

Annual report 2017

World Federation Against Drugs

Swedish identification number: 802447-5850

World Federation Against Drugs, WFAD, was founded as a result of the 1st World Forum Against Drugs in 2008 in May 2009. WFAD is an international umbrella organization with the aim to work for a restrictive and balanced drug policy. The work of WFAD is built on the principles of universal fellowship and basic human and democratic rights. We believe that working for a drug-free world will promote human development, dignity, democracy, tolerance, equality, freedom and justice.

The WFAD recognizes that civil society has the right to fact-based information about the risks and damage caused by drugs. All people have the right to be protected from the harms created by drug use; and drug users have the right to the expectation of living drug-free and having the opportunity to lead productive, working lives.

WFAD adheres to the Declaration signed at the World Forum Against Drugs in Stockholm, Sweden in September of 2008. The work of the WFAD will be in accordance to the Basic Principles.¹ The WFAD adheres to Article 33 of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child that states:

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.”

The organization is based on its members, by the end of 2016 WFAD had 215 organizations as members. The mission of WFAD is to harness the power of the world’s NGOs to curb the epidemics of illicit drug use by supporting the drug-free aims and the UN conventions.

International Board

In March 2016 the 4th Congress of WFAD took place. According to the constitution of WFAD the board members of WFAD is elected for a period of two year, the board shall represent the six world regions (Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa, North America, Latin America) with one representative and one deputy. The International President shall also be elected. The following persons was elected at the congress 2016 to serve as members of the board.

International President: Sven-Olov Carlsson, Sweden

Oceania: Jo Baxter (Vice President), Australia

Europe: Per Johansson (Secretary of the board), Sweden

Africa: Rogers Kasirye, Uganda

Asia: Rima Saade Turk, Lebanon

North America: Robert L. DuPont, USA

Latin America: Carmen Fernandez, Mexico

¹ <http://wfad.se/about-wfad/wfad-declaration>

Deputy Board Members:

Oceania: Mike Sabin, New Zealand

Europe: Monica Barzanti, Italy

Africa: Eze Eluchie, Nigeria

Asia: Munawar Fayyaz Sunny, Pakistan

North America: Calvina Fay, USA

Latin America: Ivan Alvarado, Chile

During 2017 the board had four board meetings via Skype.

Administration

Linda Nilsson is hired as Secretary General of WFAD. During 2017 Linda has worked 60 per cent for WFAD.

The bookkeeping was outsourced to Visma Services AB. Visma has handled the bookkeeping for WFAD and also done the financial annual statement since 2014. During 2017 WFAD changed bookkeeping firm to Sundbäcks Ekobyrå who took over in October 2017.

Mårten Eklund is hired part time as webmaster of www.wfad.se and has also provided the office with technical support during the year.

During 2017 the office of WFAD moved to another location in Stockholm. The current visiting address is Gyllenstiernsgatan 7 and the postal address of WFAD is: Box 10136, 100 55 Stockholm, Sweden.

Website

The website of WFAD has been managed by the webmaster Mårten Eklund during 2017. The Secretary General of WFAD has had the main responsibility of the content of the website. The total number of visitors for the year was 13.751.

During 2014 WFAD started to send out newsletter to the members. The newsletter consists of relevant news for the members but is also an opportunity for members to be introduced to each other. Three newsletters were sent out during 2017.

WFAD is also present on Facebook and Twitter to communicate with both our members and the general public.

Membership development

WFAD had 197 member the 1st of January 2017, on December 31, 2017 WFAD had 212 member organizations. Hence, WFAD grow with 15 new member organizations during the year. The majority of WFAD's members continues to have their base in the African continent. By the end of the year 108 of WFAD's members is based in Africa.

The board of WFAD is accepting provisional members to WFAD, the membership is confirmed by the Congress, according to the statutes of WFAD.

During 2016 the board of WFAD updated the criteria for admitting new members and decided upon the following: The board member in the region is assessing the applicant according with the following criteria;

1. The organization needs to show a proof of registration as a non-for profit organization. Exception can be done if the preconditions in the country is not friendly for civil society, but then the organization needs to show some other document to valid their existence.

