

**United Nations Human Rights Council – 37th Regular Session
Item 8 – General Debate**

Joint statement by Conectas Direitos Humanos, CELS – Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) and International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (FIDH).

Delivered by Mr. Enzo Tabet Cruz
20 March, 2018

Distinguished members of the Human Rights Council,

We would like to call your attention to the issue of the so-called “war on drugs” and drug-related policies which have led to a range of human rights violations worldwide.

We acknowledge the progress made by the Human Rights Council and the Special Procedures in making clear the relationship between anti-drug policies and human rights. However, this issue has the potential to be further addressed by the Human Rights Systems.

Excellencies,

On Friday, this Council will consider a new resolution on this matter. It is a great chance for this body to contribute significantly to the evaluation of the current drug control regime and to address the constant calls of further involvement and coherence between UN bodies with the ongoing processes at the Commission of Narcotic Drugs and the revision of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action as well as the outcomes of the 2016 UNGASS on the world drug problem.

The resolution in question requests the OHCHR to prepare a report on the application of human rights indicators to strengthen existing data collection and analysis tools in drug statistics. This will provide different stakeholders with improved understanding and data in order to improve policies concerning human rights issues. It is an important opportunity to increase the Human Rights Council’s impact and operationalise human rights on the ground.

We call on States to support this resolution and to constantly debate this pressing issue at this Council.

Thank you.