



At Vienna Conference, Director Kerlikowske Reaffirms U.S. Commitment to Curb Drug Trafficking and Use

National Drug Policy Director Gil Kerlikowske, addressing an international conference on narcotic drugs in March, reaffirmed the Obama Administration's commitment to work with international partners to reduce drug trafficking and illicit drug use around the world.

Director Kerlikowske and ONDCP Deputy Director Tom McLellan led the United States delegation to the 53rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna, Austria. Joining the delegation were officials from the U.S. Departments of State, Health and Human Services, and Justice.

The CND, organized by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is the world's largest annual meeting of government and law enforcement officials on drug policy issues. The conference provides an opportunity for officials from more than 60 countries representing every region of the world to take action on international drug policy issues. It draws an audience that includes health and science experts, as well as participants from a broad array of non-governmental organizations.

Highlights of this year's meeting included the adoption of two U.S.-sponsored resolutions focusing on topics central to the Obama Administration's

drug control strategy: community-based prevention and reducing prescription drug abuse.

In his statement, Director Kerlikowske underscored the urgent need for international collaboration in the anti-drug effort. "Drug trafficking and abuse is a tremendous global problem," he said, "one which requires intensified cooperation both to disrupt the flow of drugs, precursor chemicals, illicit proceeds, and weapons around the world, and to reduce drug use through effective prevention and treatment programs."

He added: "Our participation in this conference demonstrates the strong U.S. commitment to collaborate with all nations in the spirit of shared responsibility, while opposing attempts to legalize illicit drugs."

Director Kerlikowske held several meetings to discuss Obama Administration drug policy priorities and opportunities for international cooperation. At a meeting he chaired on disrupting the flow of methamphetamine precursor chemicals, the Director urged countries to intensify their efforts to control the ingredients used to produce meth. Joining him at the meeting were officials from the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), who highlighted the need for nations to do a better job of exchanging information on shipments of combination cold medicines (also known as pharmaceutical preparations) and on global trade in pure pseudoephedrine and ephedrine.

The United States also sponsored a side event on the dangers of drugged driving. Deputy Director McLellan, an internationally recognized treatment specialist, addressed the conference on the need to improve understanding

From the Director

A New Spirit of International Cooperation on Drug Issues

Since my confirmation as Director of National Drug Control Policy in May 2009, I've traveled across the country, visiting 37 cities in 19 states, and also around the world, visiting eight foreign countries. I have held roundtable discussions and meetings with hundreds of drug prevention and treatment experts, local officials, law enforcement, parents, teachers, community groups, academics, and young people.

From Buffalo to Phoenix, Vienna to Stockholm, everyone recognized the value of employing a comprehensive approach to reduce drug consumption and stop the production and trafficking of these dangerous illegal substances in our communities.

During my first 11 months in office, I have promoted this approach and repeatedly called for breaking down silos among prevention, treatment, and law enforcement so we can make the most effective use of limited resources.

Our drug policy must be integrated and cross-jurisdictional. It also must span county, state, and national borders.

In March, at the 53rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna, Austria, we in the U.S. delegation spoke about the value of holistic policies at the international level. We pledged to collaborate with all nations to reduce drug abuse and oppose attempts to legalize illicit drugs.

In addition to coordinating drug control efforts at multi-national events like the CND conference in Vienna, the United States is engaging bilaterally to address specific drug issues.

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Director Gil Kerlikowske, right, listens as José Ángel Córdova, Mexico's Secretary of Health, speaks at the U.S.-Mexico Binational Drug Demand Reduction Policy Meeting, held in February at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC.

United States and Mexico, Citing Urgent Need, Agree To Work Together in Effort to Reduce Drug Consumption

Top government officials from the United States and Mexico, meeting in February in Washington, DC, issued a joint statement identifying six priority areas for cooperation against substance abuse and its consequences over the next 12 months. The statement emphasized a commitment to reduce illicit drug consumption and acknowledge the urgent need to work collaboratively with each other and with partners in the region. *(See page 3 for an excerpt of the Declaration.)*

Also emphasized was the importance on both sides of the border to intensify prevention and treatment efforts. These efforts include strengthening families and communities to help reduce the influence of criminal organizations and develop and sustain healthy lifestyles and attitudes, particularly among young people and other at-risk populations.

The six-point declaration was issued at the conclusion of the 8th U.S.-Mexico Binational Drug Demand Reduction Policy Meeting, held at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC.

'The binational meeting and declaration on reducing drug abuse reflect a commitment by the United States and Mexico to intensify on-going drug control efforts.'

– Director Kerlikowske

During the meeting, U.S. and Mexican officials exchanged information on scientific advancements in understanding and treating drug addiction; improving substance abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery support services; integrating substance abuse treatment into healthcare systems; building strong communities; and breaking the cycle of drugs and crime.