2. The organization needs to be able to verify activities that correlate with the mission and vision of WFAD.
3. The organization needs to fully endorse the WFAD platform

The members of WFAD need to renew their membership every other year. This has been done since 2013. In 2013 the annual membership fee was removed for the members of WFAD. International transfer of money international was difficult, and many of the members of WFAD do not have the capacity to pay membership fee. The board did not want to introduce a mandatory membership fee but still the financial situation of WFAD continues to be difficult and 2016 was a difficult year financial for WFAD. The board decided to introduce a voluntary membership fee 2017. When the renewal of membership went out to the membership we also asked those organization that feel that they have the capacity to contribute financially to WFAD to do so. Many of the members responded to the request and contributed with the amount they had the capacity with, ranging from 1000 euros to 50 euros. In total xxx SEK was collected as membership fees in 2017.

Main achievements

Regional conference Kenya

In February WFAD hosted a regional conference in Nairobi Kenya to analyze the outcome document to be able to explore ways use it to create better system around treatment and prevention on a local level. The program for the conference consisted of the main areas;

- Analysis of the outcome document from UNGASS, what did your government promise, and how can we from the civil society use the document?
- Prevention, UNODC has developed the International standards on Prevention, what can we learn from them? We also had practical examples on implementation of the standards in the region.
- Recovery; how can we enable people to move from problematic drug use to be a contributing member of society?

The conference gathered around 80 participants from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The target group for the conference was members of WFAD and official representatives from the region.

In connection to the conference a number of meetings took place with board members and key persons from the WFAD membership. The secretariat also had opportunity to visit some of the members in the area.

The aim of the conference was to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of WFAD members in the area. The voice from global south needs to be strengthen in the global debate. The conference was therefore important to engage more of WFAD members also in the global debate and increase their capacity to influence both globally and nationally.

In connection with the regional Forum a membership meeting was also organized. Around 25 of WFAD member organization in the region gathered for one day to assess the strengths and weakness in the region. The aim of the meeting was to explore if there is foundation for the membership to strengthen the work of the organizations by working closer together. A core group has been created with an ambition to develop a join project during 2018.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was established by the Economic and Social Council in 1946, to assist the ECOSOC in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties. In 1991, the General Assembly further expanded the mandates of the CND to enable it to function as the governing body of the UNODC, and to approve the budget of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which accounts for over 90 per cent of the resources available to the United Nations for drug control, it is hence one of the places where all countries of the world meet and talk about the proprieties of the global drug policy.

During 2016 the biggest international meeting in nearly 20 years took place, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drugs Problem, UNGASS. The UNGASS meeting resulted in an outcome document which is now the guiding strategic document for the international cooperation. The international meetings has during 2017 been focused on the implementation of the UNGASS document. Several intersessionals has been conducted to discuss the implementation of the different chapters of the outcome document. WFAD has been present and done statements to provide member states with input on the implementation.

In March the sixtieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs took place. WFAD planned, together with our partners three side events at CND.

- The Triple R project: Rehabilitation, Social Reinsertion and Justice Interventions, Highlights and Suggestions for Policymakers and Practitioners.
- Evidence-based model of Recovery for individuals and communities
- Emerging cannabis policies: A challenge to public health for member states

Further WFAD was also active in the Drug Policy Futures, DPF, network. At the 60th session of CND DPF published released three new reports; Effective prevention methods are ready for implementation, Recovery and Social Integration and Proportionality in reactions to drug-related crime. These were released during CND. The DPF network invited member states to a lunch where the papers were presented. Many member states accepted the invitation to the lunch and we assess the initiative from DPF to be very successful in reaching out to member states to increase the dialogue with them, both formally and informally.

Civil Society Task Force

In the preparations for the UNGASS meeting Civil Society Task Force, CSTF, was established to serve as the official liaison between the civil society, the UN system and the Member States. In total 31 representatives was appointed, WFAD was appointed to serve as the global voice of prevention. After the UNGASS meeting in 2016 the CSTF has not been very active. However, in 2017 a discussion was initiated around the role of CSTF in the preparations for the high level meeting to be held in 2019. It was decided that the CSTF will continue to function and WFAD will continue to serve as the global voice of prevention in the preparations for the high level meeting in 2019.

Drug Policy Future

During 2017 the Drug Policy Futures has continued to function as a network of NGOs who are involved in the global debate of drug policy. Dag Endal has coordinated the work of DPF. To be able to coordinate the work a core group of six persons has been formed, WFAD is represented in the core group by Linda Nilsson.

DPF has coordinated the actions of its network at the CND and several policy papers has been produced by DPF.

