

Dear Colleagues,

As most of You probably know the United Nations General Assembly held a special session (UNGASS) in 1998, which culminated in the adoption of a Political Declaration. A review of the UNs achievements and progress is due to be undertaken in 2008 followed by a high level UN meeting in 2009.

This review process presents an ideal opportunity for civil society to reflect on its own achievements and limitations, exchange ideas and make recommendations to the UN. As a result, the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs, in collaboration with its sister NGO Committee in New York and with the support of the United Nations *Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC), has created Beyond 2008 a global NGO forum targeted at this review. Building on a series of regional consultation and culminating in a global forum in Vienna in July 2008 Beyond 2008 has three objectives:

- 1. To highlight NGO achievements since the 1998 UNGASS.** This is being done through an online questionnaire (English, French, Russian and Spanish), available at www.vngoc.org, adapted from the questionnaire that is completed by national governments for UNODC.
- 2. To propose new and/or improved ways of working between NGOs, UNODC and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).**
- 3. To adopt principles to serve as a guide for CND and in its future deliberations on drug policy matters.**

(Further details see attached: Beyond2008_Flyer.pdf)

Herewith I would like to inform you that the **Regional Consultation for European Union and European Free Trade Association** will be held in BUDAPEST, January 24-25, 2008. The Meeting is co-organized by the Hungarian Association on Addictions (HAA), the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), and the San Patrignano Community.

Attached please find the **Invitation letter** and the **Registration form** for the Consultation. Please consider that the deadline for registration is 10th of November, 2007, as just a limited number of NGOs can be accepted for the Meeting. Detailed conditions can be found in the attached documents. Please send the registration form to Petra Arnold, E-mail: beyond2008@mat.org.hu .

We would like to emphasize, the filling of the mentioned NGO Questionnaire (<http://www.vngoc.org/>) is also very important even if you do not plan to participate personally at the Consultation! Completing the questionnaire will allow us to analyze the replies received from around the world. Please be aware that the questionnaire will take 30 minutes to complete and you will need specific information about your organization. The good news is that you can answer part of the questionnaire in one session and then come back another time to fully accomplish it.

Please distribute this letter among any NGOs in the European Union and European Free Trade Association!

Thank you for your help!

Best regards,

Zsolt Demetrovics
general secretary
Hungarian Association on Addictions