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World Federation for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence Meets  
with UN Officials on April 30, 2009

Representatives from the organizing partners of the World Federation for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (WFTOD), the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD) and the European Opiate Addiction Treatment Association (EUROPAD), convened the first meeting with officials from the United Nations on April 30, 2009 to discuss methods of providing increased access to care for individuals who suffer from the disease of chronic opioid addiction throughout the world.

The group was joined by representatives from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), in addition to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as representatives from AATOD and EUROPAD met with member nations of the UN and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The objective of WFTOD is to support the development of international cooperation to train medical personnel in providing treatment for chronic opioid addiction in countries wherever such care is needed. It was acknowledged that such treatment is expanding in different countries throughout the world, most notably China, Vietnam, Cambodia and a number of the sub-Saharan African nations.

The World Federation for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence will work with UN offices and delegates from member nations as a method of coordinating such training opportunities to expand access to medication-assisted treatment, methadone, buprenorphine, and Naltrexone to patients, wherever such care is needed throughout the world.

The group also discussed the evolving drug-related issues concerning Afghanistan and Mexico since the challenges that such countries face affect other nations. Illustratively, 92% of the world's heroin is produced in Afghanistan.

These meetings will continue in the future, and it is significant that the first meeting convened at the United Nations with world leaders, including the World Federation for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence.

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