Director Kerlikowske, host of the conference, said: "The binational meeting and declaration on reducing drug abuse reflect a commitment by the United States and Mexico to intensify on-going drug control efforts and a recognition that by focusing on prevention and treatment of substance abuse disorders, we can significantly improve the public health and safety of our peoples."

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On a visit to Russia in February, I met with Victor Ivanov, Director of the Federal Drug Control Service of the Russian Federation, for the second meeting of the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission's Counter Narcotics Working Group in Moscow.

The meeting solidified our commitment to work collaboratively on the global drug problem. Another highlight was the creation of a framework agreement outlining strategies for addressing drug trafficking and other drug control issues, such as the money generated by the illicit drug trade.

Also established at the U.S.-Russia meeting was a demand reduction subcommittee, a priority area for the Obama Administration.

Later in February, ONDCP hosted the U.S.-Mexico Binational Drug Demand Reduction Conference in Washington, DC. At the conclusion of the three-day meeting, our two countries issued a joint statement emphasizing a commitment to reduce illicit drug consumption and acknowledging the urgent need for the United States and Mexico to work collaboratively with each other and with partners in the region. The statement also emphasized the need on both sides of the border to intensify prevention and treatment efforts.

Keynote speakers included Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius; First Lady of Mexico Margarita Zavala, who also serves as president of the Citizens' Advisory Board of the National System for Integral Family Development; and José Ángel Córdova, Mexico's Secretary of Health.

In late March, I travelled with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, and other U.S. officials to Mexico for the Merida U.S.-Mexico High Level Consultative Group meeting. This interagency discussion on the Merida Initiative focused on enhanced engagement to disrupt drug trafficking organizations, strengthen the rule of law and government institutions, create a 21st century border, and build strong and resilient communities.

I look forward to many more opportunities in the coming months to build on the progress the Obama Administration has made toward creating and strengthening international collaborations to address illicit drug use.

– Gil Kerlikowske

DECLARATION OF DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION COOPERATION* **8TH U.S.-Mexico Binational Drug Demand Reduction Policy Meeting**

February 23-25, 2010
 Washington, DC

In both the United States and Mexico, we are unequivocally committed to reduce illicit drug consumption and ameliorate its consequences upon public health and the social, political, cultural and economic well being of our citizens. Illicit drugs affect all population groups, destroying families and our most precious resource, our young people, who are especially at risk and are thus the special focus of our efforts.

In stating our commitment, we underscore the concept of co-responsibility, and acknowledge the duty to take action internally, bilaterally, and regionally. Drug consumption and production is an international problem that must be addressed broadly, and we must particularly focus on the challenges we face within the hemisphere. Consumption of illicit drugs erodes societies, endangers families, and provides illicit earnings that fuel corruption, crime, and violence. Illicit drugs and the drug culture lure children away from school, and adults away from legitimate work.

The United States will soon release President Obama's National Drug Control Strategy, emphasizing five areas for domestic action: 1) a national prevention system comprised of "Prevention-Prepared Communities;" 2) training for mainstream healthcare professionals to screen for and intervene against emerging substance use disorders; 3) expanded addiction treatment, incorporating it into mainstream healthcare; 4) protocols for safe, effective management of drug-related offenders in community settings; and 5) design of an early-warning system for new drugs and an ongoing effectiveness report on the effects of drug policies.

For its part, Mexico, through its Action Program for Prevention and Treatment of Addictions, is implementing its own national policy. Mexico is strengthening infrastructure to offer treatment of problems related to the use of psychoactive substances for individuals and their families, as well as emphasizing prevention through broad participation of public, social and private entities.

Acting in each of our countries and in coordination when possible, Mexico and the United States will emphasize six areas for improvement in the next twelve months:

- 1. Develop strong, resilient communities on both sides of the border that resist criminal organizations and develop a culture of lawfulness.**
- 2. Provide more and better addiction treatment by improving training and integrating addiction treatment into mainstream medicine.**
- 3. Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment.**
- 4. Implement Evidence-Based Prevention Techniques.**
- 5. Accreditation/Licensing.**
- 6. Innovations in criminal justice to reduce recidivism and interrupt the cycle of drug use and crime.**

President Obama and President Calderon have instructed the governments of the United States and Mexico to rapidly execute the priority programs identified above. As we advance in these areas, we will continue to share scientific information, best practices, and results we observe from implementation. We expect continued close collaboration to be the norm, and we will follow up and evaluate operational results.

* *Excerpted from the full Declaration, which is available at*
<http://www.WhiteHouseDrugPolicy.gov/international/jointdeclaration.pdf>

CND (continued from page 1)

around the world of drug addiction as a chronic but treatable health disorder.

Reflecting on the conference, Deputy Director McLellan said he was encouraged by the response to major themes in the Obama Administration's approach to substance abuse.