Balkan project

In 2017 WFAD and three member organizations started a three year project in the Balkan area. The project will be implemented by Celebrate Recovery in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Izlazak in Serbia and Preporod in Montenegro. The project is financed by Forum Syd. All project partners are working in the field of drug addiction with motivation to treatment and re-socialization after treatment as the primary focus. The overall project aim is to strengthen the society's response towards people who use drugs and people affected by drug use. The project is a continuation of a smaller project that was conducted during 2015-2016 which mapped the needs of the society and the possibility for the cooperation between state actors and the civil society. A number of problems was assessed and the current project aims to work on the identified weaknesses.

During 2017 the structures of the project and cooperation was established. Free phone lines and Substance Abuse Community Counselling Centre, SACCC, was established and promoted in national and regional media. A campaign to raise awareness was launched during World Drug Day to reach both the public and people who are in need of consultation through the phone line and the SACCC. A website was also launched, www.biramoporavak.com. The project also conducted a survey on the

public opinion to serve as a base line of the project. Some results was devastating, such as that only on quarter of the respondents think that individuals can never recover from addiction, also showing the need for the project.

One of the main components is to develop the cooperation between state and non-state actors. During 2017 the three organizations has meet around 100 representatives from the governmental institutions, the juridical system, educational institutions NGOs and religious organizations dealing with the drug problem in one way or another. The organizations has also organized national conferences to gather all the actors to further discuss the issue.

All together the activities in the project has already made a significant impact and improved the visibility and credibility of the organizations involved in the project, two of the organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia has been invited to work on and evaluate the national drug strategy for the countries.

Belarusian project

During 2017 WFAD took over a project cooperation from one of the founding members of WFAD, RNS. RNS has during the last years decreased the international cooperation project and this was the only one remaining. All involved partners agreed that it could be more beneficial for WFAD to continue the cooperation with the Belarusian partner, Kalegium.

Kalegium has been active in drug prevention for over 20 years and been cooperating with RNS since 1999. During 2017 Kalegium and WFAD developed a project with the aim to strengthening the positive healthy lifestyle patterns in the Belarusian society. The application was handed in to Forum Syd and by the end of 2017 we received information from Forum Syd that the project has been approved and it will start in 2018.

Regional conference Lebanon

Under the leadership of Rima Turk, board member representing Asia, a regional WFAD conference was held in Lebanon in May. The conference aimed to:

- Raise awareness in Lebanon around strategies for drug prevention and their implementation in the educational system;
- Discuss the most developep types of treatment and rehabilitation;
- Educate and promote healthy options for a drug-free environment;
- Exchange and share experience and knowledge.

The opening day was attended by the Minister of Social Affairs, Mr. Pierre Bou Assi, representatives of the Ministers of Justice, Health, Interior and Education, MPs and Ministers, including former Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Salim Sayegh, President of the World Federation Against Drugs, Mr. Sven-Olov Carlsson, Head of Law Enforcement in Lebanon, Head of the Customs Office, Ambassador Graziella Seif, President of the International Ambassadors Association in the United States, Ambassador Aftab Khokher, Raúl Madrigas charge d’Affaire for the Cuban Embassy, the Mayor of Zahle, and the Bishops, Judges, Lawyers, heads of parties, Media, Priests, civil society figures and specialists such as psychiatrists, professors and therapists. The conference was attended by specialists from Sweden, Austria, Pakistan, Tunisia, Cuba, Africa, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The recommendations made by the conference were presented to the Excellency President of Lebanon.

WFAD Americas

WFAD members in the western hemisphere convene via teleconference four times a year to discuss drug policy issues impacting their countries and the global community. This group has met for over eight years, led by Robert L. DuPont, MD, WFAD Board Member representing North America. Participants in this group represent organizations from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Peru and the United States, with active participation from WFAD leadership in Sweden.

Participation in conferences

During the year WFAD has also been invited to conferences, both as participants and to speak. WFAD delivered a key note speak at the Swedish conference “Sverige mot Narkotika” about international drug policy. WFAD was also invited to share our priorities at the annual conference in Singapore.

Further WFAD was present at the first WHO meeting about drugs in June 2017 and worked hard to include the concept of prevention in WHO’s priorities around the world drug problem.

In December the Russian parliament arranged a conference around the international cooperation with a special focus on treatment and recovery. WFAD presented our view on the issue on this conference.

Preparations for 6th Forum

During 2017 the preparations for the 6th World Forum Against Drugs started. The 6th Forum is planned to take place in May 2018, in Gothenburg. During 2017 the application for financial support was handed in to the ministry of Health in Sweden. In late 2017 the Ministry approved the application and granted financial support.

The conference will be carried out together with ECAD and the Swedish conference “Sverige mot droger” with the City of Gothenburg as hosts for the conference.