

CND69 side event

# Bridging the Social, Health and Justice Domains:

## *Advancing a Holistic, People-Centred Drug Policy Model*

### Description

The world drug problem, in all its aspects, has grown increasingly complex, driven by a rise in drug use, the proliferation of synthetic substances, evolving consumption patterns, and the expanding reach of organized criminal networks. Punitive responses are falling short in addressing these multifaceted challenges and often exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Growing social marginalisation, mounting mental health pressures, and rising drug-related emergencies underscore the need of approaching drug use mainly as a public health and social issue, while preserving appropriate justice measures.

This side event therefore aims to highlight the importance of holistic, people-centred drug policy models in responding to these overlapping challenges and seeks to outline the complementarity of social services, public-health, and law enforcement efforts, focusing on the needs of people who use drugs by investing in and providing the necessary support services, while maintaining targeted action against criminal networks.

### Speakers:

**Moderator:** H.E. Francesca Camilleri Vettiger, Permanent Representative of Malta to the International Organizations in Vienna

### Panellists:

- Ms. Gorica Popovic (UNODC)
- Mr. Alfred Mangion (Malta)
- Mr. Jean-Paul Fiott (Malta)
- Ms. Kirsty Muller (Canada)
- Mr. Maxime Mellina (Switzerland)
- Mr. Ruggero Scaturro (GI-TOC)

### Details

Wednesday, 11 March 2026

15:00 - 16:00 CET

VIC M5 & hybrid (MS Teams)

Join here:



Side event organized by Malta with the support of Australia, Canada, the European Union, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, and the Global Initiative on Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC)