"More countries are learning, as we have seen in the United States, that prevention, treatment, and recovery programs can, and do, turn lives around," he said. "I am encouraged by the increasing opportunities to share best practices at the international level."

United States Resolutions

The two U.S.-sponsored resolutions, adopted on the final day of the conference, provide policy guidance to all United Nations Member States and the UNODC.

The first resolution calls on all countries to prioritize community-based drug prevention initiatives in their anti-drug policies. It emphasizes the need to support services for families, youth, and women, and to tailor messages to the unique socioeconomic and cultural environments in each community.

The second resolution, focusing on prescription drugs, recognizes the risks of diversion and abuse of powerful

narcotics, but also supports increased global access, with the proper controls, to prescription drugs for legitimate medical need.

Prescription drug abuse, a major focus of U.S. prevention efforts because of high levels of abuse and overdose, is emerging as a significant threat around the world. In the United States, recent data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) show a dramatic rise in the number of emergency room visits for nonmedical use of pharmaceutical drugs (see charts, below).

Glyn Davies, United States Ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna, praised the U.S. delegation for its efforts to promote agreement among the various countries. "The U.S. Delegation to the CND, led by Director Kerlikowske, helped to advance international collaboration on this vital U.S. issue," she said.

The full text of Director Kerlikowske's opening remarks is available at http://ondcp.gov/news/speech10/030810_UNCOMmission.pdf

The full text of both U.S.-sponsored resolutions is available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/53-draft-resolutions.html>

Director Meets with Russian and Other Delegations to Promote Collaboration on Drug Issues

While in Vienna for the CND conference, Director Kerlikowske met with UNODC Executive Director Antonio Costa, INCB President Sevil Atasoy, and with delegations from Russia, Mexico, Colombia, Afghanistan, The Netherlands, and the European Commission, among other countries.

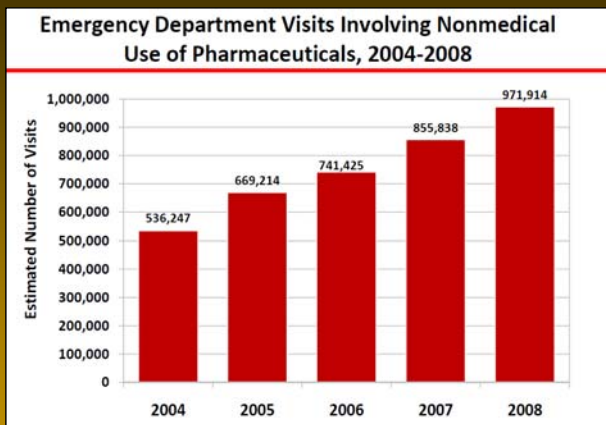
The Director's visit with the Russian delegation was his third meeting with Viktor Ivanov, Director of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service. The two officials co-chair the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission's Counter Narcotics Working Group, which focuses on strengthening the U.S.-Russian relationship on issues such as drug flows, drug demand reduction, and judicial cooperation.

At a recent Working Group meeting in Moscow, the two directors signed a framework agreement on drug issues. Director Kerlikowske also spoke at the World Russia Forum, held in late April in Washington, DC.

The full text of the framework agreement is available at: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/news/press10/020410.html>

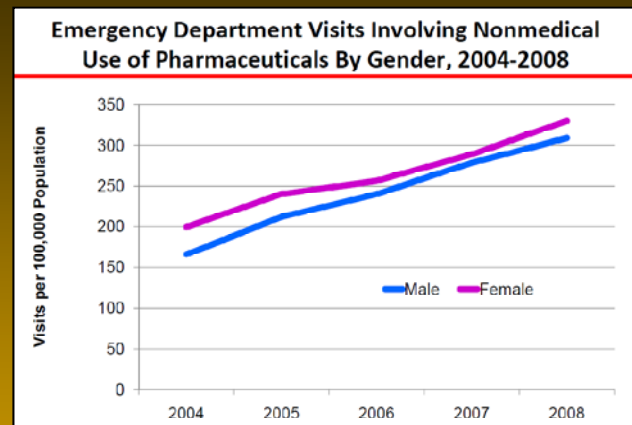
Emergency Rooms Seeing Surge in Nonmedical Use of Pharmaceutical Drugs

Figure 1



The number of emergency room visits for nonmedical use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs has risen dramatically in recent years, climbing from 536,247 visits in 2004 to 971,914 visits in 2008 – an increase of 81 percent (see figure 1). By contrast, ER visits involving illicit drugs (cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine) for the

Figure 2



same period rose only modestly, from 991,363 to 993,379. While males generally outnumber females in ER visits for illicit drugs, females are on a par with males in the proportion of visits involving nonmedical use of pharmaceuticals (figure 2).

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), detailed trend tables for 2004-2008.