

## S7: Closing session

### What does successful drug policy advocacy mean for harm reduction?

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Success in changing the policy context for drug control is crucial to the future of harm reduction. Success in this area will mean a new level of awareness of the REAL crisis of «abuse» – that is, abuse of criminal laws – application of criminal law in completely inappropriate ways. It will mean getting rid of the fiction of «unintended consequences» and recognizing that organized crime, violence, demonization of people who use drugs, and denigrating harm reduction are all central to the prohibitionist enterprise and not unexpected side effects. It will mean calling multilateral institutions to account if they do not live up to the ideals of human rights and justice on which they are founded. And it will mean ensuring that there is a «level playing field» in the evaluation of pioneering drug policy experiments.