

**THE BECKLEY FOUNDATION
GLOBAL DRUG POLICY SEMINAR 2005**

**FIRST MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DRUG POLICY CONSORTIUM**

**JOLLY HOTEL ST. ERMINS, LONDON
SUNDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2005
2.00PM (LUNCH 12.45PM) TO 6.00PM**

In November, the Consortium will have been in existence for almost a year. It currently has 23 NGO member form around the world who have agreed to work together to promote evidence-based and effective drug policies to governments and international agencies. Specific pieces of work have been undertaken around the 2005 Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the UNAIDS Prevention Strategy, and the European Union Drug Strategy. The Consortium has also provided advice on drug policy issues to the national governments of Ireland, Portugal and Russia, with planned pieces of work in Hungary, Spain, and the Ukraine later in the year. As the workload increases, we will need to meet as a group to discuss a more formal structure and operating system to take us into 2006, and to agree a set of priorities and a work plan for the coming year.

This meeting is scheduled for Sunday 20 November from 2.00pm to 5.00pm, at the Jolly Hotel St. Ermins close to the House of Lords. There will be a complimentary lunch reception before this meeting, commencing at 12.45pm, with members of the Beckley Foundation's other initiative, the *International Network for Drug Policy Analysis*.

Please could each Consortium representative come to the meeting prepared to report on the extent to which their agency / network has been able to distribute material from this initiative and to engage in discussions with policymakers in the issues raised.

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MEETING OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
'THE ROAD TO 2008'

HOUSE OF LORDS, PALACE OF WESTMINSTER, LONDON
TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2005
10.00AM TO 1.00PM

The most important process for review of national and international drug policies in the coming years will take place in 2008, when a UN General Assembly Special Session will be convened to review progress against the objectives agreed by the world community in New York in 1998. The key headline objectives set at that time were:

- To eradicate or significantly reduce the supply of controlled drugs for recreational use.
- To make significant and measurable progress in the field of demand reduction.

While it is clear that progress against these objectives has not been achieved, it is by no means clear how the national governments and international agencies will respond to this situation. How this issue is handled in 2008 will dictate the global parameters for drug policies for the next 10 years. It is therefore imperative that the NGO contribution to the preparations and conduct of the Special Session is professional and well targeted. This meeting has been called to bring together some of the key NGOs at an early stage to discuss an approach to this task. We will need to consider:

- What would be seen as a successful outcome of the special session?
Changes to the Conventions or UN policies, changes to the work and organization of the UNODC, or just a softening of language in things like the political declaration?
- What vehicles for NGO input to the process are available?
Should we seek a coordinated programme, let a thousand flowers bloom, or a bit of both?
- What are the key components of an NGO contribution?
Work with the UN, with national governments or the media?

It is likely that the official process for preparing the Special Session will be agreed at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna in March 2006. We should be ready by that time to initiate our own work on this issue.