

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Deepening crisis:**

**Mental health and substance use disorders paralyzing Afghan society**

21 March 2024  
01:30 - 02:20 PM CET  
Vienna International Centre, M-building, BR-A

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

European Union

World Health Organization Afghanistan

SCAN TO REGISTER

The poster features a collage of faces of Afghan people, including women in headscarves and men, set against a background of clouds. Logos for UNODC, the European Union, the Government of Japan, and the World Health Organization Afghanistan are displayed at the bottom. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

**WHAT:** The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Union (EU) and the Government of Japan are hosting a high-level side event titled **“Deepening crisis: Mental health and substance use disorders paralyzing Afghan society”**. This event will be held on the sidelines of the 67th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria.

The event will have a hybrid format, allowing for participation in person or online via Zoom. This panel discussion, featuring high-level speakers, aims to shed light on the latest developments in Afghanistan’s mental health and substance use crises. Its purpose is to consider policies, responses and operational challenges, emphasize key priorities and needs, and advocate for urgent action.

The round-table discussion offers a crucial opportunity for dialogue with global and national specialists, policy-makers and stakeholders to address critical gaps in access to and provision of mental health and substance use disorder services in Afghanistan.

**WHEN:** 21 March 2024, 13:30–14:20 CET (Vienna time)

**WHERE:** Vienna International Centre, M-building, BR-A, or virtually via Zoom

**WHO:**

Moderator:

Mr Tofiq Murshudlu, Regional Section for Europe, West and Central Asia, UNODC

Opening remarks:

Mr Peteris Ustubs, Director for Middle East, Asia and Pacific, Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission

Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean

Mr Jean-Luc Lemahieu, Director of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC

Panel members:

Ms Raffaella Iodice, Chargée d'Affaires a.i. and Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Afghanistan

Mr Nobuyuki Kikuchi, Minister Counselor of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna

Dr Vladimir Poznyak, Unit Head, Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours, WHO

Ms Anja Busse, Programme Officer, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section, UNODC

Dr Vail Al-Raas, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Coordinator, International Medical Corps – Afghanistan

Closing remarks:

Ms Anubha Sood, Country Representative, UNODC Afghanistan

**Registration link to attend online:** <http://bit.ly/48Ekvst>

Follow the event @WHOafghanistan, @UNODC\_COAFG, @EUinAfghanistan and @JapanGov on Facebook and Twitter.

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