV Care

CLOSING SESSION

- Elsadig Mohamed Ahmed, Secretariat of the ESACD
- Closing remarks, Ambassador Carl Hallergård, Head of the EU Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna

CONFIRMED SUPPORTERS



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