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**FORO MUNDIAL DE PRODUCTORES
DE CULTIVOS DECLARADOS ILÍCITOS**

Two Barcelona Forum representatives read final Declaration at side event of UN meeting

The 2009 Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), and its High Level (political) Segment (HLS), was a key moment where the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the January [Barcelona Forum](#) could be transmitted and distributed. This was done to make more policy officials aware of the difficult situation faced by farmers cultivating the plants that have been declared illicit.

Dionisio Nuñez and Adbibe Abdelatif, representing respectively the Latin American and African continent, were delegated to go to Vienna and present the final declaration of the Barcelona Forum and to interact with policymakers present at this meeting.

The presentation took place on the 12th of March 2009. This was the second day of the High Level Segment, and was meant for country delegations to express their position on past, present and future policies on controlled substances, reflecting on the ten year strategy established at the UN Special Session on Drugs (UNGASS) in 1998 in New York. The presentation was scheduled within a luncheon session organised by the [International Drug Policy Consortium \(IDPC\)](#), which focussed on the unintended consequences resulting from current drug policies around the world. Other speakers in the same session addressed the consequences of aerial spraying with herbicides of crops in Colombia; the situation on law enforcement around marihuana and prison population in the United States, and the situation around drugs use and HIV Aids in Russia.



Pien Metaal, member of the International Promotion Commission of the Barcelona Forum, of the Drugs & Democracy Programme of Transnational Institute (TNI) introduced the session, and explained the background of the Forum and the reasons for having its results presented at this meeting in Vienna.



Abdelatif reading the final declaration on the Barcelona Forum

Both Dionisio and Abdelatif gave presentations to the audience about their regions of origin and reasons to participate in the Barcelona Farmers Forum. Abdelatif read out half of the declaration in French, and Dionisio the other half in Spanish.

The [Final Declaration](#) was distributed in English, Spanish and French among the audience. Around eighty people attended the meeting, amongst whom members of official government

delegations, like the Moroccan and Bolivian delegation. The presentation took 15 minutes, and unfortunately no time was left to answer questions from the public. However, several people who attended expressed their interest and respect for the initiative.

The Forum delegates also had access to the room where official statements were read and other side events.

One highlight was the participation of the President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, who as the only head of State came to Vienna asking the international community to consider repairing an historical mistake: the inclusion of the coca leaf in the lists of controlled substances. His appearance and plea may play a positive role in the international communities attitude to Bolivia's future formal request for descheduling the coca leaf.



In the [Political Declaration](#) that was sealed in this UN meeting, some progress was reached on the issue of supply reduction, including a reference to full respect for Human Rights in supply control efforts. Unfortunately, a ban on forced eradication was not reached in the long negotiations, because a few members' states refused to accept it
