

# International Council on Security and Development (ICOS) – An Introduction



## **Norine MacDonald QC**

*President of the International Council on Security and Development (ICOS)\**

Welcome and my sincere apologies for not being able to speak to you in Portuguese. I would first like to extend my gratitude to the following people for honouring us with their presence here tonight.

I would like to thank the Ambassador of Switzerland Rudolf Baerfuss; the Minister of Health Jose Gomes Temporão; the Minister of Justice Tarso Genro; the Minister of Institutional Security Jorge Armando Félix. I am also grateful for the presence of Senator Romeu Tuma. Special thanks go to our co-hosts in organising this event: the National Antidrug Secretary General Yog Miranda Uchôa, the National Public Security Secretary Antônio Carlos Biscaia; and the Director of The Federal Police, Luiz Fernando Corrêa. In addition, I'd like to give my thanks to all the State Secretaries, judges, delegados; representatives of institutions, foundations, government entities, civilians and the military. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming here tonight.

On behalf of ICOS, it is a real privilege to sponsor this event here in Brazil. I am particularly happy to be here in Brazil with my old friends General Uchôa, and Dr. Paulina Duarte, who were present at the First International Symposium organised by

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\* Formerly known as The Sentis Council



ICOS in Lisbon in 2003, which was also the occasion of the global launch of ICOS.

Since then we have met in Vienna, at the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and at many of the international conferences that we have organised over the years. General Uchôa and Dr. Duarte are impressive representatives of Brazil on the international stage, and it is a privilege to continue our friendship with the organisation of this symposium.

For those of you who do not know us, I would like to introduce ICOS. We are an international policy think tank with offices in London, Paris, Brussels, Ottawa, Afghanistan and most recently Rio de Janeiro. The Council was set up by The Network of European Foundations in 2002 to provide an independent European perspective on international narcotics and security issues. The Council operates a large programme in Afghanistan, which I run, which uses extensive field research in the warzone to provide grassroots, “bottom-up policy” recommendations on counter narcotics issues and security issues.

ICOS has a partnership with the International Federation of The Red Cross, ‘The Rome Consensus for a Humanitarian Drug Policy’. This brings together 106

National Societies of the Red Cross/Red Crescent from Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and Asia. Our Special Representative for The Rome Consensus, Mr. Oscar Zuluaga, is here and will be speaking during the conference.

This week’s First International Symposium on Public Security and Drug Policy has brought together security and narcotics policymakers, operational agents and specialist experts from all over Brazil and around the world; people with years of experience in the field. We will be meeting some of these experts over the next few days, including Mr. Raymond Kendall, the Honorary Secretary General of Interpol, and Mr. Vitalino Canas, President of the European Union Committee to Parliament and Portuguese MP, both of whom serve as Senior Advisors to ICOS.

Specific attention will be given to the increasing challenges of security and drug policy from all perspectives, establishing a nexus point for exchange between different but equally important perspectives on the same subject.

These security challenges are not unique to Brazil. From the streets of Rio to the fields of Afghanistan, the suburbs of Paris to the townships of South Africa, we see the links between security and social policy. There cannot be sustainable and fair security environments if the hearts and minds of the local population have not been won.

However, there cannot be economic development without security. The security forces are often the only representative of the state in the most neglected and dangerous areas. They are often left to operate alone, without the back up of

relevant institutions whose actions are needed to improve the security situation.

The security sector pays a high price for this in casualties and loss of life, and end up caught in a cycle of violence with drug trafficking gangs and organised crime networks.

Investment in the police is absolutely necessary, not only in materials, such as weaponry and specialised equipment, but importantly in training and management of human resources so that the right service can be delivered to the population and economic development and education programmes can be facilitated. Coordination and integration are crucial.

When security and development are not working together, the illegal drug trade flourishes and threatens to take over society. Where the drug trafficking economy is overcapitalised, and the police and security forces remain undercapitalised, the former are, and will be always be, the winner. We must close the gap between policymakers, police forces, those working on social policy, and those who are most affected by these policies.

One of the reasons we are very interested in working in Brazil –aside from its natural beauty and the charm of Brazilians –is because there exists a conjunction of positive factors which define the current policy environment towards public security and drug policy in Brazil at the moment:

- Innovative drug policy at SENAD is taking the lead on treatment approaches
- The PRONASCI program represents a unique opportunity

It is clear that here in Brazil you understand the problem, and you do not need to –and do not intend to –wait for the international status quo to change before putting into practice innovative policies.

ICOS is here today in Brazil not only to draw attention to Brazil’s leadership in public security on the global stage, but also to be part of a process whereby Brazil is becoming a centre of expertise on global security here in Rio.

We hope that we can add value to Brazil’s effort by adding to the policy process our experiences and the community of advisors that have joined us in our work. We are privileged to be with you these next days as sponsors of this conference and we would be proud to join with all of you as you go forward with the new initiatives such a PRONASCI.

Thanks to all of you who have welcomed us so warmly to Brazil. We have seen that Brazil well deserves its reputation for both its great natural beauty, and the warmth and charm of the Brazilian character.