International Association of Applied Psychology

IAAP   Contributes to Global Drug Policy Development at the United Nations

March 28, 2011— The International Association of Applied Psychology participated at the 54th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna, Austria, from March 21–25, 2011. The CND represents the global parliament for drug policy ; Its annual session provides a forum for United Nations member states and invited observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to discuss and debate the global drug situation along with the implementation of the United Nations' drug control conventions.

This year, IAAP contributed to several policy-related discussions with senior political and government decision makers from across the globe. Several critical issues were discussed, including:

- Improved engagement of NGOs in support of the work of CND
- Access to ethical, humane and evidenced-based treatment;
- Proportionate sentencing to drug crimes; and
- Access to essential medicines.

"The IAAP and other NGOs provide a voice for civil society and, in particular, for those most affected by drugs and drug policy," said Mr. Michel Perron, Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC). "They are vital to ensuring and fostering solutions to creating global drug policies that better address local and regional needs."

The IAAP was one of many NGOs that came to Vienna to represent the international sector and to advocate for the recommendations created through VNGOC's *Beyond 2008* initiative—the world's largest and most comprehensive NGO engagement exercise to review global drug control policy and practice.

 The CND's annual session is an important event and we need to ensure that decisions taken there reflect the reality of what needs to be done in the field of drug addiction taking into consideration experience from around the globe.

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