



OAS | **CICAD**



**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE
CONTROL COMMISSION**

CICAD

SIXTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION
April 24-26, 2017
Washington, D.C.

OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.61
CICAD/doc.2320/17
26 April 2017
Original: English

Introducing the WFTC Declaration of Mallorca to the 61th Session of the CICAD
Dianova International

Introducing the WFTC Declaration of Mallorca to the 61th Session of the CICAD

Dianova International

April 26, 2017

Buenas tarde, me llamo Saionara König-Reis y represento la organización de la sociedad civil Dianova Internacional. Dianova es una ONG conformada por Asociaciones y Fundaciones que operan en las Américas, Europa, Asia y África. Los miembros de Dianova contribuyen al desarrollo de las personas, comunidades y organizaciones a través de diferentes programas e intervenciones de carácter socio-sanitario y humanitario. Ahora cambio al inglés.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities (WFTC) Dianova would like to present you some of the main themes raised at the Declaration of Mallorca, adopted last December 3rd in the celebration of the 5th Institute of the World Federation. The WFTC is an international association with the goal of uniting and supporting the broad and global Therapeutic Community movement worldwide, in all five continents.

More than 150 experts in addiction and Therapeutic Communities from 26 countries have participated in the elaboration of this document. It has been signed and endorsed by 55 organizations worldwide, among which Dianova International.

The Declaration of Mallorca is based on a group of actions, recommendations and agreements in regards to primary care, prevention, treatment, recovery and social re-integration of drug-dependent population. The World Federation and the signatory organizations to this document have the goal to see it implemented in the course of the next ten years.

I am going to very quickly present some of the main points of the Declaration of Mallorca that dialogue with the discussions we had in the present session of the CICAD, while you are all invited to access the full declaration at Dianova's website: www.dianova.ngo.

- First, let's bear in mind that Therapeutic Communities support a wide range of addiction profiles, with an increasing attention to specific vulnerable groups such as women, children, the homeless, people with HIV, Hepatitis C, co-occurring disorders, offenders and others.
- Therapeutic Communities require interdisciplinary professional teams, including experts with field experience, to deal with the complexity of addiction within a bio-psycho-social framework. The identity of TC staff lies in a combination of professionalism, vocation of service, and the passion for people.
- Yet, for this concept to be effective, the interventions in Therapeutic Communities must be adapted to the participants' needs and their cultural, economic, social and religious diversity, as well pointed out by several presenters in this session. I imagine in this room we all see the value of this approach, not it is time we move from having this practice as the exception or model cases only, to truly have it as the mainstream in treatment programs.

- Furthermore, it is critical that representatives from international and regional organizations, governments, civil society and private sector recognize the role of the Therapeutic Community movement in resolving problems associated with drugs and other addictions and the consequent suffering of millions of people. Therapeutic Communities are important actors in fighting the stigmatization of the addicted population.
- Additionally, Therapeutic Communities welcome aftercare services, focused on improving the social reintegration of the participants. These follow-up services are critical in reducing relapsing episodes.
- Likewise, the promotion of vigorous research and evidence based outcomes is crucial for the sustainability of our Therapeutic Communities. Thus, we invite all organizations to be involved in publishing scientific papers and collaborating with academia and the research community.
- Finally, we observe a lack of funding for Therapeutic Communities in many countries. Therefore, we encourage policy makers to support TCs, for they provide an irreplaceable aid in the field of treatment and addiction.

The Declaration of Mallorca reaffirms the commitment of the Therapeutic Community movement to serve addicted populations and their social networks all over the world by restoring their hope, dignity and personal well-being. And we look forward to further collaborating with all of you to achieving this common goal.