

**Sub Sahara Africa Regional Consultations
Report on Nigeria Country Consultations**

Venue: ACMIL Center, Koforidua Street, Abuja Nigeria

Date: 4th February 2016

Number of participants: 22

Prior to the Consultations, a copy of the CSTF Zero Draft Document had been sent to all invited participants and they had been enjoined to study same as it would form the basis of discussions during the Consultations.

An introductory presentation was done, by the CSTF Regional Representative for Sub-Saharan Africa {Eze Eluchie} to acquaint and enlighten the participants with the following issues:

1. History of UNGASS 2016
2. The Creation, origin and intendments of the CSTF
3. The CSTF Global Online Survey and the CSTF Zero Draft Document.

Thereafter the participants were voluntarily divided into sub-groups to discuss, in the Nigerian context, each of the identified 5 thematic areas. Each of the groups nominated a Rapportuer who presented the views of the members of the group to all participants at the Consultation, who thereafter had an opportunity to make inputs to the views of the group prior to final collation.

Below is the summation of the views of the participants at the Consultations regarding the thematic areas:

Drugs and Crime:

- Government agencies charged with enforcement of Drug laws should be separated from agencies focused on Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation as the issues are basically different and combining such divergent functions could lead either to one of the component areas receiving little or no attention.
- Those who profit from trade in Drugs (Dealers, Traffickers and their accomplices) should not receive same punishment as users and addicts.
- More resources should be devoted to building the human and institutional capacity of Drug Law enforcement organizations.
- In the case of territories where the death penalty is visited on drug offences, offenders should be extradited to their home countries/countries of origin if different from where they may face the death penalty.

Drugs and Health:

- Need to incorporate best practices as well as evidence-based drug prevention strategies.
- Drug use and addiction should be treated as public health issues rather than criminal law problems.
- Prioritization of health over law enforcement in addressing the Drug problems.
- Establish rehabilitation centres for drug users and addicts.
- Stiffer prosecution for illegal dispensing of drugs and controlled substances.

Human Rights, Women, Children and Communities:

- Eliminate death sentences/penalties for Drug abuse related offences.

- Empower members of the community to know their rights with particular regards to abuse of such rights by overzealous security operatives under the guise of enforcement of drug control legislations.
- Protect peoples fundamental rights, particularly the right to life, right to health, right to human dignity of all persons and access to justice. There is no 'right to use drugs'. In developing detention, care and treatment and health facilities to address Drug use or misuse issues, gender peculiarities should be taken into consideration to avoid a situation where use of such facilities will occasion more injuries than the initial harm they were set up to address.
- Regarding the direct issue of the responsibility of the State to its children in view of State obligations under Article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the high proportion of the population who are children, it was agreed that the country has to abide by its international obligations under Article 33 of the CRC and in addition mitigate the use of punitive measures against children who use drugs and rather focus on best practices and evidence based preventive measures.

New Challenges:

- Need for more research to understand the emerging evolution of drugs and an increase in number of synthetic and novel drugs. Also needed is research to come to terms with the effects and side effects of these new drugs and the need to regulate and criminalize production, merchandizing, and abuse of these novel substances.
- More specialized CSO's would be required to be involved in Drug issues for effective advocacy.
- Need to revise existing domestic legislations to reappraise the sanctions regime to ensure that really criminal acts get punished and mere health issues receive adequate specialized attention.
- Health authorities as opposed to law enforcement agencies should play a pivotal role in addressing health consequences of drug abuse whilst law enforcement agencies restrict themselves to interdiction and supply control responsibilities.

Drugs and (Alternative) Development:

- Need to introduce crop substitution strategies to encourage persons involved in the illicit cultivation of Drugs attain alternative sustainable source of income.
- The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Industries Ministries should be responsible for identifying farmers who will be involved in the cultivation of Drugs under strictly monitored quotas in compliance with guidelines set by relevant international drug control entities.
- Such identified farmers/cultivators should be adequately sensitized about the negative effects of drug use with a view to encourage the farmers to seek alternative products to cultivate.